BG Pulse Journal USA
ISSN:1947-2536 http://www.bgpulseusa.com/index.php/bg

THE THEORY OF MU‘RAB AND MABNI WORDS IN ARABIC AND THEIR SYNTACTIC ANALYSIS

Soliha Orifxonova
Student at Alfraganus University
Masrur Raximjanov
Research Advisor: PhD, Acting Associate Professor

Abstract: This scientific article examines one of the fundamental concepts of Arabic linguistics, particularly within the grammatical system of Arabic syntax (an-Naḥw): the theory of classifying words into mu‘rab (inflectional) and mabni (indeclinable) categories. The study analyzes the rules governing these phenomena within the three major parts of speech in Arabic—nouns, verbs, and particles—together with their grammatical functions and the reasons for their classification. Furthermore, the article discusses the different types of mabni forms and explains how the endings of words change according to their syntactic functions (i‘rāb markers), based on the principles of both classical and modern Arabic grammar.

Keywords: Arabic language, syntax, i‘rāb, mu‘rab, mabni, noun, verb, particle, binā’, ḍammah, fatḥah, kasrah, sukūn.

Introduction. Arabic syntax (النحو an-Naḥw) is the branch of grammar that studies the position of words within a sentence and the changes occurring in their final vowels or endings. In Arabic linguistics, the variation or invariability of word endings plays a crucial role in conveying meaning accurately and identifying the grammatical relationships among sentence elements. According to the influence of preceding grammatical operators (ʿāmil), words are classified into two major categories:

1. **Mu‘rab (المُعْرَب)** – words whose final vowels change according to their syntactic position and the governing grammatical factors.

2. **Mabni (المَبْنِيّ)** – words whose forms and final vowels remain unchanged regardless of syntactic context or grammatical influence. This classification has remained one of the central principles of Arabic grammar from the time of **Sibawayh**, the founder of classical Arabic grammar, to contemporary linguistic studies.

The theory of i‘rāb and mu‘rab words. The lexical meaning of i‘rāb (الإعراب) is "clarification," "expression," or "making something explicit." In grammatical terminology, it refers to the change in the ending of a word caused by grammatical operators, whether this change is explicitly pronounced or only understood implicitly.

I‘rāb in Nouns (Case System). The vast majority of Arabic nouns—including nouns, adjectives, numerals, and most pronouns—are mu‘rab, meaning that their endings change according to their grammatical functions. Nouns exhibit three principal case forms:

Raf‘ (الرفع) – the nominative case. Its primary marker is the ḍammah (ُ). Example: جَاءَ الطَّالِبُ "The student came."

Naṣb (النصب) – the accusative case. Its primary marker is the fatḥah (َ). Example: رَأَيْتُ الطَّالِبَ "I saw the student."

Jarr (الجر) – the genitive case, which is unique to nouns. Its primary marker is the kasrah (ِ). Example: مَرَرْتُ بِالطَّالِبِ "I passed by the student."

Types of i‘rāb (explicit and estimated). The grammatical endings of nouns are not always visibly pronounced. Therefore, i‘rāb is divided into two categories: Explicit I‘rāb (الإعراب اللفظي) – the case ending is clearly visible in both pronunciation and writing, as in the examples above.

Estimated I‘rāb (الإعراب التقديري) – the case ending cannot be pronounced because of the phonetic nature of the final letter, so it is understood mentally rather than expressed aloud. Examples include maqṣūr nouns ending in alif, such as: مُوسَى (Mūsā) and manqūṣ nouns ending in yā’, such as: القَاضِي (al-Qāḍī). Example: جَاءَ مُوسَى "Moses came." Here, مُوسَى functions as the subject (fā‘il) and is therefore in the nominative case. However, the ḍammah is not pronounced because the word ends in alif. Consequently, it is described as being "nominative with an estimated ḍammah."

The theory of binā’ and mabni words. The lexical meaning of binā’ (البناء) is "construction" or "building." Grammatically, it refers to the fixed state of a word whose ending remains unchanged regardless of its syntactic position. Such words are known as mabni. Although mabni words occupy different grammatical functions within a sentence, their forms do not change. In Arabic grammar, this phenomenon is described as mahallan (في محلّ), meaning "occupying the grammatical position of." Example: كَتَبَ هَذَا "He wrote this."

In this sentence, the demonstrative pronoun هَذَا functions as the object and therefore occupies the accusative position. Nevertheless, its form remains unchanged, ending in sukūn. Consequently, grammarians describe it as "mabni in the accusative position" (مبني في محل نصب).

CONCLUSION

The study of the theory of mu‘rab and mabni words provides a comprehensive understanding of both the syntactic and morphological structure of the Arabic language. Based on the analysis conducted in this study, several conclusions can be drawn.

First, the concepts of mu‘rab and mabni determine the degree to which words establish syntactic and semantic relationships within a sentence.

Second, nouns are inherently mu‘rab, since they perform various grammatical functions—such as subject, object, adverbial complement, and modifier—and these functions are distinguished through changes in their case endings. In contrast, verbs are fundamentally mabni, with the notable exception of the imperfect verb (fi‘l al-muḍāri‘), which undergoes syntactic inflection and may appear in the indicative (marfū‘), subjunctive (manṣūb), or jussive (majzūm) moods. Particles, on the other hand, are invariably mabni, serving as grammatical connectors or carriers of semantic meaning without undergoing inflection.

A thorough understanding of this theory is indispensable for the accurate syntactic analysis of Arabic texts, especially classical literary and religious works, and for ensuring correct pronunciation and interpretation.

REFERENCES

1. Ibn Aqil. Sharḥ Ibn Aqil ‘alā Alfiyyat Ibn Mālik. Cairo: Dār al-Turāth, 2004.
2. Mustafa al-Ghalayini. Jāmi‘ al-Durūs al-‘Arabiyyah. Beirut: Al-Maktabah al-‘Aṣriyyah, 2011.
3. Ne’matulloh Ibrohimov, Mukhtorjon Arabov. Arabic Grammar (Syntax). Tashkent: Sharq Publishing House, 2008.
4. Abduhamid Nurmonov. History of Arabic Linguistics. Tashkent: O‘qituvchi Publishing House, 2002.
5. Al-Rajihi, Abduh. Al-Taṭbīq al-Naḥwī. Beirut: Dār al-Nahḍah al-‘Arabiyyah, 1999.