

Coining in Arabic between "Ancients" & "Moderns"

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Abstract

The Study aims to discuss coining in Arabic as a part of Language Philology, by bringing together views of some prominent ancient scholars of Arabic, and other modern ones. It defines the meaning of Coining Linguistically and idiomatically through presenting views of those scholars. Then it explains what the linguist Ibn Jinniy in his book: "Al-Khasaes" meant by his saying: " The Arabic Courage", stressing the capabilities of the language to cope with the most recent and everlasting developments in all walks of modern life. escorting the cultural and scientific development that are talking place every day.

Keywords: Language Philology; Coining; The Arabic bravery; Characteristics of Arabic

This is a study of coining in Arabic, of which coining is linguistically and idiomatically defined. Views of scholars; ancients and moderns, are presented, evaluated, and criticized to an extent possible, through showing and discussing some scholars' views of coining separately. The study concludes with the most important decisions taken by the Arabic Language Assembly in Cairo on that regard. Examples of coining mentioned by scholars; both the well-known and odd ones are given.

Definition of Coining Linguistically

Ibn Manthour in "Lisan Al- Arab" [the Arab Tongue] defined coining as sawing and skinning. He gave an example of "carving the mountain" to mean cutting it.¹ From that linguistic meaning, the linguists derived the term.

Definition of Coining Idiomatically

Ibn Faris, in his book: "As-Sahebi" defined coining in a manner that avoids the mechanism of coining, putting much attention on its component, saying: "Arabs coin a word from two words; it is a type of conciseness²".

The definition of coining amongst the "Moderns" is Chrystal clear in pin-pointing the whereas of coining. Ramadan Abdel Tawwab defined coining by "collecting two words, then extracting one stem word out of their total letters, that gives the same meaning³".

Views of Scholars in Coining

Some researchers think that coining was defined by the Arabic sources at a narrow and limited manner⁴. The ancient linguists had picked limited examples, mentioned in all Linguistics books. Ibn As-Sikkiet, for example, was satisfied with three examples, narrated on coining; he says: " It is said that I have much used the term: "Al-Basmalah" when I much say: "Bes Allah Ar-Rahman Ar-Rahim" [In the name of Allah, the Beneficient, the Mercifyl mostly].

And I have much used the term:

1. Look: Ibn Manthour: Lisanul Arab. Coining material.
2. Ibn Faris: as-sahebi 461
3. Look: Ramadan Abdel Tawwab: Chapters on the Arabic Philology 301.
4. Look what Mahmoud Fahmi Hijazi said in the Linguistic Basics of the Terminology Science⁷².

"Al- Hailalah", when I much say: "la Ilaha Illa Allah" [there is no God, but Allah the Al-Mighty]. He then says: I have much used the term: "Al- Hawqalah", when I much say: "La hawla wla quwwata Illa be Allah" [There is no power, no might but by Allah, the Al Mighty"¹.

Ibn Faris has illustrated on coining, giving his own vision in his two books: As-Sahibi and the Criteria of Language.

Ibn Faris and his Philosophy of Coining

Ibn Faris is considered the Imam of ancient coining scholars. He put a method of analogy and derivation, as he says: "Words composed of more than three letters are mostly coined."² An example of this is when a strong man is described as "Dhibatron", from the verb "Dhabata"[controlled], and the verb "Dhabara"[collected]. In the saying: "Sahsaleq": that it neighed "Sahala" and whinnied "salaqa", and in the "Saldham": it is from the solid "As-Sald" and the collision "As-Sadm"

Ibn Fares believes in the originality of coining in Arabic. He conveyed the views of his predecessor Al-Khalil Ibn Ahmed Al-Farahidi, following his method and foot-steps, bringing nothing of his own on coining. So the word "Hayaala" is given as an example of Al-Khalil's coining method, reciting a verse of his poetry: " Alam tuhzenk"**Haia'alatul** Monadi" [Did not the invitation of the caller "Haia'alatul Monadi" make you sad?]³from his saying "haia ala"[come to "Haia'alah"], being formed out of a verb and a preposition.³

Subhi As-Saleh thinks that the linguist Ibn Fares in his vision of the Arabic vocabulary realized the expressive value of each Arabic phoneme. An example of coining (As-Saldam) is coming from the two words: solid and collision, as if the superfluous 'Al-Meem' in the 'Saldam' is taken out of 'Sadm' [collision], to be the last letter in (As-Saldam), the most expressive and eloquent letter. By doing this, "Al-Meem"stands instead of "Sadam" itself, then is stuck with "Sald". A new word is composed of two words, one of them is shortened and the other remains as it is.⁴ The aforementioned is creative explanations of coining by As-Saleh, combining a logical vision of his own.

1. Ibn As-Siket:Logic Reform303.
 2. Ibn Faris: As-Sahibi 461.
 3. Ibid, Ibn Faris: As-Sahibi 461.
 4. Subhi As-Saleh: Studies in Language Philology 248.

Another type of coining is by bringing together the expressive letter from a word adding it to a trilateral word. So, the outcome would be quadrilateral words, coined from two trilateral words, by putting their letters together, (Bakhthaat Ar-Rajul)[freighting a man], has been coined from (Batha'a) meaning terrified, and (Khathaa) meaning cut and furrowed. So sharing the two letters: ' Ath-Thal" and "Al-Aain in both verbs in the " is clear in the coining process, but they differed in (Al-Baa' and Al-Khaa'). So, shortening (Batha'a) and compensating it with the strongest letter in it (Al-Baa'), which itself by- passed (Khatha'a), then is stuck to it, forming a new word (Baa'+Khatha'a).

Following are related examples:

Meaning of the coined Word	First Trilateral Word	Second Trilateral Word
BalKhasa(thickened)	Bakhasa	Lakhasa
Bazmakha(chest out, back in)	Bazakha	Zamakha
Bazaara (misbehaved)	Baza'a	Za'ara
Bargish (a bird)	Barasha	Raqasha
Buhtur(deprived of length)	Batara	Hatara
Baltaha(hit himself with Land)	Balata	Bataha

"As-Suyouti" and some Linguists and Grammarians views of Coining

As-Suyouti wrote a chapter on coining in his book: "Al-Muzher"¹, mentioning views of scholars, linguists and Grammarians such as Ibn Fares, Ibn As-Sikiat, Atha'alibi, Al-Jawhari, Ibn Daheyyah, Ibn Malek, and Abo Hayyan .He gave examples of coining of each of them.

He brought a story of someone asking a grammarian about some Arabic articulations, such as: 'shaqahtab', he replied: "This is a coined Arabic of witch a word is coined of two words; the way the carpenter carves two Pieces of wood coming with one piece out of them. So the word 'shaqahtab' is coined of "cut and fire"-wood [shaqqa + hatab]"².

1. Look: As-Suyouti: Al-Muzher/482 till 485.

2. As-Suyouti: Al-Muzher/482.

As for the Grammarians' views of coining, As-Suyouti views Ibn Malek as a facilitator of coining. Ibn Malek states that "The verb 'Fa'lala" might be formed by two letters: "Al- faa' " and "Al-Aain" of two verbs, but if the second "aain" is voweled , the coined word would be completed by its "laam" or by the first's "laam".¹

Abu Hayyan from his part, differed with Ibn Malek view on coining stating that it does not apply to all coined words. Whereas, Mohmoud fahmi Hijazi deduces that linguists and Grammarians were cautious towards the coining standardization, for linguists were satisfied with limited examples, and Grammarians, from their part did not mention the standardization of coining structures".²

These are the ancients' views of coining, whereas the moderns focused on taking benefit of the linguistic capabilities available, to escort the procession of civilization, and the scientific developments.

Abbas Hasan and the coining between Acceptance and Rejection

According to Abbas Hasan, a group of scholars accepted coining as being the best tool to help in translating foreign idioms into Arabic, namely, in Medicine, Pharmaceuticals, Chemistry, Botany, and Zoology.

The foreign terms are mostly "a combination of two, or more, concise inter-mixed words, in a method formed similar to the Arabic Coining. So, if the two or more words are literally translated without being concise, there will be a long Arabic term formed "³ . So, by translating the two foreign words, and coining them both at the Arabic coining method, we get an Arabic term, smooth neither strange, nor complicated.

As for the coining rejectionists, they argue that what is already available of coining Arabic words is so limited to come out of criteria. They stress that getting the right meaning of the coined word might be possible to those specialized in the field. This by time, will lead to ambiguity in the Language.

1. As-Suyouti: Al-Muzher/485

2. Mahmoud fahmi Hijazi: Linguistic Basics of Terminology Science 73.

3. Abbas Hasan: Language and Syntax between the Ancient and the Modern 259.

As for Abbas Hasan, who defends coining, he rejects the two arguments, giving no details on that regard. Following are coined words, he collected, and specified their meanings.

Word	Meaning
Sama'ala	Said: As-Salam alikom. (Greeting)
Mashkana	said: Masha' Allah kan. (What the Al-Mighty God Willed Happened).
Ja'fada	Said: Ja'alani Allah Feda'aka. (May God make me ransom).
Talbaqa	Said: Atala Allah Baqa'aka.(may Godmake you live Long).
Hasbala	Said: Hasbiya Allah. (Sufficient unto me is God).
Abshamiy	Attributed to Abed Shams.
Abdariy	Attributed to Abed Ad-Dar
Marqisiy	Attributed to Imri'e Al- Qais
Taimaliy	Attributed to Taim Allah. (Being a servant to Al-Mighty God).
Shafa'alantiy	Attributed to Ash-Shafi'iy and Abi Hanifah together.
Hanfalantiy	Attributed to Abi Hanifah with "Al-Mu'tazilah"[Theological School].

Ramadhan Abed At- Tawwab and the Coining Categories

Following are the four categories of coining in Arabic stated by Ramadhan Abed At-Tawwab:¹

- Coining by a verb: It is to coin a verb out of a sentence, indicating by the verb the sentence. An example is: "Basmala".
- Coining by an adjective: It is to coin an adjective out of two words. Such as: "Dhibatron. [A strong man]
- Coining by a Noun: It is to coin a noun out of two words, An example is "Julmoud" from "Jamada"[Froze] and "Jalada" [whipped].
- Coining by attribution: It is to coin attributed noun, of both a person, or a thing, to two towns, an example is: "Tabarkhazi" attributed to "Tabaristan" and "Khawarizm".

Ramadhan Abed At-Tawwab clarifies the reason behind some coined words, stressing that sometimes two words come to the mind of a speaker together, in a way that makes it difficult to distinguish between them. So the outcome will be an artificial word, a mixture of two words phonetics, bringing the meaning of both. Such coined words are short aged, unable to last long, whereas some stay to exist as new words. He gives "brunch as an example of coining in English, coined of breakfast and lunch.

1. Look: Ramadhan Abed At- Tawwab: Chapters in the Philology of the Arabic 302.

Mahmoud Fahmi Hijazi and Coining Scientific Idioms

In his book: "The Linguistic Basics of Terminology Science", Hijazi brought the following examples of Coining in English:¹

The Coined Word (its Meaning)	Its Elements
Smog (the mixed fog with smoke in London)	Smoke+ Fog
Motel(Hotel of passengers and drivers on roads)	Motorists+ Hotel

Arabic has benefitted from such coining; by borrowing and by Arabization on one front, and by forming coined words from Arabic elements on another, forming some Arabic terms. So, the prefix (pre) for example, was translated into (qabl), then coined with the added word. Example: 'Qabtaarikh' corresponds with prehistory. And 'Qabmantiqi' corresponds with pre-logic.

Ali Abd Al-Wahed Wafi and Coining Forms in Arabic

Ali Abd Al-Wahed Wafi stated the following forms of coining in Arabic in his book: "Philology of Language"²:

- Coining a word out of a sentence, most of these words are newly formed in Islam, such as 'basmala'.
- Coining a word out of a well-known name consisted of two combined words. This is rare in Arabic, such as 'Abbshami' Attributed to Abed Shams.
- Coining a word out of two ,or more, separate sources , indicating a compound meaning. This is common at Endo-European languages, but rare at the Semitic Languages. Such as 'Halumma' coined out of 'Hal' and 'Umma', meaning to intend, and to come, or it is coined from " Haa' " of the attention and " Lum", meaning 'dhumma': join.

1. Ibid: Mahmoud fahmi Hijazi: Linguistic Basics of Terminology Science 74.

2. Look: Ali Abd Al-Wahed Wafi: Philology of Language 266.

Subhi As-Saleh and his Restricted Vision Method of Coining:

In his book: "Studies on Philology of Language", Subhi As-Saleh presented views of two schools of scholars ¹:

one, prohibiting coining , based on an argument that our language doesn't accept coining, since the coined words are dozens, compared to thousands in other Languages witch accept submitting 'the added to' before 'the added'.

The other, accepts coining ultimately. But As-Saleh had a balanced stance of coining, considering the second view as distorting the language, since it doesn't correspond with Arabic vocabularies ,and their structures, restricting coining to the urgent need to do so, on a condition the coined word doesn't contradict with a profound linguistic taste, or can not be easily understood.

He also added conditions on coining, so as to get a harmony of the coined word letters, corresponding with rules, and standards of Arabic Language.

He gave examples of coined words authorized by the moderns; who say: 'Dara'amiy' attributed to: (Dar Al-O'loum) [house of sciences]. And 'Anfamiy' for the sound that takes its course through the nose 'Anf', and the mouth 'Fam' altogether.

Decisions on Coining by the Arabic Language Assembly in Cairo

The Assembly accepted coining in case there is a necessity. Following is the wording of the Assembly's decision: "Coining is permitted based on a scientific necessity"²

Following are coined words permitted by the assembly: composed of Arabic elements:

The Coined Word	Its Elements
Hamqali (A chemical Material)	Hemdh(Acid)+Qalawi(Alkaline)
Shebzaal	Shebh(Similar)+Zulal(Albumin)
Shabqali	Shebh(Similar)+ Qalawi(AlKaline)
Halma'	Hallala(Analyze)+ maa'(Water)
Haiman	Hayawan(Animal)+Manawi(spermatic)
Khahrakedah (Static Electricity)	Kahraba'eyah(Electrical)+Rakedah(Static)

1.Look: Subhi As-Saleh: Studies on the Philology of Language 266.

2. Mahmoud Fahmi Hijazi :Linguistic Basics of Terminology science, Appendix general rules confirmed by Arabic Lang. Assembly in Cairo in terms register 238

The Assembly also permitted words of foreign origin, such as: telephone, and some others words of a mixed origin; Arabic and foreign, such as: 'Kahromeghnatsiy,' to correspond with the term 'electro- magnetic, of- which both translation and Arabization are applied.

Finally, we see to what extent has coining, being a part of derivation, managed to enrich the Arabic vocabulary; enabling the language to escort the modern civilization, and the scientific developments, as well. This is what is meant by "the Arabic Courage", mentioned by Ibn Jenni, referring to its power to extend its vocabularies to cope with cultural and scientific developments.

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