
**THE STUDY OF AUXILIARY WORDS IN THE ARABIC LANGUAGE WITHIN
ORIENTAL STUDIES****Tukhtayev Alibek Sharafitdin ugli**

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Abstract

The classification of words into grammatical categories has remained one of the foundational problems in Oriental linguistics for centuries. This article provides a comprehensive historical overview of the study of Arabic auxiliary words (known as *harf* or particles) from classical Arab grammarians to modern Western and Russian Oriental scholarship. It examines the significant contributions of key figures such as Sibawayhi, Mahmud Zamakhshari, Silvestre de Sacy, Wright and Caspari, Carl Brockelmann, and N.V. Yushmanov. Special attention is given to the morphological, syntactic, and semantic functions of particles as indeclinable units that express grammatical relations and syntactic connections. The analysis demonstrates how the study of these auxiliary elements has evolved from traditional tripartite word classification to comparative, typological, and pedagogically oriented approaches, offering valuable insights for contemporary Arabic language teaching, translation, and cross-linguistic research.

Keywords: Arabic language, auxiliary words, particles (*harf*), Oriental studies, classical Arabic grammar, morphology, syntax, Semitic linguistics, Sibawayhi, Zamakhshari.

Introduction. In the field of Oriental studies, the division of words into parts of speech according to their lexical and grammatical features has long been viewed as one of the core theoretical and practical challenges. This classification is essential not only for understanding the functional potential of linguistic units and their position within the language system but also for the correct application of grammatical rules, sentence construction, morphological analysis, language acquisition, and translation processes.

Ferdinand de Saussure famously stated that “Language is a system of differences.” The grouping of words into distinct categories helps identify these differences and reveals the social and systemic nature of language. In Arabic linguistics, auxiliary words (*harf* — particles) hold particular importance. Unlike nouns and verbs, these units typically do not occur independently; they acquire meaning only when combined with other words and serve to express syntactic relationships, case markings (*i‘rab*), and various semantic nuances.

This section traces the historical development of research on Arabic auxiliary words, beginning with classical Arab grammatical traditions and extending through the contributions of prominent Western and Russian Orientalists. Understanding this evolution provides a deeper appreciation of how particles contribute to the structural integrity and expressive richness of the Arabic language.

Methods. The present study adopts a historical-comparative, descriptive, and analytical methodology. It is primarily based on a systematic review and critical synthesis of primary grammatical sources from classical Arab scholars as well as influential works by European and Russian Orientalists. Morphological, syntactic, and comparative-historical approaches are employed to examine the classification systems, terminological choices, and functional descriptions of auxiliary words. The research draws upon original texts, commentaries, and modern scholarly evaluations to highlight continuity, innovation, and pedagogical value across different linguistic traditions.

Results. Classical Arab Grammatical Tradition The systematic study of Arabic grammar and word classification began with Sibawayhi (d. 796), whose monumental work *al-Kitab* laid the foundation for the entire Arabic grammatical tradition. Sibawayhi divided words into three primary categories: *ism* (noun), *fi‘l* (verb), and *harf* (particle). His approach was richly

illustrated with examples drawn from the Qur'an, pre-Islamic poetry, and the speech of Bedouin Arabs, ensuring authenticity and authority. *Al-Kitab* fulfilled two major roles: it significantly influenced the standardization of literary Arabic and established a solid theoretical framework for subsequent linguistic inquiry. The work remained the primary reference source for Arabic grammar for several centuries and continues to be highly regarded by modern scholars.

Mahmud Zamakhshari (1075–1144) advanced this tradition in his comprehensive grammatical treatise *Al-Mufasssal fi al-Nahw*. Following Sibawayhi's tripartite division, Zamakhshari provided an exceptionally detailed description: nouns were analyzed in 12 chapters, verbs in 10, and particles in 23 chapters — the most extensive treatment among the three categories. He offered in-depth discussions of various types of *harf*, including *huruf al-jarr* (prepositions), their functions in case governance (*raf'*, *nasb*, *jarr*), and semantic roles such as indicating starting/ending points, boundaries, possession, probability, and instrumentality. Zamakhshari's work synthesized earlier achievements while maintaining high scholarly standards, which led to the creation of numerous commentaries by later scholars such as Ibn Ya'ish, al-Sakhawi, and Ibn Hājib.

Western Orientalist Contributions European scholars played a pivotal role in making Arabic grammar accessible to Western audiences. The French Orientalist Silvestre de Sacy, in his influential two-volume *Grammaire arabe* (1831), presented Arabic word classes according to traditional Arab divisions while employing French terminology (noun, verb, particles). A dedicated section on "*particules indéclinables*" (indeclinable particles) highlighted their syntactic importance, their role in forming grammatical relations, and their influence on the lexical meaning of associated words. De Sacy's clear pedagogical approach and comparative explanations made the work a cornerstone of Arabic studies in Europe.

The *A Grammar of the Arabic Language* by C. Caspari and W. Wright (commonly referred to as Wright's Grammar) became a standard English-language reference. It classifies particles into prepositions (*huruf al-jarr*), adverbs, conjunctions (*huruf al-*atf**), and interjections. The work is renowned for its systematic and detailed treatment of both morphological forms and syntactic functions, serving generations of Arabic learners.

Comparative and Typological Studies Carl Brockelmann's *Grundriss der vergleichenden Grammatik der semitischen Sprachen* (1908) introduced a broader comparative perspective. Analyzing Arabic particles within the Semitic language family (including Amharic, Hebrew, and others), Brockelmann traced their historical origins and typological features. Sections on adverbs, prepositions, and interjections remain valuable for methodological insights in comparative Semitic linguistics.

Russian Oriental Scholarship Russian Oriental studies contributed significantly through the works of N.V. Yushmanov. His *Grammar of the Literary Arabic Language* (1928) and *The Structure of the Arabic Language* (1938) combined traditional Arab grammatical concepts with modern comparative-historical methods. Yushmanov addressed the challenges of mapping Arabic categories onto Russian and European linguistic frameworks, offering innovative solutions that enhanced accessibility for Russian-speaking students. His works are recognized as pioneering scientific grammars in Russian Arabic studies and continue to serve as important references.

Discussion. The study of auxiliary words in Arabic linguistics reflects a rich trajectory of intellectual development. From the classical tripartite system established by Sibawayhi and elaborated by Zamakhshari to the systematic, pedagogically oriented presentations by de Sacy and Wright, and further to the comparative frameworks of Brockelmann and Yushmanov, research on particles has continually deepened our understanding of Arabic morphology and syntax.

Particles, though seemingly minor, are indispensable for expressing syntactic dependencies, case relations, and nuanced meanings. Their detailed investigation has not only strengthened grammatical theory but also supported practical applications in language teaching

and translation. In the broader context of anthropocentric and linguocultural paradigms, the study of auxiliary words highlights how seemingly technical grammatical elements encode cultural and cognitive patterns of expression.

Contemporary linguistics can benefit from integrating these historical insights with modern tools such as corpus analysis and cognitive semantics. Future research may focus on contrastive studies between Arabic particles and equivalent structures in other languages, as well as their pragmatic functions in spoken and digital discourse.

Overall, the accumulated scholarly heritage on Arabic auxiliary words remains highly relevant, offering a solid foundation for advancing Arabic linguistics, Oriental studies, and cross-cultural language research while contributing to the preservation and appreciation of linguistic diversity.

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