

( Abstract ) بالعنوان مع ملخص باللغة الإنكليزية

# Schools of Phonology in Arabic: The Rise and Development

A Dissertation

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## **Abstract**

Ancient Arab scholars spent invaluable efforts within the area of Arabic phonology. These efforts prove that such scholars are fully aware of the nature of sounds and the speech organs which were accurately described. Laws and rules for sounds were set up and the relationship between these sounds were shown. These efforts and contributions are easily recognized by Abualaswad Al-Dwali's self-observation and Al-Khalil Bin Ahmed's classification of speech sounds. The latter described speech sounds from an articulatory point of view which had laid the foundation for a school called lexical phonology. In addition Sibawaihi classified Arabic speech sounds in terms of place of articulation. Such a classification gave rise to what is called the grammarians' school of phonology.

It is beyond dispute that the subfields of Arabic linguistics are interrelated to one another and to the Glorious Quran. It is very rare to find a given topic which is for instance, purely morphological, i.e. other levels of linguistic analysis are in valued in it. Due to this characteristic, there is a variety of studies as far as the general attitude of works is concerned.

The present study sets itself to gather the contributions of these schools of phonology and clarifies the procedures followed by the leading figures of each school. Such schools have been classified in the light of the aims behind studying the phonological material. Accordingly, five schools have been investigated in the present work. In addition, an introductory chapter entitled "schools of phonology and knowledge Heritage by Arabs" is devoted to the perspective of the study and how far it is applied to the schools of phonology by ancient Arab scholars.

As for the first chapter, it is concerned with the school of "lexical phonology" and how those "lexicophonologists dealt with the phonological material.

The leading scholar here is Al-Khalil Bin Ahmed Al-Farahidi who was taken as an example by other lexicophonologists. The second chapter is devoted to the treatment of phonological material by Arab grammarians who gave rise to the "grammarians' school of phonology." within this school, the phonological study underwent development which started before Sibawaihi. It is true to say that the latter brought it to maturity. in his famous book " Al-Kitab".

The third chapter is named as "The phonology school of Readers". The efforts of a group of scientists have been dealt with. Those scholars gave priority to the phonological study which formed the basis for their investigations.

The fourth chapter concerns itself with the treatment of the phonological material by some Muslim philosopher. They investigated the material from a physical and articulatory standpoint.

Although such a school had lasted for a long period of time, it had not attracted a large number of scholars. Concerning chapter five, it has studied the phonological efforts of rhetoricians. These efforts have not been given due attention by previous studies. The study of phonology by those scholars is not a marginal one, rather it is serious and systematic.

Al-Kahalil Bin Ahmed Al-Farahidi organized his dictionary (Al-Ain) on the basis of phonology to give the lexical units a phonological arrangements.

As to Sibawaihi, he focused on the study of Arabic speech sounds in order to precisely investigate assimilation. He maintains that he described the letters of the dictionary so that one can recognize where assimilation is possible or not. Regarding the rhetoricians, they adopted a totally different approach to study sounds where the theory of articulation of sounds is considered as a rhetorical and critical criterion to judge whether a particular word is standard or not.

Scholars of readings are concerned with how sounds are articulated or produced. They dealt with the distinctive features characterizing speech sounds. They also viewed speech sounds from a physical point of view.