

THE GRAPHICAL FEATURES OF THE ARABIC SCRIPT AS THE CASE OF THE PUNCTUATION USAGE

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Abstract

The research goal is punctuation usage singularity description based on the Arabic graphical writing system features. Punctuation marks as well as alphabet letters represent a part of the graphical writing system adopted for a given language and are used for those aspects of written speech which can't be expressed by letters in accordance with the spelling rules. Punctuation is clearly an important part of the written language. It is widely accepted that punctuation deals with syntax and rhythm-melodies of a particular language. This impacts on the meanings of the written texts that explains the current importance of the research. The research begins with the introduction aiming to discuss the punctuation history nature in the Arabic language. Subsequent chapters describe the features of the Arabic written languages graphical system. Further chapters then construct a taxonomy of punctuation marks and describe the theory synthesized from the investigations results.

However, graphical written system features should be considered for punctuation analysis. The graphical system of the Arabic language is different from the European one. The elements effecting its development and formation differ from the ones in the European languages. The graphical influence on punctuation usage in the Arabic language will be analyzed in the research. The research combined theoretical and empirical studies. The research methodology rested on the comparative and descriptive approach to analysis, followed functional and cultural equivalent principles in the course of exploring the essence of punctuation. The study goes in line with the needs of experts and specialists who work within the above settings to adequately understand and use language tools for processing punctuation used in the texts of the Arab world. The research findings made it possible to characterize the major features of the punctuation usage in Arabic. The research findings can be of use for translators who work in multilingual environments. Also, they are interesting for linguists, particularly those who study the written language history

Keywords: punctuation, Arabic script,

1. STAGE FORMATION ARABIC PUNCTUATION SYSTEM

The punctuation as the system part of the graphical script is a new event in the Arabic language. However, in the Arabic texts we can find special signs besides the letters before introducing punctuation. For example, in Quranic text, we can find special signs for regulation the level of priority and length of the pauses called "alamat alwuquf". These signs are placed above the letters. The tone of voice had to be regulated by the meaning of ayats or special particles like "ma" or "bi'asa" or "ni'ma".

At the same time, we can find some punctuation marks in the Arabic manuscripts such as like "big circle",

“three comas”, “upper length line”, “quotation marks” or red color of words. Also, the superphrasal conjunction as “waw”, “fa” and etc. play an essential role for the segmentation texts both in the manuscripts an in the Quran.

The first work which described rules of the usage punctuation in the Arabic language was work A. Zaki. This work was published in Egypt in the 1916 year. It has be said that there were attempts to introduce the punctuation system similar European before this work. This process adaptation and discussion European punctuation system lasted all 19-th century between intellectuals.

First who suggested introducing punctuation was Faris Shidiyak. In his work *Al-Lafif fi Kull Ma'an Tarif* published in 1839 he gave Western punctuation marks and their usage. But in the second edition published 1881 chapter of the punctuation marks was omitted (Roper, 1995, p. 116). F. Shidiyak presented in his book the comma, the dash, the two dots, the question mark, the mark of exclamation, the quotation marks and the sign in place of the full stop (Mahmud, 2016, p. 161).

Zeynab Fawwaz inspired by French punctuation system in her article published in magazine “al-Fata” in 1893 offered to adopt the European punctuation system. She offered the following punctuation marks with the brief description of their functions: the two points, the exclamation mark, the quotation marks, the brackets and the ellipsis.

Hasan Tuwarani was an Egyptian luminary. After acquaintance with Zeynab Fawwaz’s article, he suggested creating own punctuation system based on the features of the Arabic language. Subsequently, in his work *Kitab ḥaṭṭ al-’isharat* in 1893 he invented 85 special signs for regulating not only intonation and segmentation but pose body (Awad, 2015, p. 122).

The Book of Ahmad Zaki was the result of discussion and official introduction Western punctuation marks in the Arabic language.

2. FEATURES OF ARABIC SCRIPT

The Arabic writing played and plays the role more important in Arabic also Muslims cutler than the writing in European languages. It formatted with appearance Islam in the international scene and became the symbol of the acceptance Islam. As we see there were nations which with acceptance Islam they assumed Arabic writing (Rosenthal, 1971, p. 54). On the other hand, the writing was the foundation for the appearance calligraphy. Also, it thus reflects it’s the divine nature by showing to the divine beauty. In the Arabic calligraphy all elements are important. All elements, each letter, each point and etc. are significant for the whole picture. The divine nature of Arabic writing became the reasons for discussions and disputes on the acceptance Western punctuation system. The attribute to the art of Arabic writing, apart from the features of the syntax and of the rhetorical style of the speech, reflects on peculiarity usage the punctuation marks.

3. PUNCTUATION MARKS

Firstly, the European letter graphically differs from the Arabic harf. Graphically the harf has three visual space. In the Arabic script one harf differs from another just by a point, two points or three points. Some of them can connect with harf after it. The form of European full stop not so suitable because it is used part of the “harf”. At the same time, it is the Arabic mathematical figure for indication zero. Z. Fawwaz in her description punctuation marks named full stop as zero (“sifr”). Maybe it was the reason why F. Shidiyak didn’t take it and suggested to use special sign from the Arabic manuscripts. Perhaps it was a case of frequent lack of a full stop at the end of paragraphs (Semenov, 1941, p.176). The Point as part “harf” easily adopted as part punctuation marks like the question mark, the mark of exclamation, the semicolon and “shawlya manquta”. On the contrary the form of European comma more suitable for Arabic script. The European comma is resembled the Arabic turned harf “waw”. We also can see this mark in the Arabic manuscripts. The usage of this more frequently than the full stop. Often it takes functional the European full stop. Although in the Arabic language theoretically we can segment text as well as the European languages depending on the concept “jumla”. The Graphical space of the Arabic “harf” doesn’t allow to introduce the capital letters in the Arabic script. Although there were the attempts to introduce it (Mahmud, 2016, p.156). Often the quotation mark is used for this goal.

4. CONCLUSION

When the Arabs adopted the Western punctuation system they try to adopt it with the forms of the punctuation marks and their rules usage regardless of the own script. In spite that fact image sensing of the forms punctuation marks influenced the usage of the punctuation marks. Needless to say the punctuation mirrors of the significant differences each language depended on the syntax, the intonation. We see the

different usage of the punctuation marks in the Western languages. However, for the Arabic language we must consider the Arabic writing. As we see the different usage of two frequently marks, the full stop and the comma. The first wasn't adopted immediately in the Arabic script. The Latter found foundation in the Arabic writing. It's the visual code of the perception writing not evidently played its role in the process adaptation of the Western punctuation marks.

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