**Al-Mustansiriyah University**

**College of Arts**

**Translation Department**

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**CONTRASTIVE GRAMMAR**

**Fourth Year/ Morning & Evening Classes**

**Lecture # 20**

**Number in Arabic**

There are three numbers in Arabic: singular , dual ,and plural. There are nouns which are invariably found in the plural form ناس ,and others which are always used in the singular شجاعة. There are also nouns which are used in dual, due to idiomatic aspects as inالرافدان الإيرادان , ، ،الكريمتانand الأصغران.Variable nouns can be classified into regular and irregular. Regular forms include all dual nouns except those mentioned above. They are either masculine or feminine.

Irregular plurals have no fewer than twenty nine forms to be learned from the dictionary.جمع التكسير is subdivided into plurals of paucity جمع القلة and plurals of abundance جمع الكثرة .The former is used from three to ten , the latter fior more than ten.

The dual number is predictable in Arabic. It is formed by adding الالف و النون to the singular form in the subjective nominative case and الياء و النون in the objective accusative case : قلم : قلمان : قلمين.

Regular plurals are also predictable ,related to gender. They are either جمع المذكر السالم by adding الواو و النون or الياء و النون : معلم:معلمون: معلمين . Or they are جمع المؤنث السالم by adding الالف والتاء : معلمة: معلمات

In English , there is number agreement between the subject and the verb.On the contrary , the number agreement in Arabic is very complicated since nouns , verbs ,adjectives adverbs can be in plural on the one hand , and it is bsed on wheter the sentence is nominal or verbal ,on the other:

* ذهب الولد/ الولدان / الاولاد
* الاولاد ذهبوا / الولدان ذهبا/ الود ذهب

الفتاة الطويلة/ الولد الطويل