

SEMANTIC AND MORPHOLOGICAL FEATURES OF THREE-STEM CONSONANT VERBS IN ARABIC

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Abstract

The article provides a comprehensive analysis of the formation mechanisms, grammatical features, and lexico-semantic scope of triliteral derived verbs (أَبْوَابُ الْفِعْلِ) (المَزِيد) in modern Arabic linguistics. Throughout the study, the specific derivational capabilities of each verb form—including intensity, causative and reflexive voices, reciprocity, gradualness, simulation/fictional states, changes in color and physical qualities, and expressions of request/desire—are illuminated using textual sources and illustrative examples.

Keywords: Arabic language, morphology, triliteral verbs, derived forms, afʿāl al-mazīd, semantics, transitive and intransitive verbs.

Introduction

ARAB TILIDA UCH O‘ZAK UNDOSHLI FE’L BOBLARINING SEMANTIK VA MORFOLOGIK XUSUSIYATLARI

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ANNOTATSIYA:

Maqolada zamonaviy arab tilshunosligida uch o‘zak undoshli fe’llarning (أَبْوَابُ الْفِعْلِ) (المَزِيد) yasallish mexanizmlari, grammatik xususiyatlari hamda leksik-semantik maydoni atroflicha tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot davomida har bir bobning o‘ziga xos derivatsion imkoniyatlari — intensivlik, orttirma va o‘zlik nisbatlari, hamkorlik, tadrijiylik, soxtalik/tasavvuriy holat, rang va jismoniy sifat o‘zgarishlari hamda talab/istak ma’nolari manbalar va dalillovchi misollar yordamida yoritib berilgan.

Kalit so‘zlar: Arab tili, sarf, uch o‘zak undoshli fe’llar, hosilaviy boblar, af’al al-mazid, semantika, o‘timli va o‘timsiz fe’llar.

АННОТАЦИЯ:

В статье подробно анализируются механизмы образования, грамматические особенности и лексико-семантическое поле трехбуквенных производных глаголов (أَبَوَابُ الْفَعْلِ الْمَزِيدِ) в современном арабском языкознании. В ходе исследования на основе источников и иллюстрирующих примеров освещаются деривационные возможности каждой породы — значения интенсивности, каузативности и возвратности, взаимности, постепенности, имитации/вымышленного состояния, изменения цвета и физических качеств, а также значения запроса/желания.

Ключевые слова: Арабский язык, морфология, трехбуквенные глаголы, производные породы, af’al al-mazid, семантика, переходные и непереходные глаголы.

INTRODUCTION

The Arabic language is an inflectional-affixal language in terms of its morphological structure. There are verbs with three, four or five stems in Arabic. Verbs with three stem consonants make up the bulk of verbs in Arabic. There are fifteen chapters in total. Ten of these chapters are actively used in the modern Arabic literary language. The remaining five chapters were widely used in ancient Arabic, but later fell out of use. Derivative verb chapters are formed by adding additional prefixes, infixes and reduplications to the main stem, Chapter I. Derivative chapters not only change the grammatical form of the verb, but also expand the lexical-semantic field by converting transitive verbs into intransitive or vice versa, converting intransitive verbs into transitive.

1. CHAPTER I VERBS

Chapter I is the main foundation of the verb system in the Arabic language, and is composed of only three root consonants (ف-ع-ل) without any additional letters. Most verbs in the Arabic language and their derivative forms are derived from this Chapter I stem.

The past tense form of Chapter I verbs is mainly formed in the form of **فَعَلَ** (fa‘ala) (for example: **ذَهَبَ** - to leave, **دَخَلَ** - to enter, **خَرَجَ** - to come out). In addition, verbs in the form of **فَعِلَ** (fa‘ila) and **فَعُلَ** (fa‘ula) are also found (for example: **شَرِبَ** - to drink, **عَلَّمَ** - to know, **نَظَّفَ** - to be clean, **حَسَّنَ** - to be good).

Grammatical-semantic features of Chapter I:

Relation and transitivity: Verbs in the form **فَعَلَ** and **فَعِلَ** can be both transitive and intransitive verbs in the text.

Only intransitivity: Verbs in the form **فَعُلَ** are always considered only intransitive verbs, mainly expressing the constant quality, state or character of the subject.

Being the basis for derivational chapters: Verbs in Chapter I serve as the semantic and morphological basis for derivational chapters. In subsequent chapters, intensity of action, augmentation or self-relations arise through the addition of various morphemes to Chapter I.

2. CHAPTER II VERB (فَعَّلَ – يُفَعِّلُ)

The Chapter II verb is formed from the Chapter I verb by doubling the second stem consonant. Regardless of the action of the second stem consonant in the past tense of Chapter I, in the past tense of Chapter II it always takes the action of fatha.

Masdari: It is formed from regular verbs in the form **تَفَعَّلَ** (taf‘īl), and from verbs with a consonant and an illative in the form **تَفَعَّلَهُ** (taf‘ilah).

Semantic meanings of Chapter II:

Strong performance of an action, repeated several times, or multiplicity of an object:

ضَرَبَ (to hit) **ضَرَّبَ** (to hit hard, to hit)

قَطَعَ (to cut) **قَطَّعَ** (to chop, to divide into many pieces)

Converting intransitive verbs in Chapter I into transitive verbs:

نَظَّفَ (to be clean) **نَظَّفَ** (to clean)

حَسَّنَ (to be good) **حَسَّنَ** (to improve)

Converting transitive verbs in Chapter I into the accusative:

عَلَّمَ (to know) **عَلَّمَ** (to teach)

شَرِبَ (to drink) **شَرَّبَ** (to drink)

Chapter I To consider the action expressed by the verb as existing / to deny:

كَذَّبَ (to lie) **كَذَّبَ** (to consider a liar, to deny)

صَدَّقَ (to be truthful) **صَدَّقَ** (to believe, to confirm)

To include or cover in the form of an object (from the root of a noun):

نَحَّسَ (copper) نَحَّسَ (to cover copper)

ذَهَبَ (gold) ذَهَبَ (to give golden water)

The meaning of pronouncing certain phrases and formulas:

صَبَّحَ — to say the phrase “Good morning”

3. CHAPTER V VERB (تَفَعَّلَ – يَتَفَعَّلُ)

The Chapter V verb is formed by adding the prefix تَ (ta-) to the Chapter II verb.

Masdari: تَفَعَّلَ (tafa“ul).

Semantic meanings of Chapter V:

The self-relation of Chapter II: It indicates that the action in Chapter II returns to the doer and accepts the result of the action.

عَلَّمَ (to teach) تَعَلَّمَ (to learn)

كَسَرَ (to break) تَكَسَّرَ (to break into pieces)

Step by step, performing the action with force or diligence:

تَجَرَّعَ (to drink sip by sip, to swallow patiently)

4. CHAPTER IV VERB (أَفْعَلَ – يُفْعِلُ)

The Chapter IV verb is formed by adding a fixed (readable) hamza (أ) to the Chapter I verb. The hamza at the beginning of all forms of the verb of Chapter IV is a fixed (readable) hamza. It is not connected.

Masdari: It comes in the form of إِفْعَلَّ (if‘āl).

Semantic meanings of Chapter IV:

Transforming intransitive verbs into transitive verbs (increasing ratio):

خَرَجَ (to go out) أَخْرَجَ (to take out)

جَلَسَ (to sit) أَجْلَسَ (to pass)

Meaning of entering a state, time or place:

أَصْبَحَ (to enter at dawn, to become)

أَمْسَى (to get up late)

5. CHAPTER III VERB (فَاعَلَ – يُفَاعِلُ)

Chapter III verbs are formed by adding the letter alif (ا) after the first stem consonant of the Chapter I verb.

Masdari: It is mainly formed in the form مُفَاعَلَةٌ (mufā‘alah), and sometimes in the form فِإْعَلْ (fi‘āl). In some Chapter III verbs, both masdar forms can be used.

Semantic meanings of Chapter III:

Direction of action towards another person or cooperation between two people:

كَتَبَ (to write) كَاتَبَ (to write)

سَابَقَ (to compete)

Some Chapter III verbs have the same meaning as other Chapter I verbs:

سَفَرَ (to travel) سَافَرَ (to travel, to set out)

6. CHAPTER VI VERB (تَفَاعَلَ – يَتَفَاعَلُ)

The Chapter VI verb is formed by adding the prefix تَ (ta-) to the Chapter III verb.

The infinitive: تَفَاعُلٌ (tafā‘ul).

Semantic meanings of Chapter VI:

Interaction between many people, towards each other:

خَاطَبَ (to communicate) تَخَاطَبَ (to negotiate)

سَابَقَ (to compete) تَسَابَقَ (to compete with each other, to compete)

Graduality of action (gradual increase or decrease):

هَبَطَ (to decrease) تَهَابَطَ (to gradually decrease)

عَظُمَ (to become great) تَعَاظَمَ (to grow, to become great)

Falsehood and hypocrisy (to pretend to be in a certain situation):

جَهِلَ (to be ignorant) تَجَاهَلَ (to pretend not to know)

عَرَجَ (to limp) تَعَارَجَ (to limp from a lie)

7. CHAPTER VII VERB (اِنْفَعَلَ – يَنْفَعِلُ)

The VII chapter verb is formed by adding the prefix اِنْ (in-) to the I chapter verb. The hamza at the beginning is wasli. The letter ن (nun) in it indicates that the verb is in the present-past tense. Chapter VII verbs are always intransitive.

The infinitive: اِنْفِعَالٌ (infi‘āl).

Semantic meanings of Chapter VII:

The relation of subject-passive: Converts a verb with an object (has an actor) into a verb without an object (has no actor):

كَسَرَ (to break) اِنْكَسَرَ (to break)

قَطَعَ (to cut) اِنْقَطَعَ (to be cut off, to be cut off)

8. CHAPTER VIII VERB (اِفْتَعَلَ – يَفْتَعِلُ)

Chapter VIII verb is formed by silencing the 1st stem consonant of Chapter I verb, then adding the infix ت (ta) and placing a wasal hamza in front of it.

Masdari: It comes in the form اِفْتَعَلَ (ifti‘āl).

Phonetic assimilation processes in Chapter VIII:

The infix ت changes depending on the type of the first stem consonant:

If the first stem is ط, ض, ص, the letter ت becomes ط (for example: اِصْطَنَّعَ).

If the first stem is ظ, ذ, ذ, it changes completely to these sounds (for example: اِذْكَّرَ).

If the first stem is ز, the letter ت becomes د (for example: اِزْدَهَرَ).

Semantic meanings of Chapter VIII:

The expression of the possessive-passive relation of the verb Chapter I:

جَمَعَ (to gather) اِجْتَمَعَ (to gather, to gather)

كَسَبَ (to earn) اِكْتَسَبَ (to earn for oneself by working for oneself)

9. CHAPTER IX VERB (اِفْعَلَّ – يَفْعَلُّ)

The verb Chapter IX has the past tense form اِفْعَلَّ and is formed by doubling the third stem consonant.

The infinitive is in the form: اِفْعِلَالٌ (if‘ilāl).

Semantic meanings of Chapter IX:

Colors and physical defects/changes in properties and impermanent states:

اِحْمَرَّ — to blush

اِخْضَرَ — to turn green, to bruise

اِصْفَرَ — to turn yellow

10. CHAPTER X VERB (اِسْتَفْعَلَ – يَسْتَفْعِلُ)

The Chapter X verb is formed by adding the prefix اِسْتَّ (ista-) to the verb of Chapter I.

The infinitive: اِسْتِفْعَالٌ (istif‘āl).

Semantic meanings of Chapter X:

Meaning of request, request, search and achievement:

اِسْتَعْفَرَ (to ask for forgiveness/forgiveness) عَفَرَ (to forgive)

اِسْتَخْرَجَ (to dig out, to extract) خَرَجَ (to come out)

Meaning of calculation and evaluation:

اِسْتَحْسَنَ (to consider good) حَسُنَ (to be good)

Transition to a state or appointment (formation from the root of a noun):

حَجَرَ (stone) اِسْتَحَجَرَ (to turn into a stone)

خَلَفَ (deputy) اِسْتَخْلَفَ (to appoint as a deputy).

CONCLUSION

Three-stem derivative verb parts are the most important derivational source of the Arabic language derivational system. Analyses show that the degree of transitivity, intensity, cooperation and identity of action are formed by the addition of various morphemes to verbs of the first part. Therefore, verb parts are needed to form new bases expressing new meanings from certain verbs.

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