A STATEMENT OF THE VARIOUS TYPES OF LETTERS (OR SOUNDS) IN THE ARABIC LANGUAGE AS USED IN THE WORK MIFTAHU-L-ULUM

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Abstract: This article presents an analysis of Arabic sounds based on Miftahu-l-ulum, a significant source of Arabic grammar. Arabic letters are classified into distinct categories based on their formation and inherent characteristics. These and other topics are examined through an examination of relevant sources.

Keywords: Abu Ya'qub Sakkoki, "Miftahu-l-ulum", sound, phoneme, voiced consonant, unvoiced consonant, explosive consonant, sliding consonant.

INTRODUCTION

Abu Yaqub Sakkoki's work, entitled "Miftahu-l-ulum", is one of the few works that has retained its importance in the field of Arabic grammar. The enduring popularity of the work can be attributed to its comprehensive coverage of Arabic grammar and its distinctive approach to presentation. The work, entitled "Miftahu-l-ulum", is comprised of three principal sections, in addition to a number of supplementary chapters. The initial section is dedicated to the examination of Arabic usage, with a particular focus on its morphology. It commences with an investigation of sounds, wherein the scholar employs a distinctive approach to classifying consonants that differs from that seen in other texts on the subject. The second section is dedicated to the analysis of Arabic syntax, or Nahw. This section of the work is notable for its unique systematic structure of topics and fresh perspectives on the Arabic language, setting it apart from other sources on the subject.

MAIN PART

In his work Miftahu-l-ulum, Abu Ya'qub Sakkoki discussed each small unit that makes up the word within the topics related to the file. He relied on the views of Arab scholars who had preceded him. All chapters in the language are based on the following types:

It is important to note that the Arabic language has 29 letters, which can be divided into two categories: voiced (الحروف المجهورة) and unvoiced (الحروف المحموسة) [MU, 3b]. This is the precise number of letters in the first division. Sibawayhi and Mahmud Zamakhshari also stated that there are 29 letters (6: 431; 7: 339). Primarily, this is intended to indicate that "alif" and "hamza" are distinct, independent letters, separate from the number of letters. This is a rebuttal to those who assert that the number of letters is 28 and that there are 29 letters in Arabic.

Sakkoki concurred with Sibavayhi's viewpoint and posited that sonority is shaped by the obstruction of breath in the denominator (place of formation) of the letter, whereas sonority is shaped by the release of breath. In this context, Sakkoki delineated the characteristics of voiced and unvoiced letters, classifying them into two categories based on the involvement of vocal cord vibration during articulation. The following is a list of the aforementioned items: «Voiced consonants (in my opinion): «hamza», «alif», «qāf», «kāf», «jīm», «yā», «rā», «nūn», «ṭā», «dāl», «tā», «bā», «mīm», «vāv» ط، د، ت، ب، م، و) In order to facilitate recollection, a sentence incorporating «ن، ر، ي ج، ك، ق، ا، ء) بўлиб, «n، ر، ي ج، ك، ق، ا، ء) each of the slang letters is provided below, here he is: قدك أترجم و نطايب (I shall endeavor to translate the text in a manner that is consistent with your standards for humor) [MU, 3b]. In his discussion of unaccented consonants, he noted that they are "outside of accented consonants." [MU, 3b].

Similar views to those expressed by Sakkoki regarding the formation of voiced and unvoiced consonants are also put forward by V.A. Zvegintsev [3: 37], N. Akhvlediani [2: 83], N. Robakidze [4:73], A. Shide [5: 29], and are evident in the works of numerous European scientists.

In his treatise, Sakkoki delineated the partitioning of the following consonants as follows: « Additionally, the sentence "لم يروعنا" (translated as "did not scare us at all") is worthy of note «lām», «mīm», «yā», «rā», «vāv», «'ayn», «nūn», «alif» in the absence of a breath release, consonants that do not contain breath are classified as "moderate consonants (حروف معدلة)" [MU, 3b]. The rationale behind its nomenclature is as follows: The term 'moderate letter' is characteristic of Sakkoki, and is not found in the works of Sibawayhi and Mahmud Zamakhshari. In contrast to the eight letters identified by Sakkoki and Mahmud Zamakhshari, Sibawayhi cited only one, the letter 'ain', as a letter with this characteristic [6: 435]. In his classification of the Arabic alphabet, Mahmoud Zamakhshari designated the letters "lām", "mīm", "yā", "rā", "vāv", "'ayn", and "nūn" as "a" letter between the explosive and the sliding (هي االتي بين الشديدة والرخوة)". This designation was subsequently cited by Sakkaki. Sakkaki also cites the letters «lām», «mīm», «yā», «rā», «vāv», «'ayn», «nūn», «alif» [7: 340]. In his classification of letters, he introduces the concept of a "moderate group" (حروف معتدلة), which he distinguishes from the approaches of Sibavayhi and Mahmud Zamakhshari.

With regard to the subsequent group of consonants, the scientist posits that they are explosive consonants (حروف الشديدة) when the airflow is obstructed. The aforementioned sentence, "أجدك قطبْت" [MU, 4a], contains the explosive consonants "hamza", "jīm", "dāl", "kāf", "qāf", "ṭā", "bā" , "tā", as observed by Sakkoki. After citing the explosive consonants, Sakkokiy focused on their opposite, sliding consonants (ḥrwf al-rkhwa). He stated that if the flow of air slides without being blocked, then these are sliding consonants. He did not, however, describe them separately, but rather emphasised that the rest of the consonants are sliding consonants. [MU, 4a].

In contrast to other linguists, the scientist displays a profound understanding of the formation of letters, as evidenced by his detailed descriptions. Furthermore, his approach to the study of velarization letters substantiates this assertion.

Saccocian classifies consonant letters into the following categories, based on their position in the language. The aforementioned classification system identifies the following categories of consonant letters: The category of "iste'la (المستعلية) consonant letters" encompasses the following consonants: The letters "ṣā", "ḍād", "ṭā", "ẓā", "g'ā", "xā", "qāf" (ص ض ط ظ غ خ ق) and other munkhafid (المنخفضة) are classified as consonant letters. In the articulation of consonant letters, the tongue (the back) rises to the upper hard palate. This is contrary to the description provided by munkhafid in his analysis of consonant letters [MU, 4a]. The classification of consonants is based on the thickness or thinness of the sound produced when they are articulated. If the lips are fully rounded, the consonants are referred to as "use consonant letters," as Sakkoki stated. When the lips are widely separated and the consonant is articulated with a thin sound, they are classified as munkhafid, or thinly pronounced consonants.

Муаллиф фикрида давом этиб, қуйидагиларни ёзган: «Агар тил юқори қаттиқ танглайни қоплаб олса, бундай ҳолда ص ض ط ظ ҳарфлари ҳосил бўлади. Улар «итбоқ ҳарфлари (الحروف المطبقة)», бу ҳарфлардан бошқалари «мунфатиҳ ҳарфлар (الحروف المنفتحة)», деб аталади» [MU, 4a]. The scientist proceeded to elaborate on this concept, articulating that when the tongue is positioned to cover the upper hard palate, the articulation of specific consonant letters, namely ص ض ط ظ is produced. These are classified as "consonant letters" (الحروف المطبقة), while other instances of these letters are designated as "munfatih consonant letters" (الحروف المنفتحة) [MU, 4a].

The scientist proceeded to categorise the consonants into groups in accordance with the prevailing linguistic norms, delineating their respective phonetic realisations. Additionally, the text presents a series of sentences, each comprising the designated consonants, thus facilitating their memorisation.

The systematic examination of consonant letters in this sequence is a conventional approach among Tajweed scholars specialising in Arabic linguistics. Sakkoki's comprehensive grasp of this subject matter is evident from his work.

The importance of such a system extends beyond the domain of tajweed to encompass the science of consumption. The systematic division of letters plays a pivotal role in processes such as hazf, idgm, and badal, which occur during word formation. In light of this, Sakkoki provided a comprehensive account.

CONCLUSION

The method of dividing letters into systematic groups before forming words is rarely observed by other scientists.

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This approach, as exemplified by Saccoki, is considered to have a perfect method. The formation of words is contingent upon the presence of letters. Consequently, Saccoki provided a detailed account of their characteristics. He proceeded to cite Sibawayhi, who posited that there are sixteen places of formation of letters, and recorded each of them in his account (see MU, 4a). The place of formation of letters (مخارج الحروف) is of greater importance in the science of Tajweed. The distribution of Arabic consonants demonstrates that Sakkoki has a distinctive method of narration and is proficient in reciting the Holy Qur'an. Furthermore, it is established that every scientific conclusion reached by a scientist is based on a specific source.

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