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COMPARATIVE AND CONTEMPORARY APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF ARABIC AUXILIARY WORDS IN WORLD LINGUISTICS

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Abstract

Arabic auxiliary words (*harf* / particles) have been a central subject of linguistic inquiry from classical Arab grammar to modern comparative and computational linguistics. This article examines the contributions of prominent Russian and international scholars, including B.M. Grande, I.S. Belyayeva, G.O. Lukyanova, and M.A. Magomedov with A.G. Rasulova, who explored Arabic particles within comparative-historical, contrastive, and functional frameworks. The study highlights how auxiliary words, despite lacking independent lexical meaning, play a crucial role in expressing grammatical relations, syntactic connections, and semantic nuances. It traces the evolution of research from traditional grammatical descriptions to contemporary applications in translation studies, automatic machine translation, and artificial intelligence. The findings underscore the enduring relevance of Arabic particles in both theoretical linguistics and practical language technologies.

Keywords: Arabic language, auxiliary words, particles (*harf*), comparative linguistics, Semitic languages, contrastive analysis, machine translation, morphology, syntax, B.M. Grande.

Introduction. The study of auxiliary words (*harf*) in Arabic has long been recognized as one of the most challenging yet essential aspects of Oriental and general linguistics. These indeclinable units, which gain meaning only in syntactic context, are indispensable for sentence construction, case governance (*i'rab*), and the expression of complex semantic relationships.

Russian scholar B.M. Grande, in his influential works on comparative Semitic linguistics, emphasized the role of case endings and particles in the historical development of Arabic grammar. Subsequent studies have expanded this inquiry through contrastive analysis with other languages, particularly Russian, and have addressed practical issues in translation and natural language processing. This section provides a comprehensive review of key comparative and modern approaches to Arabic auxiliary words, demonstrating their significance in both theoretical and applied linguistics.

Methods. This research employs a historical-comparative, contrastive, and analytical methodology. It is based on a systematic review of monographs, dissertations, and scholarly articles by leading linguists. Morphological, syntactic, semantic, and functional approaches are integrated to evaluate the lexical-grammatical properties of particles. Special attention is given to cross-linguistic comparisons (Arabic–Russian, Arabic–Dargwa) and the implications for modern technologies such as machine translation.

Results. Comparative-Historical Studies B.M. Grande made a substantial contribution to the field with his major work *A Course in Arabic Grammar in Comparative-Historical Perspective* (1963). He analyzed Arabic grammatical phenomena, including case inflections and auxiliary words, by comparing them with other Semitic languages. Grande successfully combined traditional Arab grammatical insights with modern linguistic methods, covering phonetics, morphology, and syntax. His works are valued not only for theoretical depth but also for their methodological rigor, remaining important references in Oriental studies.

Contrastive Linguistic Research I.S. Belyayeva's dissertation (2009) on reflexive verbs in Arabic and Russian examined the lexical-grammatical potential of verbs and their interaction

with auxiliary elements. The study highlighted how particles influence transitivity, voice, and semantic categories such as reciprocity, causation, and modality. It demonstrated that Arabic particles actively participate in verb government and meaning modification, differing significantly from Russian affixal systems.

G.O. Lukyanova (2004) focused on the system of lexical-grammatical meanings of Arabic verb stems and their Russian equivalents. Her analysis revealed how Arabic particles attached to verbs express person, number, tense, and voice — functions often conveyed by personal pronouns or inflectional endings in Russian. Detailed examples, such as the prefixes *a-*, *na-*, *ta-*, and *ya-*, illustrate these cross-linguistic differences and translation challenges.

Comparative Analysis with Other Languages Magomedov and Rasulova (2023) conducted a contrastive study of Arabic prepositions and Dargwa postpositions. They emphasized that auxiliary words, lacking independent lexical meaning, are often understudied compared to content words. The authors explored their syntactic, morphological, and semantic properties, noting the historical influence of Arabic on Dargwa and the broader impact of Arabic on world languages. Their work underscores the need for deeper investigation into context-dependent meanings and semantic contributions of particles.

Modern Applications Contemporary research increasingly addresses the role of Arabic auxiliary words in machine translation and artificial intelligence. The polysemy and context-sensitivity of particles pose significant challenges for automatic translation systems. Accurate modeling of their syntactic governance and semantic contributions is essential for improving the quality of online and real-time translation tools.

Discussion. The study of Arabic auxiliary words has evolved considerably from classical tripartite word classification to sophisticated comparative-historical and contrastive analyses. Scholars like Grande provided a solid theoretical foundation by integrating traditional Arab grammar with modern comparative methods. Later works by Belyayeva, Lukyanova, and others expanded this framework through detailed cross-linguistic comparisons, revealing both universal patterns and language-specific features.

In the era of globalization and digital technologies, research on particles has acquired new practical significance. Their correct treatment in machine translation systems, language teaching methodologies, and natural language processing tools directly impacts the effectiveness of intercultural communication. The challenges posed by polysemy, syntactic dependency, and cultural nuances highlight the necessity of combining traditional grammatical knowledge with computational linguistics.

Future studies could benefit from corpus-based approaches, cognitive semantic analysis, and deeper integration with artificial intelligence to develop more accurate models of Arabic particles. Such research would not only enrich theoretical linguistics but also support practical applications in education, translation, and digital humanities.

Overall, the long-standing scholarly interest in Arabic auxiliary words — spanning from classical grammarians to contemporary computational linguists — demonstrates their central position in understanding the structural and functional complexity of the Arabic language within the broader context of world linguistics.

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