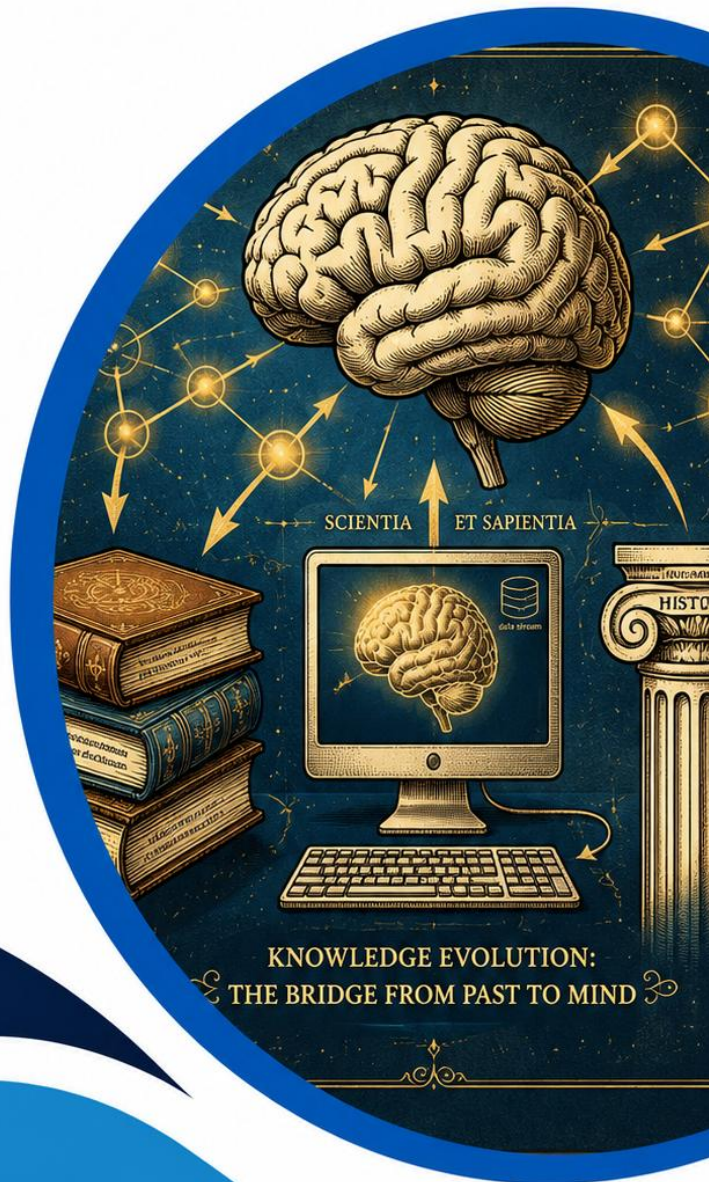


ARA 204

INTRODUCTION TO GENERAL LINGUISTICS



Course video is available on our app

lanetonline.com



Course code: ARA 204

Course title: Introduction to General Linguistics

Course credit load: 2 Units

Series 1 Foundations of General Linguistics

- **Part 1: Meaning and Scope of Linguistics**
 - 1.1 Definition of Linguistics
 - 1.2 Nature of Linguistics as a Science
 - 1.3 Importance of Linguistics in Human Knowledge
- **Part 2: Historical Emergence of General Linguistics**
 - 2.1 Early Beginnings of Linguistic Inquiry
 - 2.2 Development of Linguistics as a Discipline
 - 2.3 The Nineteenth Century Shift
- **Part 3: Key Concepts in General Linguistics**
 - 3.1 Language and Communication
 - 3.2 Linguistics and Related Fields
 - 3.3 Basic Terminologies in Linguistics
- **Part 4: Foundations for Further Study**
 - 4.1 Relevance of Linguistics to Other Disciplines
 - 4.2 Preparing for Advanced Branches of Linguistics
 - 4.3 Contributions of Scholars to Foundational Knowledge



Introduction

Language is central to human life, shaping how we communicate, share ideas, and build societies. Yet, to truly appreciate language, we must study it systematically. This is where linguistics comes in. As the scientific study of language, linguistics provides us with tools to analyse how language works, why it changes, and how it connects with other fields of knowledge. Beginning with the foundations of general linguistics will help you to see language not just as a means of everyday communication, but as a structured system worthy of scholarly exploration.

The aim of this Series is to introduce you to the fundamental principles of general linguistics, guiding you to define its scope, trace its historical emergence, and recognise its key concepts and relevance to other disciplines. By the end of this Series, you will be equipped with a solid foundation that prepares you for deeper study in subsequent Series.

We shall commence this Series by examining the meaning and scope of linguistics, including its definition, nature, and importance. Next, we will explore the historical emergence of general linguistics, considering its early beginnings and development as a discipline. Following that, we will move on to key concepts in general linguistics, such as language, communication, and related fields. Finally, we will wrap up by discussing how these foundations prepare us for further study, highlighting the relevance of linguistics to other disciplines and the contributions of scholars to its growth.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 1.1** define linguistics clearly and explain its scope as a scientific study of language,
- **SLO 1.2** analyse the nature of linguistics and evaluate its importance in human knowledge,
- **SLO 1.3** describe the historical emergence of general linguistics and outline its development as a discipline,



- **SLO 1.4** explain the major shift in linguistic studies during the nineteenth century,
- **SLO 1.5** identify and illustrate key concepts in general linguistics, including language, communication, and related fields,
- **SLO 1.6** apply basic linguistic terminologies accurately in describing language phenomena, and
- **SLO 1.7** evaluate the relevance of linguistics to other disciplines and recognise foundational contributions of scholars.

1.1 Meaning And Scope Of Linguistics

1.1.1 Definition of linguistics

Linguistics is the scientific study of language. It seeks to describe, analyse, and explain the structure and function of language as a system of communication. Unlike casual observation of language, linguistics applies systematic methods to examine how sounds, words, and sentences are organised, and how meaning is conveyed. By treating language as a subject of inquiry, linguistics allows us to uncover patterns that are not always obvious in everyday speech.

Language is something we all use, yet few people pause to consider its underlying rules. For example, why do certain word orders sound natural while others do not? Why do languages differ in their sounds and structures? Linguistics provides answers to such questions by focusing on language as a system rather than as isolated words.

Fill in the blank: Linguistics is the scientific study of _____.



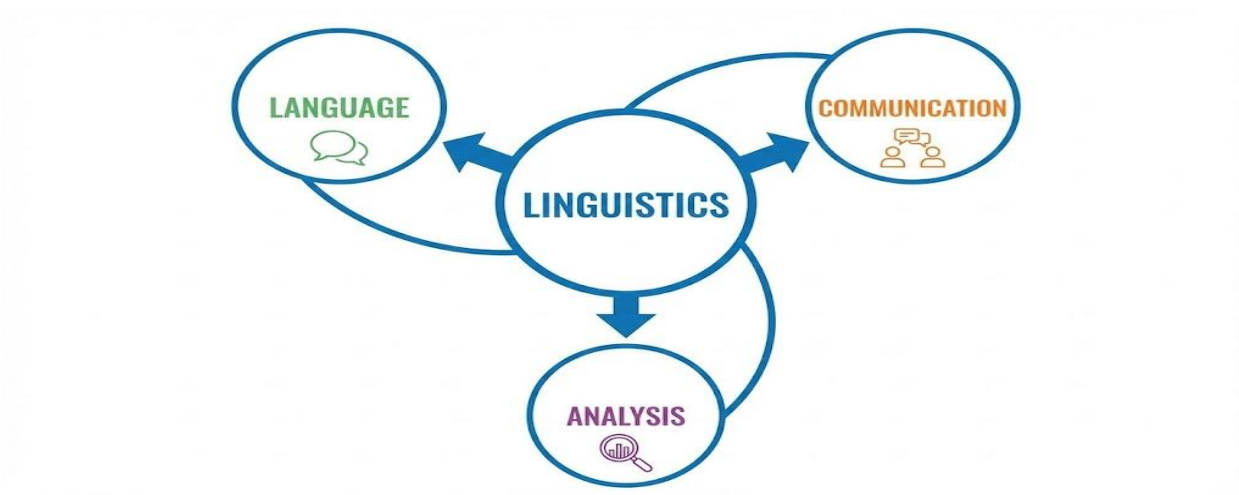


Figure 1.1: Linguistics as the scientific study of language

1.1.2 Nature of linguistics as a science

Linguistics is often described as a **science** because it employs systematic observation, classification, and analysis. Like other sciences, it relies on evidence and logical reasoning rather than personal opinion. For instance, linguists collect data from spoken and written texts, then analyse them to identify consistent patterns.

The scientific nature of linguistics also means that it is objective. Linguists do not judge whether a language variety is “good” or “bad”; instead, they describe how it works. This approach helps us to appreciate the diversity of languages across the world.

Fill in the blank: Linguistics is considered a _____ because it uses systematic observation and analysis.





Plate 1.1: Linguistics as a scientific discipline

1.1.3 Importance of linguistics in human knowledge

The importance of linguistics lies in its ability to deepen our understanding of human communication. By studying language scientifically, we gain insights into how societies function, how cultures are preserved, and how individuals express identity. Linguistics also contributes to practical fields such as education, translation, language policy, and technology.

For example, advances in linguistics have influenced the development of speech recognition software and improved methods of teaching languages. In addition, linguistics helps us to understand language disorders, thereby supporting medical and therapeutic practices.

Fill in the blank: Linguistics contributes to fields such as education, translation, and _____.

Contribution Area	Examples and Explanation
Language Teaching and Curriculum Design	Linguistics informs methods for teaching languages, designing curricula, and improving literacy.
Translation and Interpretation	Provides frameworks for accurate meaning transfer across languages, supporting intercultural communication.



Speech Technology and Artificial Intelligence	Powers applications such as speech recognition, machine translation, and natural language processing.
Preservation of Endangered Languages	Helps document, analyse, and revitalise languages at risk of extinction, safeguarding cultural heritage.
Diagnosis and Treatment of Language Disorders	Supports clinical linguistics and speech therapy, aiding individuals with communication difficulties.

Box 1.1: Selected contributions of linguistics to human knowledge

Pilot questions 1.1

1. Which term refers to the scientific study of language?
2. Why is linguistics considered a science?
3. What is the main focus of linguistics when studying language?
4. Mention two practical fields where linguistics has contributed significantly.
5. Fill in the blank: Linguistics is the scientific study of _____.

1.2 Historical Emergence Of General Linguistics

1.2.1 Early beginnings of linguistic inquiry

The study of language has fascinated human beings for centuries. Long before linguistics became a formal discipline, scholars and philosophers reflected on how language works. **Philology** was one of the earliest approaches, defined as the study of language in historical texts, focusing on grammar, literary style, and the preservation of cultural heritage. Ancient civilisations such as the Greeks and Indians examined language structure, laying the groundwork for later scientific inquiry.



These early efforts were not yet systematic in the modern sense, but they revealed a deep curiosity about language as a human phenomenon. For example, Greek philosophers debated whether words were naturally connected to their meanings or simply agreed upon by convention.

Fill in the blank: The earliest study of language was known as _____, which focused on historical texts and grammar.

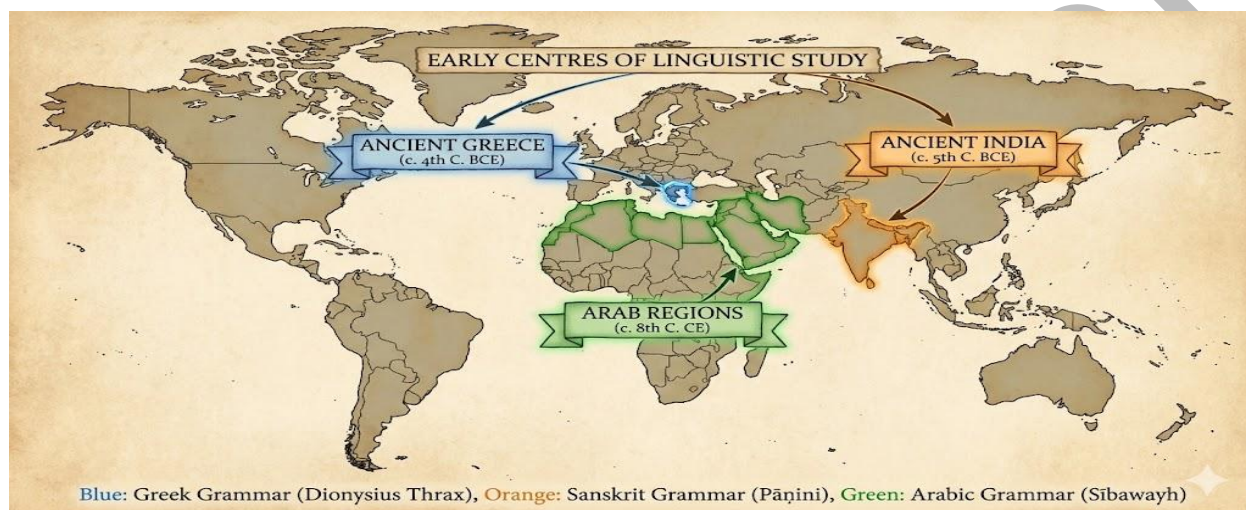


Figure 1.2: Early beginnings of linguistic inquiry

1.2.2 Development of linguistics as a discipline

By the nineteenth century, linguistics began to emerge as a distinct scientific discipline. Scholars moved beyond philology to study language systematically, focusing on structure, sound systems, and comparative analysis. **Comparative linguistics** is defined as the branch of linguistics that studies similarities and differences between languages to trace their historical relationships. This approach led to the discovery of language families, such as the Indo-European family.

The development of linguistics as a discipline was marked by the use of rigorous methods. Scholars collected data from multiple languages, compared them, and reconstructed earlier forms. This scientific approach distinguished linguistics from earlier speculative traditions.

Fill in the blank: The nineteenth century saw the rise of _____ linguistics, which compared languages to trace their historical relationships.





Plate 1.2: Comparative linguistics in practice

1.2.3 The nineteenth century shift

The nineteenth century represented a turning point in the history of linguistics. Scholars such as Ferdinand de Saussure introduced new perspectives that emphasised language as a structured system. **Structural linguistics** is defined as the study of language based on the analysis of its internal structures, such as sounds, words, and grammar, rather than its historical development. This shift marked the beginning of modern linguistics.

The focus moved from merely tracing language history to analysing how language functions at a given point in time. This approach is often called **synchronic linguistics**, defined as the study of language at a specific moment, in contrast to **diachronic linguistics**, which studies language change over time.

Fill in the blank: The study of language at a specific point in time is called _____ linguistics.

Shift	Explanation
From Philology to Scientific Linguistics	Transition from studying texts and literary history to analysing language systematically as a science.



Rise of Comparative Methods	Development of techniques to compare languages, leading to the reconstruction of proto-languages such as Proto-Indo-European.
Emergence of Structural Linguistics	Early focus on language as a system of interrelated elements, laying groundwork for later structuralist theories.
Synchronic vs Diachronic Approaches	Clear distinction between studying language at a single point in time (<i>synchronic</i>) and across historical development (<i>diachronic</i>).

Box 1.2: Key shifts in nineteenth-century linguistics

Pilot questions 1.2

1. What was the earliest form of language study called?
2. Which branch of linguistics compares languages to trace their historical relationships?
3. What major shift occurred in the nineteenth century that marked the beginning of modern linguistics?
4. Fill in the blank: The study of language at a specific point in time is called _____ linguistics.
5. Mention one key difference between synchronic and diachronic linguistics.

1.3 Key Concepts In General Linguistics

1.3.1 Language and communication

Language is a structured system of sounds, words, and rules used by humans to communicate. It is unique because it allows us to express abstract ideas, emotions, and cultural values.

Communication, on the other hand, refers to the process of transmitting information between individuals or groups. While communication can occur through gestures, symbols, or images, language remains the most sophisticated and versatile tool for human interaction.



Language is both social and cognitive. It connects communities and reflects shared traditions, while also enabling individuals to think critically and creatively. Without language, human societies would struggle to preserve knowledge or transmit culture across generations.

Fill in the blank: _____ is the structured system of sounds, words, and rules used by humans to communicate.

Communication vs. Language Relationship

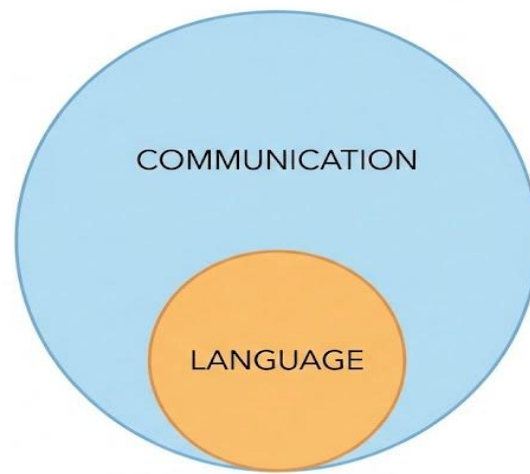


Figure 1.3: Language as a tool of communication

1.3.2 Linguistics and related fields

Linguistics interacts with several related fields, each contributing unique perspectives. For example, **psycholinguistics** is the study of how language is processed in the human mind, while **sociolinguistics** examines how language varies across social groups. **Anthropological linguistics** explores the relationship between language and culture, and **applied linguistics** focuses on practical uses such as language teaching and translation.

These connections show that linguistics is not isolated. Instead, it draws from psychology, sociology, anthropology, and education to enrich its scope. Learners should note that linguistics provides a foundation for understanding language, while related fields apply this knowledge in specific contexts.

Fill in the blank: The study of how language is processed in the human mind is called _____.





Plate 1.3: Linguistics interacting with related fields

1.3.3 Basic terminologies in linguistics

To study linguistics effectively, learners must be familiar with certain **terminologies**. For example, **phonetics** is the study of speech sounds, focusing on how they are produced and perceived. **Phonology** examines how sounds function within a language system. **Morphology** is the study of word formation, while **syntax** refers to the arrangement of words into sentences. **Semantics** deals with meaning, and **pragmatics** explores how meaning is influenced by context.

These terms form the building blocks of linguistic analysis. Each branch provides a lens through which language can be studied, and together they create a comprehensive picture of how language operates.

Fill in the blank: The study of word formation is called _____.

Term	Definition
Phonetics	The study of speech sounds, including how they are produced and perceived.
Phonology	The study of sound systems and patterns within a language.



Morphology	The study of word formation and the structure of morphemes (the smallest units of meaning).
Syntax	The study of sentence structure and the rules governing word order.
Semantics	The study of meaning in language, focusing on words, phrases, and sentences.
Pragmatics	The study of meaning in context, including how language is used in social interaction.

Box 1.3: Selected basic terminologies in linguistics

Pilot questions 1.3

1. What is the difference between language and communication?
2. Fill in the blank: The study of how language is processed in the human mind is called _____.
3. Mention two fields related to linguistics and briefly state their focus.
4. Fill in the blank: The study of word formation is called _____.
5. List three basic terminologies in linguistics and explain their meanings.

1.4 Foundations For Further Study

1.4.1 Relevance of linguistics to other disciplines

Linguistics is not confined to the study of language alone. It has significant relevance to other disciplines, enriching their scope and methods. For example, in **education**, linguistics informs language teaching by providing insights into grammar, pronunciation, and learning strategies. In **law**, linguistics supports forensic analysis of speech and texts. In **technology**, linguistics contributes to artificial intelligence, particularly in speech recognition and machine translation.



By recognising these connections, learners can appreciate how linguistics serves as a bridge between language and broader human activities. This relevance makes linguistics a valuable foundation for interdisciplinary research and professional practice.

Fill in the blank: Linguistics contributes to fields such as education, law, and _____.

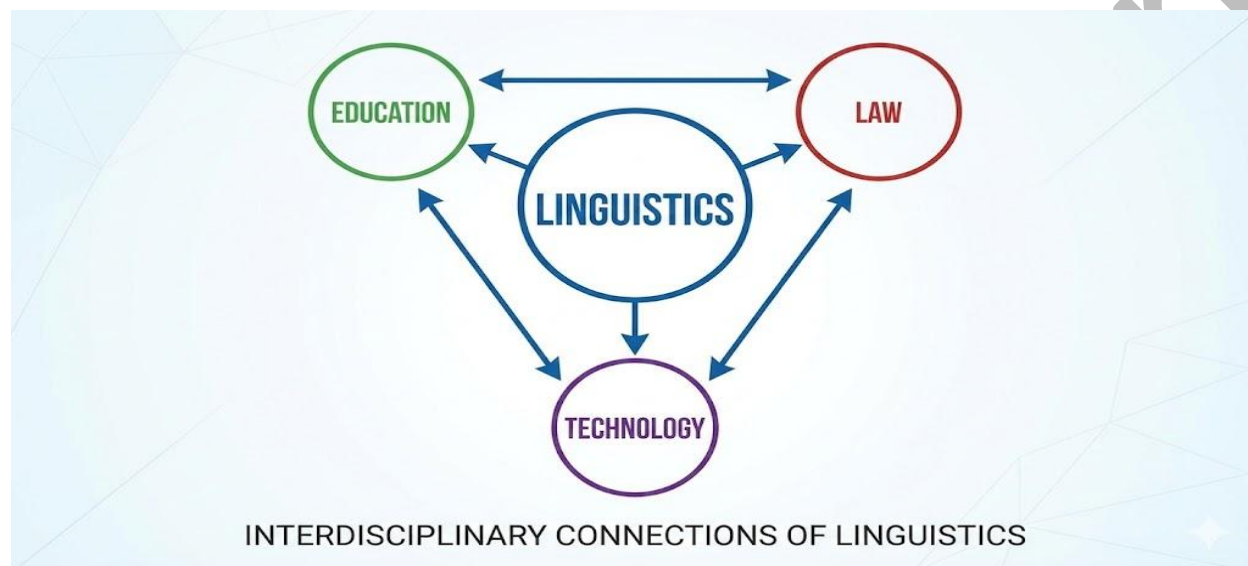


Figure 1.4: Relevance of linguistics to other disciplines

1.4.2 Preparing for advanced branches of linguistics

To progress in the study of linguistics, learners must build on foundational knowledge.

Advanced branches such as **phonology**, **syntax**, and **semantics** require a clear grasp of basic concepts introduced earlier. For instance, understanding how sounds are produced in phonetics prepares learners to study sound systems in phonology. Similarly, recognising word formation in morphology sets the stage for exploring sentence structures in syntax.

Preparation also involves developing analytical skills. Learners should practise identifying patterns in language data, comparing structures across languages, and applying terminology accurately. These skills will enable them to engage confidently with advanced topics in later Series.

Fill in the blank: A clear grasp of _____ is necessary before studying phonology.





Plate 1.4: Preparing for advanced branches of linguistics

1.4.3 Contributions of scholars to foundational knowledge

The foundations of linguistics were shaped by the contributions of prominent scholars.

Ferdinand de Saussure, often regarded as the father of modern linguistics, introduced structural approaches that emphasised language as a system. Traditional Arab linguists also made significant contributions, particularly in grammar and phonetics, which influenced later developments. Modern scholars continue to refine these foundations, integrating insights from psychology, sociology, and technology.

By studying these contributions, learners gain a sense of continuity in the discipline. They see how past efforts laid the groundwork for present and future research. This awareness fosters respect for the discipline and motivates learners to engage with its ongoing development.

Fill in the blank: _____ is often regarded as the father of modern linguistics.

Scholar / Tradition	Contribution
Ferdinand de Saussure	Founder of structural linguistics; introduced concepts such as <i>langue</i> vs <i>parole</i> and the synchronic/diachronic distinction.



Traditional Arab Linguists	Developed sophisticated analyses of grammar, morphology, and phonetics; figures such as Sibawayh produced foundational works on Arabic grammar.
Modern Scholars	Advanced interdisciplinary approaches, linking linguistics with psychology, anthropology, computer science, and education.

Box 1.4: Selected contributions of scholars to linguistics

Pilot questions 1.4

1. Mention three disciplines that benefit from linguistics.
2. Fill in the blank: A clear grasp of _____ is necessary before studying phonology.
3. Who is often regarded as the father of modern linguistics?
4. State one contribution of traditional Arab linguists to foundational knowledge.
5. Explain why preparation in basic concepts is important for advanced study in linguistics.

Series Summary

This Series has introduced you to the foundations of general linguistics, setting the stage for deeper exploration in later parts of the course. Its purpose was to help you see linguistics as a scientific study of language, to trace its historical emergence, and to recognise its key concepts and relevance to other disciplines. By beginning with the meaning and scope of linguistics, then moving through its historical development, examining core concepts, and finally considering its wider applications and scholarly contributions, you have gained a structured understanding of how linguistics has evolved and why it matters.



In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you should now be able to define linguistics and explain its scope, analyse its scientific nature and importance, describe its historical emergence and nineteenth-century shift, identify and apply basic linguistic terminologies, and evaluate its relevance to other fields while recognising the contributions of key scholars. These skills provide you with a solid foundation for further study, ensuring that you are well prepared to engage with the more advanced branches of linguistics in the subsequent Series.

Glossary of Terms

- **Anthropological linguistics:** The study of the relationship between language and culture, focusing on how language reflects and shapes cultural practices.
- **Applied linguistics:** The practical application of linguistic knowledge to areas such as language teaching, translation, and language policy.
- **Comparative linguistics:** A branch of linguistics that studies similarities and differences between languages to trace their historical relationships and origins.
- **Diachronic linguistics:** The study of how languages change over time, often by comparing historical stages of a language.
- **Education (in linguistics context):** The field where linguistic insights are applied to improve language teaching, curriculum design, and literacy development.
- **Forensic linguistics:** The application of linguistic analysis to legal contexts, such as examining speech or written evidence in law.
- **Language:** A structured system of sounds, words, and rules used by humans to communicate ideas, emotions, and cultural values.
- **Linguistics:** The scientific study of language, focusing on its structure, function, and use in communication.
- **Morphology:** The study of word formation and structure, including how smaller units called morphemes combine to create words.



- **Philology:** An early approach to language study that focused on grammar, literary style, and the preservation of texts.
- **Phonetics:** The study of speech sounds, including how they are produced, transmitted, and perceived.
- **Phonology:** The study of sound systems within a language, examining how sounds function and interact.
- **Pragmatics:** The study of how meaning is influenced by context, including the social and cultural factors that shape communication.
- **Psycholinguistics:** The study of how language is processed in the human mind, including language acquisition and comprehension.
- **Semantics:** The study of meaning in language, focusing on how words and sentences convey ideas.
- **Sociolinguistics:** The study of how language varies and changes across different social groups and contexts.
- **Structural linguistics:** An approach to studying language that analyses its internal structures, such as sounds, words, and grammar, rather than focusing only on its history.
- **Syntax:** The study of sentence structure, including the rules that govern how words are arranged to form meaningful sentences.
- **Synchronic linguistics:** The study of language at a specific point in time, without focusing on historical change.

Concept Check Questions [Series 1]

Objective questions

1. Linguistics is defined as the scientific study of _____. (Linked to SLO 1.1)
2. Which branch of linguistics compares languages to trace their historical relationships? (Linked to SLO 1.3)



3. The study of word formation is called _____. (Linked to SLO 1.6)
4. Who is often regarded as the father of modern linguistics? (Linked to SLO 1.7)
5. The study of language at a specific point in time is called _____ linguistics. (Linked to SLO 1.4)

Short-answer questions

6. Explain why linguistics is considered a science. (Linked to SLO 1.2)
7. Identify two practical fields where linguistics has contributed significantly. (Linked to SLO 1.7)
8. Describe the difference between language and communication. (Linked to SLO 1.5)
9. State one contribution of traditional Arab linguists to foundational knowledge. (Linked to SLO 1.7)
10. Mention three basic terminologies in linguistics and briefly explain their meanings. (Linked to SLO 1.6)

Long-answer questions

11. Analyse the major shift in linguistic studies during the nineteenth century and explain its significance for modern linguistics. (Linked to SLO 1.4)
12. Evaluate the relevance of linguistics to other disciplines, giving examples of how it contributes to education, law, and technology. (Linked to SLO 1.7)
13. Discuss how preparation in basic concepts such as phonetics, morphology, and syntax equips learners for advanced study in linguistics. (Linked to SLO 1.6)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 1]

Objective questions

1. Language
2. Comparative linguistics



3. Morphology
4. Ferdinand de Saussure
5. Synchronic

Short-answer questions

6. Linguistics is considered a science because it uses systematic observation, classification, and analysis of language data, relying on evidence rather than opinion.
7. Education and technology are two practical fields; linguistics informs language teaching and supports speech recognition software.
8. Language is a structured system of sounds, words, and rules, while communication is the broader process of transmitting information, which may include gestures and symbols.
9. Traditional Arab linguists contributed to grammar and phonetics, laying foundations for later linguistic analysis.
10. Phonetics (study of speech sounds), syntax (study of sentence structure), and semantics (study of meaning).

Long-answer questions

11. *Basic response:* The nineteenth century marked a shift from philology to scientific linguistics, with comparative methods and structural approaches introduced. This was significant because it established linguistics as a modern discipline.
Value-added response: Beyond the Series, learners may note that Saussure's structuralism influenced later schools such as semiotics and structural anthropology, shaping twentieth-century thought.
12. *Basic response:* Linguistics contributes to education by improving language teaching, to law through forensic linguistics, and to technology via speech recognition and translation systems.
Value-added response: Outstanding learners may add that linguistics also supports cultural preservation, policy-making in multilingual societies, and advances in artificial intelligence.



13. *Basic response*: Foundational concepts such as phonetics, morphology, and syntax provide the tools needed to analyse language systematically, preparing learners for advanced branches.

Value-added response: Learners may extend this by explaining how these foundations enable cross-disciplinary applications, such as computational linguistics, psycholinguistics, and sociolinguistics.



Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 1]

Part 1: Meaning and Scope of Linguistics

1. Linguistics
2. Because it uses systematic observation, classification, and analysis of language data.
3. The structure and function of language.
4. Education and translation.
5. Language

Part 2: Historical Emergence of General Linguistics

1. Philology
2. Comparative linguistics
3. The shift from philology to structural linguistics.
4. Synchronic
5. Synchronic linguistics studies language at a specific point in time, while diachronic linguistics studies language change over time.

Part 3: Key Concepts in General Linguistics

1. Language is a structured system of sounds, words, and rules, while communication is the broader process of transmitting information.
2. Psycholinguistics
3. Psycholinguistics studies language processing in the mind, while sociolinguistics examines language variation across social groups.
4. Morphology
5. Phonetics (study of speech sounds), phonology (study of sound systems), and syntax (study of sentence structure).

Part 4: Foundations for Further Study



1. Education, law, and technology
2. Phonetics
3. Ferdinand de Saussure
4. Grammar and phonetics
5. Because they provide the analytical tools and terminology needed to study advanced branches of linguistics.

References and Attributions [Series 1]

General References

- Crystal, D. (2003). *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language* (2nd ed.). Cambridge University Press.
- Fromkin, V., Rodman, R., & Hyams, N. (2018). *An Introduction to Language* (11th ed.). Cengage Learning.
- Lyons, J. (1991). *Language and Linguistics: An Introduction*. Cambridge University Press.

Illustrations

- *Figure 1.1: Linguistics as the scientific study of language*
 - AI-generated prompt: “Generate a simple diagram showing linguistics at the centre, connected to language, communication, and analysis.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “linguistics definition diagram OER”
- *Plate 1.1: Linguistics as a scientific discipline*



- AI-generated prompt: “Generate an image of a researcher recording speech sounds with a microphone in a natural setting.”
- Suggested OER search string: “field linguist recording speech sounds OER”
- *Box 1.1: Selected contributions of linguistics to human knowledge*
 - AI-generated prompt: “Generate a text box listing contributions of linguistics to education, technology, and culture.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “applications of linguistics OER”
- *Figure 1.2: Early beginnings of linguistic inquiry*
 - AI-generated prompt: “Generate a simple world map highlighting Greece, India, and Arab regions as centres of early linguistic study.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “history of linguistics early centres OER”
- *Plate 1.2: Comparative linguistics in practice*
 - AI-generated prompt: “Generate an image of scholars in the nineteenth century studying manuscripts and comparing languages.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “comparative linguistics nineteenth century OER”
- *Box 1.2: Key shifts in nineteenth-century linguistics*
 - AI-generated prompt: “Generate a text box summarising nineteenth-century shifts in linguistics, including comparative and structural approaches.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “nineteenth century linguistics structural synchronic diachronic OER”
- *Figure 1.3: Language as a tool of communication*
 - AI-generated prompt: “Generate a diagram showing communication as a broad circle, with language as a smaller circle inside it.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “language and communication diagram OER”
- *Plate 1.3: Linguistics interacting with related fields*



- AI-generated prompt: “Generate an image of a teacher explaining language variation in a classroom setting, with students engaged.”
- Suggested OER search string: “sociolinguistics classroom teaching OER”
- *Box 1.3: Selected basic terminologies in linguistics*
 - AI-generated prompt: “Generate a text box listing basic linguistic terminologies with short definitions.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “basic linguistic terms phonetics morphology syntax semantics pragmatics OER”
- *Figure 1.4: Relevance of linguistics to other disciplines*
 - AI-generated prompt: “Generate a diagram with linguistics at the centre, linked to education, law, and technology.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “linguistics relevance to other disciplines diagram OER”
- *Plate 1.4: Preparing for advanced branches of linguistics*
 - AI-generated prompt: “Generate an image of a student studying language data with charts and notes on a desk.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “student analysing language data linguistics OER”
- *Box 1.4: Selected contributions of scholars to linguistics*
 - AI-generated prompt: “Generate a text box listing contributions of Saussure, Arab linguists, and modern scholars to linguistics.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “contributions of Saussure and Arab linguists OER”



Course code: ARA 204:

Course title: Introduction to General Linguistics

Course credit load: 2 Units

Series 2: Branches and Components of Linguistics

- **Part 2.1: Phonetics and Phonology in Arabic**
 - 2.1.1 Definition and scope of phonetics (علم الأصوات)
 - 2.1.2 Arabic speech sounds: consonants and vowels
 - 2.1.3 Phonology (علم الصوتيات) and sound systems in Arabic
- **Part 2.2: Morphology (الصرف)**
 - 2.2.1 Word formation in Arabic (الجنر والوزن)
 - 2.2.2 Morphemes and their types in Arabic
 - 2.2.3 Morphological analysis of Arabic verb and noun patterns
- **Part 2.3: Syntax (النحو)**
 - 2.3.1 Sentence structure in Arabic (الجملة الاسمية والجملة الفعلية)
 - 2.3.2 Phrase and clause structures in Arabic grammar
 - 2.3.3 Transformational grammar and syntactic analysis in Arabic
- **Part 2.4: Semantics and Pragmatics (الدلالة والتداولية)**
 - 2.4.1 Meaning in Arabic language (الدلالة المعجمية والدلالة السياقية)
 - 2.4.2 Lexical and sentence meaning in Arabic
 - 2.4.3 Pragmatics (التداولية): context, intention, and language use in Arabic

Introduction



In the last Series, we explored the foundations of general linguistics, focusing on its meaning, scope, historical emergence, and key concepts. That background prepared us to appreciate linguistics as a scientific study of language. In this Series, we move a step further by examining the specific branches and components of linguistics, with particular attention to how they apply to the Arabic language. This exploration is essential because it allows us to see how the discipline is organised into specialised areas that analyse sounds, words, sentences, and meaning.

The aim of this Series is to introduce you to the major branches of linguistics and to equip you with the skills needed to describe, analyse, and apply these components within the Arabic language system. By the end of this Series, you will be able to identify the main areas of linguistic study and explain their relevance to Arabic linguistics.

We shall commence this Series by studying phonetics and phonology, focusing on Arabic speech sounds and sound systems. Next, we will move on to morphology, where we will examine word formation processes in Arabic, including the role of roots and patterns. Following that, we will explore syntax, considering sentence structures such as the nominal and verbal sentences in Arabic. Finally, we will wrap up by discussing semantics and pragmatics, highlighting how meaning is conveyed and how context influences language use in Arabic.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 2.1** define phonetics and explain its scope within Arabic linguistics,
- **SLO 2.2** classify Arabic speech sounds according to their place and manner of articulation,
- **SLO 2.3** analyse the phonological system of Arabic and demonstrate how sounds function within it,
- **SLO 2.4** describe the processes of word formation in Arabic morphology, including the role of roots and patterns,



- **SLO 2.5** identify different types of morphemes in Arabic and apply them in morphological analysis,
- **SLO 2.6** explain the structure of Arabic sentences, distinguishing between nominal and verbal sentences,
- **SLO 2.7** analyse phrase and clause structures in Arabic syntax using appropriate grammatical rules,
- **SLO 2.8** define semantics and illustrate how meaning is conveyed in Arabic words and sentences, and
- **SLO 2.9** evaluate the role of pragmatics in Arabic communication by examining how context and intention shape meaning.

2.1 Phonetics And Phonology In Arabic

2.1.1 Definition and scope of phonetics

Phonetics (علم الأصوات) is the branch of linguistics that studies the physical properties of speech sounds, including how they are produced, transmitted, and perceived. In Arabic linguistics, phonetics is particularly important because the Arabic language has a rich and distinctive sound system, with emphatic consonants, guttural sounds, and a clear distinction between short and long vowels.

Phonetics is divided into three main areas: articulatory phonetics (how sounds are produced by the speech organs), acoustic phonetics (the physical properties of sound waves), and auditory phonetics (how sounds are perceived by the ear). In Arabic studies, articulatory phonetics is especially emphasised, as learners must understand how sounds are formed in the mouth and throat to master correct pronunciation.

Fill in the blank: _____ is the branch of linguistics that studies the physical properties of speech sounds.



Human Vocal Tract: Articulation Points for Arabic Sounds

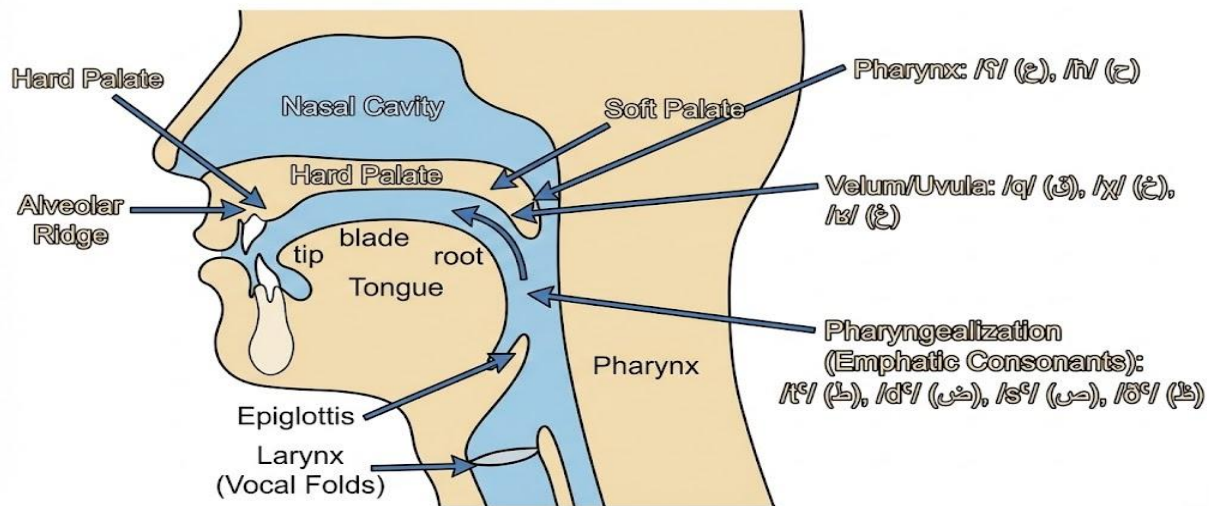


Figure 2.1: Articulatory phonetics in Arabic

2.1.2 Arabic speech sounds: consonants and vowels

Arabic has a distinctive set of **consonants** and **vowels**. Consonants are produced with some obstruction of airflow, while vowels are produced with a relatively open vocal tract. Arabic consonants include unique sounds such as the pharyngeal fricatives /ʕ/ (ع) and /ħ/ (ح), as well as emphatic consonants like /sʕ/ (ص), /dʕ/ (ض), /tʕ/ (ط), and /zʕ/ (ظ). These emphatic sounds are produced with a secondary articulation in the pharynx, giving them a heavier quality.

Arabic vowels are classified into short and long vowels. The short vowels are /a/, /i/, and /u/, represented in writing by diacritical marks (fatḥa, kasra, ḍamma). Their long counterparts are /ā/, /ī/, and /ū/, represented by the letters alif, yā', and wāw respectively. Mastery of vowel length is crucial in Arabic, as it can change the meaning of words.

Fill in the blank: The Arabic consonants /sʕ/, /dʕ/, /tʕ/, and /zʕ/ are known as _____ consonants.





Plate 2.1: Arabic consonants and vowels in script

2.1.3 Phonology and sound systems of Arabic

Phonology (علم الصوتيات) is the study of how sounds function within a language system. Unlike phonetics, which focuses on the physical properties of sounds, phonology examines the abstract rules and patterns that govern how sounds interact. In Arabic, phonology explains phenomena such as assimilation, vowel harmony, and the distribution of emphatic consonants.

For example, in Arabic, the definite article “al-” (ال) undergoes assimilation when followed by certain consonants known as “sun letters” (الحروف الشمسية). Instead of pronouncing the /l/, the consonant following “al-” is doubled, as in “ash-shams” (الشمس) for “the sun.” This is a phonological rule, not a phonetic one, because it describes how sounds behave in the system rather than how they are physically produced.

Fill in the blank: In Arabic phonology, the definite article “al-” is assimilated before _____ letters.

Feature	Explanation



Assimilation of the Definite Article	The definite article <i>al-</i> assimilates before “sun letters” (e.g., <i>ash-shams</i> instead of <i>al-shams</i>).
Emphatic vs Non-Emphatic Consonants	Distinction between emphatic sounds (produced with pharyngealisation, e.g., <i>ṣ</i> , <i>ḍ</i> , <i>ṭ</i> , <i>ẓ</i>) and their plain counterparts.
Short vs Long Vowels	Arabic contrasts short vowels (<i>a</i> , <i>i</i> , <i>u</i>) with long vowels (<i>ā</i> , <i>ī</i> , <i>ū</i>), which can change word meaning.
Pharyngeal and Uvular Sounds	Unique sounds such as <i>ʿayn</i> (ʿ) and <i>ḥā</i> (ḥ) (pharyngeal), and <i>qāf</i> (q) (uvular), distinguishing Arabic from many other languages.

Box 2.1: Key phonological features in Arabic

Pilot questions 2.1

1. What is phonetics, and why is it important in Arabic linguistics?
2. Fill in the blank: The Arabic consonants /ṣ/, /ḍ/, /ṭ/, and /ẓ/ are known as _____ consonants.
3. What is the difference between phonetics and phonology?
4. Fill in the blank: In Arabic phonology, the definite article “al-” is assimilated before _____ letters.
5. Mention two unique features of Arabic sound systems.

2.2 Morphology (الصرف)

2.2.1 Word formation in Arabic (الجذر والوزن)

Morphology (الصرف) is the branch of linguistics that studies the structure of words and how they are formed. In Arabic, morphology is particularly significant because words are built from **roots** (جذر) and **patterns** (وزن). The root usually consists of three consonants, such as ك-ت-ب, which



conveys the basic meaning of “writing.” Patterns are templates with vowels and sometimes additional consonants that combine with the root to form words. For example, the root ك-ت-ب (k-t-b) can generate كَتَبَ (he wrote), كِتَاب (book), and مَكْتُوب (written).

This system of root-and-pattern morphology is unique to Semitic languages and gives Arabic its rich word-building capacity. Learners must pay close attention to how roots interact with patterns, as this determines both meaning and grammatical function.

Fill in the blank: In Arabic morphology, words are formed by combining a _____ with a pattern.

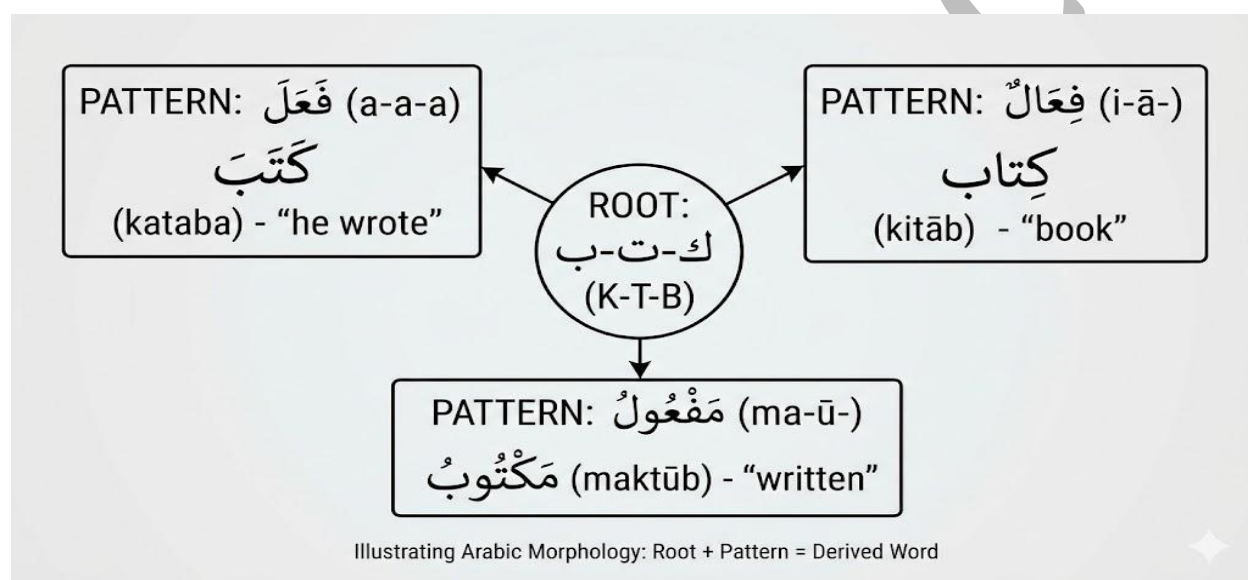


Figure 2.2: Root and pattern system in Arabic morphology

2.2.2 Morphemes and their types in Arabic

A **morpheme** (مورفيم) is the smallest unit of meaning in a language. In Arabic, morphemes can be classified into **roots**, **patterns**, **prefixes**, **suffixes**, and **infixes**. Roots provide the core meaning, while patterns shape grammatical categories. Prefixes and suffixes are added to indicate tense, number, gender, or case. For example, the prefix يـ in يكتب (he writes) marks present tense, while the suffix ون in يكتبون (they write) marks plural.

Understanding morphemes is essential for analysing Arabic words. By breaking words into their morphemes, learners can identify meaning, tense, and grammatical role.



Fill in the blank: The smallest unit of meaning in a language is called a _____.

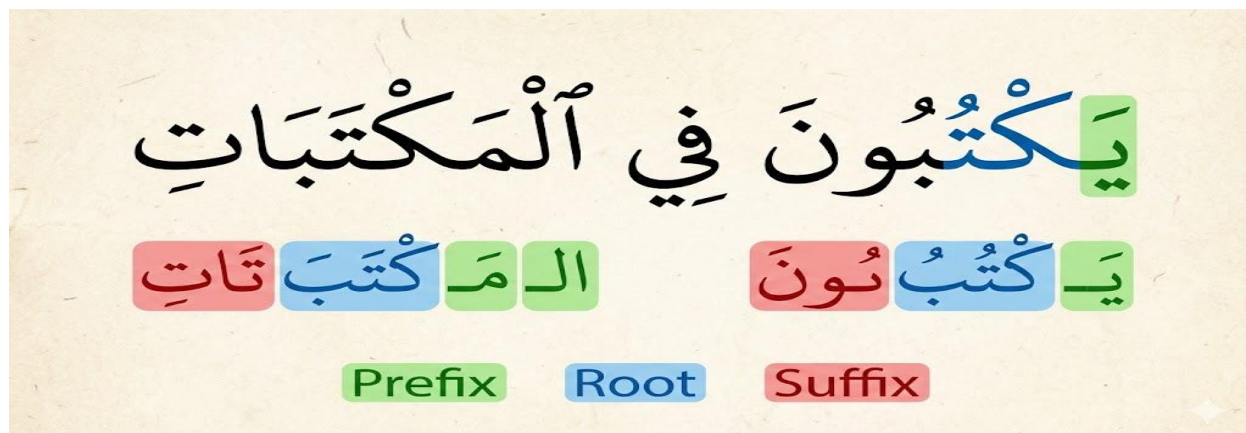


Plate 2.2: Identifying morphemes in Arabic words

2.2.3 Morphological analysis in Arabic verb and noun patterns

Morphological analysis in Arabic involves examining how verbs and nouns are formed and modified. Arabic verbs follow specific patterns that indicate tense, voice, and mood. For example, the verb كَتَبَ (he wrote) belongs to the basic form (الفعل الثلاثي المجرد). Derived forms such as اسْتَكَتَبَ (to ask someone to write) or كَاتَبَ (to correspond) show how morphology expands meaning.

Nouns also follow morphological rules. For instance, the noun مَكْتَبَة (library) is derived from the same root ك-ت-ب but uses a different pattern. This demonstrates how morphology connects verbs and nouns through shared roots while distinguishing their grammatical roles.

Fill in the blank: The verb form كَتَبَ belongs to the category known as _____ trilateral verbs.

Form	Word	Meaning / Explanation
Basic Trilateral Verb	كَتَبَ (kataba)	He wrote.
Derived Verb Form (III)	كَاتَبَ (kātaba)	He corresponded.
Derived Verb Form (X)	اسْتَكَتَبَ (istaktaba)	He asked someone to write.
Noun (Pattern: fi 'āl)	كِتَاب (kitāb)	Book.
Noun (Pattern: maf'ala)	مَكْتَبَة (maktaba)	Library.



Box 2.2: Examples of Arabic verb and noun patterns from the root ك-ت-ب

Pilot questions 2.2

1. What is morphology, and why is it important in Arabic linguistics?
2. Fill in the blank: In Arabic morphology, words are formed by combining a _____ with a pattern.
3. What is a morpheme, and what are its types in Arabic?
4. Fill in the blank: The smallest unit of meaning in a language is called a _____.
5. Give two examples of how the root ك-ت-ب generates different verbs and nouns.

2.3 Syntax (النحو)

2.3.1 Sentence structure in Arabic (الجملة الاسمية والجملة الفعلية)

Syntax (النحو) is the branch of linguistics that studies how words are arranged to form sentences. In Arabic, syntax is particularly important because sentence structure determines meaning and grammatical correctness. Arabic sentences are broadly divided into two types: **nominal sentences** (الجملة الاسمية) and **verbal sentences** (الجملة الفعلية).

A nominal sentence begins with a noun or pronoun, such as: **الطالب مجتهد** (The student is hardworking). A verbal sentence begins with a verb, such as: **كتب الطالبُ الدرسَ** (The student wrote the lesson). Understanding the difference between these two structures is essential for analysing Arabic grammar.

Fill in the blank: A sentence that begins with a verb in Arabic is called a _____ sentence.



ARABIC SENTENCE STRUCTURES

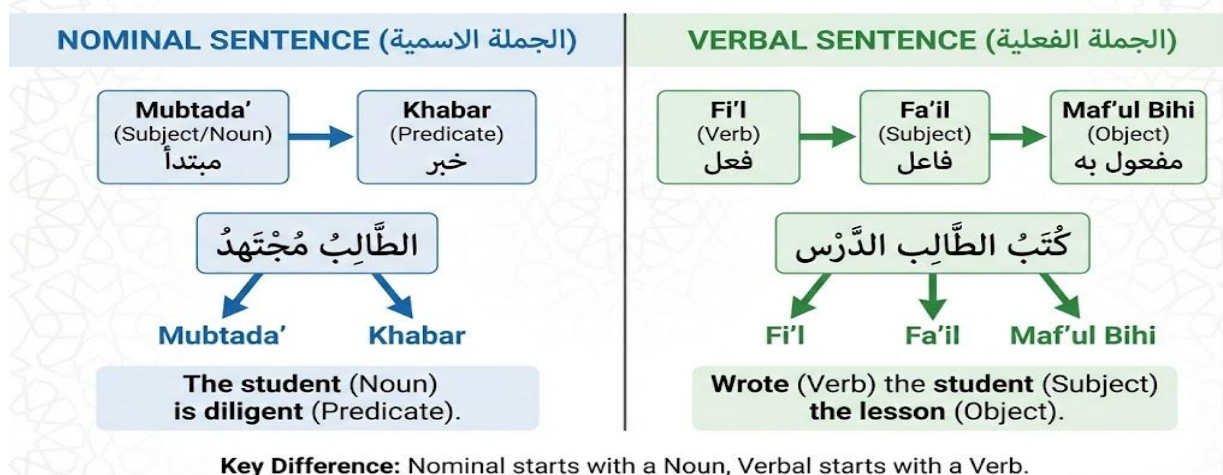


Figure 2.3: Basic sentence structures in Arabic syntax

2.3.2 Phrase and clause structures in Arabic grammar

A **phrase** (العبارة) is a group of words that functions as a unit but does not form a complete sentence. Examples include noun phrases (الطَّالِبُ الْمُجْتَهِدُ - the hardworking student) and verb phrases (يَكْتُبُ الدَّرْسَ - writes the lesson). A **clause** (الجملة الفرعية) is a group of words that contains a subject and a predicate, and can either stand alone or depend on another clause.

In Arabic, clauses can be independent (main clauses) or dependent (subordinate clauses). For instance, جاء الطالب الذي نجح في الامتحان (The student who passed the exam came) contains a main clause (جاء الطالب) and a subordinate clause (الذي نجح في الامتحان).

Fill in the blank: A group of words that contains a subject and a predicate is called a _____.



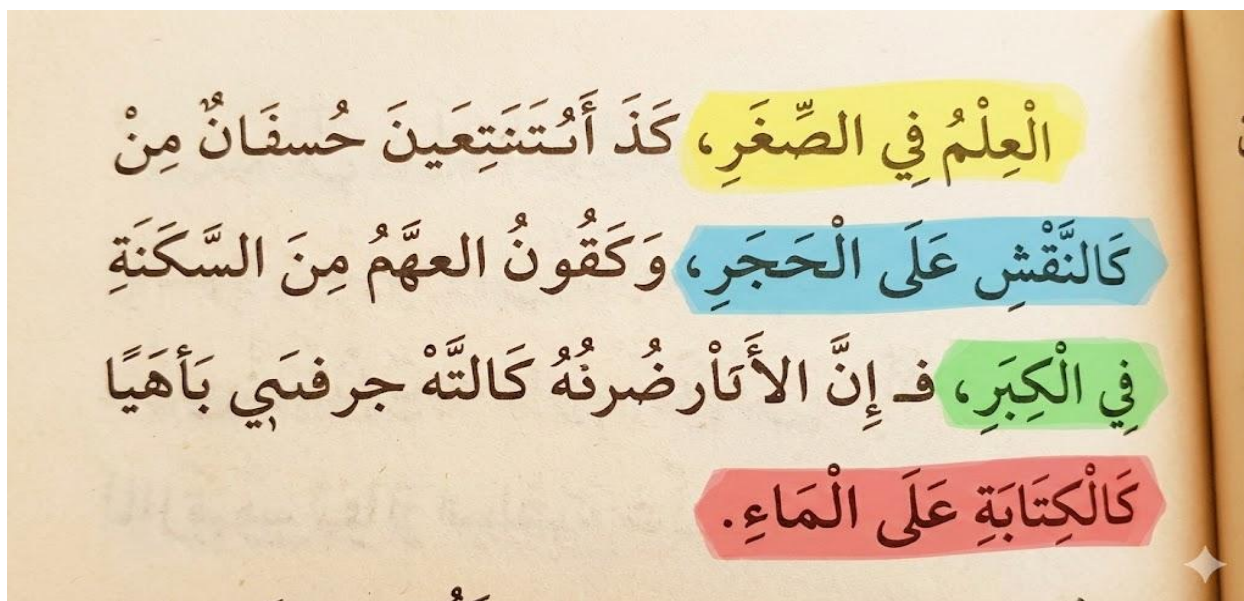


Plate 2.3: Identifying phrases and clauses in Arabic grammar

2.3.3 Transformational grammar and syntactic analysis in Arabic

Transformational grammar (النحو التحويلي) refers to the study of how sentences can be transformed or rearranged while retaining meaning. In Arabic, this includes processes such as changing word order, using passive voice, or converting nominal sentences into verbal sentences. For example, *كُتِبَ الدرسُ* (The student wrote the lesson) can be transformed into *كُتِبَ الدرسُ بواسطة الطالب* (The lesson was written by the student).

Syntactic analysis involves breaking down sentences into their components to understand their grammatical structure. This helps learners identify subjects, verbs, objects, and modifiers, and to see how they interact. By practising syntactic analysis, learners develop the ability to interpret complex Arabic texts accurately.

Fill in the blank: The sentence *كُتِبَ الدرسُ بواسطة الطالب* is an example of the _____ voice in Arabic.

Transformation	Example
Nominal to Verbal Sentence	اجتهد الطالب → الطالب مجتهد (The student is diligent → The student worked hard).



Active to Passive Voice	كُتِبَ الدرسُ بواسطة الطالب → كتب الطالب الدرس (The student wrote the lesson → The lesson was written by the student).
Word Order Variation	الكتاب قرأه الطالب → قرأ الطالب الكتاب (The student read the book → The book was read by the student).

Box 2.3: Examples of syntactic transformations in Arabic

Pilot questions 2.3

1. What is syntax, and why is it important in Arabic linguistics?
2. Fill in the blank: A sentence that begins with a verb in Arabic is called a _____ sentence.
3. What is the difference between a phrase and a clause in Arabic grammar?
4. Fill in the blank: A group of words that contains a subject and a predicate is called a _____.
5. Give one example of a syntactic transformation in Arabic.

2.4 Semantics And Pragmatics (الدلالة والتداولية)

2.4.1 Meaning in Arabic language (الدلالة المعجمية والدلالة السياقية)

Semantics (علم الدلالة) is the branch of linguistics concerned with meaning in language. In Arabic, semantics is studied at two levels: **lexical meaning** (الدلالة المعجمية), which refers to the meaning of individual words, and **contextual meaning** (الدلالة السياقية), which refers to how meaning changes depending on usage and situation. For example, the word **عين** can mean “eye,” “spring,” or “spy,” depending on the context.



Lexical meaning is usually stable and recorded in dictionaries, while contextual meaning requires interpretation based on surrounding words and the situation. Learners must pay attention to both levels to fully grasp the richness of Arabic texts.

Fill in the blank: The word عَيْن in Arabic can mean “eye,” “spring,” or “_____,” depending on context.

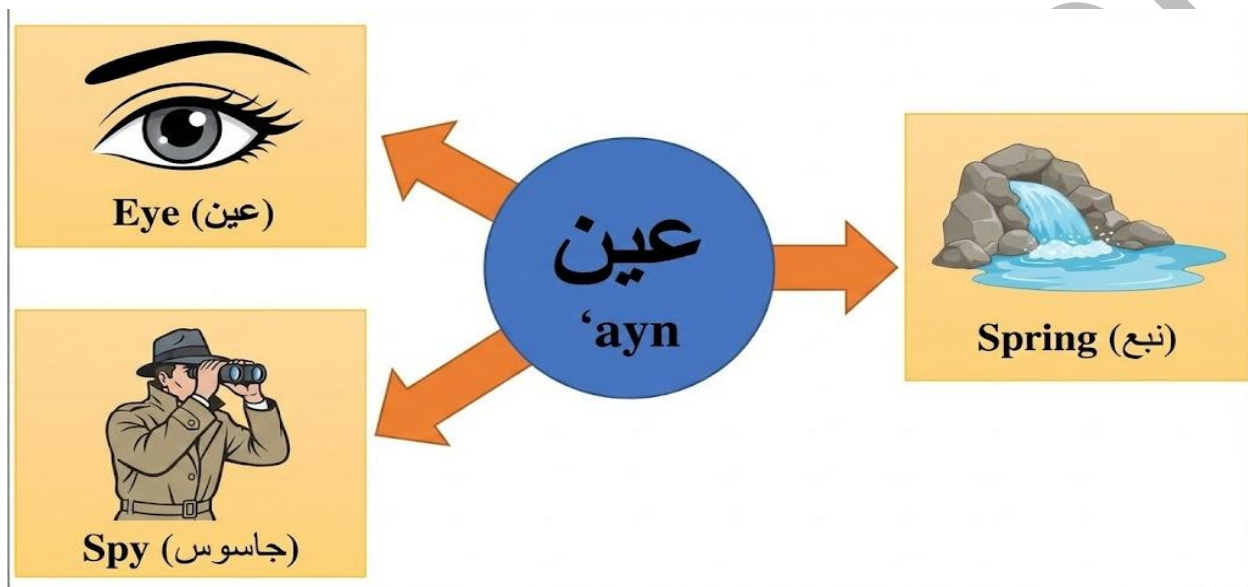


Figure 2.4: Multiple meanings of the word عين in Arabic semantics

Figure 2.4: Multiple meanings of the word عين in Arabic semantics

2.4.2 Lexical and sentence meaning in Arabic

Lexical meaning refers to the meaning of single words, while **sentence meaning** (الدلالة التركيبية) refers to how words combine to form meaningful sentences. In Arabic, sentence meaning is influenced by word order, agreement, and grammatical markers. For example, قرأ الطالب الكتاب (The student read the book) conveys a different meaning from الكتاب قرأه الطالب (The book was read by the student), even though both involve the same words.

Sentence meaning also depends on grammatical features such as case endings (الإعراب). These endings indicate the role of each word in the sentence, helping to clarify meaning.

Fill in the blank: In Arabic, case endings (الإعراب) help clarify the _____ of each word in a sentence.



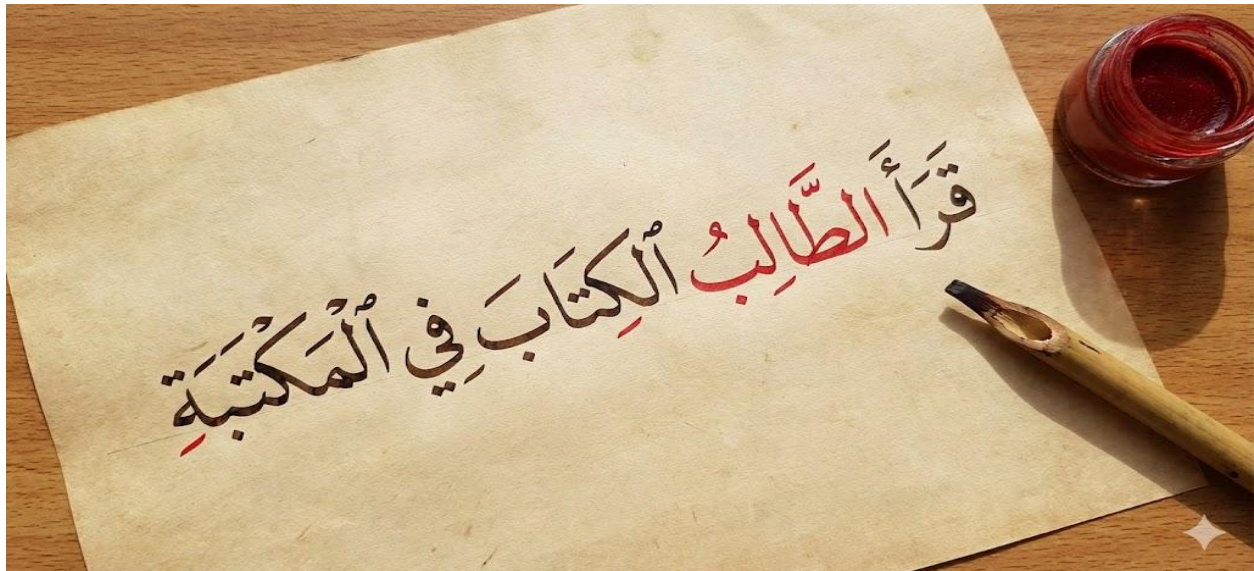


Plate 2.4: Case endings clarifying sentence meaning in Arabic

2.4.3 Pragmatics: context, intention, and language use in Arabic

Pragmatics (التداولية) is the study of how meaning is shaped by context, speaker intention, and social interaction. In Arabic, pragmatics is especially important because meaning often depends on politeness strategies, cultural norms, and implied meanings. For example, the phrase *هل يمكنك إغلاق الباب؟* (Can you close the door?) is not a question about ability but a polite request.

Pragmatics also examines how speakers use language to achieve goals, such as persuading, requesting, or apologising. In Arabic communication, tone, choice of words, and cultural expectations all play a role in determining meaning beyond the literal level.

Fill in the blank: The phrase *هل يمكنك إغلاق الباب؟* is pragmatically interpreted as a polite

_____.

Feature	Explanation
Politeness Strategies	Requests and commands are often softened with polite forms, titles, or expressions of respect.
Indirect Speech Acts	Speakers may use questions or hints to make requests indirectly (e.g., <i>هل يمكنك أن تعطيني الكتاب؟</i> "Can you give me the book?" instead of a direct command).



Cultural Norms and Meaning	Social and cultural expectations shape interpretation, such as honouring elders or showing deference in formal contexts.
Contextual Interpretation	Ambiguous expressions are understood through shared context, tone, and situational cues.

Box 2.4: Key pragmatic features in Arabic communication

Pilot questions 2.4

1. What is semantics, and how is it studied in Arabic?
2. Fill in the blank: The word عين in Arabic can mean “eye,” “spring,” or “_____,” depending on context.
3. What is the difference between lexical meaning and sentence meaning in Arabic?
4. Fill in the blank: In Arabic, case endings (الإعراب) help clarify the _____ of each word in a sentence.
5. How does pragmatics explain the meaning of polite requests in Arabic?

Series Summary

This Series has guided you through the major branches and components of linguistics with explicit focus on the Arabic language. Its purpose was to help you move beyond general foundations and into the detailed study of how Arabic sounds, words, sentences, and meanings are structured and analysed. By examining phonetics and phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics with pragmatics, you have seen how each branch contributes to a fuller understanding of Arabic linguistics and its unique features.



In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you should now be able to define and classify Arabic sounds, analyse the phonological system, describe and apply morphological processes, explain sentence structures, carry out syntactic analysis, and evaluate meaning both at the lexical and contextual levels. You are also equipped to interpret pragmatic features such as politeness and indirect speech acts in Arabic communication. These skills provide you with a strong platform for advanced study and ensure you can confidently engage with the structural and functional aspects of Arabic linguistics.

Concept Check Questions [Series 2]

Objective questions

1. Phonetics is the study of _____ properties of speech sounds. (Linked to SLO 2.1)
2. The Arabic consonants /s/, /d/, /t/, and /z/ are known as _____ consonants. (Linked to SLO 2.2)
3. The smallest unit of meaning in a language is called a _____. (Linked to SLO 2.5)
4. A sentence that begins with a verb in Arabic is called a _____ sentence. (Linked to SLO 2.6)
5. The phrase *هذه يمكنك إغلاق الباب؟* is pragmatically interpreted as a polite _____. (Linked to SLO 2.9)

Short-answer questions

6. Define phonology and explain its role in Arabic linguistics. (Linked to SLO 2.3)
7. Identify two examples of how the root ك-ت-ب generates different words in Arabic. (Linked to SLO 2.4)
8. Distinguish between a phrase and a clause in Arabic grammar. (Linked to SLO 2.7)
9. Explain how case endings (الإعراب) contribute to sentence meaning in Arabic. (Linked to SLO 2.8)



10. State one pragmatic feature that influences meaning in Arabic communication. (Linked to SLO 2.9)

Long-answer questions

11. Analyse the importance of the root-and-pattern system in Arabic morphology, giving examples of how it shapes word formation. (Linked to SLO 2.4)
12. Evaluate the role of syntax in clarifying meaning in Arabic, with reference to nominal and verbal sentences. (Linked to SLO 2.6, SLO 2.7)
13. Discuss how semantics and pragmatics complement each other in Arabic communication, using examples to illustrate your points. (Linked to SLO 2.8, SLO 2.9)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 2]

Objective questions

1. Physical
2. Emphatic
3. Morpheme
4. Verbal
5. Request

Short-answer questions

6. Phonology is the study of how sounds function within a language system. In Arabic, it explains rules such as assimilation of the definite article before sun letters.
7. Examples include كَتَبَ (he wrote), كِتَاب (book), and مَكْتَبَة (library).
8. A phrase is a group of words functioning as a unit but not forming a complete sentence, while a clause contains a subject and predicate and can stand alone or depend on another clause.



9. Case endings mark the grammatical role of words (subject, object, etc.), ensuring clarity in sentence meaning.
10. Politeness strategies, such as using questions as requests, influence meaning in Arabic communication.

Long-answer questions

11. *Basic response:* The root-and-pattern system combines consonantal roots with vowel patterns to form words. For example, ك-ت-ب generates كَتَبَ (he wrote), كِتَاب (book), and مَكْتَبَة (library).
Value-added response: Beyond the Series, learners may note that this system allows for extensive derivation, enabling Arabic to create related words across verbs, nouns, and adjectives, and is a hallmark of Semitic languages.
12. *Basic response:* Syntax clarifies meaning by distinguishing nominal sentences (beginning with a noun) and verbal sentences (beginning with a verb). For example, الطالب مجتهد versus اجتهد الطالب.
Value-added response: Outstanding learners may add that syntax also enables transformations such as active to passive voice, and word order variations, which enrich expressive possibilities in Arabic.
13. *Basic response:* Semantics focuses on word and sentence meaning, while pragmatics considers context and speaker intention. Together, they explain how meaning is conveyed in Arabic.
Value-added response: Learners may extend this by showing how semantics provides the literal meaning, while pragmatics explains implied meaning, politeness, and cultural nuances, making communication effective and context-sensitive.



Part 2.1: Phonetics and Phonology in Arabic

1. Phonetics is the branch of linguistics that studies the physical properties of speech sounds.
2. Emphatic consonants.
3. Phonetics focuses on the physical production and perception of sounds, while phonology studies how sounds function and interact within a language system.
4. Sun letters.
5. Assimilation of the definite article, emphatic consonants, contrast between short and long vowels, and presence of pharyngeal sounds.

Part 2.2: Morphology (الصرف)

1. Morphology is the study of word structure and formation in Arabic linguistics.
2. A root.
3. A morpheme is the smallest unit of meaning. In Arabic, types include roots, patterns, prefixes, suffixes, and infixes.
4. Morpheme.
5. Examples include كَتَبَ (he wrote) and كِتَاب (book).

Part 2.3: Syntax (النحو)

1. Syntax is the study of how words are arranged to form sentences in Arabic.
2. Verbal sentence.
3. A phrase is a group of words functioning as a unit but not forming a complete sentence, while a clause contains a subject and predicate.
4. Clause.



5. Transformations such as changing active to passive voice, e.g., كُتِبَ → كَتَبَ الطالبُ الدرسَ
الدرسُ بواسطة الطالب.

Part 2.4: Semantics and Pragmatics (الدلالة والتداولية)

1. Semantics is the study of meaning in Arabic, focusing on lexical and contextual levels.
2. Spy.
3. Lexical meaning refers to dictionary definitions of words, while sentence meaning arises from word arrangement and grammatical markers.
4. Role.
5. Pragmatics explains polite requests, indirect speech acts, and cultural influences on meaning.

References and Attributions [Series 2]

General References

- Al-Ani, S. H. (1970). *Arabic Phonology: An Analysis of the Phonological System of Classical Arabic*. Mouton.
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- Haywood, J. A., & Nahmad, H. M. (1965). *A New Arabic Grammar of the Written Language*. Lund Humphries.

Illustrations

- Figure 2.1: Articulatory phonetics in Arabic



- Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
- Prompt: “Generate a labelled diagram of the human vocal tract showing articulation points for Arabic sounds such as /ʕ/, /h/, and emphatic consonants.”
- Suggested OER search string: “Arabic phonetics vocal tract diagram OER”
- *Plate 2.1: Arabic consonants and vowels in script*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of Arabic script highlighting emphatic consonants and short vowel diacritics.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Arabic script emphatic consonants vowels OER”
- *Box 2.1: Key phonological features in Arabic*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing key phonological features of Arabic, including assimilation and emphatic consonants.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Arabic phonology assimilation sun letters emphatic consonants OER”
- *Figure 2.2: Root and pattern system in Arabic morphology*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing the Arabic root ك-ت-ب combined with patterns to form words like كَتَبَ, كِتَاب, and مَكْتُوب.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Arabic morphology root and pattern diagram OER”
- *Plate 2.2: Identifying morphemes in Arabic words*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of Arabic text with morphemes highlighted in different colours, showing roots, prefixes, and suffixes.”



- Suggested OER search string: “Arabic morphology morphemes highlighted OER”
- *Box 2.2: Examples of Arabic verb and noun patterns from the root ك-ت-ب*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing examples of Arabic verb and noun patterns from the root ك-ت-ب.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Arabic verb and noun patterns morphology OER”
- *Figure 2.3: Basic sentence structures in Arabic syntax*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram comparing nominal and verbal sentence structures in Arabic, with examples.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Arabic syntax nominal verbal sentence diagram OER”
- *Plate 2.3: Identifying phrases and clauses in Arabic grammar*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of Arabic text with phrases and clauses highlighted in different colours.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Arabic syntax phrases clauses examples OER”
- *Box 2.3: Examples of syntactic transformations in Arabic*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing examples of syntactic transformations in Arabic, including passive voice and word order changes.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Arabic syntax transformational grammar passive voice OER”
- *Figure 2.4: Multiple meanings of the word عين in Arabic semantics*



- Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
- Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing the Arabic word عين with arrows pointing to meanings: eye, spring, spy.”
- Suggested OER search string: “Arabic semantics multiple meanings عين OER”
- *Plate 2.4: Case endings clarifying sentence meaning in Arabic*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of an Arabic sentence with case endings highlighted in red to show grammatical roles.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Arabic syntax case endings sentence meaning OER”
- *Box 2.4: Key pragmatic features in Arabic communication*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing key pragmatic features in Arabic communication, including politeness and indirect speech acts.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Arabic pragmatics politeness indirect speech acts OER”



Course code: ARA 204:

Course title: Introduction to General Linguistics

Course credit load: 2 Units

Series 3: Development of Linguistics in the Nineteenth Century

- **Part 3.1: Historical background of nineteenth-century linguistics**
 - 3.1.1 The intellectual climate of Europe and the Arab world
 - 3.1.2 Influence of classical Arabic grammar on comparative studies
 - 3.1.3 Early comparative approaches to Indo-European and Semitic languages
- **Part 3.2: Comparative and historical linguistics**
 - 3.2.1 Emergence of comparative philology in Europe
 - 3.2.2 Contributions of Arab scholars to comparative studies
 - 3.2.3 Diachronic analysis of Arabic and related Semitic languages
- **Part 3.3: Structural and descriptive approaches**
 - 3.3.1 Shift from philology to structural linguistics
 - 3.3.2 Application of structural methods to Arabic grammar
 - 3.3.3 Key nineteenth-century debates on language description
- **Part 3.4: Legacy and impact on Arabic linguistics**
 - 3.4.1 Influence of nineteenth-century theories on modern Arabic studies
 - 3.4.2 Integration of comparative and structural approaches in Arabic linguistics
 - 3.4.3 Preparing the ground for twentieth-century linguistic developments

Introduction



In the last Series, we examined the branches and components of linguistics, focusing on how Arabic sounds, words, sentences, and meanings are analysed. That foundation now prepares us to explore the historical development of linguistics in the nineteenth century, a period that marked a turning point in the study of language. This era is particularly relevant to Arabic studies because it was a time when comparative and structural approaches began to shape modern linguistic thought, drawing on traditions that had long been established in Arabic grammar.

The aim of this Series is to introduce you to the major developments in nineteenth-century linguistics and to show how these influenced the study of Arabic. By the end of the Series, you will be able to explain the historical background, analyse comparative and structural approaches, and evaluate their legacy for Arabic linguistics.

We shall commence this Series by exploring the historical background of nineteenth-century linguistics, including the intellectual climate in Europe and the Arab world. Next, we will move on to comparative and historical linguistics, considering how Arab scholars contributed to comparative studies alongside European philologists. Following that, we will examine structural and descriptive approaches, highlighting how these methods were applied to Arabic grammar. Finally, we will wrap up by discussing the legacy and impact of nineteenth-century theories on modern Arabic linguistics, showing how they prepared the ground for twentieth-century developments.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 3.1** describe the historical background of nineteenth-century linguistics, including the intellectual climate in Europe and the Arab world,
- **SLO 3.2** explain the influence of classical Arabic grammar on comparative studies of the nineteenth century,
- **SLO 3.3** analyse the emergence of comparative and historical linguistics and its application to Arabic and other Semitic languages,
- **SLO 3.4** identify key contributions of Arab scholars to comparative linguistic thought,



- **SLO 3.5** explain the shift from philology to structural linguistics in the nineteenth century,
- **SLO 3.6** demonstrate how structural methods were applied to the description of Arabic grammar,
- **SLO 3.7** evaluate major nineteenth-century debates on language description and their relevance to Arabic, and
- **SLO 3.8** assess the legacy of nineteenth-century linguistic theories and their impact on modern Arabic linguistic studies.

3.1 Historical Background Of Nineteenth-Century Linguistics

3.1.1 The intellectual climate of Europe and the Arab world

The nineteenth century was a period of remarkable intellectual activity in both Europe and the Arab world. In Europe, scholars were deeply engaged in the study of languages, driven by the rise of **philology** (the historical study of texts and languages). At the same time, Arab scholars continued to build on their long tradition of grammatical analysis, which had been established centuries earlier by figures such as Sibawayh.

This intellectual climate fostered comparative studies, where European linguists examined Indo-European languages, while Arab scholars maintained their focus on Arabic and related Semitic languages. The interaction of these traditions laid the groundwork for modern linguistics.

Fill in the blank: The nineteenth century in Europe was marked by the rise of _____, the historical study of texts and languages.



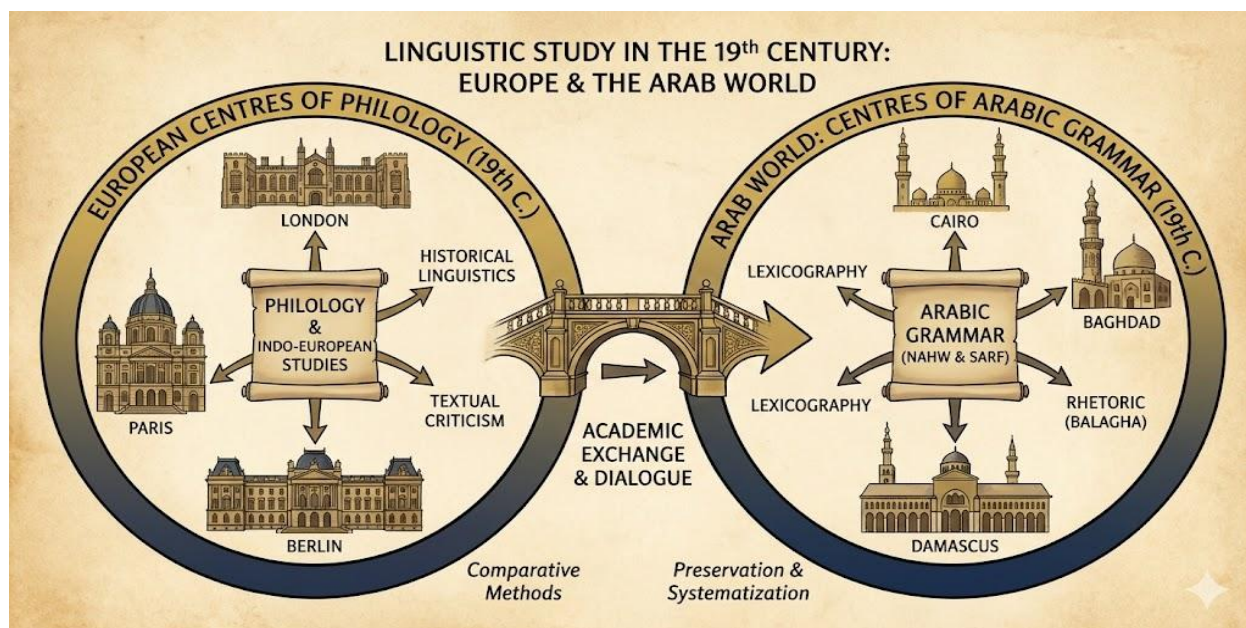


Figure 3.1: Intellectual climate of Europe and the Arab world

3.1.2 Influence of classical Arabic grammar on comparative studies

Classical Arabic grammar (النحو العربي الكلاسيكي) refers to the systematic study of Arabic language rules developed by early Arab scholars. This tradition influenced comparative studies in the nineteenth century, as European linguists recognised the sophistication of Arabic grammatical analysis. For example, the detailed categorisation of verbs, nouns, and case endings in Arabic provided models for understanding other languages.

Arabic grammar was not only descriptive but also analytical, offering insights into how language functions. This made it a valuable reference point for comparative philologists who sought to understand the structures of Indo-European and Semitic languages.

Fill in the blank: The detailed categorisation of verbs, nouns, and case endings in _____ grammar influenced comparative studies in the nineteenth century.





Plate 3.1: Classical Arabic grammar manuscript

3.1.3 Early comparative approaches to Indo-European and Semitic languages

Comparative linguistics (اللغويات المقارنة) emerged in the nineteenth century as scholars began to systematically compare languages to trace their historical development. Indo-European languages such as Sanskrit, Greek, and Latin were studied alongside Semitic languages like Arabic, Hebrew, and Syriac.

Arabic played a central role in these studies because of its well-preserved grammatical tradition and extensive written records. Scholars noted similarities and differences between Indo-European and Semitic languages, which helped establish the principles of historical linguistics.

Fill in the blank: Comparative linguistics in the nineteenth century studied both Indo-European and _____ languages.

Feature	Explanation
Systematic Comparison of Indo-European and Semitic Languages	Scholars compared languages across families to identify shared roots and reconstruct proto-languages.



Use of Arabic Grammar as a Model	Arabic's well-developed grammatical tradition provided a framework for analysing other languages.
Emphasis on Historical Development and Language Families	Focus on tracing languages back to common ancestors and classifying them into families.
Establishment of Diachronic Principles	Clear distinction between studying language change over time (<i>diachronic</i>) and language at a single point (<i>synchronic</i>).

Box 3.1: Key features of early comparative linguistic

Pilot questions 3.1

1. What intellectual traditions shaped the study of linguistics in the nineteenth century?
2. Fill in the blank: The nineteenth century in Europe was marked by the rise of _____, the historical study of texts and languages.
3. How did classical Arabic grammar influence comparative studies in the nineteenth century?
4. Fill in the blank: The detailed categorisation of verbs, nouns, and case endings in _____ grammar influenced comparative studies in the nineteenth century.
5. What role did Arabic play in early comparative approaches to Indo-European and Semitic languages?
6. Fill in the blank: Comparative linguistics in the nineteenth century studied both Indo-European and _____ languages.

3.2 Comparative And Historical Linguistics

3.2.1 Emergence of comparative philology in Europe

Comparative philology (فقه اللغة المقارن) developed in nineteenth-century Europe as scholars sought to trace the historical relationships between languages. This approach involved comparing



vocabulary, grammar, and sound systems across languages to identify common origins. Sanskrit, Greek, and Latin were central to these studies, but Semitic languages such as Arabic also attracted attention because of their rich grammatical tradition and preserved texts.

The comparative method allowed linguists to reconstruct proto-languages and establish language families. For example, Indo-European was identified as a major family, while Semitic languages were studied as a separate but equally significant group.

Fill in the blank: The comparative method in nineteenth-century Europe was used to reconstruct _____ and establish language families.

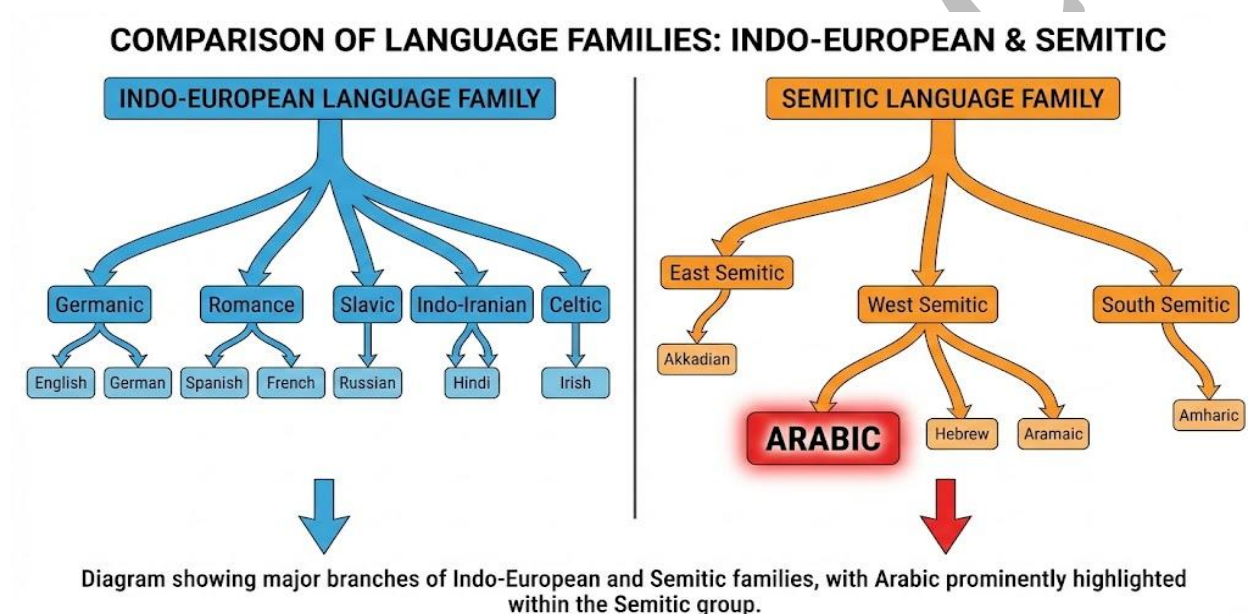


Figure 3.2: Comparative philology and language families

3.2.2 Contributions of Arab scholars to comparative studies

Arab scholars had long engaged in comparative analysis, particularly when studying the relationships between Arabic and other Semitic languages such as Hebrew and Syriac. Their work influenced nineteenth-century European linguists, who often referred to Arabic grammar as a model of systematic description.

For example, Arab grammarians classified triliteral roots and analysed verb patterns, which provided insights into how languages could be compared structurally. This tradition



demonstrated that comparative linguistics was not entirely new in the nineteenth century but had roots in earlier Arabic scholarship.

Fill in the blank: Arab grammarians classified _____ roots and analysed verb patterns, influencing comparative studies.



Plate 3.2: Comparative notes between Arabic and Hebrew

3.2.3 Diachronic analysis of Arabic and related Semitic languages

Diachronic linguistics (اللغويات التاريخية) studies how languages change over time. In the nineteenth century, scholars applied diachronic analysis to Arabic and other Semitic languages, tracing sound changes, morphological developments, and shifts in usage. For instance, comparisons were made between Classical Arabic and later dialects, as well as between Arabic and its Semitic relatives.

This approach highlighted both the stability and the evolution of Arabic. While Classical Arabic preserved many features, dialects showed innovations that reflected historical and social change. Diachronic analysis thus provided a deeper understanding of Arabic's place within the Semitic family.

Fill in the blank: Diachronic linguistics studies how languages _____ over time.



Aspect	Explanation
Sound Changes Across Dialects	Examines how pronunciation shifts over time, such as variation in the realisation of <i>qāf</i> or <i>jīm</i> across regions.
Morphological Developments	Tracks changes in verb and noun patterns, including simplification or innovation in derivational forms.
Historical Comparison with Hebrew and Syriac	Studies shared Semitic roots and parallel developments to understand language evolution.
Preservation of Classical Arabic Features	Identifies elements that remain stable, such as core grammatical structures and vocabulary, despite dialectal variation.

Box 3.2: Key aspects of diachronic analysis in Arabic

Pilot questions 3.2

1. What is comparative philology, and how did it emerge in nineteenth-century Europe?
2. Fill in the blank: The comparative method in nineteenth-century Europe was used to reconstruct _____ and establish language families.
3. How did Arab scholars contribute to comparative studies in the nineteenth century?
4. Fill in the blank: Arab grammarians classified _____ roots and analysed verb patterns, influencing comparative studies.
5. What is diachronic linguistics, and how was it applied to Arabic and related Semitic languages?
6. Fill in the blank: Diachronic linguistics studies how languages _____ over time.

3.3 Structural And Descriptive Approaches



3.3.1 Shift from philology to structural linguistics

During the nineteenth century, linguistics gradually shifted from **philology** (فقه اللغة), which focused on the historical study of texts, to **structural linguistics** (اللسانيات البنائية), which emphasised the systematic description of language as a structured system. This change marked a move away from purely historical comparisons towards analysing how language functions at a given point in time.

For Arabic, this meant that scholars began to look more closely at the internal organisation of grammar, including sentence patterns, verb conjugations, and morphological structures.

Structural linguistics provided tools to describe Arabic not only as a classical language but also in its living dialects.

Fill in the blank: Structural linguistics shifted focus from historical texts to the _____ description of language systems.

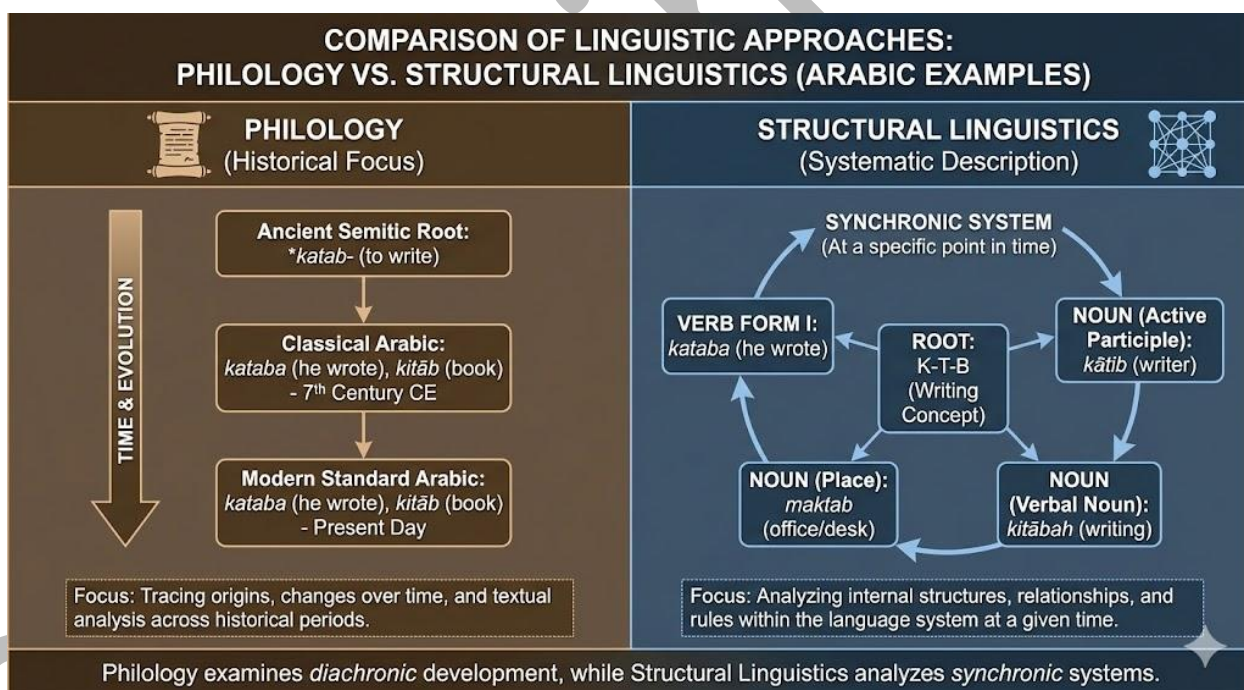


Figure 3.3: Shift from philology to structural linguistics

3.3.2 Application of structural methods to Arabic grammar



Structural methods were applied to **Arabic grammar** (النحو العربي) by analysing how words and sentences functioned within a system. Scholars examined patterns of verb conjugation, noun inflection, and sentence structure, treating Arabic as a language governed by rules and relationships rather than isolated forms.

For example, the study of trilateral roots was expanded to show how they interact with patterns to generate meaning. Similarly, syntax was analysed in terms of subject–verb–object relationships, rather than only through traditional categories. This approach allowed linguists to describe Arabic grammar in a way that was both precise and adaptable to modern linguistic theory.

Fill in the blank: Structural methods in Arabic grammar emphasised rules and _____ rather than isolated forms.

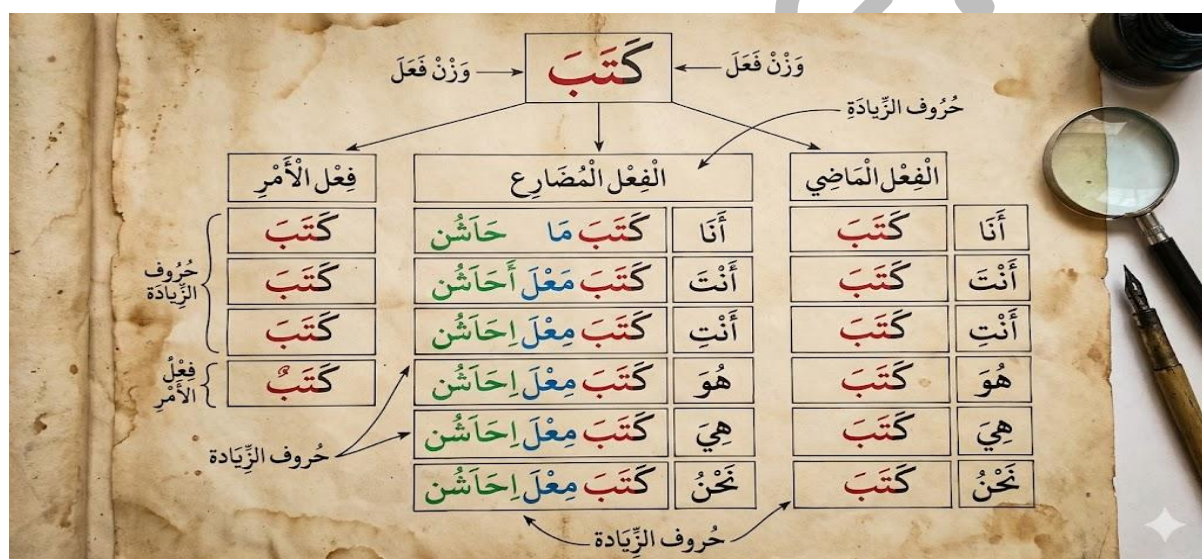


Plate 3.3: Structural analysis of Arabic verb conjugations

3.3.3 Key nineteenth-century debates on language description

The nineteenth century witnessed important debates about how languages should be described. Some scholars argued for a prescriptive approach, focusing on how language ought to be used, while others favoured a descriptive approach, documenting how language was actually used by speakers.



In Arabic studies, this debate was particularly relevant. Classical Arabic was often treated prescriptively, as the standard of correctness, while dialects were studied descriptively to capture everyday speech. These debates shaped the way Arabic linguistics developed, balancing respect for tradition with recognition of linguistic diversity.

Fill in the blank: In Arabic studies, _____ Arabic was often treated prescriptively, while dialects were studied descriptively.

Debate	Explanation
Prescriptive vs Descriptive Approaches	Prescriptive traditions emphasised rules and correctness, while descriptive approaches sought to record actual usage.
Classical Arabic as Standard	Classical Arabic was upheld as the model of linguistic purity and correctness, shaping grammar and education.
Dialects as Sources of Analysis	Emerging descriptive studies began to examine spoken dialects, recognising them as legitimate linguistic data.
Influence on Modern Studies	These debates laid the foundation for modern Arabic linguistics, balancing respect for Classical Arabic with analysis of contemporary usage.

Box 3.3: Nineteenth-century debates on language description

Pilot questions 3.3

1. What was the main difference between philology and structural linguistics in the nineteenth century?
2. Fill in the blank: Structural linguistics shifted focus from historical texts to the _____ description of language systems.
3. How were structural methods applied to Arabic grammar?
4. Fill in the blank: Structural methods in Arabic grammar emphasised rules and _____ rather than isolated forms.



5. What were the key nineteenth-century debates on language description in Arabic studies?
6. Fill in the blank: In Arabic studies, _____ Arabic was often treated prescriptively, while dialects were studied descriptively.

3.4 Legacy And Impact On Arabic Linguistics

3.4.1 Influence of nineteenth-century theories on modern Arabic studies

The nineteenth century left a lasting mark on the study of Arabic linguistics. The rise of comparative and structural approaches encouraged scholars to view Arabic not only as a classical language but also as part of a wider family of Semitic languages. This broadened perspective helped modern linguists situate Arabic within global linguistic theory while still respecting its unique features.

For example, nineteenth-century comparative methods influenced the way Arabic dialects were studied, highlighting both their relationship to Classical Arabic and their independent development. Structural approaches also provided new tools for analysing Arabic grammar systematically.

Fill in the blank: Nineteenth-century comparative methods encouraged scholars to study Arabic as part of the wider _____ language family.



ARABIC: FROM SEMITIC ROOTS TO MODERN LINGUISTIC INFLUENCE

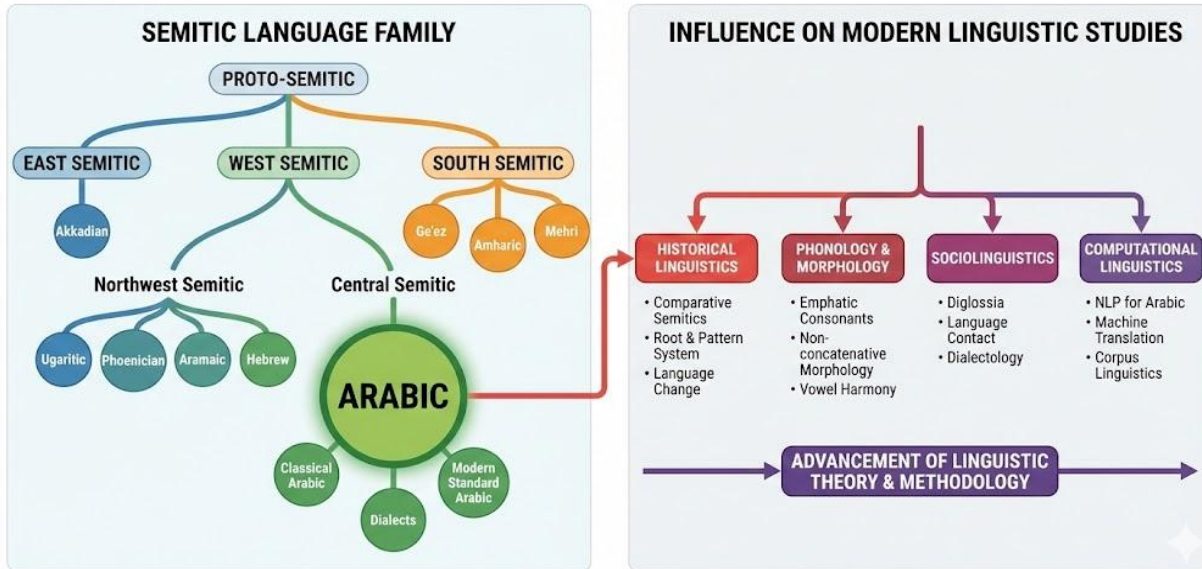


Figure 3.4: Arabic in the Semitic family and modern studies

3.4.2 Integration of comparative and structural approaches in Arabic linguistics

Modern Arabic linguistics integrates both **comparative approaches** (المنهج المقارن) and **structural approaches** (المنهج البنوي). Comparative methods allow scholars to trace historical developments and connections with other Semitic languages, while structural methods provide precise descriptions of grammar and syntax.

This integration has enriched Arabic studies by combining historical depth with systematic analysis. It enables linguists to appreciate the continuity of Arabic while also recognising its dynamic changes across time and regions.

Fill in the blank: Modern Arabic linguistics integrates comparative approaches with _____ approaches for a fuller analysis.



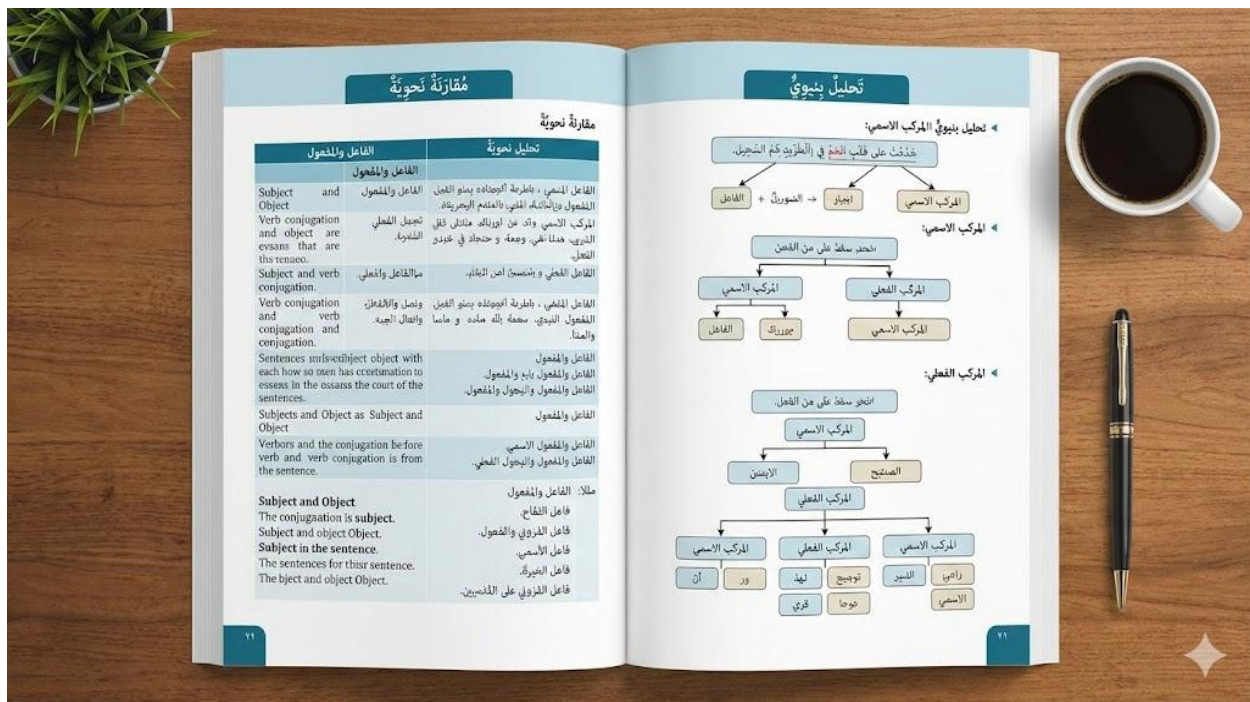


Plate 3.4: Comparative and structural approaches in Arabic linguistics

3.4.3 Preparing the ground for twentieth-century linguistic developments

The nineteenth century prepared the ground for the twentieth century, when linguistics became a fully established discipline. The legacy of comparative and structural approaches shaped later theories such as structuralism, generative grammar, and sociolinguistics.

In Arabic studies, this meant that scholars could build on nineteenth-century foundations to explore new areas such as dialectology, language acquisition, and discourse analysis. The nineteenth century thus served as a bridge between traditional grammar and modern linguistic science.

Fill in the blank: The nineteenth century served as a _____ between traditional grammar and modern linguistic science.

Legacy Aspect	Explanation
Comparative and Structural Approaches	Enriched Arabic studies by applying systematic methods of comparison and structural analysis.



Foundations for Twentieth-Century Theories	Provided groundwork for structuralism and generative grammar, influencing modern linguistic theory.
Focus on Dialectology and Sociolinguistics	Encouraged study of Arabic dialects and their social contexts, expanding beyond Classical Arabic.
Bridge Between Traditional Grammar and Modern Science	Connected classical Arab grammatical traditions with emerging scientific approaches to language.

Box 3.4: Legacy of nineteenth-century linguistics for Arabic

Pilot questions 3.4

1. How did nineteenth-century theories influence modern Arabic studies?
2. Fill in the blank: Nineteenth-century comparative methods encouraged scholars to study Arabic as part of the wider _____ language family.
3. How are comparative and structural approaches integrated in modern Arabic linguistics?
4. Fill in the blank: Modern Arabic linguistics integrates comparative approaches with _____ approaches for a fuller analysis.
5. What role did the nineteenth century play in preparing the ground for twentieth-century linguistic developments?
6. Fill in the blank: The nineteenth century served as a _____ between traditional grammar and modern linguistic science.

Series Summary

This Series has introduced you to the development of linguistics in the nineteenth century, a period that marked a turning point in the study of language and its relevance to Arabic scholarship. Its purpose was to show how intellectual traditions in Europe and the Arab world



shaped comparative and structural approaches, and how these laid the foundations for modern Arabic linguistics.

We began by examining the historical background, including the rise of philology and the influence of classical Arabic grammar. We then explored comparative and historical linguistics, highlighting Arab contributions and diachronic analysis of Semitic languages. Following that, we considered structural and descriptive approaches, focusing on how Arabic grammar was analysed and the debates between prescriptive and descriptive traditions. Finally, we assessed the legacy of nineteenth-century theories, showing their impact on modern Arabic studies and their role in preparing the ground for twentieth-century developments. In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you should now be able to describe the historical context, explain comparative and structural approaches, analyse their application to Arabic, and evaluate their lasting influence on the study of Arabic linguistics.

Glossary of Terms

- **Arabic grammar (النحو العربي):** The systematic study of rules governing the structure of Arabic, including verbs, nouns, case endings, and sentence patterns.
- **Classical Arabic grammar (النحو العربي الكلاسيكي):** The traditional framework of Arabic grammar developed by early Arab scholars, such as Sibawayh, which categorises words and explains their functions in sentences.
- **Comparative linguistics (اللغويات المقارنة):** The branch of linguistics that compares languages to identify similarities, differences, and historical relationships, often used to trace language families.
- **Comparative philology (فقه اللغة المقارن):** A nineteenth-century approach to studying languages by comparing texts, vocabulary, and grammar to reconstruct proto-languages and establish language families.
- **Diachronic linguistics (اللغويات التاريخية):** The study of how languages change over time, including sound shifts, morphological developments, and historical comparisons.



- **Dialectology (علم اللهجات)**: The study of regional and social varieties of a language, focusing on differences in pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar.
- **Philology (فقه اللغة)**: The historical study of texts and languages, focusing on their development, structure, and cultural context.
- **Prescriptive approach (المنهج المعياري)**: A way of studying language that emphasises rules of correctness, often treating Classical Arabic as the standard.
- **Semitic languages (اللغات السامية)**: A family of languages that includes Arabic, Hebrew, Syriac, and others, characterised by root-and-pattern morphology.
- **Structural linguistics (اللسانيات البنيوية)**: A branch of linguistics that analyses language as a system of interrelated elements, focusing on grammar, syntax, and patterns rather than historical texts.
- **Syntax (النحو)**: The study of how words are arranged to form sentences, including rules for nominal and verbal sentence structures in Arabic.
- **Triliteral root (الجذر الثلاثي)**: A set of three consonants in Arabic that carries the core meaning of a word, such as ك-ت-ب for “writing.”
- **Verbal sentence (الجملة الفعلية)**: An Arabic sentence that begins with a verb, for example *كتب الطالبُ الدرسَ* (The student wrote the lesson).

Concept Check Questions [Series 3]

Objective questions

1. Philology in nineteenth-century Europe focused on the historical study of _____.
(Linked to SLO 3.1)
2. Classical Arabic grammar influenced comparative studies through its detailed categorisation of _____. (Linked to SLO 3.2)



3. The comparative method was used to reconstruct _____ and establish language families. (Linked to SLO 3.3)
4. Arab grammarians classified _____ roots and analysed verb patterns. (Linked to SLO 3.4)
5. Structural linguistics emphasised the _____ description of language systems. (Linked to SLO 3.5)
6. In Arabic studies, _____ Arabic was often treated prescriptively, while dialects were studied descriptively. (Linked to SLO 3.7)
7. Nineteenth-century comparative methods encouraged scholars to study Arabic as part of the wider _____ language family. (Linked to SLO 3.8)

Short-answer questions

8. Define comparative linguistics and explain its relevance to Arabic studies. (Linked to SLO 3.3)
9. Describe one way Arab scholars contributed to comparative studies in the nineteenth century. (Linked to SLO 3.4)
10. Explain how structural methods were applied to Arabic grammar. (Linked to SLO 3.6)
11. Identify one key nineteenth-century debate on language description in Arabic studies. (Linked to SLO 3.7)
12. State one way nineteenth-century theories influenced modern Arabic linguistics. (Linked to SLO 3.8)

Long-answer questions

13. Analyse the historical background of nineteenth-century linguistics, focusing on the intellectual climate in Europe and the Arab world. (Linked to SLO 3.1)
14. Evaluate the role of classical Arabic grammar in shaping comparative studies of the nineteenth century. (Linked to SLO 3.2)



15. Discuss how comparative and structural approaches were integrated in Arabic linguistics and assess their legacy for modern studies. (Linked to SLO 3.8)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 3]

Objective questions

1. Texts and languages
2. Verbs, nouns, and case endings
3. Proto-languages
4. Triliteral
5. Systematic
6. Classical
7. Semitic

Short-answer questions

8. Comparative linguistics is the study of similarities and differences between languages to trace historical relationships. In Arabic studies, it helped situate Arabic within the Semitic family.
9. Arab scholars classified triliteral roots and analysed verb patterns, providing models for comparative analysis.
10. Structural methods analysed Arabic grammar as a system of rules and relationships, focusing on verb conjugations, noun inflections, and sentence structures.
11. The debate between prescriptive and descriptive approaches, where Classical Arabic was treated as the standard while dialects were studied descriptively.
12. They influenced modern Arabic linguistics by integrating comparative and structural approaches, enriching both historical and grammatical analysis.

Long-answer questions



13. *Basic response:* The nineteenth century was marked by philology in Europe and continued grammatical traditions in the Arab world. These intellectual climates shaped the study of language.

Value-added response: Outstanding learners may add that the interaction between European philology and Arabic grammar created a foundation for comparative linguistics, influencing both Indo-European and Semitic studies.

14. *Basic response:* Classical Arabic grammar provided detailed categorisations of verbs, nouns, and case endings, which influenced comparative studies.

Value-added response: Learners may extend this by noting that Arabic grammar offered a systematic model that European scholars used to refine their comparative methods, showing the global relevance of Arabic traditions.

15. *Basic response:* Comparative approaches traced historical developments, while structural approaches analysed grammar systematically. Together, they enriched Arabic linguistics.

Value-added response: Outstanding learners may add that this integration prepared the ground for twentieth-century theories such as structuralism and generative grammar, and encouraged the study of dialectology and sociolinguistics in Arabic.



Part 3.1: Historical background of nineteenth-century linguistics

1. Intellectual traditions in Europe (philology) and the Arab world (classical Arabic grammar).
2. Philology.
3. Through its detailed categorisation of verbs, nouns, and case endings.
4. Classical Arabic.
5. Arabic served as a central reference point, offering preserved grammatical traditions and written records.
6. Semitic.

Part 3.2: Comparative and historical linguistics

1. Comparative philology; it emerged in nineteenth-century Europe to trace historical relationships between languages.
2. Proto-languages.
3. By classifying triliteral roots and analysing verb patterns, which provided models for comparative analysis.
4. Triliteral.
5. Diachronic linguistics studies how languages change over time, applied to Arabic and related Semitic languages.
6. Change.

Part 3.3: Structural and descriptive approaches

1. Philology focused on historical texts, while structural linguistics emphasised systematic description of language systems.
2. Systematic.



3. By analysing verb conjugations, noun inflections, and sentence structures as part of a rule-governed system.
4. Relationships.
5. The debate between prescriptive approaches (Classical Arabic as the standard) and descriptive approaches (dialects studied as everyday speech).
6. Classical.

Part 3.4: Legacy and impact on Arabic linguistics

1. They encouraged scholars to situate Arabic within the Semitic family and influenced modern grammatical analysis.
2. Semitic.
3. By combining historical comparative methods with structural analysis of grammar and syntax.
4. Structural.
5. It prepared the ground for twentieth-century developments such as structuralism, generative grammar, and sociolinguistics.
6. Bridge.

References and Attributions [Series 3]

General References

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- Haywood, J. A., & Nahmad, H. M. (1965). *A New Arabic Grammar of the Written Language*. Lund Humphries.



- Ryding, K. C. (2005). *A Reference Grammar of Modern Standard Arabic*. Cambridge University Press.
- Versteegh, K. (2014). *The Arabic Language*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Wright, W. (1996). *A Grammar of the Arabic Language* (Vols. 1–2). Cambridge University Press.

Illustrations

- *Figure 3.1: Intellectual climate of Europe and the Arab world*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing Europe and the Arab world as centres of linguistic study in the nineteenth century, highlighting philology and Arabic grammar.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “nineteenth century linguistics Europe Arab world OER”
- *Plate 3.1: Classical Arabic grammar manuscript*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of a classical Arabic grammar manuscript showing verb and noun categorisation.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “classical Arabic grammar manuscript OER”
- *Box 3.1: Key features of early comparative linguistics*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing key features of early comparative linguistics, including systematic comparison and the use of Arabic grammar as a model.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “early comparative linguistics features Arabic grammar OER”
- *Figure 3.2: Comparative philology and language families*



- Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
- Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing Indo-European and Semitic language families side by side, with Arabic highlighted under Semitic.”
- Suggested OER search string: “comparative philology Indo-European Semitic language families OER”
- *Plate 3.2: Comparative notes between Arabic and Hebrew*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of an Arabic manuscript comparing verb forms in Arabic and Hebrew.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Arabic Hebrew comparative grammar manuscript OER”
- *Box 3.2: Key aspects of diachronic analysis in Arabic*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing key aspects of diachronic analysis in Arabic, including sound changes and morphological developments.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Arabic diachronic linguistics Semitic comparison OER”
- *Figure 3.3: Shift from philology to structural linguistics*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram comparing philology’s historical focus with structural linguistics’ systematic description, using Arabic examples.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “structural linguistics vs philology Arabic OER”
- *Plate 3.3: Structural analysis of Arabic verb conjugations*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.



- Prompt: “Generate an image of an Arabic grammar chart showing verb conjugation patterns analysed structurally.”
- Suggested OER search string: “Arabic grammar structural analysis verb conjugation OER”
- *Box 3.3: Nineteenth-century debates on language description*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing nineteenth-century debates on language description, focusing on Arabic prescriptive vs descriptive approaches.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Arabic linguistics nineteenth century prescriptive descriptive OER”
- *Figure 3.4: Arabic in the Semitic family and modern studies*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing Arabic within the Semitic language family and its influence on modern linguistic studies.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Arabic Semitic language family modern linguistics OER”
- *Plate 3.4: Comparative and structural approaches in Arabic linguistics*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of a modern Arabic grammar textbook showing comparative and structural analysis side by side.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Arabic linguistics comparative structural approaches OER”
- *Box 3.4: Legacy of nineteenth-century linguistics for Arabic*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.



- Prompt: “Generate a text box listing the legacy of nineteenth-century linguistics for Arabic, including structuralism and dialectology.”
- Suggested OER search string: “Arabic linguistics nineteenth century legacy structuralism OER”



Series 4: Contributions of Western Linguistic Scholars

- **Part 4.1: Early Western linguistic scholarship and Arabic studies**
 - 4.1.1 Orientalist interest in Arabic grammar and texts
 - 4.1.2 Early descriptive studies of Arabic phonology and morphology
 - 4.1.3 Influence of Arabic manuscripts on European scholarship
- **Part 4.2: Key nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Western scholars**
 - 4.2.1 Contributions of William Wright and his *Grammar of the Arabic Language*
 - 4.2.2 Karl Brockelmann and comparative Semitic studies
 - 4.2.3 Other notable figures (e.g., Edward Lane, Reinhart Dozy) and their impact on Arabic lexicography and grammar
- **Part 4.3: Structuralist and modern approaches to Arabic**
 - 4.3.1 Ferdinand de Saussure and the structuralist framework applied to Arabic
 - 4.3.2 Leonard Bloomfield and descriptive linguistics in relation to Arabic
 - 4.3.3 Early application of structural methods to Arabic syntax and morphology
- **Part 4.4: Legacy of Western scholarship in Arabic linguistics**
 - 4.4.1 Integration of Western theories into Arabic linguistic studies
 - 4.4.2 Contributions to modern Arabic grammar and lexicography
 - 4.4.3 Preparing the ground for contemporary Arabic linguistic research

Introduction

In the last Series, we explored the development of linguistics in the nineteenth century, focusing on how comparative and structural approaches shaped the study of Arabic. Building on that



foundation, this Series turns our attention to the contributions of Western linguistic scholars. Their work not only advanced general linguistic theory but also had a direct impact on Arabic studies, influencing grammar, lexicography, and comparative analysis. Understanding these contributions helps us appreciate how Arabic linguistics has been enriched by global scholarship.

The aim of this Series is to introduce you to the major Western scholars who contributed to the study of Arabic and to show how their theories and methods shaped modern approaches to Arabic linguistics. By the end of the Series, you will be able to explain their key contributions, analyse their relevance to Arabic, and evaluate their lasting legacy.

We shall commence this Series by examining early Western linguistic scholarship and its interest in Arabic texts and grammar. Next, we will move on to key nineteenth- and early twentieth-century scholars such as William Wright and Karl Brockelmann, considering their impact on Arabic grammar and comparative Semitic studies. Following that, we will explore structuralist and modern approaches, including the influence of Ferdinand de Saussure and Leonard Bloomfield on Arabic analysis. Finally, we will wrap up by assessing the legacy of Western scholarship in Arabic linguistics, showing how these contributions prepared the ground for contemporary research and modern Arabic studies.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 4.1** describe the early Western interest in Arabic grammar and texts,
- **SLO 4.2** explain how Orientalist scholarship contributed to descriptive studies of Arabic phonology and morphology,
- **SLO 4.3** analyse the influence of Arabic manuscripts on European linguistic scholarship,
- **SLO 4.4** summarise the contributions of William Wright to Arabic grammar,
- **SLO 4.5** evaluate Karl Brockelmann's role in comparative Semitic studies and its relevance to Arabic,



- **SLO 4.6** identify the impact of other notable figures such as Edward Lane and Reinhart Dozy on Arabic lexicography and grammar,
- **SLO 4.7** explain how Ferdinand de Saussure's structuralist framework was applied to Arabic studies,
- **SLO 4.8** describe Leonard Bloomfield's contributions to descriptive linguistics in relation to Arabic,
- **SLO 4.9** analyse the early application of structural methods to Arabic syntax and morphology, and
- **SLO 4.10** assess the legacy of Western scholarship in Arabic linguistics, including its integration into modern research and grammar.

4.1 Early Western Linguistic Scholarship And Arabic Studies

4.1.1 Orientalist interest in Arabic grammar and texts

In the early stages of Western linguistic scholarship, **Orientalism** refers to the study of Eastern languages and cultures by European scholars. Arabic was a central focus because of its rich literary tradition and its role as the language of the Qur'an. Scholars were fascinated by the precision of **Arabic grammar**, which is the systematic study of rules governing the structure of Arabic, including verbs, nouns, case endings, and sentence patterns.

Western scholars collected manuscripts, translated texts, and attempted to describe Arabic grammar in ways accessible to European audiences. This interest laid the foundation for later comparative and structural studies.

Fill in the blank: Early Western linguistic scholarship was often driven by _____, the study of Eastern languages and cultures.



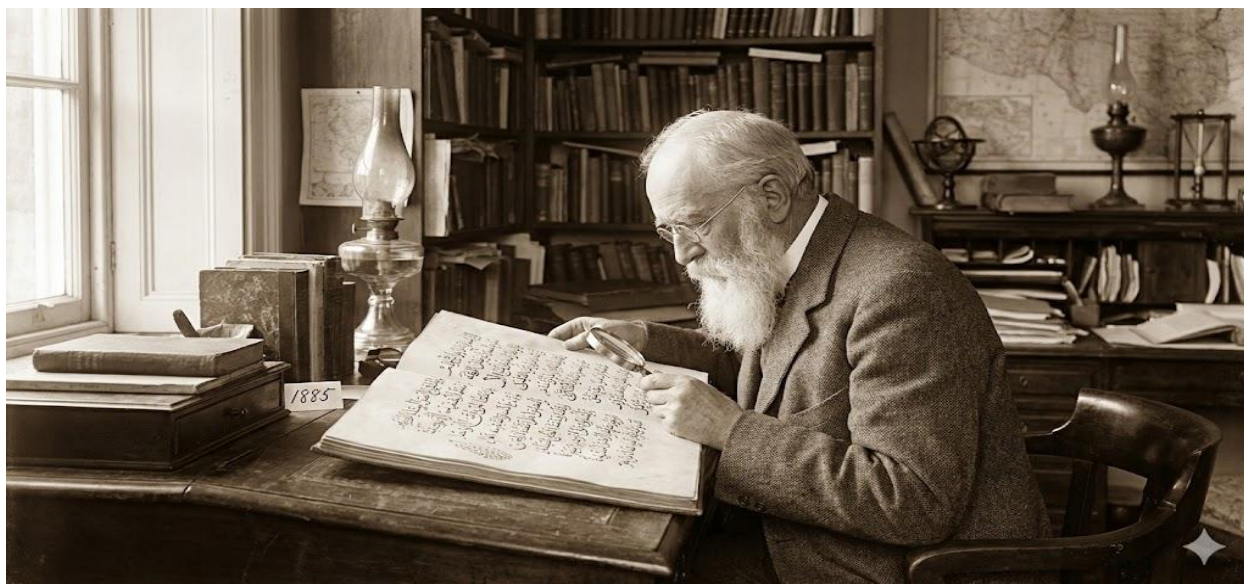


Plate 4.1: Orientalist interest in Arabic grammar and texts

4.1.2 Early descriptive studies of Arabic phonology and morphology

Western scholars also engaged in **descriptive linguistics**, which is the study of how language is actually used, rather than prescribing rules. They examined **phonology** (the study of sound systems) and **morphology** (the study of word formation) in Arabic. For example, they documented the unique emphatic consonants and the triliteral root system that forms the basis of Arabic vocabulary.

These descriptive studies helped European scholars appreciate the complexity of Arabic and provided models for analysing other languages. They also highlighted the differences between Classical Arabic and spoken dialects.

Fill in the blank: Descriptive linguistics focuses on how language is _____ rather than prescribing rules.



ARABIC LINGUISTIC CONCEPTS: EMPHATIC CONSONANTS & TRILITERAL ROOT SYSTEM

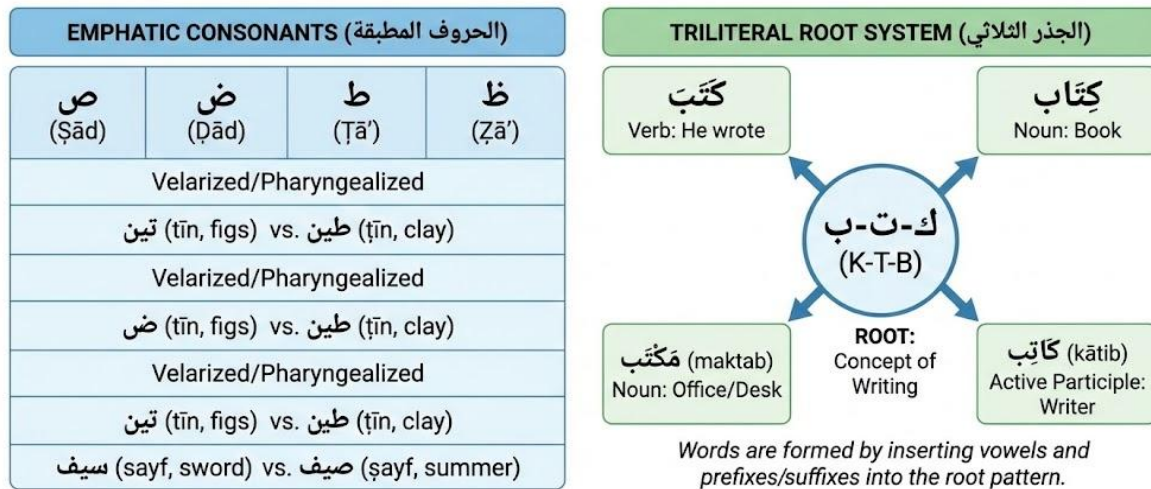


Figure 4.1: Descriptive study of Arabic phonology and morphology

4.1.3 Influence of Arabic manuscripts on European scholarship

Arabic manuscripts played a crucial role in shaping Western linguistic scholarship. Manuscripts of grammar, lexicons, and literary texts were studied and translated, providing European scholars with direct access to Arabic linguistic traditions. These manuscripts demonstrated the depth of Arabic analysis and inspired comparative studies with Indo-European languages.

The preservation of Classical Arabic in manuscripts allowed Western scholars to trace historical developments and compare Arabic with Hebrew, Syriac, and other Semitic languages. This influence was significant in establishing Arabic as a central reference point in nineteenth-century linguistics.

Fill in the blank: The preservation of _____ Arabic in manuscripts allowed Western scholars to trace historical developments and compare Semitic languages.

Influence	Explanation



Models of Systematic Grammatical Analysis	Arabic grammatical traditions, such as those of Sibawayh, provided structured methods that influenced European linguists.
Lexicons and Literary Texts for Translation	Manuscripts offered rich vocabularies and literary works, enabling translation and cross-cultural exchange.
Comparative Studies with Indo-European and Semitic Languages	Arabic texts supported comparative linguistics, helping scholars trace connections across language families.
Preservation of Classical Arabic Features	Manuscripts safeguarded linguistic data, allowing historical analysis of phonology, morphology, and syntax.

Box 4.1: Key influences of Arabic manuscripts on Western scholarship

Pilot questions 4.1

1. What was Orientalism, and why was Arabic central to early Western linguistic scholarship?
2. Fill in the blank: Early Western linguistic scholarship was often driven by _____, the study of Eastern languages and cultures.
3. What is descriptive linguistics, and how was it applied to Arabic phonology and morphology?
4. Fill in the blank: Descriptive linguistics focuses on how language is _____ rather than prescribing rules.
5. How did Arabic manuscripts influence European scholarship in the nineteenth century?
6. Fill in the blank: The preservation of _____ Arabic in manuscripts allowed Western scholars to trace historical developments and compare Semitic languages.



4.2 Key Nineteenth- And Early Twentieth-Century Western Scholars

4.2.1 Contributions of William Wright and his *Grammar of the Arabic Language*

One of the most influential Western scholars in Arabic studies was **William Wright**, whose monumental work *A Grammar of the Arabic Language* (first published in the nineteenth century) became a standard reference for students and scholars of Arabic. Wright's grammar provided a detailed description of **Classical Arabic**, focusing on morphology, syntax, and case endings.

His work was significant because it translated the complexity of Arabic grammar into a format accessible to European learners, while still respecting the precision of traditional Arab grammarians. Wright's grammar remains widely cited today in Arabic linguistic studies.

Fill in the blank: William Wright's *Grammar of the Arabic Language* focused on the detailed description of _____ Arabic.

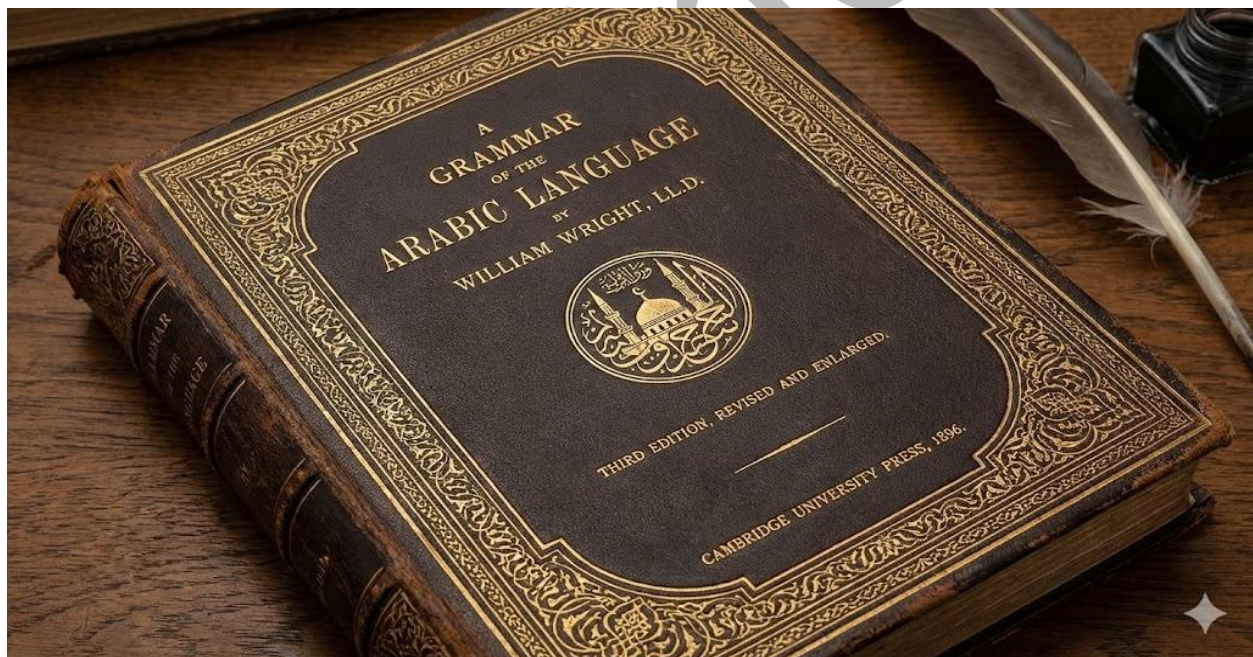


Plate 4.2: William Wright's *Grammar of the Arabic Language*

4.2.2 Karl Brockelmann and comparative Semitic studies

Another key figure was **Karl Brockelmann**, a German scholar renowned for his work in **comparative Semitic linguistics**. His *Grundriss der vergleichenden Grammatik der semitischen*



Sprachen (Outline of Comparative Grammar of the Semitic Languages) systematically compared Arabic with Hebrew, Syriac, and other Semitic languages.

Brockelmann highlighted the importance of the trilateral root system and demonstrated how Arabic preserved many original Semitic features. His comparative studies helped situate Arabic within the broader Semitic family and influenced later research in historical and comparative linguistics.

Fill in the blank: Karl Brockelmann's comparative grammar highlighted the importance of the _____ root system in Arabic.

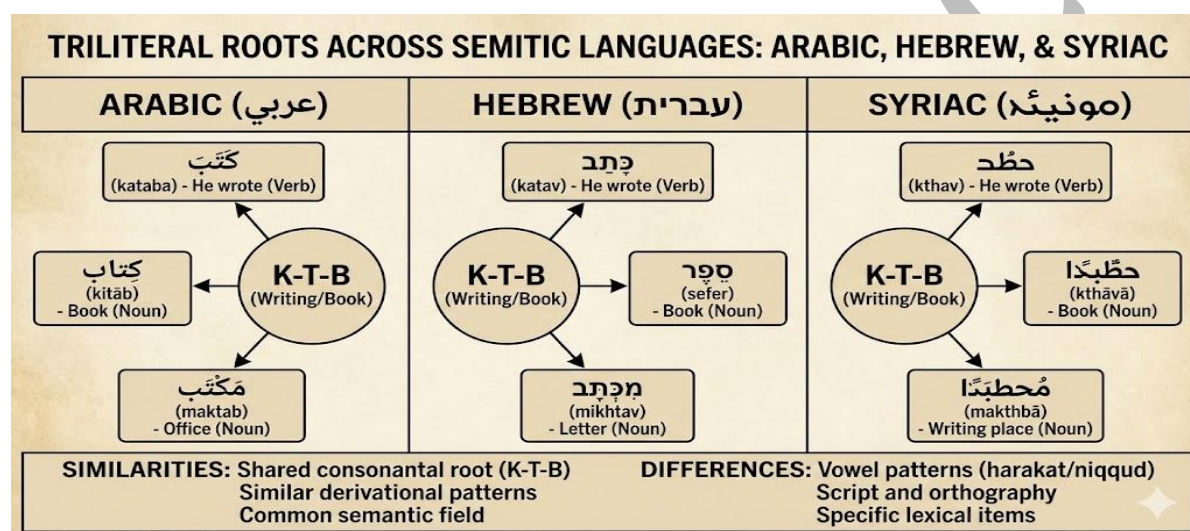


Figure 4.2: Comparative Semitic roots in Brockelmann's studies

4.2.3 Other notable figures and their impact on Arabic lexicography and grammar

Several other Western scholars contributed to Arabic studies during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. **Edward Lane**, for example, produced *An Arabic-English Lexicon*, which remains one of the most comprehensive dictionaries of Arabic. Lane's lexicon drew heavily on classical sources and provided detailed explanations of word meanings, usage, and etymology.

Reinhart Dozy also made important contributions, particularly in the study of Arabic texts and historical lexicography. His works helped preserve and interpret Arabic vocabulary in historical contexts, making them accessible to European scholars.



Together, these figures enriched the study of Arabic by providing tools such as grammars and lexicons that remain valuable resources for learners and researchers.

Fill in the blank: Edward Lane's *Arabic-English Lexicon* is considered one of the most comprehensive _____ of Arabic.

Scholar	Contribution
William Wright	Authored <i>Grammar of the Arabic Language</i> , a foundational reference for Arabic grammar in Western scholarship.
Karl Brockelmann	Produced <i>Comparative Semitic Grammar</i> and <i>Geschichte der arabischen Litteratur</i> , advancing comparative Semitic studies.
Edward Lane	Compiled the monumental <i>Arabic-English Lexicon</i> , a key resource for Arabic-English translation and lexicography.
Reinhart Dozy	Contributed to historical lexicography and edited Arabic texts, enriching the study of medieval Arabic literature and history.

Box 4.2: Notable Western contributions to Arabic studies

Pilot questions 4.2

1. What was the main focus of William Wright's *Grammar of the Arabic Language*?
2. Fill in the blank: William Wright's *Grammar of the Arabic Language* focused on the detailed description of _____ Arabic.
3. What was Karl Brockelmann's major contribution to comparative Semitic studies?
4. Fill in the blank: Karl Brockelmann's comparative grammar highlighted the importance of the _____ root system in Arabic.
5. Name two other notable Western scholars and describe their contributions to Arabic studies.



6. Fill in the blank: Edward Lane's *Arabic-English Lexicon* is considered one of the most comprehensive _____ of Arabic.

4.3 Structuralist And Modern Approaches To Arabic

4.3.1 Ferdinand de Saussure and the structuralist framework applied to Arabic

The Swiss scholar **Ferdinand de Saussure** is often regarded as the father of modern linguistics. His theory of **structuralism** (اللسانيات البنائية) emphasised language as a system of signs, where meaning arises from relationships between elements rather than from individual words alone.

Applied to Arabic, Saussure's framework encouraged scholars to analyse Arabic grammar and vocabulary as interconnected systems. For example, the trilateral root system was studied not only as isolated roots but as part of a wider network of patterns that generate meaning. This approach helped linguists describe Arabic more systematically and highlighted the importance of structure in understanding its complexity.

Fill in the blank: Saussure's structuralism emphasised language as a system of _____, where meaning arises from relationships.

SAUSSURE'S STRUCTURALIST MODEL & ARABIC TRILITERAL ROOTS

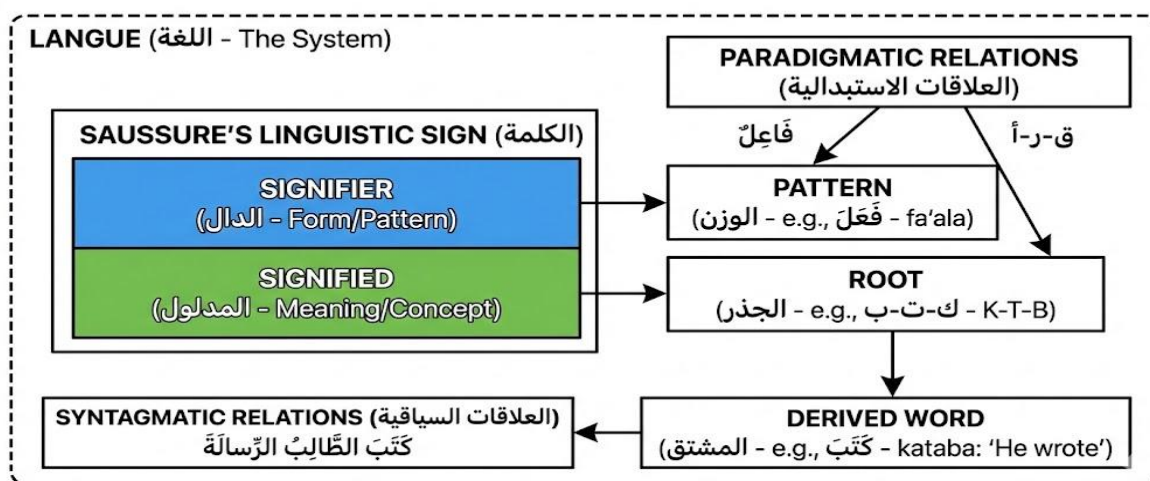


Figure 4.3: Structuralist framework applied to Arabic roots



4.3.2 Leonard Bloomfield and descriptive linguistics in relation to Arabic

Leonard Bloomfield, an American linguist, advanced the field of **descriptive linguistics** (اللغويات الوصفية), which focuses on documenting how language is used by speakers. Bloomfield's emphasis on observable data and systematic description influenced studies of Arabic, particularly in analysing dialects.

His methods encouraged linguists to record spoken Arabic, classify phonological features, and describe morphological structures without relying solely on prescriptive rules. This was important for Arabic because it validated the study of dialects alongside Classical Arabic, showing the richness and diversity of the language.

Fill in the blank: Bloomfield's descriptive linguistics focused on documenting how language is _____ by speakers.



Plate 4.3: Descriptive study of Arabic dialects

4.3.3 Early application of structural methods to Arabic syntax and morphology



Structural methods were soon applied directly to **Arabic syntax** (النحو) and **morphology** (الصرف). Scholars analysed sentence structures such as nominal and verbal sentences, and studied how trilateral roots combine with patterns to form words.

This approach allowed linguists to describe Arabic grammar in terms of systems and rules rather than isolated examples. For instance, subject–verb–object order was studied as a structural pattern, while morphological paradigms were mapped to show how meaning is generated systematically.

Fill in the blank: Structural methods in Arabic grammar analysed sentence structures and _____ paradigms as systems.

Method	Explanation
Analysis of Nominal and Verbal Sentences	Structural approaches distinguish between nominal sentences (without a verb) and verbal sentences (with a verb), examining their internal rules.
Mapping of Trilateral Roots	Identifies how trilateral roots combine with morphological patterns to generate verbs, nouns, and derivatives systematically.
Study of Subject–Verb–Object Order	Treats word order as part of a structural system, analysing variations (e.g., VSO vs SVO) and their syntactic implications.
Emphasis on Rules and Relationships	Focuses on underlying grammatical principles and structural relationships rather than isolated examples of usage.

Box 4.3: Structural methods applied to Arabic grammar

Pilot questions 4.3

1. What was Saussure’s main contribution to structural linguistics, and how was it applied to Arabic?
2. Fill in the blank: Saussure’s structuralism emphasised language as a system of _____, where meaning arises from relationships.



3. What was Bloomfield's contribution to descriptive linguistics, and how did it influence Arabic studies?
4. Fill in the blank: Bloomfield's descriptive linguistics focused on documenting how language is _____ by speakers.
5. How were structural methods applied to Arabic syntax and morphology?
6. Fill in the blank: Structural methods in Arabic grammar analysed sentence structures and _____ paradigms as systems.

4.4 Legacy Of Western Scholarship In Arabic Linguistics

4.4.1 Integration of Western theories into Arabic linguistic studies

Western scholarship in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries left a lasting impact on Arabic linguistics. The integration of **comparative approaches** (المنهج المقارن) and **structural approaches** (المنهج البنوي) into Arabic studies allowed scholars to combine historical depth with systematic analysis. This meant that Arabic could be studied both as part of the Semitic family and as a language with its own internal structures.

For example, Brockelmann's comparative grammar and Saussure's structuralist framework were used together to analyse Arabic roots and patterns. This integration enriched Arabic studies by providing new perspectives while still respecting traditional grammar.

Fill in the blank: Western scholarship integrated comparative and _____ approaches into Arabic linguistic studies.



INTEGRATION OF COMPARATIVE & STRUCTURAL APPROACHES IN ARABIC LINGUISTICS

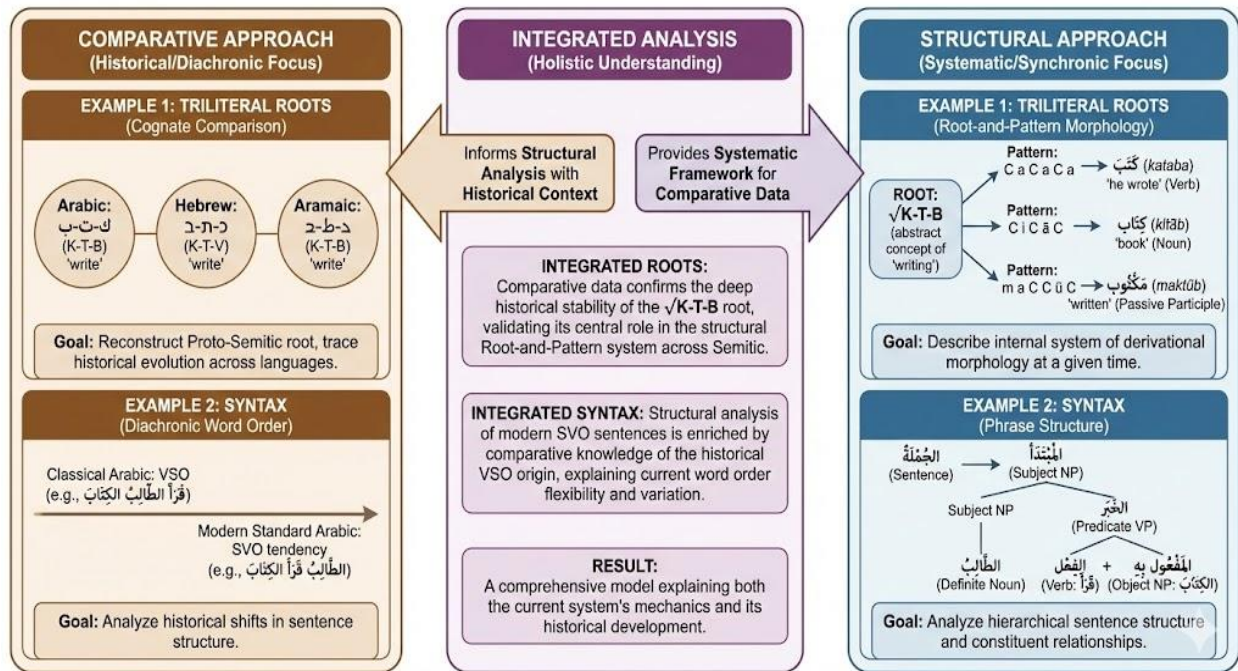


Figure 4.4: Integration of Western theories into Arabic studies

4.4.2 Contributions to modern Arabic grammar and lexicography

Western scholars also contributed significantly to **Arabic grammar** (النحو العربي) and **lexicography** (المعاجم). Works such as Wright's grammar and Lane's lexicon remain essential references for learners and researchers. These resources provided detailed descriptions of Arabic structures and vocabulary, making the language more accessible to non-native learners.

Lexicographical efforts preserved the richness of Arabic vocabulary, while grammatical studies offered systematic frameworks for analysis. Together, they strengthened the foundation of modern Arabic linguistic research.

Fill in the blank: Edward Lane's lexicon and William Wright's grammar are still considered essential references in _____ Arabic studies.



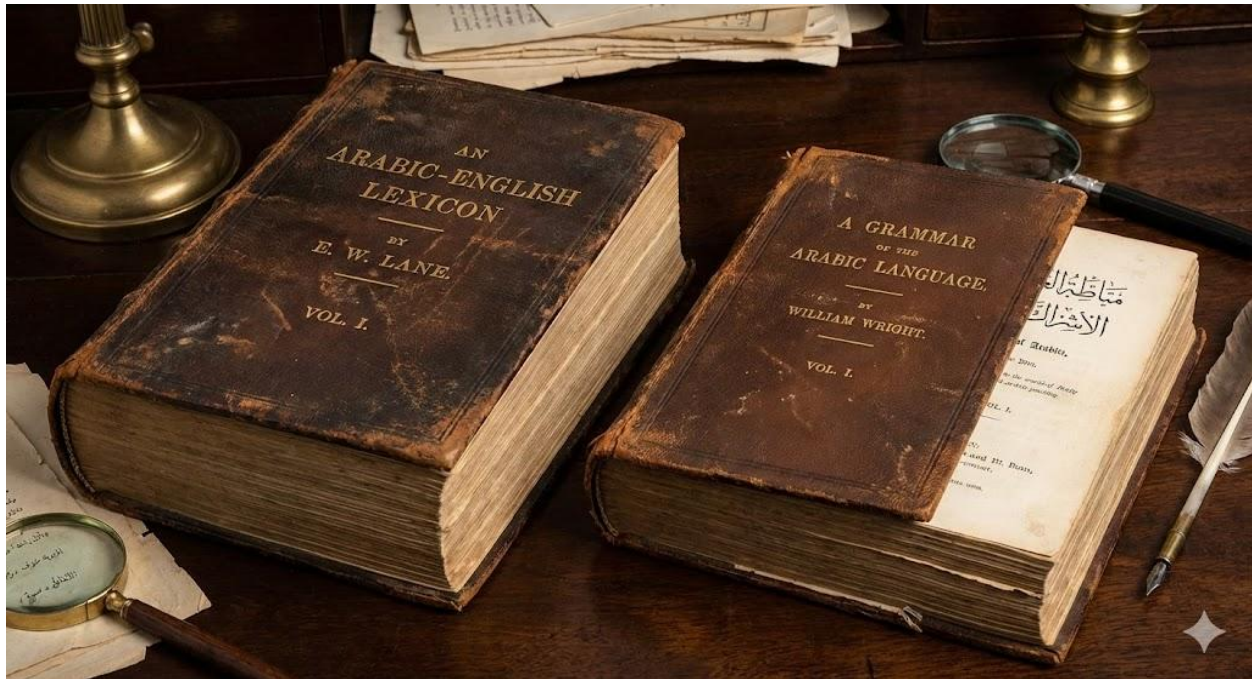


Plate 4.4: Western contributions to Arabic grammar and lexicography

4.4.3 Preparing the ground for contemporary Arabic linguistic research

The legacy of Western scholarship prepared the ground for **contemporary Arabic linguistics** (اللسانيات العربية المعاصرة). By combining comparative, structural, and descriptive methods, scholars created a framework that later supported twentieth-century developments such as structuralism, generative grammar, and sociolinguistics.

In Arabic studies, this meant that dialectology, discourse analysis, and modern grammar could be explored with greater precision. Western contributions thus acted as a bridge between traditional Arabic grammar and modern linguistic science.

Fill in the blank: Western scholarship acted as a _____ between traditional Arabic grammar and modern linguistic science.

Legacy Aspect	Explanation
---------------	-------------



Integration of Comparative and Structural Approaches	Western scholars applied comparative and structural methods, enriching the study of Arabic within broader linguistic science.
Contributions to Grammar and Lexicography	Works such as Wright's <i>Grammar of the Arabic Language</i> and Lane's <i>Arabic-English Lexicon</i> provided foundational resources.
Foundations for Modern Theories	Nineteenth- and early twentieth-century scholarship laid groundwork for structuralism and generative grammar, influencing later linguistic theory.
Bridge Between Traditional and Modern Linguistics	Western studies connected classical Arab grammatical traditions with contemporary linguistic frameworks, ensuring continuity and innovation.

Box 4.4: Legacy of Western scholarship in Arabic linguistics

Pilot questions 4.4

1. How did Western scholarship integrate comparative and structural approaches into Arabic studies?
2. Fill in the blank: Western scholarship integrated comparative and _____ approaches into Arabic linguistic studies.
3. What contributions did Western scholars make to Arabic grammar and lexicography?
4. Fill in the blank: Edward Lane's lexicon and William Wright's grammar are still considered essential references in _____ Arabic studies.
5. How did Western scholarship prepare the ground for contemporary Arabic linguistic research?
6. Fill in the blank: Western scholarship acted as a _____ between traditional Arabic grammar and modern linguistic science.



Series Summary

This Series has highlighted the contributions of Western linguistic scholars to the study of Arabic, showing how their work complemented and extended traditional Arab scholarship. Its purpose was to demonstrate the relevance of Orientalist interest, comparative Semitic studies, structuralist theories, and descriptive approaches in shaping modern Arabic linguistics. By examining these contributions, learners can appreciate how Arabic became a central focus in global linguistic inquiry and how Western scholarship provided tools that remain valuable today.

We began with early Western interest in Arabic grammar and manuscripts, then moved on to key figures such as William Wright, Karl Brockelmann, Edward Lane, and Reinhart Dozy, whose grammars and lexicons enriched Arabic studies. Following that, we explored structuralist and modern approaches, including Saussure's framework and Bloomfield's descriptive methods, and their application to Arabic syntax and morphology. Finally, we assessed the legacy of these contributions, noting their integration into modern grammar, lexicography, and contemporary research. In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you should now be able to describe early Western interest in Arabic, explain the contributions of major scholars, analyse structuralist and descriptive approaches, and evaluate the lasting legacy of Western scholarship in Arabic linguistics.

Glossary of Terms

- **Arabic grammar (النحو العربي):** The study of rules that govern how words and sentences are formed in Arabic, including verbs, nouns, case endings, and sentence structures.
- **Comparative approaches (المنهج المقارن):** Methods used to compare Arabic with other languages, especially within the Semitic family, to trace similarities, differences, and historical connections.
- **Descriptive linguistics (اللغويات الوصفية):** The study of how language is actually used by speakers, focusing on documenting sounds, words, and structures without prescribing rules of correctness.



- **Edward Lane:** A nineteenth-century scholar best known for his *Arabic-English Lexicon*, one of the most comprehensive dictionaries of Arabic vocabulary and usage.
- **Ferdinand de Saussure:** A Swiss linguist regarded as the father of structuralism, whose theory of language as a system of signs influenced the study of Arabic roots and patterns.
- **Karl Brockelmann:** A German scholar who produced comparative studies of Semitic languages, showing how Arabic preserved many original Semitic features.
- **Lexicography (المعاجم):** The practice of compiling dictionaries. In Arabic studies, it involves collecting, defining, and explaining words and their usage.
- **Leonard Bloomfield:** An American linguist who advanced descriptive linguistics, encouraging systematic documentation of spoken Arabic and dialects.
- **Orientalism:** The study of Eastern languages and cultures by European scholars. In Arabic studies, it refers to the early Western interest in Arabic texts, grammar, and manuscripts.
- **Reinhart Dozy:** A Dutch scholar who contributed to Arabic lexicography and historical studies, helping preserve and interpret Arabic vocabulary in context.
- **Structural approaches (المنهج البنوي):** Linguistic methods that analyse Arabic as a system of interconnected rules and patterns, focusing on syntax and morphology rather than isolated examples.
- **Syntax (النحو):** The study of how words are arranged to form sentences in Arabic, including nominal and verbal sentence structures.
- **Triliteral root (الجذر الثلاثي):** A set of three consonants in Arabic that carries the basic meaning of a word, such as ك-ت-ب for “writing.”
- **William Wright:** A British scholar whose *Grammar of the Arabic Language* provided a detailed description of Classical Arabic and remains a key reference in Arabic studies.

Concept Check Questions [Series 4]

Objective questions



1. Early Western linguistic scholarship was often driven by _____, the study of Eastern languages and cultures. (Linked to SLO 4.1)
2. William Wright's *Grammar of the Arabic Language* focused on the detailed description of _____ Arabic. (Linked to SLO 4.4)
3. Karl Brockelmann's comparative grammar highlighted the importance of the _____ root system in Arabic. (Linked to SLO 4.5)
4. Edward Lane's *Arabic-English Lexicon* is considered one of the most comprehensive _____ of Arabic. (Linked to SLO 4.6)
5. Saussure's structuralism emphasised language as a system of _____, where meaning arises from relationships. (Linked to SLO 4.7)
6. Bloomfield's descriptive linguistics focused on documenting how language is _____ by speakers. (Linked to SLO 4.8)
7. Western scholarship acted as a _____ between traditional Arabic grammar and modern linguistic science. (Linked to SLO 4.10)

Short-answer questions

8. Define Orientalism and explain its relevance to early Western interest in Arabic. (Linked to SLO 4.1)
9. Summarise William Wright's contribution to Arabic grammar. (Linked to SLO 4.4)
10. Explain Karl Brockelmann's role in comparative Semitic studies. (Linked to SLO 4.5)
11. Identify one major contribution of Edward Lane or Reinhart Dozy to Arabic studies. (Linked to SLO 4.6)
12. Describe how Saussure's structuralist framework was applied to Arabic roots and patterns. (Linked to SLO 4.7)
13. State one way Bloomfield's descriptive methods influenced the study of Arabic dialects. (Linked to SLO 4.8)



14. Explain how structural methods were applied to Arabic syntax and morphology. (Linked to SLO 4.9)
15. Identify one way Western scholarship contributed to modern Arabic lexicography. (Linked to SLO 4.6)

Long-answer questions

16. Analyse the influence of Arabic manuscripts on European scholarship in the nineteenth century. (Linked to SLO 4.3)
17. Evaluate the combined contributions of Wright, Brockelmann, Lane, and Dozy to Arabic linguistic studies. (Linked to SLO 4.4–4.6)
18. Discuss how structuralist and descriptive approaches shaped modern Arabic linguistics. (Linked to SLO 4.7–4.9)
19. Assess the legacy of Western scholarship in Arabic linguistics and its integration into contemporary research. (Linked to SLO 4.10)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 4]

Objective questions

1. Orientalism
2. Classical
3. Triliteral
4. Lexicons
5. Signs
6. Used
7. Bridge

Short-answer questions



8. Orientalism was the study of Eastern languages and cultures by European scholars. It was relevant because Arabic grammar and texts were central to this interest.
9. William Wright produced *A Grammar of the Arabic Language*, a detailed description of Classical Arabic that remains a key reference.
10. Karl Brockelmann compared Semitic languages and showed how Arabic preserved original features, especially the triliteral root system.
11. Edward Lane compiled *An Arabic-English Lexicon*, while Reinhart Dozy contributed to historical lexicography and Arabic texts.
12. Saussure's framework treated Arabic roots and patterns as interconnected systems, showing how meaning arises from relationships.
13. Bloomfield's descriptive methods encouraged recording spoken Arabic and analysing dialects systematically.
14. Structural methods analysed nominal and verbal sentences, subject–verb–object order, and morphological paradigms as systems.
15. Lexicographical works such as Lane's lexicon preserved and explained Arabic vocabulary for modern learners.

Long-answer questions

16. *Basic response:* Arabic manuscripts provided European scholars with models of grammar and lexicons, influencing comparative studies.

Value-added response: Outstanding learners may add that manuscripts preserved Classical Arabic features, enabling historical analysis and comparisons with Hebrew and Syriac.

17. *Basic response:* Wright described Classical Arabic grammar, Brockelmann compared Semitic languages, Lane compiled a lexicon, and Dozy contributed to historical vocabulary studies.

Value-added response: Learners may extend this by noting that together these works



created a foundation for modern Arabic linguistics, bridging traditional grammar and Western methods.

18. *Basic response:* Structuralist approaches analysed Arabic as a system of signs, while descriptive approaches documented dialects and spoken usage.

Value-added response: Outstanding learners may add that these approaches validated dialectology, enriched syntax and morphology studies, and prepared the ground for generative grammar and sociolinguistics.

19. *Basic response:* Western scholarship integrated comparative and structural approaches, contributed to grammar and lexicography, and acted as a bridge to modern research.

Value-added response: Learners may extend this by evaluating how these contributions influenced twentieth-century theories, supported discourse analysis, and shaped contemporary Arabic linguistic studies globally.



Part 4.1: Early Western linguistic scholarship and Arabic studies

1. Orientalism was the study of Eastern languages and cultures by European scholars, and Arabic was central to this scholarship because of its rich literary tradition and its role as the language of the Qur'an.
2. Early Western linguistic scholarship was often driven by Orientalism, the study of Eastern languages and cultures.
3. Descriptive linguistics is the study of how language is actually used by speakers, and in Arabic it was applied to phonology and morphology, documenting features such as emphatic consonants and the triliteral root system.
4. Descriptive linguistics focuses on how language is used rather than prescribing rules.
5. Arabic manuscripts influenced European scholarship by providing models of grammar, lexicons, and literary texts, which allowed scholars to study Arabic systematically and compare it with other Semitic languages.
6. The preservation of Classical Arabic in manuscripts allowed Western scholars to trace historical developments and compare Arabic with Hebrew, Syriac, and other Semitic languages.

Part 4.2: Key nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Western scholars

1. William Wright's *Grammar of the Arabic Language* focused on providing a detailed description of Classical Arabic grammar, including morphology, syntax, and case endings.
2. William Wright's *Grammar of the Arabic Language* focused on the detailed description of Classical Arabic.
3. Karl Brockelmann's major contribution was his comparative studies of Semitic languages, which showed how Arabic preserved many original Semitic features, especially the triliteral root system.



4. Karl Brockelmann's comparative grammar highlighted the importance of the triliteral root system in Arabic.
5. Edward Lane produced *An Arabic-English Lexicon*, which remains one of the most comprehensive dictionaries of Arabic, while Reinhart Dozy contributed to historical lexicography and the study of Arabic texts.
6. Edward Lane's *Arabic-English Lexicon* is considered one of the most comprehensive lexicons of Arabic.

Part 4.3: Structuralist and modern approaches to Arabic

1. Ferdinand de Saussure's main contribution was structuralism, which emphasised language as a system of signs. Applied to Arabic, this framework encouraged scholars to analyse roots and patterns as interconnected systems.
2. Saussure's structuralism emphasised language as a system of signs, where meaning arises from relationships.
3. Leonard Bloomfield's contribution was advancing descriptive linguistics, which influenced Arabic studies by encouraging systematic documentation of spoken Arabic and dialects.
4. Bloomfield's descriptive linguistics focused on documenting how language is used by speakers.
5. Structural methods were applied to Arabic by analysing nominal and verbal sentence structures, subject–verb–object order, and morphological paradigms as systems.
6. Structural methods in Arabic grammar analysed sentence structures and morphological paradigms as systems.

Part 4.4: Legacy of Western scholarship in Arabic linguistics

1. Western scholarship integrated comparative and structural approaches into Arabic studies, allowing scholars to combine historical depth with systematic analysis.
2. Western scholarship integrated comparative and structural approaches into Arabic linguistic studies.



3. Western scholars contributed to Arabic grammar and lexicography through works such as Wright's grammar and Lane's lexicon, which remain essential references for learners and researchers.
4. Edward Lane's lexicon and William Wright's grammar are still considered essential references in modern Arabic studies.
5. Western scholarship prepared the ground for contemporary Arabic linguistic research by creating a bridge between traditional Arabic grammar and modern linguistic science.
6. Western scholarship acted as a bridge between traditional Arabic grammar and modern linguistic science.

References and Attributions [Series 4]

General References

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- Dozy, R. (1881). *Supplément aux dictionnaires arabes*. Leiden: Brill.

Illustrations

- *Plate 4.1: Orientalist interest in Arabic grammar and texts*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: "Generate an image of a nineteenth-century European scholar studying an Arabic manuscript."



- Suggested OER search string: “Orientalist scholar Arabic manuscript grammar OER”
- *Figure 4.1: Descriptive study of Arabic phonology and morphology*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing Arabic emphatic consonants and triliteral root system with examples.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Arabic phonology morphology descriptive linguistics OER”
- *Box 4.1: Key influences of Arabic manuscripts on Western scholarship*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing key influences of Arabic manuscripts on Western linguistic scholarship.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Arabic manuscripts influence European linguistics OER”
- *Plate 4.2: William Wright’s Grammar of the Arabic Language*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of the cover page of William Wright’s Grammar of the Arabic Language with classical design.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “William Wright Grammar of the Arabic Language OER”
- *Figure 4.2: Comparative Semitic roots in Brockelmann’s studies*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram comparing triliteral roots in Arabic, Hebrew, and Syriac, showing similarities and differences.”



- Suggested OER search string: “Karl Brockelmann comparative Semitic grammar Arabic OER”
- *Box 4.2: Notable Western contributions to Arabic studies*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing notable Western contributions to Arabic studies, including Wright, Brockelmann, Lane, and Dozy.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Edward Lane Arabic-English Lexicon Reinhart Dozy Arabic lexicography OER”
- *Figure 4.3: Structuralist framework applied to Arabic roots*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing Saussure’s structuralist model applied to Arabic trilateral roots, highlighting relationships between roots and patterns.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Saussure structuralism Arabic trilateral roots OER”
- *Plate 4.3: Descriptive study of Arabic dialects*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of an Arabic dialect study influenced by Bloomfield’s descriptive methods, showing phonological and morphological notes.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Bloomfield descriptive linguistics Arabic dialects OER”
- *Box 4.3: Structural methods applied to Arabic grammar*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing structural methods applied to Arabic grammar, including syntax and morphology.”



- Suggested OER search string: “Arabic grammar structural methods syntax morphology OER”
- *Figure 4.4: Integration of Western theories into Arabic studies*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing integration of comparative and structural approaches in Arabic linguistics, with examples from triliteral roots and syntax.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Arabic linguistics comparative structural integration OER”
- *Plate 4.4: Western contributions to Arabic grammar and lexicography*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image showing Edward Lane’s Arabic-English Lexicon and William Wright’s Grammar of the Arabic Language side by side.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Edward Lane Arabic-English Lexicon William Wright Grammar OER”
- *Box 4.4: Legacy of Western scholarship in Arabic linguistics*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing the legacy of Western scholarship in Arabic linguistics, including grammar, lexicography, and modern theories.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Arabic linguistics Western scholarship legacy OER”



Series 5: Traditional And Modern Arab Linguists

- **Part 5.1: Classical Arab grammarians and their legacy**
 - 5.1.1 Early pioneers such as Sibawayh and Al-Khalil ibn Ahmad
 - 5.1.2 Contributions of Basra and Kufa schools to Arabic grammar
 - 5.1.3 Preservation of syntax, morphology, and phonology in classical works
- **Part 5.2: Medieval Arab linguists and expansion of linguistic thought**
 - 5.2.1 Ibn Jinni and his analysis of phonology and morphology
 - 5.2.2 Al-Zamakhshari and his grammatical commentary in *Al-Kashshaf*
 - 5.2.3 Influence of medieval scholarship on later Arabic studies
- **Part 5.3: Modern Arab linguists and contemporary approaches**
 - 5.3.1 Taha Hussein and the modernisation of Arabic studies
 - 5.3.2 Ibrahim Anis and contributions to phonology and dialectology
 - 5.3.3 Other modern figures (e.g., Ramzi Baalbaki, Mahmud Fahmi Hijazi) and their role in structural and applied linguistics
- **Part 5.4: Legacy and relevance of Arab linguists today**
 - 5.4.1 Continuity between traditional and modern approaches
 - 5.4.2 Contributions to modern Arabic grammar and lexicography
 - 5.4.3 Impact on contemporary Arabic linguistic research and pedagogy

Introduction

In the last Series, we examined the contributions of Western linguistic scholars and how their theories and methods influenced the study of Arabic. We now turn our attention to Arab linguists



themselves, both traditional and modern, whose work has shaped the foundations and ongoing development of Arabic linguistics. This Series is particularly relevant because it highlights the continuity of Arabic scholarship across centuries and shows how Arab scholars have preserved, expanded, and modernised the study of their language.

The aim of this Series is to introduce you to the major Arab linguists from classical times to the modern era, and to demonstrate how their contributions have influenced Arabic grammar, phonology, morphology, lexicography, and contemporary linguistic research. By the end of the Series, you will be able to explain the achievements of traditional Arab grammarians, analyse the work of medieval scholars, and evaluate the impact of modern Arab linguists on today's Arabic studies.

We shall commence this Series by exploring the classical Arab grammarians such as Sibawayh and Al-Khalil ibn Ahmad, as well as the Basra and Kufa schools. Next, we will move on to medieval Arab linguists including Ibn Jinni and Al-Zamakhshari, considering their contributions to phonology, morphology, and grammatical commentary. Following that, we will examine modern Arab linguists such as Taha Hussein, Ibrahim Anis, and others who advanced phonology, dialectology, and structural approaches. Finally, we will wrap up by assessing the legacy and relevance of Arab linguists today, showing how their work continues to shape modern Arabic grammar, lexicography, and pedagogy.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 5.1** define the contributions of classical Arab grammarians such as Sibawayh and Al-Khalil ibn Ahmad,
- **SLO 5.2** explain the role of the Basra and Kufa schools in shaping Arabic grammar,
- **SLO 5.3** analyse how classical works preserved syntax, morphology, and phonology in Arabic,
- **SLO 5.4** describe Ibn Jinni's analysis of Arabic phonology and morphology,



- **SLO 5.5** summarise Al-Zamakhshari's grammatical commentary in *Al-Kashshaf*,
- **SLO 5.6** evaluate the influence of medieval Arab scholarship on later Arabic linguistic studies,
- **SLO 5.7** explain Taha Hussein's role in modernising Arabic linguistic thought,
- **SLO 5.8** describe Ibrahim Anis's contributions to phonology and dialectology,
- **SLO 5.9** identify the work of other modern Arab linguists such as Ramzi Baalbaki and Mahmud Fahmi Hijazi in structural and applied linguistics, and
- **SLO 5.10** assess the legacy and relevance of Arab linguists in shaping modern Arabic grammar, lexicography, and pedagogy.

5.1 Classical Arab Grammarians And Their Legacy

5.1.1 Early pioneers such as Sibawayh and Al-Khalil ibn Ahmad

One of the most celebrated figures in Arabic linguistics is **Sibawayh**, often referred to as the father of Arabic grammar. His monumental work, *Al-Kitab*, is regarded as the earliest and most comprehensive grammar of the Arabic language. In this text, Sibawayh systematically analysed **syntax** (النحو), which is the study of how words are arranged to form sentences, and **morphology** (الصرف), which is the study of word formation and structure. His approach was descriptive, relying on examples from the Qur'an, poetry, and spoken Arabic.

Another pioneer was **Al-Khalil ibn Ahmad al-Farahidi**, who is credited with founding Arabic lexicography and prosody. He compiled the first Arabic dictionary, *Kitab al-'Ayn*, and developed a system for analysing **phonology** (علم الأصوات), the study of sound systems in language. His work laid the foundation for understanding the structure of Arabic words and sounds.

Fill in the blank: Sibawayh's *Al-Kitab* is considered the earliest and most comprehensive _____ of the Arabic language.





Plate 5.1: Manuscript of Sibawayh's *Al-Kitab*

5.1.2 Contributions of Basra and Kufa schools to Arabic grammar

Arabic grammar was further developed through the rivalry between the **Basra school** and the **Kufa school**. The Basra school emphasised strict rules and logical analysis, while the Kufa school was more descriptive, relying on actual usage and poetic evidence. Together, these schools enriched Arabic grammar by offering complementary perspectives.

The Basra school produced grammarians such as Sibawayh and Al-Khalil, while the Kufa school produced scholars like Al-Farra. Their debates and writings shaped the discipline of Arabic grammar, ensuring that both prescriptive rules and descriptive usage were considered.

Fill in the blank: The Basra school emphasised strict rules and logical analysis, while the _____ school relied more on actual usage and poetic evidence.



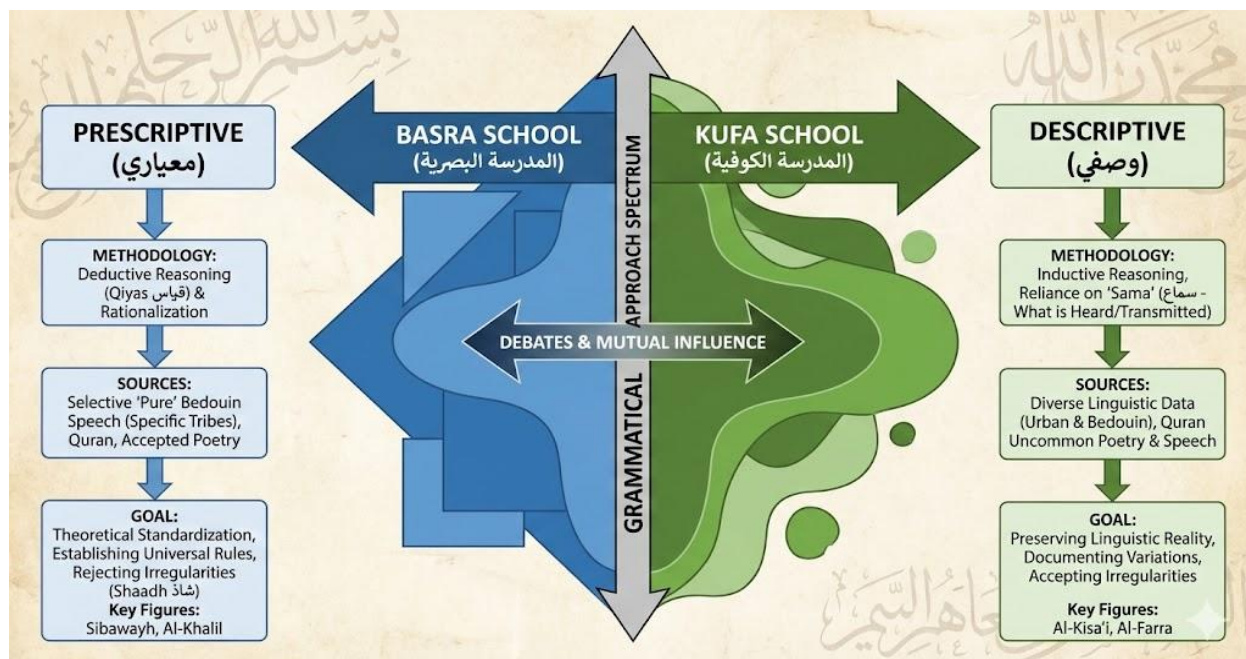


Figure 5.1: Comparison of Basra and Kufa schools in Arabic grammar

5.1.3 Preservation of syntax, morphology, and phonology in classical works

The legacy of classical Arab grammarians lies in their preservation of **syntax**, **morphology**, and **phonology**. Their works ensured that the rules of Classical Arabic were documented and transmitted across generations. This was crucial for maintaining the integrity of the Qur'an and Arabic poetry, which rely heavily on precise grammar and sound patterns.

By codifying these elements, classical grammarians provided a framework that continues to influence modern Arabic studies. Their legacy is not only historical but also practical, as their methods are still taught in Arabic grammar courses today.

Fill in the blank: Classical Arab grammarians preserved syntax, morphology, and _____ to maintain the integrity of the Qur'an and poetry.

Legacy Aspect	Explanation
Codification of Syntax, Morphology, and Phonology	Classical grammarians such as Sibawayh systematised Arabic grammar, creating rules for sentence structure, word formation, and sound patterns.



Preservation of Classical Arabic	Their work safeguarded the linguistic form of the Qur'an and classical poetry, ensuring accuracy in recitation and interpretation.
Grammar Schools in Basra and Kufa	These centres became intellectual hubs where grammatical traditions were debated, refined, and transmitted.
Influence on Modern Linguistic Research	Their methods and analyses continue to inspire contemporary studies in Arabic linguistics, linking traditional scholarship with modern science.

Box 5.1: Legacy of classical Arab grammarians

Pilot questions 5.1

1. Who was Sibawayh, and what was his major contribution to Arabic grammar?
2. Fill in the blank: Sibawayh's *Al-Kitab* is considered the earliest and most comprehensive _____ of the Arabic language.
3. What was Al-Khalil ibn Ahmad's contribution to Arabic lexicography and phonology?
4. Fill in the blank: The Basra school emphasised strict rules and logical analysis, while the _____ school relied more on actual usage and poetic evidence.
5. How did classical Arab grammarians preserve syntax, morphology, and phonology?
6. Fill in the blank: Classical Arab grammarians preserved syntax, morphology, and _____ to maintain the integrity of the Qur'an and poetry.

5.2 Medieval Arab Linguists And Expansion Of Linguistic Thought

5.2.1 Ibn Jinni and his analysis of phonology and morphology

A central figure in medieval Arabic linguistics was **Ibn Jinni** (d. 1002 CE), whose work *Al-Khasā'is* explored the relationship between sounds and meanings in Arabic. He contributed



significantly to **phonology** (علم الأصوات), the study of sound systems, by analysing how consonants and vowels interact to form words. He also examined **morphology** (الصرف), focusing on how trilateral roots combine with patterns to generate meaning.

Ibn Jinni's insights were remarkable because he linked linguistic analysis to philosophy, suggesting that sounds carry inherent meaning. His work influenced later grammarians and remains a key reference in Arabic linguistic thought.

Fill in the blank: Ibn Jinni's *Al-Khasā'is* explored the relationship between _____ and meanings in Arabic.



Plate 5.2: Manuscript of Ibn Jinni's *Al-Khasā'is*

5.2.2 Al-Zamakhshari and his grammatical commentary in *Al-Kashshaf*

Another influential medieval scholar was **Al-Zamakhshari** (d. 1144 CE), whose Qur'anic commentary *Al-Kashshaf* is renowned for its detailed grammatical analysis. He applied principles of **syntax** (النحو) and **semantics** (علم الدلالة), the study of meaning, to interpret Qur'anic verses. His commentary demonstrated how grammar is essential for understanding the Qur'an accurately.



Al-Zamakhshari's work highlighted the importance of linguistic precision in religious exegesis. His grammatical explanations influenced both linguists and theologians, bridging the gap between language study and religious scholarship.

Fill in the blank: Al-Zamakhshari's *Al-Kashshaf* is renowned for its detailed _____ analysis of Qur'anic verses.

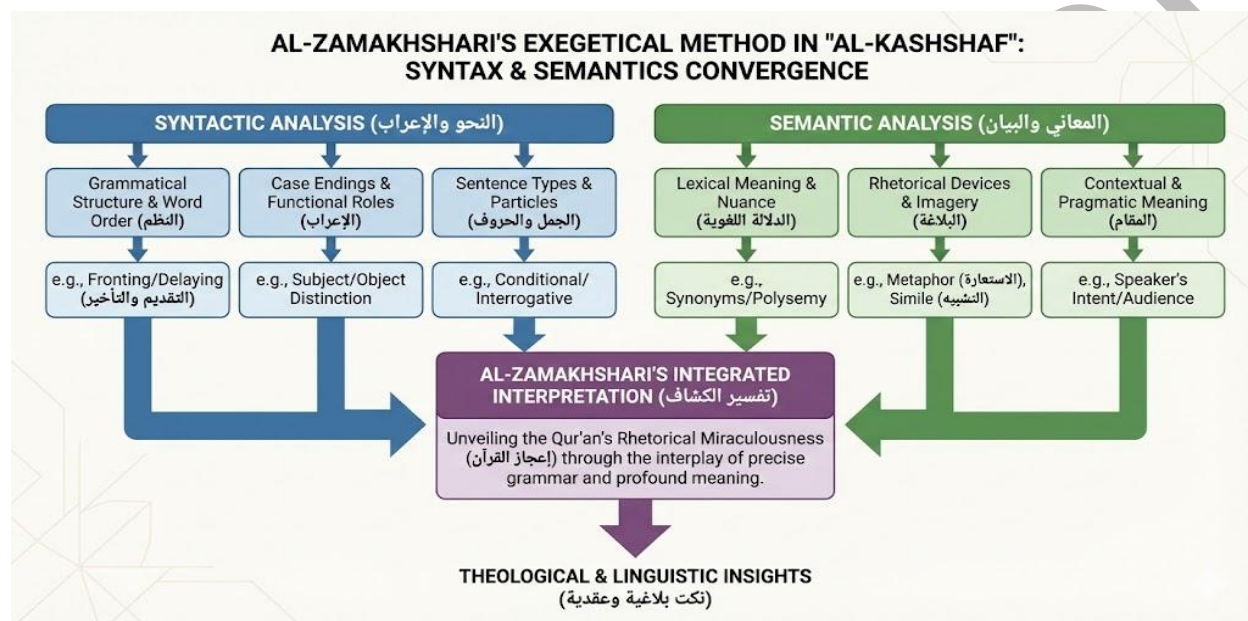


Figure 5.2: Al-Zamakhshari's grammatical approach in *Al-Kashshaf*

5.2.3 Influence of medieval scholarship on later Arabic studies

Medieval Arab linguists such as Ibn Jinni and Al-Zamakhshari ensured that Arabic grammar, phonology, and semantics were studied with depth and precision. Their works influenced later scholars, who built upon their methods to refine Arabic grammar and lexicography.

The medieval period marked a transition from purely descriptive grammar to analytical approaches that connected language with meaning, philosophy, and theology. This legacy continues to shape Arabic linguistic studies today.

Fill in the blank: Medieval Arab linguists marked a transition from descriptive grammar to _____ approaches that connected language with meaning.



Linguist / Contribution	Explanation
Ibn Jinni	Advanced analysis of phonology and morphology, exploring sound patterns and word formation in Arabic.
Al-Zamakhshari	Produced influential grammatical commentary within Qur'anic exegesis (<i>Al-Kashshāf</i>), integrating grammar with interpretation.
Integration with Philosophy & Theology	Medieval scholars linked linguistic analysis to broader intellectual traditions, showing how language interacts with logic, theology, and philosophy.
Foundation for Later Grammar & Lexicography	Their works provided a basis for subsequent developments in Arabic grammar, dictionaries, and linguistic scholarship.

Box 5.2: Influence of medieval Arab linguists

Pilot questions 5.2

1. What was Ibn Jinni's major contribution to Arabic phonology and morphology?
2. Fill in the blank: Ibn Jinni's *Al-Khasā'is* explored the relationship between _____ and meanings in Arabic.
3. What was Al-Zamakhshari's contribution to Qur'anic exegesis through *Al-Kashshaf*?
4. Fill in the blank: Al-Zamakhshari's *Al-Kashshaf* is renowned for its detailed _____ analysis of Qur'anic verses.
5. How did medieval Arab linguists influence later Arabic grammar and lexicography?
6. Fill in the blank: Medieval Arab linguists marked a transition from descriptive grammar to _____ approaches that connected language with meaning.



5.3 Modern Arab Linguists And Contemporary Approaches

5.3.1 Taha Hussein and the modernisation of Arabic studies

One of the most prominent modern Arab intellectuals was **Taha Hussein** (1889–1973), often called the “Dean of Arabic Literature.” He advocated for the modernisation of Arabic studies by encouraging critical approaches to classical texts and promoting accessibility of knowledge.

Hussein emphasised the importance of **linguistic reform** (إصلاح لغوي), which refers to adapting language teaching and usage to meet contemporary needs.

His work highlighted the need to balance respect for classical Arabic with the realities of modern communication. By questioning traditional methods and encouraging new perspectives, Hussein helped shape the direction of modern Arabic linguistic thought.

Fill in the blank: Taha Hussein is often referred to as the “Dean of _____ Literature.”



Plate 5.3: Taha Hussein and the modernisation of Arabic studies

5.3.2 Ibrahim Anis and contributions to phonology and dialectology

Another influential modern linguist was **Ibrahim Anis** (1906–1977), who specialised in **phonology** (علم الأصوات) and **dialectology** (علم اللهجات). He studied the sound systems of Arabic and analysed how dialects differ from Classical Arabic. His work provided a scientific



framework for understanding spoken Arabic and validated the study of dialects as legitimate linguistic research.

Anis's contributions were crucial in bridging the gap between Classical Arabic and everyday speech. He demonstrated that dialects are systematic and rule-governed, not merely “corrupt” forms of the language.

Fill in the blank: Ibrahim Anis specialised in phonology and _____, studying the sound systems and dialects of Arabic.

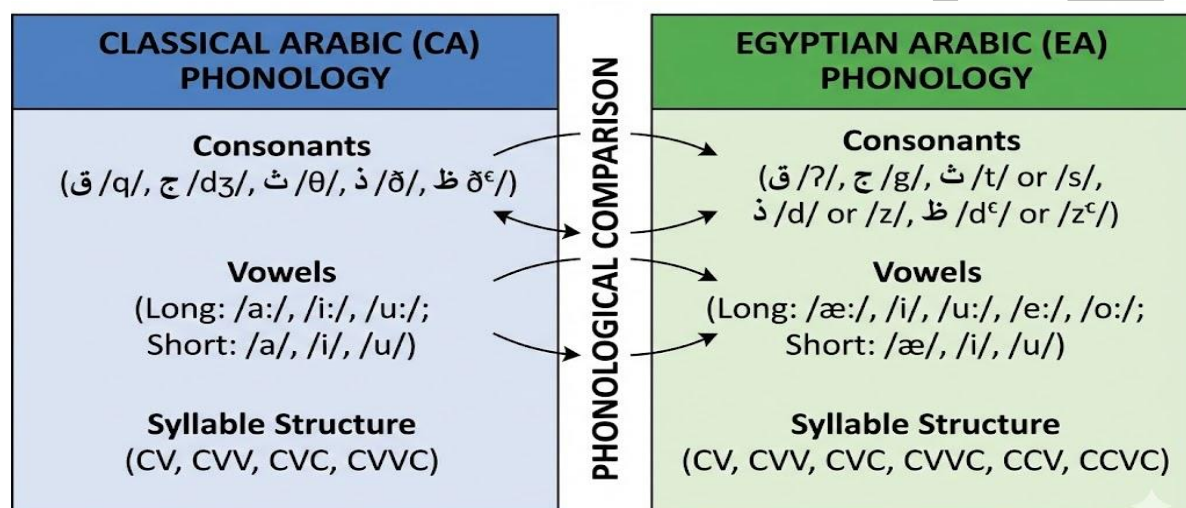


Diagram illustrating key consonantal and vowel shifts between Classical and Egyptian Arabic phonology.

Figure 5.3: Ibrahim Anis's study of Arabic phonology and dialectology

5.3.3 Other modern figures and their role in structural and applied linguistics

Modern Arabic linguistics has also been enriched by scholars such as **Ramzi Baalbaki** and **Mahmud Fahmi Hijazi**. Baalbaki is known for his work in **structural linguistics** (اللسانيات), applying modern linguistic theories to Arabic grammar and lexicography. Hijazi contributed to **applied linguistics** (اللغويات التطبيقية), focusing on language teaching, curriculum development, and the practical application of linguistic research in education.

These figures represent the diversity of modern Arabic scholarship, showing how linguists continue to expand the field by integrating contemporary theories with traditional foundations.



Fill in the blank: Ramzi Baalbaki is known for his work in structural linguistics, while Mahmud Fahmi Hijazi contributed to _____ linguistics.

Linguist	Contribution
Taha Hussein	Advocated modernisation of Arabic studies, promoted linguistic reform, and integrated Arabic into broader cultural and educational contexts.
Ibrahim Anis	Advanced research in phonology and dialectology, analysing sound systems and regional variations in Arabic.
Ramzi Baalbaki	Contributed to structural linguistics and lexicography, producing works that systematised Arabic grammar and enriched dictionaries.
Mahmud Fahmi Hijazi	Focused on applied linguistics and language teaching, developing methods for modern Arabic pedagogy and curriculum design.

Box 5.3: Contributions of modern Arab linguists

Pilot questions 5.3

1. What was Taha Hussein's role in modernising Arabic studies?
2. Fill in the blank: Taha Hussein is often referred to as the "Dean of _____ Literature."
3. What were Ibrahim Anis's main contributions to Arabic phonology and dialectology?
4. Fill in the blank: Ibrahim Anis specialised in phonology and _____, studying the sound systems and dialects of Arabic.
5. Name two modern Arab linguists and describe their contributions to structural or applied linguistics.
6. Fill in the blank: Ramzi Baalbaki is known for his work in structural linguistics, while Mahmud Fahmi Hijazi contributed to _____ linguistics.

5.4 Legacy And Relevance Of Arab Linguists Today

5.4.1 Continuity between traditional and modern approaches



The legacy of Arab linguists is best understood through the continuity between **traditional grammar** (النحو التقليدي) and **modern linguistic approaches** (المناهج اللغوية الحديثة). Classical grammarians such as Sibawayh and Al-Khalil ibn Ahmad established the foundations of syntax, morphology, and phonology, while modern scholars like Taha Hussein and Ibrahim Anis adapted these foundations to contemporary contexts. This continuity demonstrates that Arabic linguistics is not static but evolves while maintaining respect for its heritage.

Fill in the blank: The legacy of Arab linguists shows continuity between traditional grammar and _____ linguistic approaches.

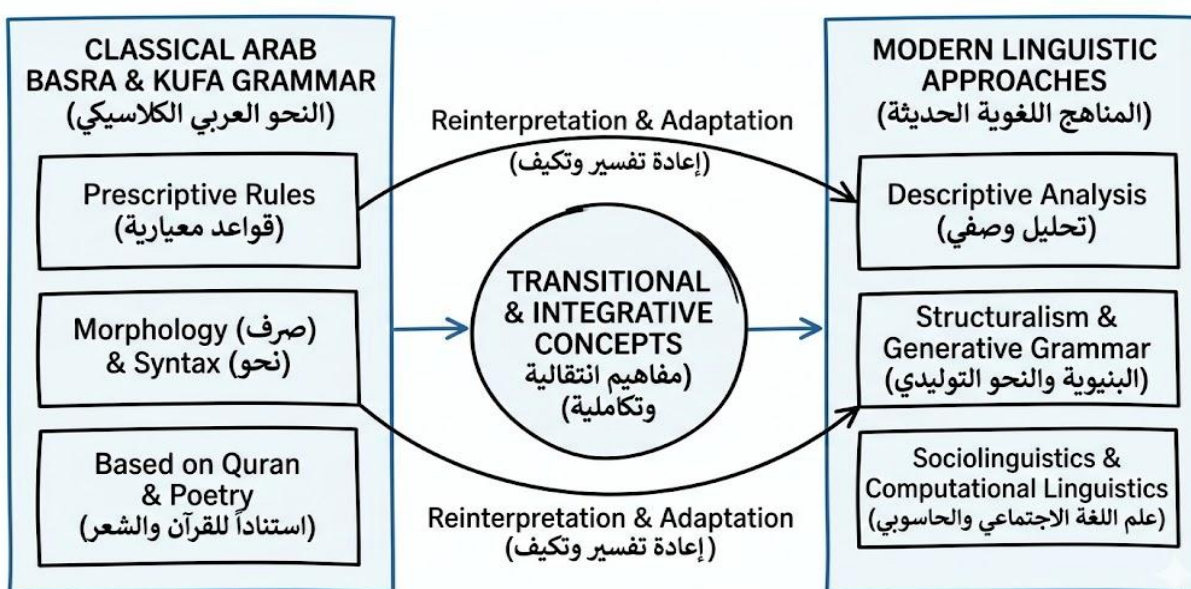


Figure 5.4: Continuity between traditional and modern approaches

5.4.2 Contributions to modern Arabic grammar and lexicography

Arab linguists have contributed significantly to **modern Arabic grammar** (النحو العربي الحديث) and **lexicography** (المعاجم). Classical works preserved the rules of syntax and morphology, while modern scholars expanded lexicographical efforts to include contemporary vocabulary and dialects. For example, Edward Lane's lexicon was complemented by Arab scholars who produced dictionaries tailored to modern usage.



These contributions ensure that Arabic remains a living language, capable of expressing both classical and modern realities. They also provide learners with resources that bridge the gap between traditional texts and modern communication.

Fill in the blank: Arab linguists contributed to modern Arabic grammar and _____, ensuring the language remains a living system.

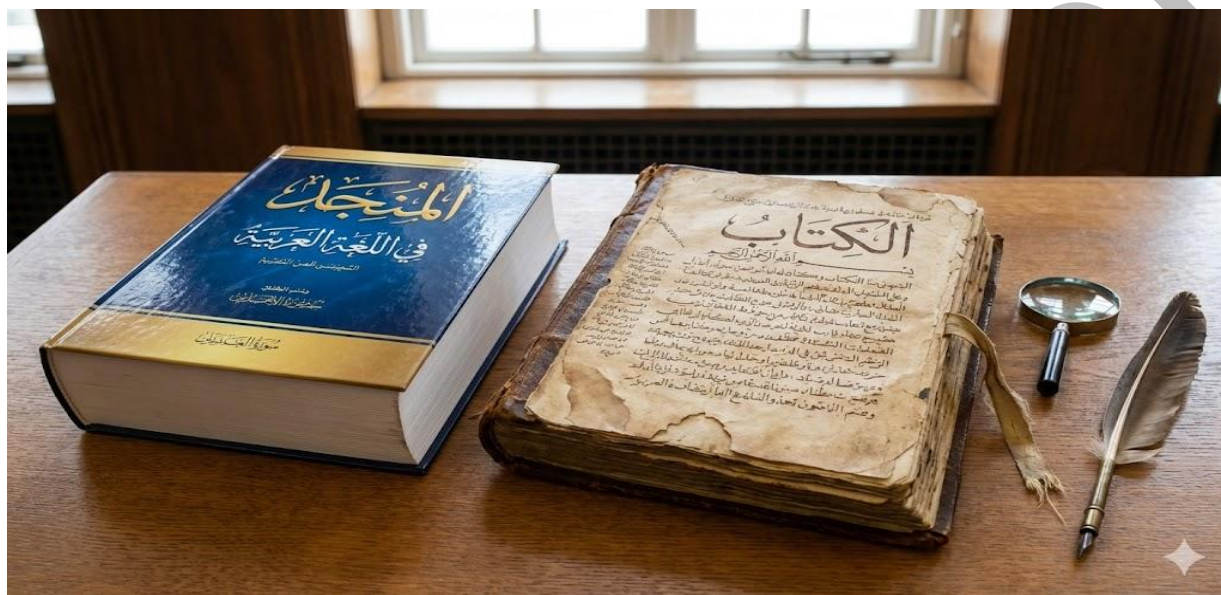


Plate 5.4: Contributions to modern Arabic grammar and lexicography

5.4.3 Impact on contemporary Arabic linguistic research and pedagogy

The relevance of Arab linguists today lies in their impact on **contemporary Arabic linguistic research** (البحوث اللسانية المعاصرة) and **pedagogy** (طرائق التدريس). Their legacy informs teaching methods, curriculum design, and linguistic analysis in universities and schools across the Arab world.

By integrating traditional grammar with modern theories such as structuralism and applied linguistics, Arab scholars have created a comprehensive framework for studying and teaching Arabic. This ensures that learners can engage with the language both as a cultural heritage and as a modern tool of communication.

Fill in the blank: The relevance of Arab linguists today lies in their impact on contemporary Arabic linguistic research and _____.



Aspect	Explanation
Continuity Between Traditional and Modern Approaches	Arab linguists maintain links between classical grammatical traditions and modern linguistic theories, ensuring historical depth in contemporary studies.
Contributions to Grammar and Lexicography	Their work enriches Arabic grammar and dictionaries, providing essential tools for teaching, translation, and research.
Influence on Contemporary Research and Pedagogy	Modern Arab linguists shape curricula, teaching methods, and applied linguistics, making Arabic accessible in global academic contexts.
Integration of Heritage with Modern Science	They combine Arabic linguistic heritage with structuralism, generative grammar, and sociolinguistics, bridging past and present.

Box 5.4: Legacy and relevance of Arab linguists

Pilot questions 5.4

1. How does the legacy of Arab linguists demonstrate continuity between traditional and modern approaches?
2. Fill in the blank: The legacy of Arab linguists shows continuity between traditional grammar and _____ linguistic approaches.
3. What contributions have Arab linguists made to modern Arabic grammar and lexicography?
4. Fill in the blank: Arab linguists contributed to modern Arabic grammar and _____, ensuring the language remains a living system.
5. How have Arab linguists influenced contemporary Arabic linguistic research and pedagogy?



6. Fill in the blank: The relevance of Arab linguists today lies in their impact on contemporary Arabic linguistic research and _____.

Series Summary

This Series has focused on the contributions of Arab linguists across different periods, highlighting their enduring influence on the study and teaching of Arabic. Its purpose was to show how traditional grammarians laid the foundations of Arabic grammar and phonology, how medieval scholars expanded linguistic thought through detailed analysis and commentary, and how modern Arab linguists introduced new approaches that continue to shape contemporary research and pedagogy. By tracing this progression, learners can appreciate the continuity and evolution of Arabic linguistic scholarship.

We began with classical figures such as Sibawayh and Al-Khalil ibn Ahmad, examining their pioneering work in grammar, lexicography, and phonology. We then moved on to medieval scholars like Ibn Jinni and Al-Zamakhshari, whose analyses connected language with meaning and theology. Following that, we explored modern linguists including Taha Hussein, Ibrahim Anis, Ramzi Baalbaki, and Mahmud Fahmi Hijazi, who advanced phonology, dialectology, structural linguistics, and applied linguistics. Finally, we assessed the legacy of Arab linguists today, noting their contributions to grammar, lexicography, and pedagogy. In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you should now be able to define the achievements of classical grammarians, explain the role of medieval scholars, analyse modern contributions, and evaluate the ongoing relevance of Arab linguists in shaping Arabic linguistic studies.

Glossary of Terms

- **Al-Khalil ibn Ahmad al-Farahidi:** A classical Arab linguist credited with compiling the first Arabic dictionary (*Kitab al-'Ayn*) and developing systems for phonology and prosody.
- **Al-Zamakhshari:** A medieval Arab scholar known for his Qur'anic commentary *Al-Kashshaf*, which applied detailed grammatical and semantic analysis to religious texts.



- **Applied linguistics (اللغويات التطبيقية):** The practical use of linguistic knowledge in areas such as language teaching, curriculum design, and communication studies.
- **Basra school:** One of the two major early centres of Arabic grammar, noted for its emphasis on strict rules and logical analysis.
- **Dialectology (علم اللهجات):** The study of regional and social varieties of a language, focusing on differences in pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar.
- **Grammar (النحو):** The set of rules that govern how words and sentences are formed in Arabic, including syntax and morphology.
- **Ibn Jinni:** A medieval Arab linguist whose work *Al-Khasā'is* analysed phonology and morphology, exploring the relationship between sounds and meanings.
- **Ibrahim Anis:** A modern Arab linguist who specialised in phonology and dialectology, providing scientific frameworks for studying spoken Arabic.
- **Lexicography (المعاجم):** The practice of compiling dictionaries, including the collection, definition, and explanation of words and their usage.
- **Mahmud Fahmi Hijazi:** A modern Arab linguist known for his contributions to applied linguistics and Arabic language teaching.
- **Morphology (الصرف):** The study of word formation and structure in Arabic, especially how roots combine with patterns to create meaning.
- **Phonology (علم الأصوات):** The study of the sound system of a language, including how consonants and vowels interact to form words.
- **Ramzi Baalbaki:** A modern Arab linguist recognised for his work in structural linguistics and lexicography.
- **Sibawayh:** A classical Arab grammarian regarded as the father of Arabic grammar, whose work *Al-Kitab* systematically analysed syntax and morphology.
- **Structural linguistics (اللسانيات البنائية):** An approach to language study that views language as a system of interconnected rules and patterns.



- **Syntax (النحو):** The study of how words are arranged to form sentences in Arabic, including nominal and verbal sentence structures.
- **Taha Hussein:** A modern Arab intellectual known as the “Dean of Arabic Literature,” who promoted linguistic reform and modernisation of Arabic studies.
- **Triliteral root (الجذر الثلاثي):** A set of three consonants in Arabic that carries the basic meaning of a word, such as ك-ت-ب for “writing.”

Concept Check Questions [Series 5]

Objective questions

1. Sibawayh’s *Al-Kitab* is considered the earliest and most comprehensive _____ of the Arabic language. (Linked to SLO 5.1)
2. The Basra school emphasised strict rules and logical analysis, while the _____ school relied more on actual usage and poetic evidence. (Linked to SLO 5.2)
3. Ibn Jinni’s *Al-Khasā’is* explored the relationship between _____ and meanings in Arabic. (Linked to SLO 5.4)
4. Al-Zamakhshari’s *Al-Kashshaf* is renowned for its detailed _____ analysis of Qur’anic verses. (Linked to SLO 5.5)
5. Taha Hussein is often referred to as the “Dean of _____ Literature.” (Linked to SLO 5.7)
6. Ibrahim Anis specialised in phonology and _____, studying the sound systems and dialects of Arabic. (Linked to SLO 5.8)
7. Ramzi Baalbaki is known for his work in structural linguistics, while Mahmud Fahmi Hijazi contributed to _____ linguistics. (Linked to SLO 5.9)
8. The legacy of Arab linguists shows continuity between traditional grammar and _____ linguistic approaches. (Linked to SLO 5.10)

Short-answer questions



9. Define the main contribution of Sibawayh to Arabic grammar. (Linked to SLO 5.1)
10. Explain the role of the Basra and Kufa schools in shaping Arabic grammar. (Linked to SLO 5.2)
11. Describe Ibn Jinni's analysis of phonology and morphology. (Linked to SLO 5.4)
12. Summarise Al-Zamakhshari's grammatical commentary in *Al-Kashshaf*. (Linked to SLO 5.5)
13. Evaluate the influence of medieval Arab scholarship on later Arabic linguistic studies. (Linked to SLO 5.6)
14. Explain Taha Hussein's role in modernising Arabic linguistic thought. (Linked to SLO 5.7)
15. Describe Ibrahim Anis's contributions to phonology and dialectology. (Linked to SLO 5.8)
16. Identify one major contribution of Ramzi Baalbaki or Mahmud Fahmi Hijazi to modern Arabic linguistics. (Linked to SLO 5.9)
17. Explain how Arab linguists have influenced contemporary Arabic linguistic research and pedagogy. (Linked to SLO 5.10)

Long-answer questions

18. Analyse the contributions of classical Arab grammarians such as Sibawayh and Al-Khalil ibn Ahmad to the preservation of Arabic grammar and phonology. (Linked to SLO 5.1–5.3)
19. Discuss the significance of medieval Arab linguists like Ibn Jinni and Al-Zamakhshari in expanding Arabic linguistic thought. (Linked to SLO 5.4–5.6)
20. Evaluate the impact of modern Arab linguists including Taha Hussein, Ibrahim Anis, Ramzi Baalbaki, and Mahmud Fahmi Hijazi on contemporary Arabic studies. (Linked to SLO 5.7–5.9)



21. Assess the legacy and relevance of Arab linguists today in shaping modern Arabic grammar, lexicography, and pedagogy. (Linked to SLO 5.10)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 5]

Objective questions

1. Grammar
2. Kufa
3. Sounds
4. Grammatical
5. Arabic
6. Dialectology
7. Applied
8. Modern

Short-answer questions

9. Sibawayh produced *Al-Kitab*, the earliest and most comprehensive grammar of Arabic, systematically analysing syntax and morphology.
10. The Basra school emphasised strict rules and logical analysis, while the Kufa school relied on actual usage and poetic evidence, together enriching Arabic grammar.
11. Ibn Jinni analysed phonology and morphology, showing how sounds and roots combine to create meaning in Arabic.
12. Al-Zamakhshari's *Al-Kashshaf* provided detailed grammatical and semantic commentary on Qur'anic verses, linking grammar to religious interpretation.
13. Medieval Arab scholarship influenced later studies by integrating language with philosophy and theology, laying foundations for advanced grammar and lexicography.



14. Taha Hussein modernised Arabic studies by promoting linguistic reform and encouraging critical approaches to classical texts.
15. Ibrahim Anis contributed to phonology and dialectology, validating the study of spoken Arabic and dialects as systematic and rule-governed.
16. Ramzi Baalbaki advanced structural linguistics and lexicography, while Mahmud Fahmi Hijazi contributed to applied linguistics and language teaching.
17. Arab linguists influenced contemporary research and pedagogy by integrating traditional grammar with modern theories, shaping teaching methods and curricula.

Long-answer questions

18. *Basic response:* Classical grammarians like Sibawayh and Al-Khalil preserved Arabic grammar and phonology by codifying syntax, morphology, and sound systems.
Value-added response: Outstanding learners may add that their works safeguarded the integrity of Qur'anic recitation and poetry, and provided a foundation for comparative Semitic studies.
19. *Basic response:* Ibn Jinni expanded phonological and morphological analysis, while Al-Zamakhshari applied grammar and semantics to Qur'anic exegesis.
Value-added response: Learners may extend this by noting that their integration of language with philosophy and theology influenced both linguists and theologians, shaping later Arabic scholarship.
20. *Basic response:* Modern linguists like Taha Hussein promoted reform, Ibrahim Anis studied phonology and dialectology, Baalbaki advanced structural linguistics, and Hijazi contributed to applied linguistics.
Value-added response: Outstanding learners may add that these contributions bridged classical traditions with modern theories, making Arabic studies relevant in global linguistic discourse.
21. *Basic response:* Arab linguists remain relevant today by contributing to grammar, lexicography, and pedagogy, ensuring Arabic remains a living language.
Value-added response: Learners may extend this by evaluating how their legacy supports



contemporary research, curriculum design, and integration of Arabic heritage with modern linguistic science.



Part 5.1: Classical Arab grammarians and their legacy

1. Sibawayh was the father of Arabic grammar, and his major contribution was *Al-Kitab*, the earliest and most comprehensive grammar of the Arabic language.
2. Grammar.
3. Al-Khalil ibn Ahmad compiled the first Arabic dictionary (*Kitab al-ʿAyn*) and developed systems for phonology and prosody.
4. Kufa.
5. Classical Arab grammarians preserved syntax, morphology, and phonology by codifying rules and documenting them in grammar texts, ensuring the integrity of Qur’anic recitation and poetry.
6. Phonology.

Part 5.2: Medieval Arab linguists and expansion of linguistic thought

1. Ibn Jinni contributed to Arabic phonology and morphology by analysing how sounds and roots combine to create meaning, as explained in his work *Al-Khasāʾis*.
2. Sounds.
3. Al-Zamakhshari contributed to Qur’anic exegesis through *Al-Kashshaf*, which applied detailed grammatical and semantic analysis to Qur’anic verses.
4. Grammatical.
5. Medieval Arab linguists influenced later Arabic grammar and lexicography by integrating language with philosophy and theology, and by refining grammatical analysis.
6. Analytical.

Part 5.3: Modern Arab linguists and contemporary approaches

1. Taha Hussein modernised Arabic studies by promoting linguistic reform, encouraging critical approaches to classical texts, and making knowledge more accessible.



2. Arabic.
3. Ibrahim Anis contributed to Arabic phonology and dialectology by studying sound systems and validating dialects as systematic and rule-governed.
4. Dialectology.
5. Ramzi Baalbaki advanced structural linguistics and lexicography, while Mahmud Fahmi Hijazi contributed to applied linguistics and language teaching.
6. Applied.

Part 5.4: Legacy and relevance of Arab linguists today

1. The legacy of Arab linguists demonstrates continuity between traditional grammar and modern approaches, showing how Arabic linguistics evolves while respecting its heritage.
2. Modern.
3. Arab linguists contributed to modern Arabic grammar and lexicography by preserving classical rules and expanding dictionaries to include contemporary vocabulary and dialects.
4. Lexicography.
5. Arab linguists influenced contemporary Arabic linguistic research and pedagogy by integrating traditional grammar with modern theories, shaping teaching methods and curricula.
6. Pedagogy.



General References

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- Hijazi, M. F. (1998). *Dirasat fi al-Lughah wa al-Tarbiya* [Studies in Language and Education]. Cairo: Dar al-Fikr al-‘Arabi.
- Hussein, T. (1960). *Mustaqbal al-Thaqafa fi Misr* [The Future of Culture in Egypt]. Cairo: Dar al-Ma‘arif.
- Ibn Jinni. (1952). *Al-Khasā’is*. Cairo: Dar al-Kutub al-Misriyya.
- Sibawayh. (1988). *Al-Kitab*. Beirut: Dar al-Kutub al-‘Ilmiyya.
- Zamakhshari, A. (1947). *Al-Kashshaf ‘an Haqaiq al-Tanzil*. Cairo: Mustafa al-Babi al-Halabi.

Illustrations

- *Plate 5.1: Manuscript of Sibawayh’s Al-Kitab*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of a manuscript page from Sibawayh’s Al-Kitab showing Arabic script.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Sibawayh Al-Kitab manuscript Arabic grammar OER”
- *Figure 5.1: Comparison of Basra and Kufa schools in Arabic grammar*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram comparing Basra and Kufa schools in Arabic grammar, showing prescriptive vs descriptive approaches.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Basra Kufa schools Arabic grammar comparison OER”



- *Box 5.1: Legacy of classical Arab grammarians*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing the legacy of classical Arab grammarians, including syntax, morphology, phonology, and their influence.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Legacy of classical Arab grammarians syntax morphology phonology OER”
- *Plate 5.2: Manuscript of Ibn Jinni’s Al-Khasā’is*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of a manuscript page from Ibn Jinni’s Al-Khasā’is showing Arabic script.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Ibn Jinni Al-Khasais manuscript Arabic linguistics OER”
- *Figure 5.2: Al-Zamakhshari’s grammatical approach in Al-Kashshaf*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing Al-Zamakhshari’s use of syntax and semantics in Qur’anic interpretation.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Al-Zamakhshari Al-Kashshaf grammar Qur’an OER”
- *Box 5.2: Influence of medieval Arab linguists*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing the influence of medieval Arab linguists on Arabic grammar and linguistic thought.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Medieval Arab linguists influence Arabic grammar OER”
- *Plate 5.3: Taha Hussein and the modernisation of Arabic studies*



- Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
- Prompt: “Generate an image of Taha Hussein delivering a lecture on Arabic literature and language reform.”
- Suggested OER search string: “Taha Hussein Arabic literature linguistics OER”
- *Figure 5.3: Ibrahim Anis’s study of Arabic phonology and dialectology*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram comparing Classical Arabic phonology with Egyptian Arabic dialect phonology.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Ibrahim Anis phonology dialectology Arabic OER”
- *Box 5.3: Contributions of modern Arab linguists*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing contributions of modern Arab linguists including Hussein, Anis, Baalbaki, and Hijazi.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Modern Arab linguists contributions Arabic structural applied linguistics OER”
- *Figure 5.4: Continuity between traditional and modern approaches*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing the link between classical Arab grammar and modern linguistic approaches.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “continuity traditional modern Arabic linguistics OER”
- *Plate 5.4: Contributions to modern Arabic grammar and lexicography*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.



- Prompt: “Generate an image showing a modern Arabic dictionary placed beside a classical grammar manuscript.”
- Suggested OER search string: “modern Arabic dictionary classical grammar OER”
- *Box 5.4: Legacy and relevance of Arab linguists*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing the legacy and relevance of Arab linguists today, including grammar, lexicography, and pedagogy.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “legacy relevance Arab linguists modern Arabic pedagogy OER”

