ASPECTS OF MORPHOLOGICAL PROCESSES IN ARABIC LANGUAGE

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CERTIFICATION

I **YUSUF ABDULQADIR,** a student in the Department of Linguistics and African Languages, University of Benin, with matriculation number **ART2004693** has completed the requirements for coursework and research for the Bachelor of Arts Degree of the University of Benin. The work embodied in this project is original and has not been submitted in part or whole for any other degree or diploma programme of this or any other university or institution.

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PLAGIARISM CERTIFICATION

I, **YUSUF ABDULQADIR** with matriculation number **ART2004693** declare that this work **ASPECTS OF MORPHOLOGICAL PROCESSES IN ARABIC LANGUAGE** has successfully passed the anti-plagiarism test and so does not violate any copyright regulation.

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Date:_____

DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to God Almighty for His wisdom, strength, and grace throughout my academic journey. I also dedicate this work to my beloved parents for their unwavering support, prayers, and encouragement.

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I express my sincere gratitude to God Almighty for granting me the strength and wisdom to complete this research successfully.

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ABSTRACT

This study examines selected aspects of morphological processes in the Arabic language, focusing on the root-and-pattern system, inflectional structures, derivational morphology, and morphophonemic observations. Arabic, as a Semitic language, employs a unique morphological framework where words are derived from triliteral and quadriliteral roots, interacting with specific patterns to form various grammatical structures. The study is anchored in a dual theoretical framework, integrating classical Arabic grammar (ṣarf) as developed by Sībawayh (8th century CE) with modern linguistic theories, including inflectional morphology (Greenberg, 1963) and derivational morphology (Chomsky, 1957). The research adopts a qualitative analytical approach, utilizing primary sources such as Al-Kitāb by Sībawayh, classical Arabic dictionaries, and modern linguistic databases like the Buckwalter Arabic Morphological Analyzer. Fieldwork with native Arabic speakers was also incorporated to validate findings. Key findings highlight the efficiency and productivity of the root-and-pattern system, demonstrating how a limited set of roots generates a vast lexicon while maintaining semantic consistency. Inflectional processes were found to play a crucial role in Arabic grammar, affecting verb conjugation, noun declension, tense, aspect, number, and case marking. Additionally, derivational morphology contributes to Arabic's lexical expansion through prefixation, suffixation, and pattern modifications. The study also identifies morphophonemic alternations, such as vowel shifts and assimilation, as essential mechanisms shaping Arabic word formation. Despite its structured system, Arabic morphology presents challenges in natural language processing (NLP), language acquisition, and comparative linguistics due to its nonlinear morphology and extensive morphophonemic variations. The study concludes that integrating traditional Arabic linguistic principles with modern computational models can enhance linguistic research, language teaching methodologies, and AI-based Arabic text processing. The research contributes to Arabic linguistics, morphology, and computational language studies, serving as a foundation for further exploration of Arabic word structure, dialectal variations, and applications in linguistic technology.

Keywords: Arabic morphology, root-and-pattern system, inflectional morphology, derivational morphology, morphophonemic changes, Arabic linguistics, linguistic analysis.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Morphology refers to a sub-discipline of linguistics which deals with the study of the formation and forms of words in a given language, but the term morphology can also be used to indicate that part of the grammar of a language which deals with the internal structure of words, including their roots, affixes, inflections, and derivations, as well as the rules governing their combination and formation.

Matthews (1974), considers Morphology as the branch of grammar that deals with the internal structure of words, as cited in (Kiras, 2001). Other definitions of morphology may be argued by some linguists, they claimed that morphology is the study of meaningful parts of words (Mc Carthy, 1991). For instance, the English word "girls", has two meaningful units which are: "girl" and the plural marker "-s". These units, called morphemes, which are considered as the smallest units of morphological analysis (Kiras, G. A. 2001).

The study of the internal structure of words and how they are formed, is a critical field of study in linguistics. It examines how smaller units of language, known as morphemes, combine to create meaning. Morphological analysis plays a key role in understanding the processes of

derivation, inflection, and word formation, offering insight into the structural and functional aspects of a language. By investigating morphological processes, linguists can better comprehend the mechanisms that shape the vocabulary and grammar of a language.

1.1 THE ARABIC LANGUAGE AND PEOPLE

Arabic, as a Semitic language, exhibits a rich and intricate morphological system. Unlike Indo-European languages, where words often follow a linear structure, Arabic morphology is predominantly based on a root-and-pattern system. In this system, words are derived from triliteral (three-letter) or quadriliteral (four-letter) roots, which provide a semantic core. Patterns (or templates) are then applied to these roots, incorporating vowels and additional consonants to produce various lexical categories, including nouns, verbs, and adjectives. For example, the root k-t-b (meaning “write”) generates words like kataba (he wrote), kitāb (book), and maktab (office). This flexibility and productivity make Arabic morphology unique and central to understanding the language’s structure.

The importance of studying Arabic morphological processes lies in both linguistic and cultural contexts. Morphology in Arabic not only governs word formation but also serves as a tool for preserving meaning across various contexts. Arabic’s morphological system facilitates the creation of extensive vocabulary from limited root forms, reflecting the language’s efficiency and adaptability. Historically, Arabic has influenced other languages through trade, religion, and

cultural exchanges, particularly with the spread of Islam. Its morphology remains essential for studying the Qurʾān, classical literature, and modern applications, such as computational linguistics and machine translation.

Despite the significance of Arabic morphology, there are notable gaps in the current body of research. While classical Arabic grammar texts, such as Al-Kitāb by Sibawayh, offer detailed descriptions of morphological structures, modern linguistic analyses often struggle to account for complexities such as broken plurals (jamʿ al-taksīr), morphophonemic alternations, and irregular derivations. Furthermore, the interaction between morphology and syntax in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and various dialects remains underexplored. Existing studies frequently focus on the theoretical frameworks of morphology without applying these theories to practical or computational models. This leaves questions about the real-world implications of Arabic morphological processes unanswered.

In addition, the increasing importance of Arabic in global communication and technology requires deeper analysis of its morphological processes. For instance, understanding how Arabic words are inflected or derived is essential for advancements in natural language processing (NLP) and artificial intelligence. Challenges such as automatic text generation, speech recognition, and machine translation highlight the need for comprehensive morphological models. By addressing these gaps, linguists can contribute to both theoretical knowledge and practical applications of Arabic morphology.

This study focuses on some of the morphological processes in Arabic, aiming to provide a systematic description and analysis of key areas such as derivation, inflection, and morphophonemic changes. By examining these processes, the study seeks to contribute to a better understanding of Arabic word structure and its broader implications. Ultimately, this research will address gaps in existing studies and create a foundation for further investigation into Arabic morphology, particularly in contemporary contexts.

Through this investigation, the study will highlight the importance of Arabic morphology as both a linguistic phenomenon and a cultural asset. It will serve as a resource for scholars, educators, and language technologists who seek to engage with the Arabic language on a deeper level. By linking traditional Arabic grammar with modern linguistic theories, this research aims to bridge historical insights and contemporary applications, emphasizing the relevance of morphology in Arabic linguistic studies.

The Arabic language, one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, holds a significant place in cultural, religious, and linguistic heritage for millions of people. As a member of the Semitic branch of the Afro-Asiatic language family, Arabic shares roots with languages such as Hebrew, Aramaic, and Amharic. Its complex structure, vast vocabulary, and deep historical legacy have made it a unifying force across diverse communities in the Middle East, North Africa, and beyond.

Historically, the Arabic language originated in the Arabian Peninsula and evolved among early Arab tribes. By the 7th century CE, Arabic became the liturgical language of Islam with the revelation of the Quran to the Prophet Muhammad. The Quran's eloquent linguistic style elevated Arabic to a sacred status among Muslims and established it as a cornerstone of Islamic identity. As the Islamic empire expanded, Arabic became the lingua franca of the Islamic world, facilitating intellectual and cultural exchanges during the Islamic Golden Age. Scholars in fields such as medicine, astronomy, mathematics, and philosophy wrote extensively in Arabic, enriching its lexicon and spreading its influence. Landmark contributions, such as Ibn Khaldun's Muqaddimah and Al-Khwarizmi's works on algebra, remain enduring legacies of this period.

Modern Arabic exists in two primary forms: Classical Arabic and Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). Classical Arabic, the language of the Quran and classical literature, is used primarily in religious, legal, and historical texts. Modern Standard Arabic, derived from Classical Arabic, is simplified for contemporary use in media, education, and official communication while retaining its grammatical structures. In addition to these forms, numerous colloquial dialects are spoken across Arabic-speaking regions, reflecting local cultural and historical influences. For instance, Egyptian Arabic, Levantine Arabic, and Maghrebi Arabic vary significantly, often making them unintelligible to speakers from other regions.

Geographically, Arabic is the official language of 22 countries across the Middle East and North Africa, spoken by over 400 million people as their first language and an additional 250 million as

a second language. Some of the largest Arabic-speaking countries include Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Morocco, Algeria, and Sudan. Furthermore, Arabic holds global significance as one of the six official languages of the United Nations.

The Arab people, united by their shared linguistic and cultural heritage, are a diverse ethnic group encompassing Muslims, Christians, Jews, and other religious communities. Historically, Arab society was organized into tribes, a structure that continues to influence social and political dynamics in many regions. Arab contributions to global civilization are vast, spanning art, architecture, science, and literature. Innovations such as the Arabic numeral system, advancements in medicine, and timeless poetry from figures like Al-Mutanabbi illustrate the richness of Arab culture and its enduring impact on the world.

In the modern era, Arabic faces challenges from the dominance of global languages like English and French in academia, technology, and international communication. This has raised concerns about language preservation. However, initiatives to modernize Arabic through linguistic technologies, literary promotion, and education are helping maintain its relevance. Arabic continues to be a symbol of cultural pride and identity, connecting its speakers to a profound historical and cultural legacy.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Arabic morphology, as a core aspect of Arabic linguistics, presents a unique structural system that sets it apart from other languages. Its reliance on the root-and-pattern model to derive and inflect words has made it a focus of linguistic research. However, despite the extensive study of Arabic by classical grammarians like Sibawayh and modern linguists, several challenges remain unresolved regarding its morphological processes. These challenges are particularly significant in the context of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and Arabic dialects, where morphological variations continue to pose theoretical and practical difficulties.

One of the key problems is the complexity of Arabic derivational and inflectional processes. While the root-based system allows for word productivity, it also introduces irregularities that are not fully accounted for in existing studies. For example, broken plurals (jamʿ al-taksīr), which deviate from standard pluralization patterns, remain difficult to analyze systematically due to their variability. Similarly, morphophonemic changes, such as vowel alterations within word patterns, often lack comprehensive description in modern research. These irregularities complicate the development of universal models for Arabic morphology, particularly when applying linguistic theories to practical contexts such as language processing and education.

Another issue lies in the limited exploration of Arabic morphology within the framework of modern linguistic theories. Classical Arabic grammar, while detailed, is primarily descriptive and often does not align with contemporary approaches in morphology. Theoretical models such as

Generative Morphology or Optimality Theory have been insufficiently applied to Arabic, leaving significant gaps in understanding how morphological processes function in both standard and spoken varieties. This creates a challenge for scholars attempting to reconcile traditional Arabic grammar with modern linguistic paradigms.

Furthermore, while Arabic dialects have gained attention in recent years, research on their morphological processes remains inconsistent. Dialectal Arabic exhibits significant morphological variation from Modern Standard Arabic, but studies often overlook these differences or fail to analyze them systematically. This gap undermines a comprehensive understanding of Arabic morphology as a whole and limits the ability to document and preserve linguistic diversity within the Arabic-speaking world.

Addressing these problems is essential for advancing the study of Arabic linguistics and bridging the gap between classical and modern approaches to morphology. A clear understanding of Arabic morphological processes will not only contribute to theoretical linguistics but also have practical implications.

This study, therefore, seeks to address these issues by providing a systematic investigation into some of the morphological processes in Arabic. By analyzing derivation, inflection, and morphophonemic alternations, the research aims to fill existing gaps and offer insights that are both linguistically and practically relevant.

1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

In line with the research objectives, this study aims to investigate some of the morphological processes in the Arabic language, focusing on derivational and inflectional patterns. The following research questions are raised to guide the study.

1.What are the primary morphological processes involved in word formation in the Arabic language?

2. How do derivational processes, such as affixation and root-pattern systems, contribute to word generation in Arabic?

3.What role do inflectional processes play in Arabic morphology, particularly in tense, number, gender, and case marking?

4.How do broken plurals (jamʿ al-taksīr) and other irregular morphological patterns function within Arabic grammar?

5.What gaps or limitations exist in current theoretical frameworks when analyzing Arabic morphological processes?

By addressing these questions, the study aims to clarify areas of ambiguity within Arabic morphology and contribute to a deeper understanding of its structure and function.

1.4 AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to examine some of the morphological processes in the Arabic language, making it the first research of its kind in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Benin to the best of my knowledge. This study aims to provide a detailed examination of Arabic morphology, including its root-based derivational patterns, inflectional processes, and irregular structures. By addressing these aspects, it will serve as a foundational reference for future studies, contributing significantly to the Department's academic resources.

To achieve this purpose, the study focuses on the following objectives: to analyze the primary morphological processes in Arabic, including root-based derivation and inflectional structures; to examine how these processes contribute to word formation and grammatical functions; to explore irregular morphological patterns, such as broken plurals (jamʿ al-taksīr), and their role in the Arabic grammatical system; to identify existing challenges or gaps in the theoretical frameworks used for analyzing Arabic morphology; and to provide a reliable reference material that can guide further research within the department and beyond.

1.6 SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

This study focuses on some of the morphological processes in the Arabic language, specifically examining derivation, inflection, and irregular patterns such as broken plurals and diminutives (taṣghīr). Dialectical variations are discussed where relevant but not explored exhaustively.

Data is sourced from authentic Arabic texts, linguistic databases, and native speakers to ensure accuracy and relevance. Key sources include The Quran, an unparalleled reference for classical Arabic morphology, offering examples such as the root-based derivation of words like raḥma (mercy) from the root r-ḥ-m. Similarly, Hadith collections like Sahih al-Bukhari (9th century CE) provide insights into linguistic structures used in early Islamic contexts, reflecting both derivational and inflectional processes.

Classical Arabic dictionaries, such as Lisān al-ʿArab by Ibn Manzur (13th century CE), are instrumental in understanding the historical evolution of Arabic morphology. For instance, this work extensively documents broken plural patterns (jamʿ al-taksīr), an irregular morphological process highlighted in this study through examples like kitāb (book) becoming kutub (books). Another invaluable source is Al-Kitāb by Sibawayh (8th century CE), which forms the theoretical foundation for much of Arabic grammar and morphology, illustrating inflectional forms (ʿIrāb) like case endings on nouns and verbs.

Modern linguistic databases complement these classical sources by addressing contemporary usage. The Buckwalter Arabic Morphological Analyzer, first introduced in the early 2000s, allows computational parsing of Arabic words into roots, affixes, and patterns, aiding in the analysis of examples such as maktab (office) from the root k-t-b. Additionally, tools like Aralex, a lexicon database for Modern Standard Arabic, help bridge the gap between classical and

modern Arabic, offering insights into how derivational morphology adapts in contemporary contexts.

However, the study has certain limitations. Limited access to native speakers of the language. I was only able to communicate with native speakers online like some of my Egyptian teachers and Sudanese friends due to location constraints. My work does not also cover regional dialects or colloquial variations of Arabic, as the morphological processes in these variants can differ significantly from standard Arabic.

The reliance on native speaker input may introduce subjective interpretations, though these were cross-referenced with textual and computational sources. Additionally, due to time constraints, the research does not delve into the historical evolution of Arabic morphology or comparative analyses with other Semitic languages. These areas present opportunities for future research to build upon the findings of this study

1.6.1 Method of Data Collection

The data for this study was collected through primary and Secondary method, The Primary data were taken from classified Arabic texts including Qur'an, Hadith Collection (Sahih al- Bukhari and Sahih muslim), Pre-Islamic poetry that were extensively examined to analyze and identify morphological Processes. Also, Grammatical works Such as Al- Kitab, were referenced to provide theoretical insights into the rules that governs the derivation and inflection in Classical

Arabic. The instruments used for data collection were paper ,pen and Recorder to record the data collected from native Speakers. As part of the primary data , I employed my native speaker intuition and I also listened to free flowing conversations from other competent native speakers. Surveys and interviews with native speakers to validate these data were also conducted.

The secondary Data were collected from modern linguistic Database, including the Buckwalter Arabic morphological Analyzer and Aralex. These Database were used to analyze vast Corpera of texts. These tools helped to identify Derivational and Inflectional Patterns in Modern Standard Arabic Online Resources like Qamus al-ma'ani were used to cross reference meanings and morphological forms.

1.6.2 Method of Data Collection

The Data collected for this study were analyzed by categorizing them into 3 morphological areas; Derivational morphology (Sarf al-istimdad), inflectional morphology (Tasrif al-Irabi) and irregular patterns.

For Derivational morphology I focused on identifying root patterns (jidhr wa wazn) and derivational forms from trilateral and quadrilateral roots. And examples were such as l-m generating ālim(scholar) and ma'lũm(known) were analyzed to demonstrate productivity. The inflectional morphology(Tasrif al-Irābi) I examined noun case endings and verb conjugation with examples like Katabtu(I wrote) katabna(we wrote) and katabtum(you wrote). For irregular

patterns I Analyzed broken plurals and suppletion using examples like rajul(man)—rijãl(men) and dhahaba(he went) — dhihãb(going). The classical and modern text and modern text were closely examined for morphological pattern with specific attention to derivation and inflectional rules. Comparison were made Closely made between Classical and modern Arabic to highlight shifts in morphological usage overtime. Feedbacks from native speakers from native speakers and linguistic experts was used to confirm accuracy and relevance of the findings.

1.7 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study on Aspects of the Morphological Processes in Arabic Language holds significant academic and practical value. Morphology is a critical aspect of linguistics that provides insights into word formation, structure, and meaning. Arabic, as one of the world's oldest and most widely spoken Semitic languages, possesses a unique and intricate morphological system rooted in its triliteral and quadriliteral root-based patterns. This research is particularly significant because it focuses on Arabic morphology, an area that has received minimal attention in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Benin.

The study contributes to existing knowledge by addressing gaps in understanding the complexities of Arabic morphological processes, particularly in the context of modern linguistic theories. By bridging the gap between traditional Arabic grammar (ṣarf) and contemporary morphology, this research enhances the understanding of how Arabic words are formed,

inflected, and derived, offering new perspectives for scholars in both Arabic linguistics and general morphology.

From a practical standpoint, the study benefits multiple stakeholders. It provides linguistics students and researchers with valuable insights and a framework for analyzing morphological processes in Arabic. Additionally, it supports Arabic language learners, educators, and translators in understanding the systematic nature of Arabic word formation, thereby improving language acquisition and instructional methods. The findings could also contribute to computational linguistics, particularly in developing tools for Arabic language processing, such as machine translation and natural language processing systems

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 INTRODUCTION

This literature review serves as a critical foundation for this study, providing an overview of relevant works on Arabic morphological processes. This chapter explores existing studies, theoretical perspectives, and conceptual frameworks that inform the analysis of word formation and structure in the Arabic language.

The section begins with a discussion of morphology in general linguistics, emphasizing its significance in understanding language structure and development. It then focuses on Arabic morphology, highlighting the root-and-pattern system that distinguishes it from other languages. Existing studies on derivation, inflection, and irregular morphological processes in Arabic will be reviewed to identify contributions, gaps, and unresolved issues.

Furthermore, this chapter integrates the theoretical framework that guides the current study. Relevant linguistic theories, such as traditional Arabic grammar (ṣarf) and modern

morphological theories like generative morphology, are discussed to establish a solid basis for analyzing Arabic morphological processes.

2.1 MORPHOLOGY IN ARABIC LANGUAGE: AN OVERVIEW

Morphology is related to the rules, process, and organization regarding meaningful units of language, whether they are parts of words like the various kinds of affixes or words themselves. Those meaningful units at the word level can be referred as morphemes. It is a fundamental component of linguistic analysis. Indeed, Arabic and all the languages that belong to Semitic family have had a fundamental impact on the development of specific notions in theoretical morphology (Ryding, 2005; Aronoff, 1994). In the Arabic language, morphology holds particular importance due to its highly systematic and root-based structure. Arabic morphology, traditionally referred to as ṣarf in classical linguistic studies, focuses on the processes through which words are formed from roots and patterns. This unique morphological system not only highlights the richness of Arabic but also underscores its complexity compared to many other languages.

The Arabic language operates primarily through a root-and-pattern system. Most words are derived from a triliteral or quadriliteral root, which consists of three or four consonants representing a core semantic meaning. Patterns (awzan) are then applied to these roots to form nouns, verbs, and other grammatical categories. For example, the root k-t-b (meaning “write”)

can be transformed into various words, such as kataba (“he wrote”), kitāb (“book”), and kātib (“writer”). This productivity demonstrates the morphological versatility of Arabic. There are two major issues that theories of word structure, usually focus on. The first issue is inflectional morphology (taṣrīf), how words interact with syntax), like marking for categories such as number, gender, tense, and case. Inflection in Arabic alters the form of a word to reflect grammatical features such as tense, person, number, gender, and case. For instance, verbs inflect to indicate past or present tense, singular or plural number, and masculine or feminine gender. Nouns and adjectives inflect to show case markers (nominative, accusative, and genitive), definiteness, and plurality.

The second one is lexical or derivational morphology(ishtiqāq). ishtiqāq involves deriving new words by applying specific patterns to a root. For example, the root j-l-s (to sit) can produce words such as jālis (sitter) and majlis (assembly/place of sitting). Derivation in Arabic is systematic, yet it requires a deep understanding of the root-and-pattern system to identify the relationships between words. An advanced analysis of Arabic morphology has been developed by Arab grammarians, early in the eighth and ninth centuries AD, such as Sībawayh, Al-Khalil ibn Ahmad Al-Farahidi, and Ibn Jinni, which is different from modern Western theories. However, it is interrelated with them in interesting ways.

Inflectional morphology presents how words inflect or vary in order to exhibit grammatical categories, such as present/past tense or singular/plural. Lexical or Derivational morphology is

related with principles governing word formation, such as analysis of the English words "faithful" or "unfaithfulness" which are derived from the base word "faith". However, in the case of Arabic, the confines between inflection and derivation are not as clear-cut as in English, that is because of the different principles used in Arabic morphology, as mentioned above, and because the Arabic morphological theory deals with the elements of word structure from a different perspective. According to Ryding (2005: 42), the boundaries between inflectional and derivational morphology in Arabic are not as clearly defined as in English. This is due to the unique principles of Arabic morphology and the distinct perspective of Arabic morphological theory on word structure.

"The two major categories of grammatical analysis in Arabic are ṣarf and naHw, which are often translated as morphology and syntax, respectively. However, the boundary between them is not the same boundary as in Western grammatical theory. The category of ṣarf covers many areas of derivational morphology (e.g., the ten forms of the verb) and some inflectional morphology (e.g., the past tense paradigm); but it does not include the study of the case and mood. A further category of Arabic grammatical analysis, ishtiqaaq, is often translated as ‘etymology’ but actually deals more with Arabic derivational morphology".(Ryding 2005:45)

Just as Ryding mentioned in his work , another key aspect of Arabic morphology is its ability to produce derived forms of verbs, known as the ten verb forms. These forms allow the root to express various semantic nuances, such as causativity, reflexivity, passivity, or intensification.

For example: •faʿala (form I): “to do” (root action), •faʿʿala (form II): “to cause to do” or intensify the action , •tafāʿala (form VI): “to do something reciprocally”. This structured verb system significantly enhances the flexibility and expressiveness of Arabic. While the root-and-pattern system provides a high degree of regularity, Arabic also contains irregular morphological processes, such as broken plurals (jamʿ taksīr). Unlike regular plurals, which add suffixes to singular forms, broken plurals modify the internal structure of words. For example, kitāb (book) becomes kutub (books). These irregularities add to the complexity of Arabic morphology and pose challenges for learners and researchers.

In summary, Arabic morphology, with its reliance on roots and patterns, derivational and inflectional processes, and intricate verb forms, represents a unique and sophisticated linguistic system. Understanding these morphological processes is essential for appreciating the structure of Arabic words and the mechanisms through which meaning is conveyed. This overview serves as a foundation for the subsequent sections, which delve deeper into specific morphological phenomena and their theoretical underpinnings.

2.2 CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

This section is concerned with the review of the concepts that feature in the morphological processes of the Arabic language. Morphological processes refer to the methods by which words are formed and modified in a language. These processes are fundamental to understanding the

structure of words, their formation, and their grammatical roles. In the Arabic language, morphological processes are particularly significant due to the root-and-pattern system, which governs the derivation and inflection of words.

In linguistic terminology, the word **ṡarf** means "morphologization", **taṡriif** is a related term that literally means "change; distribution; drainage', in the context of Arabic morphology taṡriif of a root is to characterize which of the potential patterns, both basic and derived, the root can be distributed into. According to Booij et al. (2000: 68)."**ṡarf** and **taṡriif** refers to the total range of morphological forms in their constituents, and also to the process by which the various forms are derived" taṡriif is one aspect related to inflection which refers to the modification of a word to express grammatical features such as tense, number, gender, case, and person. Arabic employs rich inflectional morphology, particularly in verbs and nouns. Verbs inflect to mark tense (past, present, future), gender (masculine or feminine), number (singular, dual, plural), and person (first, second, third). For example: kataba (“he wrote”) ,katabat (“she wrote”) , katabū (“they wrote,” masculine plural).

While Nouns inflect for case markers (nominative, accusative, and genitive). For example: al-kitābu (“the book,” nominative case), al-kitāba (“the book,” accusative case) ,al-kitābi (“the book,” genitive case).

Another term **ʔiʃtiqaaq** is basically used to describe the process of actual derivation of one form from another. ʔiʃtiqaaq generally implied a directed derivational process, this makes it differ from taṡriif. For example, a less basic form can be derived from a more basic one in ʔiʃtiqaaq, it is important here to mention that basic and less basic form refers to a hierarchy of categories within lexical forms wazn (Booij et al. 2000). Hence, Ibn ʕuṡfuur (sharħ: 1955:53) states that an adjective can be derived from a noun, but not vice versa, that is because an adjective is less basic form.

Ibn ʕuṡfuur (Mumtiʕ, 1955:31) did suggest extending the term taṡriif to refer to "stem formation", including the positioning of vowels, because there was no term to

ضرب,describe the formation of lexical form from a consonantal root. For instance /ḍaraba/ "he hit" from the root consonants ضرب /ḍ-r-b/. For many Arab grammarians, deriving a noun from the verb or vice versa is a controversial issue Anbari ʔinṡaaf (1181:235 f).

On a general note, ʔiʃtiqaaq involves applying specific patterns (awzan) to roots to form words with related meanings. Arabic derivation occurs through Normal Derivation (Creating nouns from a root). For example, the root ʿ-l-m (“to know”) can produce ʿilm (“knowledge”) and ʿālim (“scholar”) and Verbal Derivation (Deriving verbs with different meanings and forms). The root d-r-s (“to study”) produces forms like darrasa (“to teach”) and tadarrasa (“to study intensively”).

The derivational system allows for extensive productivity in Arabic, enabling speakers to generate numerous related words from a single root.

Affixation involves adding prefixes, suffixes, or infixes to a root to derive new words or modify existing ones. While this process is common in many languages, Arabic uniquely employs infixation as a central morphological process. Prefixes are added before the root, such as sa- in sa-yaktubu (“he will write”), indicating future tense. Suffixes are added after the root, such as -ūna in muslimūna (“Muslims,” masculine plural). Infixes are inserted within the root structure, a defining feature of Arabic morphology. For instance, the root k-t-b transforms into kataba (“he wrote”) by inserting vowels within the consonantal root.

Tarkiib is one final aspect related to compounding. It involves combining two or more words to form a new word. This process is considered as unproductive in traditional Arabic morphology, although it conquers special attention. While compounding is less prominent in Arabic compared to other languages, some examples exist, particularly in modern usage. For instance; ḥuqūq al-insān (“human rights”) , bayt al-kitāb (“house of the book” or “library”). Let’s see another typical example, from /sabʕata/ "seven" and /ʕaʃara/ "ten" is formed the compound /sabʕata ʕaʃara/ "seventeen", in which the first number of the compound /sabʕata/ ends invariably in –a, whereas a free standing word it variable for case (accusative, genitive, nominative).

These compound structures often maintain their individual meanings while contributing to a broader semantic concept. A distinctive feature of Arabic morphology is the formation of broken plurals. Unlike regular plurals, which are formed by adding suffixes, broken plurals modify the internal structure of the singular form. Examples include: kitāb (“book”) → kutub (“books”) , qalb (“heart”) → qulūb (“hearts”). The broken plural system showcases the non-linear nature of Arabic morphology and adds to its structural complexity.

Morphological processes in Arabic reflect the language’s systematic yet intricate structure. The root-and-pattern system, derivation, inflection, and broken plural formation are central to Arabic word formation. These processes highlight Arabic’s linguistic richness and its capacity for generating diverse words from minimal roots. Understanding these processes provides a foundation for exploring more complex morphological phenomena and their theoretical implications in Arabic linguistics.

2.3 PREVIOUS STUDIES ON ARABIC MORPHOLOGY

The study of morphology (ṡarf, which is the closest term to morphology), begins so far as records go, with Sibawah's (1974), and continues into the present. This section of the present chapter aims to look at the morphology of Arabic from the perspectives of both traditional and modern grammarians and linguists

The study of Arabic morphology has been the subject of extensive scholarly inquiry, reflecting the complexity and importance of the language's root-based system. Sibawayh's analysis emphasized the interplay between syntax and morphology, introducing principles that underline how words are formed, derived, and inflected within the Arabic language. His classification of words into ism (noun), fiʿl (verb), and ḥarf (particle) remains a cornerstone of Arabic linguistic studies, illustrating the structured yet versatile nature of the language.

In subsequent centuries, grammarians like Ibn Jinni (932–1002 CE) contributed significantly to the field, focusing on the phonological and morphological mechanisms underlying Arabic word formation.Ibn Jinni undoubtlessly was the most important morphologist. He was the author of two significant works on Arabic morphology, namely sirr ṡinaaʕat al-iʕraab (1985) and al-Munṡif (1954), each one of them was over 800 pages long. Ibn Jinni's Sirr Ṣināʿat al-Iʿrāb explored how morphological processes interact with sounds to create meaning, offering insights that bridged traditional Arabic grammar with phonetics. His work highlighted the systematic nature of Arabic morphology, particularly the use of roots and patterns (awzān) in forming complex and varied word structures.

Modern studies have continued to build on these classical foundations, incorporating contemporary linguistic theories. Wright's Grammar of the Arabic Language is one such example, offering a comprehensive description of Arabic morphology and syntax. Wright analyzed both derivational and inflectional processes, providing detailed explanations of how

roots combine with patterns to generate different meanings and grammatical categories. His work has been instrumental in bridging classical Arabic grammar with modern linguistic research.

Fischer (2001) delves into the intricate details of morphological processes, emphasizing the historical development and dialectal variations within the language. This study particularly sheds light on how classical Arabic morphology has influenced and been adapted by modern dialects. Fischer's (2001) documentation of morphological patterns has been essential for understanding the language's evolution over time and across regions.

In the realm of computational linguistics, the works of Beesley and Karttunen(2003) in Finite-State Morphology have brought new dimensions to the study of Arabic morphology. By developing computational models to analyze Arabic's root-and-pattern system, they have advanced practical applications such as machine translation, text analysis, and natural language processing. These models demonstrate how Arabic morphology can be systematically encoded and processed, addressing challenges posed by its morphological richness. Studies on dialectal Arabic morphology have also contributed significantly to the field. Holes, in Modern Arabic: Structures, Functions, and Varieties, explores the morphological adaptations found in regional dialects. His research highlights how classical Arabic morphological rules are reinterpreted in colloquial contexts, reflecting the language's dynamic and adaptive nature. This is particularly important for understanding how sociolinguistic factors influence morphological variation.

Sibawayhi's al-Kitaab (1974) "the book" includes a great discussion about the inflectional processes in the form of Arabic used in the medieval age. Generally Arabic nouns are inflected as accusative /-a/, genitive /-i/, nominative /-u/ and take the indefinite -n marker, for example, ولد /walad-u-n/ "boy-NOM-DEFINITE". These nouns are called munṡarif "fully declinable" while others do not take indefinite marker /-n/. Hence, do not have distinct accusative and genitive forms, like أصغر /ʔaṡḡara/ "smaller- (DEF)-ACC". Such nouns are called ḡyr munṡarif "partially declinable". Different sub-classes of partially declined nouns are distinguished by Sibawayh in his great book al-Kitaab. First, formally as nouns with feminine suffix -aaʔ, nouns that resemble verbs, etc., then he distinguishes them notionally as (place names, tribal names, loan words), then derivationally (ʕadl, compounds). Keys (analogy) are used in Sibawayh's description. For example, whatever resemble a verb is not fully inflected أصغر ,because verbs lack genitive case as well as lack the indefinite /-n/. For instance /ʔaṡḡara/ formally resembles the verb ألهم /ʔalhama/ "to inspire" in its CVCCVC construction, this resemblance is said to account for the lack of full inflection in nominals of this type (Booij et al., 2000).

Over a century later Sarraj begins a discussion about the same facts in his book (ʔuṡuul,1985:79). Nine marked features were identified by him: formal similarity/resemblance to adjective, verbs, definiteness, feminine, plurality, compound irregular derivation, the suffix /-aan/. According to Booij et al. (2000:73) "the presence in a nominal of the marked features is said to cause the lack of full inflection". Sarraj provides detailed discussion of the nine marked characteristics. Names

of cities, like /Makkah/ "Mecca", are not covered by the nine marked features, though they are not fully inflected. Sarraj added a long appendix in order to list all these nominals that are not accounted for by other rules. He resorts to adopt Sibawayh's method of listing the cases one by one.,

Despite the breadth of existing research, there remain areas that require further exploration. Studies on less-documented Arabic dialects and the impact of contemporary linguistic changes, such as loanwords and technology-driven adaptations, are still limited. Moreover, the intersection of morphology with semantics, particularly in the context of modern Arabic, is another area that needs more in-depth analysis. The existing literature on Arabic morphology provides a robust foundation for understanding its principles and applications. However, the dynamic nature of the language, influenced by historical, regional, and modern factors, necessitates continued research..

2.4 CONCERNS OF PRESENT-DAY STUDY

In contemporary linguistic research, the study of Arabic morphology faces several significant challenges that impact both theoretical understanding and practical applications. One primary concern is the language’s morphological richness, characterized by its complex root-and-pattern system, extensive inflectional paradigms, and diverse derivational processes. This complexity poses difficulties in developing accurate computational models for tasks such as natural language

processing (NLP), machine translation, and information retrieval. The intricate morphotactics and numerous allomorphs in Arabic complicate the creation of comprehensive morphological analyzers and generators.

Another pressing issue is the lack of orthographic standards across different Arabic dialects. Unlike Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), which has a relatively uniform writing system, regional dialects often lack standardized orthography. This inconsistency leads to data sparsity and variability, making it challenging to develop NLP tools that can effectively process dialectal Arabic. The absence of standardized spelling conventions results in a wide range of orthographic representations for the same word or phrase, complicating morphological analysis and increasing the difficulty of creating robust language models. Additionally, the scarcity of annotated corpora for various Arabic dialects hinders the training and evaluation of computational models. While MSA benefits from relatively abundant linguistic resources, many dialects remain under-resourced, limiting the development of effective NLP applications for these language varieties. The lack of comprehensive and representative datasets for dialectal Arabic restricts the ability to train machine learning models that can accurately capture the morphological and syntactic nuances of these dialects.

Furthermore, the integration of Arabic morphological analysis into artificial intelligence (AI) systems presents challenges related to the processing of complex morphological structures. AI applications, such as grammar and spell checkers, often struggle with the derivational and

inflectional richness of Arabic, leading to inaccuracies in text processing tasks. The development of AI systems capable of handling the full range of Arabic morphological phenomena requires sophisticated modeling techniques and substantial linguistic expertise. Addressing these concerns necessitates a multifaceted approach, including the development of standardized orthographies for dialects, the creation of extensive annotated corpora, and the advancement of computational models that can accommodate the morphological complexity of Arabic. By tackling these challenges, researchers and practitioners can enhance the effectiveness of NLP applications and contribute to a deeper understanding of Arabic morphology in the modern context.

CHAPTER THREE

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theoretical framework provides the foundation upon which this study on Arabic morphological processes is built. It serves as a lens for analyzing the root-based and pattern-driven structure of Arabic morphology, focusing on both derivational and inflectional processes. This study integrates traditional Arabic linguistic theories and modern linguistic frameworks to offer a comprehensive approach to understanding Arabic morphology. When talking about morphology of Arabic, there are two main contrary theories. The morpheme-based theory, that is advocated by Cantineau (1950) and McCarthy (1981), They claim that the derivations are based

on the process of mapping out roots in patterns (Mahfoudhi, 2007). For example, the word صاحب /saħib/ "friend; companion" is made of the root {s-ħ-b} which bears the core meaning "companionship; friendship", and the pattern {CaCiC} that has the syntactic meaning (perfective, active). However, the classical theory builds on the roots and patterns as Cantineau adopted in his work. McCarthy suggests that the pattern should be analyzed into three morphemes which are represented on separate tiers, as reflected in inGoldsmith (1976).

(i) the skeleton made of vocalic and consonantal slots; (ii) affixal consonants, if any;

(iii) vowels.

On the other hand, the stem-based theory (Ratcliffe1997; Benmamoun 1999) argues that the derivations are stem-based. The stem/word-based theory agrees with the doctrines of the full-listing hypothesis of lexical processing (Butterworth 1983), which supposes that words are represented and accessed as a whole unit. While the morpheme- based theory is harmony with both the double-access hypothesis (Caramazza et al., 1988) and decompositional hypothesis (Taft,1981), which state that some complex words may be accessed and represented as separate morphemes (Mahfoudhi, 2007).

3.1 TRADITIONAL ARABIC LINGUISTIC THEORY

The foundation of the traditional framework is attributed to the pioneering work of Sībawayh (d. 796 CE) in his seminal text, Kitāb al-Kitāb. Sībawayh laid the groundwork for Arabic grammar, providing a systematic account of morphology, syntax, and phonology. His principles of root-and-pattern derivation (al-jidhru wal-wazn) are central to understanding word formation in Arabic. According to him, all Arabic words originate from a three- or four-letter root (jidhru), which provides semantic meaning. Morphological patterns (awzān) are applied to these roots to create new words while maintaining semantic and syntactic integrity.

The classical Arabic linguistic tradition, rooted in works by scholars such as Sibawayh, Ibn Jinni, and Al-Khalil ibn Ahmad, forms the backbone of this framework. Central to this tradition is the root-and-pattern system (Jidhr wa Wazn), where triliteral and quadriliteral roots serve as the basis for generating words. Patterns (awzān) are applied to these roots to create nouns, verbs, and other word forms. This system underscores the structured yet flexible nature of Arabic morphology.

The study draws heavily on the principles of Ṣarf (morphology) and Naḥw (syntax), focusing on the interaction between morphological forms and syntactic roles. Traditional Arabic theories emphasize the semantic significance of morphological changes, demonstrating how prefixes, suffixes, and infixes alter meaning, grammatical functions, or both. For instance, the derivation

of nouns from verbs (ism al-faʿl) illustrates the semantic versatility inherent in Arabic morphology.

3.2 CHOMSKY'S DERIVATIONAL MORPHOLOGY (1957)

Another cornerstone of the theoretical framework is derivational morphology, which investigates how morphemes are used to create new words and word classes. This approach aligns with the structural linguistic theories proposed by Noam Chomsky (1957) in Syntactic Structures. Chomsky's concepts of deep and surface structure highlight how morphology interacts with syntax, particularly in languages like Arabic, where word formation impacts sentence structure and meaning. This study examines derivational morphology in Arabic through patterns like the formation of verbal nouns (maṣādir) and adjectives (ṣifāt), which play a pivotal role in the syntactic and semantic architecture of the language.

3.3 GREENBERG'S INFLECTIONAL MORPHOLOGY (1963)

In modern linguistic terms, this study draws upon the theory of inflectional morphology, which examines how morphemes are added to a root to express grammatical functions such as tense, gender, number, and case. This theoretical perspective is closely aligned with the work of Joseph Greenberg (1963) in his typological studies of language universals. Greenberg identified Semitic languages, including Arabic, as highly inflectional, where morphology plays a significant role in

grammatical structure. By combining Sībawayh's classical model with Greenberg's typological framework, this study explores how Arabic morphology reflects broader linguistic patterns.

3.4 DISTRIBUTED MORPHOLOGY

Distributed Morphology, introduced by Halle and Marantz, is another modern linguistic theory integrated into this framework. It posits that morphological, syntactic, and phonological processes occur in a distributed manner rather than in isolation. This theory is particularly relevant for Arabic, where morphological processes often involve interactions between phonological rules and syntactic structures. For example, in Arabic, vowel insertion within roots to form patterns is both a morphological and phonological process. Distributed Morphology provides tools for analyzing such interactions, offering insights into the structural logic of Arabic morphology.

3.5 APPLICABILITY TO THE STUDY

By combining traditional Arabic linguistic theories with Generative , inflection and distributed morphology, this framework allows for a comprehensive analysis of some of the Arabic morphological processes. Traditional theories provide a deep understanding of the language's historical and cultural context, while modern frameworks offer tools for systematic and comparative analysis.

This dual approach ensures that the study addresses both the descriptive and theoretical aspects of Arabic morphology. It also enables the exploration of less-studied areas, such as the morphological adaptation of Arabic in modern dialects and its application in computational linguistics.

The theoretical framework thus lays a solid foundation for examining the aspects of morphological processes in Arabic, ensuring that the study is both rooted in traditional scholarship and aligned with contemporary linguistic theories.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents and analyzes the selected morphological processes in the Arabic language, focusing on their structural patterns and linguistic significance. The data analyzed in this study

are drawn from classical Arabic texts, modern linguistic sources, and consultations with native speakers. The chapter aims to provide a systematic examination of how Arabic words are formed and modified through root-and-pattern application, inflectional morphology, derivational processes, and morphophonemic changes.

The analysis begins with an exploration of the root-and-pattern system, which serves as the foundation of Arabic morphology. This system governs the derivation of words from triliteral and quadriliteral roots, allowing for extensive lexical expansion while maintaining semantic coherence. The discussion then moves to inflectional morphology, which includes verb conjugation, noun declension, and other grammatical variations that indicate tense, number, gender, and case.

Next, the chapter examines derivational morphology, which plays a crucial role in word formation by modifying roots to create new lexical items. Patterns of derivation are analyzed to illustrate their impact on the semantic and syntactic structure of words. The final section focuses on morphophonemic observations, highlighting the phonological changes that occur during word formation, such as vowel shifts, assimilation, and broken plural formation.

4.1 ROOT AND PATTERN SYSTEM (JIDHR WA WAZN)

The Jidhr wa Wazn system, central to Arabic morphology, consists of two fundamental components: the root (jidhr) and the pattern (wazn).

In general, a root is a word which is not connected to affixes (both prefixes or suffixes), and cannot be reduced into smaller constituents. A root is a unit of meaning (morpheme) which is the primary lexical unit of a word, that bears the essential aspects of semantic content. Almost, all languages contain content words that may consist only of root morphemes.According to Ryding (2005:47), Professor Wallace Erwin defines a root as:

"a relatively invariable discontinuous bound morpheme, represented by two to five phonemes, typically three consonants in a certain order, which interlocks with a pattern to form a stem and which has lexical meaning".

The root morpheme is discontinuous that is because vowels are inserted in between the consonants of a root, for instance, درس /d-r-s/. Nevertheless, the consonants of a root must always be presented in the same order: first /d/, then /r/, then /s/. Arabic root usually consists of three radicals (letters, consonants) such as علم /ʕ-l-m/, /k-t-b/, and l-ʕ-b/, which in fact constitute "by far the largest part of the language" as Haywood/ لعب and Nahmad (1962:261) noted. Arabic root can also be biliteral (two-consonant), quadrilateral (four-consonants), like برهن /b-r-h-n/ and ترجم /t-r-j-m/, and quinquiliteral (five-consonant roots), like /b-r-n-m-j/, which cannot normally form verbs Haywood (1986).

We will take more examples from trilateral and quadrilateral root systems.

In a triliteral root system, three consonants form the base. For example, the root k-t-b (كتب), which carries the meaning of “writing,” serves as the foundation for numerous words. By applying specific patterns, Arabic morphology produces words such as:

Table1.

Root (k-t-b)	Pattern	Resulting Word	Meaning
كتب	فَعَلَ	*kataba*	He wrote
كتب	مَفْعُول	*maktūb*	Written (noun)
كتب	كَاتِب	*kātib*	Writer
كتب	مَكْتَب	*maktab*	Office/Desk

In number 1 above , the consonants “k-t-b” remain constant, carrying the root meaning of “writing,” while the patterns (wazn) determine the grammatical form, such as a verb (kataba), a noun (maktūb), or an agent noun (kātib).

As mentioned above, a root contains lexical meaning, that is because it carries the idea of a real-world reference. In 2005 Ryding proposed that "It is useful to think of a lexical root as denoting a semantic field because it is within that field that actual words come into existence, each one crystallizing into a specific lexical item" (Ryding 2005:47- 48). According to Kouloughli (1994:60), around 6,500 lexical roots are found in Arabic in a dictionary of 50,000 lexical items.

Quadriliteral roots, which consist of four consonants, are less common but equally significant. They often represent loanwords, intensification, or onomatopoeic words. For example, the root z-l-z-l (زلزل), meaning “to shake,” generates words like zalzalah (زلزلة), meaning “earthquake” or “tremor,” by applying the fa‘lala (فَعْلَلَ) pattern.

Table 2.

Root (z-l-z-l)	Pattern	Resulting Word	Meaning
زلزل	فَعْلَلَ	*zalzala*	He shook
زلزل	زَلْزَلَة	*zalzalah*	Earthquake

Patterns can be defined as the set molds of words that roots can be integrated into. The root radicals located inside the patterns are words. A pattern also carries meaning, similar to how affixes do so. The root فعل /f-ʕ-l/ is usually utilized to model patterns, each radical of the root represents a letter of the word, then, together with vocalism create a meaningful word.

The pattern provides vowels and occasionally additional consonants that modify the root to create grammatical categories like verbs, nouns, adjectives, and participles. For example, the fa‘ala (فَعَلَ) pattern, where “f,” “‘,” and “l” represent placeholders for root consonants, commonly forms basic past tense verbs. Other patterns adjust for tense, voice, or emphasis.

“A pattern is abound and in many cases, discontinuous morpheme consisting of one or more vowels and slots for root phonemes (radicals), which either alone or in combination with one to three derivational affixes, interlocks with a root to form a stem, and which generally has grammatical meaning". (Ryding, 2005:48). Table 2.1 explains how patterns can carry meaning:

Table 2.1

Meaning	Pronunciation	Root inserted into pattern	Pattern meaning	Pattern	Base meaning	Root
Player	/laaʕib/	لاعِب	The (doer)	فاعِل /faaʕil/	Play	ل-ع-ب
Killer	/qaatil/	قاتِل	The (doer)	فاعِل /faaʕil/	Kill	ق-ت-ل
ʔestaurant	/maṭʕam/	مَطعَم	Name of place	مَفعَل /mafʕal/	Feeding	ط-ع-م
Factory	/maṡnaʕ/	مَصنَع	Name of place	مَفعَل /mafʕal/	Making	ص-ن-ع

Root: k-t-b (كتب)

Pattern: فَعَلَ(fa‘ala) → Resulting Word: كَتَبَ(kataba)

Pattern: مَفْعُول (maf‘ūl) → Resulting Word: مَكْتُوب (maktūb)

This process demonstrates how the insertion of root consonants (k-t-b) into a specific pattern determines the grammatical form and meaning of the word.

The root and pattern system is significant because it allows Arabic to maintain semantic consistency while expanding its vocabulary. A single root can produce a wide array of related words without losing the core meaning, demonstrating the economy and productivity of the language. For example, the root d-r-s (درس), which relates to "studying," generates words like: darasa (درس) — "He studied" , dars (درس) — "Lesson" , mudarris (مدرس) — "Teacher" , madrasah (مدرسة) — "School".

The system also ensures that speakers and learners of Arabic can predict or deduce meanings based on familiar roots and patterns. This predictability is a defining feature of Arabic morphology, distinguishing it from languages where words must often be memorized individually.

In summary, the Jidhr wa Wazn system exemplifies the structured nature of Arabic morphology. By combining roots with patterns, the language generates an extensive and nuanced vocabulary, making it both consistent and highly productive. This system highlights the logical organization of Arabic while enabling the flexibility to adapt to modern linguistic and cultural developments.

4.2 INFLECTIONAL MORPHOLOGY (TAṢRĪF AL-ʿIRĀBĪ)

Inflectional morphology (Taṣrīf al-ʿIrābī) is a core aspect of Arabic grammar that focuses on how words change their form to express grammatical relationships such as tense, number, case, gender, and person. Unlike derivational morphology, which generates new words, inflectional

morphology modifies existing words to indicate their role in a sentence without altering their root meaning. This process plays a critical role in Arabic's syntactic and semantic structure, ensuring clarity and precision in communication.

4.2.1 Verb Inflection

Arabic verbs inflect primarily for tense (past, present, and imperative), person (first, second, and third), gender (masculine and feminine), and number (singular, dual, and plural). These modifications occur through changes in suffixes, prefixes, and internal vowels of the root word.

For example, the root k-t-b (كتب), which conveys the concept of "writing," inflects as follows:

Tense/Person,|Pattern,|Inflected Form,|Meaning

Past (3rd person, m.)|,فَعَلَ,kataba,|He wrote

Past (3rd person, f.)|,فَعَلَتْ|,katabat,|She wrote

Present (3rd person m.)|,يَفْعَلُ,yaktubu,He writes/is writing

Present (3rd person f.)|,تَفْعَلُ,taktubu,|She writes/is writing

The verb forms demonstrate how inflection alters both prefixes (ya- or ta-) and suffixes (-at), depending on tense, gender, and person. The internal vowels of the root may remain stable or shift slightly to accommodate the grammatical form.

4.2.2 Noun Inflection

Arabic nouns undergo inflection to indicate case, gender, definiteness, and number. Cases in Arabic include: Nominative (marfūʿ) — subject of a sentence , Accusative (manṣūb) — object of a verb or adverbial ,and Genitive (majrūr) — object of a preposition or possessive

Case inflection is marked primarily through vowel endings (declension), known as ḥarakāt, which appear on the final letter of the noun.

Table 2.3

Case	Pattern	Inflected Form	Meaning
Nominative	-ُ(Dammah)	*kitāb-un* (كتابٌ)	A book (subject)
Accusative	-َ(Fatḥah)	*kitāb-an* (كتابًا)	A book (object)
Genitive	-ِ(Kasrah)	*kitāb-in* (كتابٍ)	Of a book

Here, the singular noun “book” (kitāb) changes form to denote duality (kitābān) and plurality (kutub). For animate masculine nouns like mudarris (teacher), the plural form takes the regular suffix -ūn (nominative) or -īn (oblique).

Arabic pronouns also inflect for person, gender, and number. They are categorized into independent and attached form as shown in table 2.4.

Table 2.4

Pronoun Type	Person	Form	Meaning
Independent (Subject)	1st Singular	*ana*	I
Attached (Possessive)	2nd Singular m.	*-ka*	Your (m.)
Attached (Object)	3rd Singular f.	*-hā*	Her/It

The inflectional changes in pronouns ensure agreement with verbs, nouns, and objects, providing cohesion and grammatical clarity in sentences.

Inflectional morphology in Arabic is critical for its Syntax and Agreement wich ensures agreement between subjects, verbs, and objects, maintaining syntactic accuracy. It's Semantic Precision and Word Economy.

Rather than creating new words, inflection modifies existing words to convey grammatical information efficiently.

For example, the sentence: Kataba al-walad-u al-dars-a (كتب الولدُ الدرسَ) — "The boy wrote the lesson"

The inflections -u (nominative) for al-walad (the boy) and -a (accusative) for al-dars (the lesson) indicate their grammatical roles, ensuring the subject and object are easily identifiable.

In conclusion, Taṣrīf al-ʿIrābī underpins the structural and functional integrity of the Arabic language. By employing systematic inflectional changes, Arabic communicates nuanced grammatical relationships with precision, highlighting its morphological sophistication and flexibility. This aspect of morphology not only reflects the language's logical organization but also contributes to its enduring clarity and richness.

4.3 DERIVATIONAL MORPHOLOGY (ṢARF AL-ISTIMDĀD)

Derivational morphology, known in Arabic as Ṣarf al-Istimdād, refers to the process of forming new words from existing roots by applying specific patterns. This process is fundamental to Arabic linguistics due to its root-based system, where triliteral (thulāthī) and quadriliteral (rubaʿī) roots are systematically manipulated to create a wide variety of words. Unlike inflectional morphology, which focuses on grammatical variations, derivational morphology is primarily concerned with generating lexical meaning.

Arabic morphology is different from English morphology English or other Indo-European languages and that is because it is widely based on discontinuous morphemes. Such system exhibits an elegant and rigid logic because "it consists of a system of consonant roots interlock with patterns of vowels (and sometimes certain other consonants) to form words, or word stems" (Ryding, 2005). It is important to mention that such type of operation can be found in English also. If we look for the English words 'sing', 'sang', 'sung', 'song', we can clearly observe that

their meaning has to do with vocal music, in which different vowels are inserted into the vowel slot in the consonant sequence (s-ng), by this operation many English words can be coined such as the instances above. Hence, such type of operation is not something odd in English. The consonant sequence (s-ng) represents the concept of an Arabic consonantal root while the affixes and vowels would represent the concept of Arabic pattern. The letter sequence شهر /ʃhr/ is a very common and useful instance for illustrating the morphological processes, which is adopted for the study of Heintz (2010). This sequence is a root, which can be a series of three or sometimes four radicals that signifies some wide collection of lexical items. This collectorsitem of a given root may be related, but may also differ broadly.

McCarthy (1981) and other scholars proposed that root, pattern, and vocalism are three different morphemes, a root must be combined with the two other morphemes which are a pattern and a vocalism in order to form a word. Thus, a root itself cannot be considered as a fully-formed word; that is because of two reasons: its meaning is highly ambiguous and it has no part of speech. For example:

فعلʃhr/, which is the first morpheme, is combined with the pattern/ شهرWhen the root /fʕl/, that is the second morpheme. The letters of the pattern فعل /fʕl/ represent the radicals of the root شهر /ʃhr/ whereas 'f' represents the first radical /ʃ/, 'ʕ' represents the second radical /h/, and 'l' represents /r/. The stem شهر /ʃhr/ is realized by the combination of root and pattern. The third morpheme which is vocalism is essential both for giving specific grammatical properties of the

word and for its pronunciation. When the stem ʃhr/, which is the result of the root and pattern combination, is combined with/ شهر vocalism /a-a-a/, together form /ʃahara/ which is now a fully-formed word has a dictionary-defined meaning "famous, notorious". Grammatically, it is a verb in the perfect tense, agrees with the subject which is 3rd person, singular and masculine.

The word /ʃahara/, can be analyzed as consisting of three morphemes:

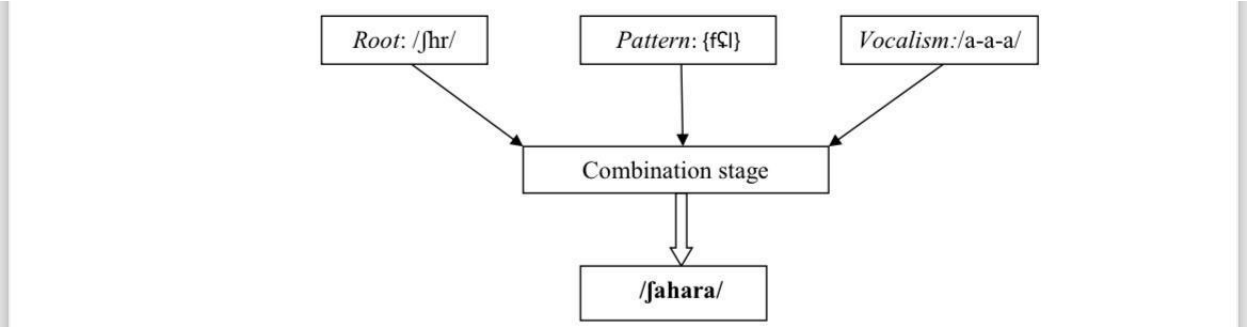
Root: ʃ h r

Pattern: f ʕ l

Vocalism: a a a

The combination of [root: /ʃhr/ + pattern: /fʕl/ + vocalism: /a-a-a/] produces the word /ʃahara/.

Table 3



The combination of [root: /ʃhr/ + pattern: /fʕl/ + vocalism: /a-a-a/] produces the word /ʃahara/.

Arabic has approximately 14 paradigms, which are integral to the morphological processes of Arabic, and each one of them has its own pattern and set of vocalisms. The paradigm sets the meaning and the shape of the word (some paradigms insert consonants in the stream other than the root letters).

By combining the root شهر /ʃhr/ with the pattern of paradigm III, فاعل /faʕl/, instead of the pattern فعل /fʕl/, the letter alif is inserted between the first and the second radicals of the root to derive the stem شاهر /ʃahr/. By combining this stem with the same vocalism as before, the word /Sahara/ is formed, which is in the perfect tense and means "rented on a monthly basis". Another instance, can be cited if the same root شهر /ʃhr/ combines with the pattern of paradigm VIII, افتعل /ʔiftʕl/, and the same vocalism used in the example above, اشتهر /ʔiʃtahara/ is created that means "to be wild spread, well- known, famous".

We can find that some patterns have a predictable semantic effect on the word. For example, the stems that are formed from paradigm II are often caused or transitive, like the word فهم /fahama/ "to understand" in paradigm I becomes فهم /fahhama/ "make someone understand something" in paradigm II. Stems formed with paradigm V tend to have a reflexive meaning: the same instance becomes تفهم /tafahhama/ "perceive, apprehend, realize" in paradigm V.

Vocalisms can also change the word either derivationally or inflectionally. For example, the vocalism /a-u/ is used to create stems in the imperfect tense. When this vocalism combined with

the root شهر /ʃhr/ and the pattern فعل /fʕl/, the stem شه ر /ʃharu/ which is in the imperfect tense and with the meaning "to make famous" is produced. This stem must be combined with inflectional affixes to specify the person, gender, and number of the verb to be a grammatical word. For example, the prefix)ت(/ta-/ is added to the stem to derive the third person singular feminine form تشه ر /taʃharu/. Some other vocalism can also specify meanings of the word. Such as in the word مُشاهر /muʃahar/ with the meaning "monthly salary", which is produced by the pattern and the vocalism combination مُفاعل /mufaaʕal/, the active participle of paradigm III.

The Table below reproduces the entries for the root قتل /qtl/ as given in the Hans Wehr Dictionary of modern written Arabic and Al-Ma'any Arabic-English Dictionary, is added for further discussion about the ways in which a single root can be transformed into many different words. The table includes information about vocalisms, pronunciations, and patterns.

Table 3.1

stem	pattern	vocalism	pronunciation	meaning
قتل	I, فعل, [fʕl]	a-a	/qatala/	To kill, to murder
قاتل	III, فاعل, [faaʕal]	a-a	/qaatala/	To fight, to combat
اقتتل	VIII, افتعل, [ʔiftʕl]	a-a	/ʔiqtatala/	Battled, encounter in a dual, struggle with or against.
قتيل	II, فعيل, [fʕiil]	a-ii	/qatiil/	Someone who killed; murdered; assassinated
اقتتال	VIII, افتعال, [ʔiftʕaal]	i-aa	/ʔiqtitaal/	Fighting, struggle, battle, a combat.
مقاتلة	III, مفاعلة, [mfaaʕlah]	u-i	/muqaatilah/	Combatants, fighting forces, combat plane.
مستقتل	مستفعل, [mstfʕl]	u-a-i	/mustafʕil/	Heroic, death defying
مقتول	I, مفعول, [mfʕuul]	a	/maqtu:l/	battle; combat; fight(ing)
مقتل	II, مفعل, [mfʕʕl]	u-a-a	/muqattal/	experienced, practiced, tried, tested.
مقتتل	مفتعل, [mftʕl]	u-a-a	/muqtatal/	Battlefield, battle ground.
مقتلة	مفعله, [mfʕlh]	a-a-a	/maqtalah/	Butchery, carnage, massacre.
تقتيل	II, تفعيل, [tfʕiil]	i	/taqtiil/	Slaughter, massacre, butchery, carnage

Reproduction of the root قتل /qtl/ entry in Wehr(1994) and Qamus Al-Ma'any (Al-Ma'any Arabic-English Dictionary). The root can combine with patterns and vocalisms to produce words or stems with different definitions.

Key Processes in Derivational Morphology are Augmentation (Ziyādah), Affixation, Patterns and Semantics.

Augmentation involves adding extra consonants or vowels to a root to create new meanings. For example, the root d-r-s (“study”) can be extended to form darrasa (“to teach”) by doubling the second radical, a process known as tašdīd.

Root (d-r-s) -> Augmented Form (darrasa)

Original Meaning: Study -> Derived Meaning: Teach

Arabic uses prefixes, suffixes, and infixes to derive words. The prefix mu- is commonly added to verbs to form nouns of place or agents. For instance: Root: s-j-d (“prostrate”) , Word: masjid (“mosque”) – place of prostration , Patterns and Semantics

Patterns influence the word class and nuanced meaning. For example: Root: ḥ-m-l (“carry”) ,ḥāmil: Carrier (active participle) ,maḥmūl: Carried (passive participle).

Derivational morphology plays a critical role in the Arabic language's ability to develop nuanced expressions, reflect cultural shifts, and accommodate new concepts. By systematically studying Ṣarf al-Istimdād, linguists can uncover how Arabic balances linguistic tradition and innovation

4.4 MORPHOPHONEMIC OBSERVATIONS IN ARABIC MORPHOLOGY

Morphophonemic observations focus on how phonological processes interact with morphological structures, particularly in languages with complex word formation systems like Arabic. Arabic is uniquely characterized by its root-and-pattern morphological system, which serves as a framework for deriving words from triliteral or quadriliteral roots. This intricate system inherently involves morphophonemic alternations, as the insertion of vowels into a consonantal root often triggers phonological changes. These changes are not arbitrary but follow specific patterns that contribute to the structural and semantic richness of the Arabic language.

One significant area of morphophonemic observations in Arabic lies in the derivation of grammatical forms. For instance, the verbal root k-t-b (write) can take on different phonological forms depending on the morphological structure. In the past tense, the verb appears as kataba (he wrote), whereas in the present tense, it takes the form yaktubu (he writes). The morphophonemic change involves not only vowel placement but also the prefixation of the morpheme ya- to mark tense. This illustrates how phonological adjustments are integral to conveying grammatical distinctions in Arabic.

Another prominent example is the formation of broken plurals (jamʿ taksīr). Unlike regular plurals, which are formed through straightforward suffixation, broken plurals involve internal vowel changes within the root structure. For instance, the singular noun kitāb (book) becomes kutub (books) in its plural form. This transformation involves a vowel shift from i to u, along with a reorganization of the syllabic structure. Broken plurals highlight the intricate morphophonemic processes that operate within the Arabic lexicon, where morphological patterns directly influence phonological outcomes.

Morphophonemic changes are also observable in the derivation of nouns and adjectives from roots. For example, the root ḥ-s-n (beauty or goodness) yields forms such as ḥasan (good), ḥusn (beauty), and maḥsūn (protected). These derived forms illustrate various morphophonemic processes, including vowel insertion, assimilation, and metathesis, which contribute to the semantic and grammatical diversity of the language.

Phonological rules governing assimilation, elision, and vowel harmony further enrich Arabic's morphophonemic landscape. Assimilation occurs when adjacent sounds influence each other to ease pronunciation, as seen in the definite article al- (the). When attached to certain sun letters (ḥurūf al-shams), the l in al- assimilates to the following consonant, as in al-shams becoming ash-shams (the sun). Elision, on the other hand, involves the deletion of phonemes in rapid speech or specific morphological environments. For instance, in connected speech, the final vowel of kāna (was) is often dropped when followed by a word beginning with a vowel. These

phonological processes interact dynamically with morphology to produce fluent and contextually appropriate speech patterns.

Moreover, Arabic verb conjugation demonstrates morphophonemic alternations that serve both syntactic and semantic functions. The root d-r-s (study) produces forms such as darasa (he studied) and yadrusu (he studies), with vowel changes signaling tense. These alternations also extend to derived verb forms, such as darrasa (he taught) in the causative pattern and tadarrasa (he studied intensively) in the reflexive pattern. Such changes exemplify how morphophonemic adjustments operate within the templatic structures of Arabic to encode nuanced meanings.

In addition, the Arabic nominal system exhibits morphophonemic phenomena in the formation of diminutives, augmentatives, and other derived forms. For instance, the diminutive of ṣabī (boy) is ṣubayyi, which involves vowel shortening and duplication. These patterns not only adhere to phonological constraints but also align with the semantic requirements of diminutive formation, showcasing the interconnectedness of morphology and phonology.

CHAPTER FIVE

FINDINGS, SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

5.0 INTRODUCTION

This study focused on selected aspects of morphological processes in the Arabic language, specifically examining its root-and-pattern system, inflectional structures, derivational processes, and morphophonemic observations. The research was conducted within a dual theoretical framework combining traditional Arabic grammatical principles (ṣarf) with modern linguistic theories. The chapters of the study were structured to provide a clear and systematic exploration of the topic.

5.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The first chapter provided the foundation for the study. It began with a detailed background, highlighting the significance of morphology in Arabic as a Semitic language and its reliance on root-and-pattern systems for word formation. The chapter introduced the Arabic language and its speakers, discussing the linguistic and cultural relevance of Arabic across the Middle East, North Africa, and the Islamic world.

The research problem was defined, focusing on the challenges in understanding and analyzing Arabic morphological processes, particularly in modern linguistic contexts. Research questions

were outlined to guide the investigation, focusing on the processes of derivation, inflection, and morphophonemic alternations.

The chapter also stated the aims and objectives of the study, emphasizing the need to examine selected morphological processes to contribute to a deeper understanding of Arabic word formation. The scope was limited to aspects of morphology, such as root-and-pattern applications, inflectional structures, and broken plurals, while excluding an exhaustive analysis of Arabic morphology.

The methodology combined classical Arabic texts and modern linguistic tools, supported by online consultations with native speakers to validate data. The significance of the study was highlighted, noting its potential contributions to Arabic linguistics, language teaching, and computational. Relevant literature and established the conceptual and theoretical foundations for the study was reviewed. The introduction emphasized the importance of understanding previous research to situate the current study within the broader academic context.

The conceptual review focused on key morphological processes, including the root-and-pattern system, inflection, and derivation. The review explained how these processes contribute to the structural and semantic richness of Arabic. Previous studies were examined, ranging from classical works like Al-Kitāb by Sībawayh to modern linguistic analyses by scholars such as Greenberg and Chomsky. The review identified gaps in the literature, particularly the lack of

integration between traditional Arabic grammar and modern linguistic theories, which this study aimed to address.

The third chapter presented the dual theoretical framework underpinning the study. Traditional Arabic grammatical principles (ṣarf) were drawn from classical scholars like Sībawayh, who introduced the root-and-pattern system as the foundation of Arabic morphology. These principles were complemented by modern linguistic theories, including Greenberg's (1963) insights on inflectional morphology and Chomsky's (1957) approach to derivational processes in generative grammar. The integration of these frameworks allowed the study to analyze Arabic morphological processes systematically while bridging classical and modern perspectives. This chapter provided the analytical tools used to examine aspects of morphology in subsequent chapters.

This work also focused on application of the theoretical framework to analyze selected morphological processes in Arabic. It began with an explanation of the root-and-pattern system, demonstrating how triliteral and quadriliteral roots combine with patterns to produce verbs, nouns, and adjectives. It examined inflectional morphology, highlighting processes like verb conjugation (e.g., kataba – he wrote, yaktubu – he writes) and noun declension based on case, number, and gender. Derivational morphology was also analyzed, with examples illustrating how new words are generated from roots through patterns and affixation. It further explored morphophonemic observations, focusing on phonological changes that occur during word

formation. Examples included the formation of broken plurals (e.g., kitāb – book, kutub – books) and other morphophonemic alternations that reflect the dynamic interaction between morphology and phonology.

Finally summary of the work which discusses key findings, and concludes with recommendations for further research. The study has successfully highlighted selected morphological processes in Arabic, demonstrating their structural and functional importance within the language. By focusing on specific aspects of morphology, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of Arabic word formation and lays the groundwork for future investigations in the field. This study on aspects of morphological processes in the Arabic language identified several key findings, highlighting the structural and functional significance of the root-and-pattern system, inflectional structures, derivational processes, and morphophonemic observations.

The root-and-pattern system emerged as the cornerstone of Arabic morphology. The study found that this system is uniquely efficient in generating a wide range of words from a limited set of roots. Triliteral and quadriliteral roots serve as semantic cores, while patterns provide grammatical and syntactic roles. For instance, the root k-t-b (write) can produce diverse forms such as kataba (he wrote), kitāb (book), kātib (writer), and maktab (office). This system enables significant lexical expansion while maintaining semantic consistency, illustrating the adaptability and economy of the Arabic language.

Secondly, the analysis of inflectional morphology demonstrated how Arabic conveys grammatical relationships through changes in word forms. Verbs were shown to inflect for tense, aspect, mood, person, gender, and number, as in kataba (he wrote), katabat (she wrote), and katabnā (we wrote). Nouns were observed to inflect for case (nominative, accusative, genitive), definiteness, and plurality, with examples such as al-kitābu (the book, nominative) and kutub (books, broken plural). These inflections ensure syntactic precision and semantic clarity within Arabic sentences.

Thirdly, derivational processes revealed the richness of Arabic in generating new words. By applying specific patterns to roots, derivation produces nouns, adjectives, and other lexical categories. For example, the root ʿ-l-m (knowledge) generates ʿilm (knowledge), ʿālim (scholar), and taʿlīm (education). The study highlighted how derivational processes contribute to the expansion of the Arabic lexicon, allowing the language to adapt to new concepts and contexts without losing its core structural integrity.

The study also uncovered significant insights into morphophonemic observations, which demonstrate the interplay between phonology and morphology. Morphophonemic alternations were observed in the formation of broken plurals, where internal vowel changes and syllabic restructuring occur. For instance, kitāb (book) becomes kutub (books), and qalb (heart) becomes qulūb (hearts). Other phonological phenomena, such as vowel harmony, assimilation, and elision,

were found to play critical roles in maintaining the fluidity and natural rhythm of Arabic speech while adhering to morphological constraints.

Finally, the integration of classical Arabic grammar and modern linguistic theories provided a comprehensive framework for analyzing these processes. While traditional grammar emphasizes descriptive rules, modern theories such as inflectional and generative morphology offer insights into the underlying principles governing word formation. This dual approach not only bridges historical and contemporary linguistic perspectives but also facilitates the application of findings in areas such as language teaching, computational linguistics, and natural language processing.

5.2 CONCLUSION

This study examined selected aspects of morphological processes in the Arabic language, with a particular focus on the root-and-pattern system, inflectional structures, derivational processes, and morphophonemic observations. By integrating traditional Arabic grammatical principles with modern linguistic theories, the research provided insights into how Arabic achieves both structural complexity and semantic precision through its morphological system.

The findings revealed that the root-and-pattern system is central to Arabic morphology, enabling the generation of a vast lexicon from a limited set of roots while maintaining semantic coherence. This system is not only efficient but also adaptive, accommodating diverse word forms and grammatical functions. Inflectional morphology was shown to play a critical role in marking

tense, number, gender, and case, ensuring syntactic and semantic clarity in Arabic communication. Similarly, derivational processes demonstrated the language's capacity for lexical innovation, allowing the creation of new words and categories through systematic transformations.

Morphophonemic observations further highlighted the interaction between morphology and phonology in Arabic, revealing how internal changes within roots contribute to word formation. These processes, including broken plurals and vowel alternations, underscore the dynamic and systematic nature of the language's morphological framework.

The integration of classical and modern approaches provided a comprehensive lens for understanding Arabic morphology, bridging the descriptive rigor of traditional grammar with the analytical depth of modern linguistic theories. This dual framework not only addressed gaps in existing research but also emphasized the relevance of Arabic morphology in contemporary fields such as computational linguistics and language teaching.

In conclusion, the study affirmed the unique characteristics of Arabic morphology, highlighting its structural logic, adaptability, and linguistic economy. These findings contribute to the broader understanding of Arabic as a Semitic language and underscore its significance in linguistic, cultural, and technological contexts. The research lays a foundation for further studies, inviting

deeper exploration into additional morphological processes and their applications in both traditional and modern domains.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, several recommendations are proposed to advance the understanding and application of Arabic morphological processes.

Firstly, future research should explore additional morphological processes beyond the scope of this study, such as compounding, diminutive formation, and more extensive analysis of derivational irregularities. These areas are underexplored in both traditional and modern linguistic frameworks and could provide a more holistic understanding of Arabic morphology.

Secondly, comparative studies should be conducted to analyze how Arabic morphological processes align with those in other Semitic and non-Semitic languages. Such research would highlight the typological uniqueness of Arabic and its implications for broader linguistic theories.

Thirdly, there is a need to integrate Arabic morphological studies into computational linguistics more extensively. Developing advanced tools for natural language processing (NLP), such as Arabic morphological analyzers and machine translation systems, requires a deeper understanding of the root-and-pattern system and morphophonemic rules. This would enhance the accuracy and efficiency of language technologies for Arabic.

Additionally, language educators should incorporate morphological analysis into Arabic language teaching curricula. Understanding the root-and-pattern system and inflectional structures can significantly improve learners' comprehension and fluency, particularly for non-native speakers. Practical exercises focused on derivational and inflectional processes could make the language more accessible to students.

Finally, further research should address the morphophonemic complexities in Arabic dialects. While this study focused on Modern Standard Arabic, dialectal variations offer valuable insights into how morphology adapts to different linguistic and cultural contexts. Documenting and analyzing these variations would not only preserve linguistic diversity but also contribute to sociolinguistic studies.

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APPENDIX

A: Arabic Morphological Patterns

This section presents sample Arabic morphological patterns used in word formation, particularly within the root-and-pattern system. The following table illustrates common patterns along with their meanings and examples.

Table 1.

Pattern	Root (Jidhr)	Example Word	Meaning
فاعل (fāʿil)	ك-ت-ب (k-t-b)	كاتب (kātib)	Writer
مفعول (mafʿūl)	ك-ت-ب (k-t-b)	مكتوب (maktūb)	Written
فعال (fiʿāl)	ج-م-ع (j-m-ʿ)	جمال (jamāl)	Beauty
افتعل (iftaʿala)	س-م-ع (s-m-ʿ)	استمع (istamaʿa)	He listened
تفاعل (tafāʿala)	ع-ل-م (ʿ-l-m)	تعلّم (taʿallama)	He learned

These patterns illustrate the structural variations in derivation and inflection in Arabic.

B: Sample Arabic Morphological Analysis

Below is a breakdown of selected Arabic words into their root, pattern, and meaning, showcasing Arabic's non-linear morphology.

Arabic Word	Root	Pattern	Morphological Process	Meaning
كتب (kataba)	ك-ت-ب (k-t-b)	فعل (faʿala)	Inflection (verb conjugation)	He wrote
مكتبة (maktaba)	ك-ت-ب (k-t-b)	مفعلة (mafʿala)	Derivation (place noun)	Library
مستمع (mustamiʿ)	س-م-ع (s-m-ʿ)	مستفعل (mustafʿil)	Derivation (active participle)	Listener
دروس (durūs)	د-ر-س (d-r-s)	فُعول (fuʿūl)	Inflection (broken plural)	Lessons

These examples demonstrate how Arabic morphology generates multiple words from a single root.

C: Research Instruments and Data Sources

This section lists the primary sources used for data collection and analysis in the study.

1. Primary Texts Analyzed:

- Al-Kitāb by Sibawayh (8th century CE)
- Lisān al-ʿArab by Ibn Manẓūr (13th century CE)
- Qurʾān – Studied for classical Arabic word formations
- Hadith Collections – Linguistic structures from early Islamic texts

2. Linguistic Databases and Computational Tools:

- Buckwalter Arabic Morphological Analyzer – Used for morphological parsing
- Quranic Arabic Corpus – Morphological annotation for linguistic research
- Microsoft SARF Morphological Analyzer – Used for root extraction and word formation patterns

D: Additional Notes on Morphophonemic Changes

Morphophonemic changes in Arabic involve phonological alternations affecting word structure and morphology. The following examples illustrate key morphophonemic phenomena:

Phenomenon	Example	Explanation
Broken Plural Formation	كتاب (kitāb) → كتب (kutub)	Internal vowel change alters plural form
Assimilation	ادّكر (iddakara) from ذكر (dhakara)	The root consonant *d* assimilates to *dh*
Elision of Weak Consonants	قَوَلَ (qawala) → قال (qāla)	Weak letter *w* drops in pronunciation
Vowel Lengthening in Derived Forms	كتب (kataba) → كاتب (kātib)	Long vowel added to derive agent noun

These phonological shifts significantly influence Arabic word structure and lexical meaning.

E: Arabic Verb Conjugation Diagram

Arabic verbs follow a structured conjugation pattern based on tense (past, present, imperative), number (singular, dual, plural), gender (masculine, feminine), and person (first, second, third). The following table provides a conjugation paradigm for the verb كَتَبَ(kataba), meaning "to write."

Table 1: Conjugation of كَتَبَ(kataba) – "to write"

Person	Past Tense (Perfect)	Present Tense (Imperfect)	Imperative (Command)
1st Person Singular (I)	كَتَبْتُ (katabtu)	أَكْتُبُ (ʾaktubu)	—
1st Person Plural (We)	كَتَبْنَا (katabnā)	نَكْتُبُ (naktubu)	—
2nd Person Singular Masculine (You m.)	كَتَبْتَ (katabta)	تَكْتُبُ (taktubu)	اُكْتُبْ (uktub)
2nd Person Singular Feminine (You f.)	كَتَبْتِ (katabti)	تَكْتُبِينَ (taktubīna)	اُكْتُبِي (uktubī)
2nd Person Dual (You two)	كَتَبْتُمَا (katabtumā)	تَكْتُبَانِ (taktubāni)	اُكْتُبَا (uktubā)
2nd Person Plural Masculine (You all m.)	كَتَبْتُمْ (katabtum)	تَكْتُبُونَ (taktubūna)	اُكْتُبُوا (uktubū)
2nd Person Plural Feminine (You all f.)	كَتَبْتُنَّ (katabtunna)	تَكْتُبْنَ (taktubna)	اُكْتُبْنَ (uktubna)
3rd Person Singular Masculine (He)	كَتَبَ (kataba)	يَكْتُبُ (yaktubu)	—
3rd Person Singular Feminine (She)	كَتَبَتْ (katabat)	تَكْتُبُ (taktubu)	—
3rd Person Dual (They two)	كَتَبَا (katabā)	يَكْتُبَانِ (yaktubāni)	—
3rd Person Plural Masculine (They m.)	كَتَبُوا (katabū)	يَكْتُبُونَ (yaktubūna)	—
3rd Person Plural Feminine (They f.)	كَتَبْنَ (katabna)	يَكْتُبْنَ (yaktubna)	—

Explanation of Verb Conjugation in Arabic:

- Past tense (Perfect): Indicates completed actions.

- Present tense (Imperfect): Indicates ongoing or habitual actions.
- Imperative: Used for commands and requests.
- Gender and Number Distinctions: Arabic verbs change based on singular, dual, and plural as well as masculine and feminine forms.

This conjugation diagram illustrates how Arabic verbs are systematically modified based on subject pronouns, highlighting inflectional morphology as a key feature of the language.