# Background



Yiddish news stand, Williamsburg, Brooklyn, 2023.

**♦** Anti-Israeli sentiment is due in part to the belief of some (not all!) American Hasidim believe Jews shouldn't yet return to Israel or that Israeli Jews are too secular.

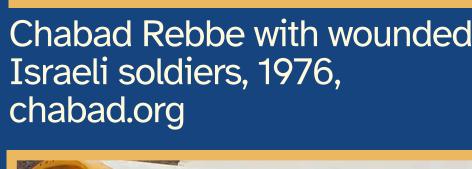
**◆ Hasidus** is a sect of Judaism that split in the early 1700s in eastern Europe following the B"SHT. Modern Hasidim are split into sects that follow their own rebbes and vary in insularity and level of English.



Anti-English magazine poster, Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Frida Vizel, 2022.

hostile to secular Israelis.

**◆Anti-Hasidic sentiment** is due in part to anti- old-country sentiment stirred up by early Hebrew revivalists and a history of Israeli Haredim avoiding the draft, wanting a more Halachic state, and being









For more background or full paper

## Example Words

Dialects vary internally; IPA approximates common pronunciations and is not representative of every speaker.

Israeli pronounciation Hasidic pronunciation

בית המקדש

בית מדרש

שמחת תורה

מגילת אסתר

[ˈbeit. ha.mik.ˈdaʃ] beit.ha.mik.*dash.* ['beis. ha.'mIk.daʃ] beis.ha.*mik*.dash.

['beit.mi.'dʁaʃ.] beit.mee.drash. ['beis. 'mε.dɹaʃ.] beis.*me*.drosh.

[sim.'xat. to.' ʁa.] seem.chat.to.ra [sim.'xat. to.' Ba.] sim.chas.toy.re

[me.gi.'lat. es.'teʁ.] me.gee.lat.es.ter. [mʌ.ˈgi.las. Es.ˈtʊɹ.] me.gi.los.es.tur.

[[ˈmɑ.mIʃ] ma.*mash*. [ma.ˈmaʃ] *mo*.mish

ממש

[te.hi.'lim] te.hee.leem [tε.'hI.,lIm.] tu.hi.lim

סעודה שלישית/שלוש סעודות

[se.u.'da. ʃli.'ʃit] se.u.da.shlee.sheet. ['ʃa.la.ʃʊ.dIs.] sha.lish.shu.dis.

### on Dialects of Hebrew

Jews from across the diaspora speak distinct dialects of Hebrew. In modern Israeli Hebrew's revival period (1880s-1920s), Sephardic Hebrew was chosen to be the language of Modern Israel, though it has since evolved into its own distinct accent. Modern Israeli Hebrew is the most common dialect spoken by non-Israeli Jews, including Ashkenazim, but Hasidim across the world still pray and study in a version of Ashkenazic Hebrew, even in Israel where they speak (differently accented) Israeli Hebrew day-to-day.

## Methods

Participants from three groups— Israelis, Chabad Hasidim, and non-Chabad Hasidim listen to audio recordings of words from both dialects and their level of understanding and impressions are recorded in a matched guise study. Data is combined with informal interviews

"I am more of a 'shabbat' person than a 'shabbos' person"

-Michal, Modern Orthodox American who actually did say "shabbos" more than "shabbat"

#### **American Chabad Hasidim:**

- ♠ Largely able to understand Israeli Hebrew
- ▲ Some shluchim can speak Israeli Hebrew comfortably

#### Secular Israelis:

- → Have trouble understanding single words/phrases in Hasidic Hebrew
- ◆ Sometimes repeat words/phrases in Israeli Hebrew in order to understand

"My grandparents say you can't be friends with Orthodox people" -Tal, Secular Israeli with Orthodox friends

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Special thanks to: Ayelet Lederman, Adi Dassau, Azriel Elul