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Abstracts

Variability and consistency of sub-Saharan manuscripts: identification of the forms of Maghreb scriptures

Abderrahim Sagner

The purpose of the article is to identify the graphic characteristics that make it possible to identify and distinguish the three main varieties of writing in sub-Saharan Arabic manuscripts: *sūqī*, *sūdānī* and *maġribī*. From this perspective, formal constants can be detected in the diversity of the forms of graphemes within the same style of writing. The comparison of these three styles leads to the visualisation of the nuances of each variety, using a limited number of distinctive formal features. It appears that these varieties share common formal features, according to the different graphic contexts, which, in the end, tends to prove that they are indeed part of the same family: Maghrebine writing.

Keywords: Arabic, manuscripts, writing, Maghreb scriptures, *sūqī*, *sūdānī*, *maġribī*

The non-ordering of etymons in the spoken languages of Morocco

Hadia Slaoui

The non-ordering of etymons has long been demonstrated in classical Arabic (Bohas & Darfur, 1993) and Hebrew (Bohas & Dat, 2007) and, more recently, in various other non-Semitic languages (Bohas 2016). The aim of this paper (based on our thesis defended in 2011) is to extend the study to the spoken languages of Morocco. We propose a selection of data that allows us to establish that 41 etymons (A, B) occur in both orders (A+B; B+A) with the same or similar meanings. This is therefore a contribution both to Moroccan lexicology and to general linguistics, which establishes that the Saussurian principle of the linearity of the *signifiant* does not apply at the submorphemic level.

Keywords: Arabic, Moroccan dialects, TME, matrix, etymon, reversibility, submorphemics

A detailed study of the matrix {[labial], [pharyngeal]; “tightening”}

Mustafa Alloush

Although this matrix has already been discussed in Bohas (2000, p. 85-87), Bohas and Dat (2007, p. 117-119) and Bohas (2019, p. 44-45), it has never been the subject of an exhaustive analysis. This article is a detailed study of the matrix based on the Kazimirski dictionary. To this end, we first describe the phonetic component of the matrix, which allows us to discover the basis of the motivation of the relation between sound and meaning. Then we proceed to organise the notional invariant "tightening", and finally we give the results of the inventory by successively exposing the realisations including the labials *b, f* and *m*. This matrix is realised in the 70 roots (in the traditional sense of the term) which we list at the end of the article, making it a medium-sized matrix.

Keywords: Arabic, TME, matrix, etymon, labial, pharyngeal, tightening

A detailed study of the matrix {[coronal], [pharyngeal, laryngeal]}; "emission of a hoarse sound or moan"

Georges Bohas

This matrix, the notional invariant of which evokes a sonic flow from the throat, stopped by the coronal and materialized in a hoarse sound, has been the subject of an in-depth study in Hebrew (Bohas and Dat 2007, p. 176 ff). Since it has only been briefly explored in Arabic (Bohas and Dat 2007, p. 119-120), we will develop it here. The phonetic content consists of the combination of gutturals with dorsals, with the notional invariant correlated to this phonetic substance strongly mimicking these phonetic building blocks: a guttural sound produced by an animal or a human being. We establish the detailed organization of this notional invariant: "emission of a hoarse sound or moan". Then, we proceed to the inventory of the matrix using the Kazimir0 database: the Kazimirski dictionary integrated into DBASE. The analysis leads to the conclusion that this matrix is realized in 36 roots (in the traditional sense of the term).

Keywords: Arabic, TME, matrix, etymon, coronal, pharyngeal, laryngeal, moaning

Closeness of articulation entails closeness of meaning: insights from the thought of Ibn Jinnī

Kholoud Al-Saleh

This paper focuses on the thought of Ibn Ğinnī (941-1002) who wrote on the influence of the sound of a spoken word on its meaning. His approach has been an important research focus for linguists. It includes a translation of a section of his *Kitāb Al-Xaṣā'is* entitled "closeness of articulation entails closeness of meanings", in order to make this important and useful material available for English readers.

Keywords: Arabic, Ibn Ğinnī, *Kitāb Al-Xaṣā'is*, sound and meaning, root, articulation

Formalization of lexical ambiguity and automatic disambiguation in Arabic

Omar Asbayou

Lexical ambiguity complicates the automatic processing of Arabic at all levels: morphological, syntactic and semantic. The morphosyntactic vision that we propose here makes it possible to measure the extent of this phenomenon and aims to identify its sources. The localization and formalization of the different types of ambiguities should make it possible to consider and design adequate solutions to this problem. A considerable number of cases of ambiguity are due to the different forms of verbs as well as to the morpho-inflectional system. The resolution of this phenomenon can be based on automatic parsing taking into account syntactic and semantic constraints based on linguistic knowledge, such as the different syntactic categories and the grammatical meaning of verbs.

Keywords : Arabic, vowelization, ambiguïté (morphologique, catégorielle, non-catégorielle, flexionnelle), analyse morphosyntaxique, désambigüisation, traitement automatique des langues (TAL)

The circles of Al-Ḥalīl: why did dispute occurred about their names?

Mustafa Alloush

The abundance and complexity of the terminology of the Arabic science of prosody is well-known. Although they agree that it was founded by al-Ḥalīl b. Aḥmad al-Farāhīdī (d. 786), scholars believe that its terminology is the result of collective rather than individual work, as evidenced by the existing differences from one author to the last. This article focusses on the names of the third and fourth circles. Generally, students begin with the third, called *al-muḡtalab*, which includes *hazaḡ*, *raḡaz* and *ramal* meters, and the fourth circle known as *al-muḡtabah* including *sarīʿ*, *munsariḡ*, *ḡafīf*, *muḡāriʿ*, *muḡtaḡab* and *muḡtatt*. But two prominent scholars, al-Tibrīzī (d. 502/1108) and al-Zamaḡḡarī (d. 538/1143), argued that the names of these two circles should be changed. This article highlights the arguments they put forward to challenge the apparent consensus on the issue.

Keywords: Arabic, prosody, terminology, circles, meters, al-Ḥalīl, al-Tibrīzī, al-Zamaḡḡarī

You said “vicious”? Constraints on the realization of variable positions in Arabic metrics

Georges Bohas

This article is a contribution to the debate between theorists and practitioners in the field of Arabic metrics. Stoetzer (1989) and Paoli (2008 and 2016) have shown that there is a discrepancy between the predictions of the theories and the descriptive generalisations which they have reached. I propose to constrain my model to reduce this discrepancy, either by specifying certain positions as long or by using filters.

Keywords: Arabic, metrics, verse-patterns, variable units, constraints

The virtues of observation: reflections on Arabic metrics and its modeling

Bruno Paoli

The adequacy of the classical theory of Arab metrics to reality is far from perfect, suffering in particular from a recurring problem of overgeneration, in the sense that, being too powerful, it allows variants which are not in use. To solve this problem, two alternatives are available to us: amending the classical model or its interpretation by introducing rules or constraints allowing to erase its defects (Bohas 2010 and here); or get rid of it definitively and opt for a more faithful representation of reality from which we can deduce a certain number of useful generalizations. The author chooses the second: it appears that a representation which is content to delimit variable positions and stable groups has a real explanatory power.

Keywords: Arabic, metrics, verse-patterns (simple, double), stable units, variable positions (linked), *hazağ*, *basīṭ*