

Selected Aspects of Arabic Linguistic Thought and Structuralism through the Lens of Abdul-Rahman Al-Hajj Saleh's Modern Khalilian Theory

جوانب مختارة من الفكر اللغوي العربي والبنوية من خلال النظرية الخليلية الحديثة
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Received: 28/1/2026

Accepted: 4/3/2026

ABSTRACT:

Keywords:

- *MKT*
- *Morpheme*
- *Position*
- *Analogical Reasoning*
- *Grammaticality of Expression*
- *Ancient Arab Linguists*
- *Structuralists*

This paper investigated four linguistic issues out of the nine that were included in the Modern Khalilian Theory (MKT) of Abdul-Rahman Al-Hajj Saleh (1927-2017). These four issues are: morpheme, position, analogical reasoning and grammaticality of expression. Each issue was examined by viewing and comparing the perspectives of both Ancient Arab Linguists (AAL) and Structuralists. This qualitative study answered four questions and adopted the comparative descriptive approach. The results revealed complete similarity between the two sides with regard to the concept of position and the potentiality of its voidness. A convergence also emerged in the other three issues, though not a complete one.

الملخص:

- الكلمات المفتاحية:
- النظرية الخليلية الحديثة
 - اللفظة
 - الموضع
 - القياس
 - استقامة الكلام
 - اللغويين العرب القدماء والبنويين

تناولت هذه الورقة أربع قضايا لغوية من بين تسع قضايا تم تضمينها في النظرية الخليلية الحديثة لعبد الرحمن الحاج صالح (1927-2017). هذه القضايا الأربع هي: اللفظة، والموضع، والقياس، واستقامة الكلام. وقد تمت دراسة كل قضية من خلال عرض ومقارنة وجهات نظر كل من اللغويين العرب القدماء والبنويين. أجابت هذه الدراسة النوعية على أربعة أسئلة، واعتمدت المنهج الوصفي المقارن. وأظهرت النتائج تشابهاً تاماً بين الفريقين فيما يتعلق بمفهوم الموضع وإمكانية خلوّه. وقد برز تقارب أيضاً في القضايا الثلاث الأخرى، وإن لم يكن كاملاً.

Introduction

This paper seeks to conduct a comparative study between the perspectives of Ancient Arab Linguists (AAL henceforth) and Structuralists on some pivotal linguistic issues such as morpheme, position, analogical reasoning and grammaticality of speech. The aim is to reveal all aspects of similarities and differences between the two pioneering schools, and the extent of parallelism or divergence between the traditional Arab approach and its counterpart, the structuralist approach. It is obvious that comparative studies on such sensitive topics are not easy to achieve, and they constitute a challenge for researchers. However, it has become imperative for interested researchers to face this challenge. According to Qaddoor (2008), Bloomfield called on scholars to tend to compare different languages, especially with regard to grammar and structures, in order to identify the linguistic features that are widely spread.

Since ancient times, language has received wide attention from the sophists and linguists, because of its indispensable role in the formation of human thought, the transfer of knowledge and the interdependence of cultures through the ages. Since its early stages, the Arabic linguistic heritage has been distinguished by remarkable efforts in analyzing linguistic phenomena, where many Arab linguists have emerged and presented deep vision in multiple linguistic issues, one of those linguists was the Dr. Abdul-Rahman Al-Hajj Saleh.

The Algerian pioneer of modern Arabic linguistics, Dr. Abdul-Rahman Al-Hajj Saleh, (1927-2017) managed to delve into the profundity of linguistics, as he succeeded in holding on to the ancient linguistic heritage from its main sources. He studied the legacy of Al-Khalil Bin Ahmed Al-Farahidi when he studied the Khalilian Theory and paid attention to all its grammatical and phonetic aspects, but he gave a wider field for grammatical issues by clarifying them to researchers after him, because they are more widespread, important and easier to compare with their counterparts in other languages.

The Modern Khalilian Theory (MKT henceforth) constitutes a pioneering step in the field of Arabic linguistics. Its founder, Abdul-Rahman Al-Hajj Saleh, addressed nine linguistic concepts from the book of Al-Khalil bin Ahmed Al-Farahidi, which were discussed in detail, supported by examples and illustrations. In the current paper, the researcher has chosen four of those linguistic concepts, namely, (morpheme, position, analogical reasoning, and grammaticality of speech), for the purpose of comparing them with their counterparts among Structuralists to build up new findings focusing on defining, explaining and interpreting each of these concepts and clarifying what the Arab grammarians and the Structuralists offered in an easy, accessible and clear style.

Statement of the Problem

In the realm of general linguistics, there are main issues which languages depend on, such as the issues of structure, vocabulary and sounds which are at the core of studying and analyzing any language. As a consequence, ancient Arab scholars, such as Al-Farahidi (100-170 AH), Sibawayh (148-180 AH), and Ibn Jinni (322-392 AH) developed sophisticated grammatical and phonological theories rooted in the analysis of Classical Arabic. Centuries later, Structuralist linguists like Ferdinand de Saussure (1916), Leonard Bloomfield (1933), and Roman Jakobson (1987) laid the foundations for modern linguistic theory, emphasizing the systematic and relational nature of language.

This study concentrates on the four selective linguistic issues viz. *the morpheme, the position, analogical reasoning and grammaticality of speech*. It separately discusses and deal with each one of them in depth, showing their linguistic characteristics according to both AAL and Structuralists. In addition, it depicts the convergences and divergences between these two prominent linguistic schools.

What literature provides are dispersed perspectives on the intended linguistic issues like: morpheme, position, analogical reasoning and grammaticality of speech. However, combining such different view presents a huge challenge facing researchers who need concerted effort to research in ancient heritage and the extent to which two languages have similar structures. Moreover, they require transition between books and transcripts so as to find the convergences and diversities between the two targeted languages.

What triggered the researcher to conduct the current study is the lack of linguistic studies that are interested in contrasting certain linguistic notions in languages descending from different language families. To the best of the researcher's knowledge, the absence of comparative studies based on MKT leaves unresolved questions about the possibility of theoretical convergence, complementarity, or divergence between these schools of thought. Therefore, this study aims to fill this gap by conducting a comparative analysis of selected linguistic issues, such as morpheme, position, analogical reasoning and grammaticality of speech, between AAL and Structuralists, using MKT as the analytical lens. This approach will not only contribute to theoretical linguistics but also pave the way for intercultural dialogue in the philosophy of language.

This study might meet the needs of researchers and higher studies learners who are curious of such linguistic issues, since it represents a modern source in the realm of linguistics. In addition, it might help researchers to concentrate at least on the Arabic linguistic treasures that are hidden in the old transcripts and discover to what extent there is compatibility with global linguistics. Also, the higher studies learners, whether current or future, might find this study helpful in that it draws their attention to the linguistic areas that they must focus, know and learn about.

Objectives of the Study

This study aims at:

- Examining the perspectives of both AAL and Structuralists on the concept of morpheme.
- Exploring the notion of syntactic position as perceived by AAL as well as Structuralists.
- Examining to what extent there is a convergence between AAL and Structuralists in terms of analogical reasoning phenomenon.
- Examining the importance of grammaticality of speech to both AAL and Structuralists.

Research Questions

In order to fulfil the research objectives, this study aims at answering the following questions:

- What are the perspectives of both AAL and Structuralists on the concept of morpheme?
- What is the notion of syntactic position as perceived by AAL as well as Structuralists?

- To what extent is there a convergence between AAL and Structuralists in terms of analogical reasoning phenomenon?
- What is the importance of grammaticality of speech to both AAL and Structuralists?

Significance of the Study

The current study holds a significant contribution in the field of linguistic theory and comparative linguistics, as it adopts a comparative analysis between eclectic linguistic issues in Arabic and their counterparts in Structuralism, using the frame of MKT. Moreover, it removes the opacity from several linguistic concepts that would not be grasped by less experienced researchers. Furthermore, this treatise exhibits some Arabic linguistic terms which are included in MKT and illustrates the way of tracing their roots and the extent of their comparability to modern structuralist linguistics. In addition, this study will support the Arab libraries with new source of linguistics that revealed the importance and the originality of Arabic language in contrasting with its counterparts.

Literature Review

Introduction

Although the study of language is universal in its subject matter, it has followed distinct cognitive paths across various intellectual traditions. Among the most developed and influential are the system of AAL, which reached its peak between the 8th and 10th centuries, and the European structuralist school, which emerged in the early 20th century. Despite the temporal, geographical, and cultural divergence between the two sides, both were sought to analyze language as a coherent system subjects to rules and boundaries that could not be transcended. The researcher in this review conducts a comparative analysis of four key linguistic issues, the Morpheme (Lafdhah), the Position (Maudhe?), Analogical Reasoning (Qiyas), and Grammaticality of Speech (Istiqamat al-kalaam) as conceptualized by the AAL and the Structuralists.

Theoretical Framework

In this paper, the researcher adopts MKT to be the authorized mediating framework in comparing the four selected linguistic issues between ALL and Structuralists.

The Concept of Modern Khalilian Theory (MKT)

MKT is not simply an idea of a revival of classical grammar but a radical reorganization which assumes that a language is governed by a limited set of patterns. Its pioneer is Abdul Rahman Al-Hajj Saleh (1927-2017). According to Owikeb (2017), MKT is a linguistic extension to theories and views proved by ancient Arab grammarians. Moreover, it stands on Arabic patrimony as well as on Arabic legacy left by the father of Arabic linguistics Al-Khalil Ben Ahmed Al-Farahidi (100-170 AH; 719-789 AD) i.e. almost 1233 years ago. The MKT seeks to analyze the system of language and to study its components. In addition, it tries to revive the principles and concepts placed by Al- Farahidi and his followers of Arab grammarians who followed like Sybawyeesh and others who trailed their track (Masooda, 2021).

In the MKT, Saleh exhibited nine basic concepts among more than 600 linguistic issues in Arabic language included in Al-Khalil's book 'Al-Ain'. According to Kaseema (2017), these concepts are derived from original Arabic linguistic heritage, and they are the closest concepts to modern linguistic concepts. These are as follows: Morpheme (Lafdhah) – position (Maudhe?)– analogical reasoning (Qiyas)– grammaticality of speech (Istiqamat al-

kalaam)– discreteness (Enfisal)– system and usage (Alwaḍḥ wa Al-Esteʿmal)– pattern (Methal)– central and peripheral (Asl wa Farā)– agent (ʿamel).

These aforementioned concepts are considered the essence of the MKT in which it excelled and gained linguistic scientific knowledge with an obvious vision and clear objectives. They also manifest the originality of Arabic linguistics.

Ancient Arab Linguists (AAL)

The AAL are the scholars who germinated the rules of Arabic language and played a pivotal role in regulating and interpreting these rules, including seminal figures like Al-Farahidi, Sibawayh, and Al-Jurjani, The main motive that prompted them to do so was the necessity of preserving the purity of the Arabic language. Their approach was very experimental, based on the words of the Bedouin Arabs, which are considered reliable. Their methodology was both descriptive and prescriptive, aiming to derive basic grammatical rules.

Structuralism

Structuralism is a European school which constitutes one of the most famous intellectual and linguistic movements of the 20th century. It devoted its approach to the study of linguistics, and then moved to other fields of knowledge such as literature, anthropology, criticism, and philosophy. Structuralism emerged as a reaction against individual subjective interpretations of languages and focused on delving into the deep structures that shape cultural, linguistic, and social phenomena. It was pioneered by Ferdinand de Saussure (1916) and developed by others like Leonard Bloomfield (1933). Structuralism marked a shift from historical philology to the synchronic study of language as a self-contained system.

The Perspectives of the Two Sides on the Eclectic Issues

The Morpheme

AAL Perspective: The AAL concept closest to the morpheme is the (Lafḍḥah), which is according to Saleh (2007) the smallest meaningful linguistic unit that accepts a priori, posteriori, and even tautological augmentation. It is typically a tri-consonantal sequence (the root, e.g. k-t-b.) In addition, Qaddoor, (2008), Kareema, Karromi, & Gargoorah (2014) confirmed that morpheme in Arabic language is equivalent to the smallest morphological unit. This root is an abstract semantic core from which words are generated through the application of wazn (morphological patterns or binyān), such as *kataba* (he wrote), *kātib* (writer), *maktab* (office). The analysis is fundamentally meaning-based; the root carries a core meaning, and the pattern contributes grammatical and derivational meaning (Owens, 1988).

Structuralist Perspective: For Structuralists like Bloomfield (1933), the morpheme is the minimum meaningful unit of linguistic analysis. Similarly, Jakobson (1987) defined morpheme as a minimum unit endowed with meaning. In addition, Nemo (2003) confirmed that morphemes are commonly used to refer to infra-lexical semantic units, typically affixes, which are not syntactically autonomous. Its identification is strictly distributional and formal, based on recurring sequences of phonemes. Although they acknowledge the meaning, they consider it secondary. For example, the English plural morpheme {-s} is identified by its distribution after nouns, not by a deep semantic analysis. This approach is resolutely agnostic about any underlying root system.

The Position

AAL Perspective: Arab linguists have highlighted the concept of the morpheme's position in the linguistic structure. Saleh (2007) in MKT pointed that the positions occupied by words are slots that either be filled with words or left empty. It should be noted also that what is meant by the position is not the position of the unit in the speech matrix (the linear string), but rather in the structure of speech (the paradigm). In the same vein, Al-Aqqad (2013) added that the concept of position is one of the most important linguistic topics that deserve to be taken into consideration.

Structuralist Perspective: Structuralist linguistics, which was characterized by openness to other languages and cultures, has gained a great fortune in looking after the concept of the morpheme's position field. Bloomfield (1933) presented an expanded manifestation about the notion and the paramount importance of constituent position based on tagmimic approach for describing language aspects. Structuralism school, despite its focus on the internal system of language (langue), it gives little theoretical room for the actual use of language (parole).

Analogical Reasoning

AAL Perspective: Analogical Reasoning (Al-Qiyas) is the cornerstone of AAL methodology, as they commonly utilized it as an important mechanism to determine grammatical rules and fill in gaps in language. According to Saleh (2007), analogy is a procedural parity between the linguistic elements in the two dimensions (the paradigm and the syntagm). AAL dealt with 'analogical reasoning' by attaching a branch to a root or carrying or corresponding a thing on another thing.

Structuralist Perspective: Structuralists like Bloomfield (1933) also used analogy as a descriptive, psychological phenomenon observed in language use (e.g., children forming plurals like foots by analogy to cats). It was not a methodological principle for creating rules. In fact, Structuralists emphasis on pure observation made them wary of the mentalism implicit in AAL's analogical reasoning.

Grammaticality of Speech

AAL Perspective: Al- Istiqamah or the grammaticality of speech is the ideal state of speech that adheres to the established grammatical norms. It is axiomatic that speech is made up of segregated components that are formed and ordered to be in final shape. In other words, the production of a correct and sound speech should be semantically and syntactically right (Saleh, 2007). Not far from the target, Sybawyeen in his book, (See Haroon, 1988) divided speech into different types: good rect (Mustaqeem Hasan), unacceptable/meaningless rect, (Mustaqeem Muhal), irregular rect (Mustaqeem Kabeeh), and false rect (Mustaqeem Kadheb). As for the unacceptable/meaningless rect, it is something that is paradoxical or that the mind is unable to accept, such as ["أنتيتك غدا"] (I came to you tomorrow). As for the irregular rect, it is that which contradicts the generally accepted structures such as [أنا زيدا قد رأيت] (I Zaid have seen).

Structuralist Perspective: Precise and disciplined communication is fundamental in the eyes of structuralists, as their field relies heavily on accuracy, logical coherence and discourse clarity. Saussure (1916) pointed out the importance of the grammaticality of speech, which requires knowledge of the language rules, since without them, speech would be neither meaningful nor important, or it might be almost unacceptable. He added that the

importance of the grammaticality of the language is to be coincided to the reality, and that the linguistic expression must be accurately chosen.

MKT has been the focus of many works in the literature. For example, Mutahary (2009) manifested the paramount importance of MKT for Arabic linguistic as a scientific curriculum comprehended accuracy, clarity and stability of linguistic objectives. Similarly, Bodrama (2018) and Ataouat & Bouafia (2021) studied the nine linguistic concepts in a skilled way without comparing them to any linguistic school, they concentrated on linguistic concepts and explained them in detail to demonstrate their importance in rooting Arab heritage and thought. They praised MKT's combination of authenticity and modernity. They also warned against neglecting the ancient Arabic linguistic heritage and called for clinging to the Arabic linguistic patrimony. To bring the lens closer, two works shared this study partially with one or two of the four linguistic issues, for example, Owens (1988), delved deeply into the logical and philosophical underpinnings of Arabic grammar, especially the concept of position. He often implicitly contrasts its mentalistic nature with post-Bloomfieldian structuralism. The position (Mawḍiʿ) of a word in a sentence is often determined by its governing factor. Similarly, Carter and Versteegh (1990) directly addressed the concept of the "morpheme" from a Khalilian perspective, discussing the definition and structure and how it differs from the Bloomfieldian morpheme. They also emphasized that morpheme is the smallest unit holding a meaning. Moreover, they went to prove this claim that the meaning of a word can be broken down into smaller units (components) whose total meaning is the sum of these parts. This contradicts what the MKT proves through its pioneer, Abdul Rahman Al-Hajj Saleh (2007). Despite the valuable contributions for the aforementioned works, the literature- to the humble knowledge of the researcher- still lacks the studies that compare such linguistic concepts to their counterparts in western linguistics. Therefore, the researcher strongly believes that comparison in the linguistics field is one of the urgent exigencies that exhibit the tenacity of cultures.

Methodology

Design and Data Collection

As mentioned earlier, this study aims to compare two sides' perspectives via the lens of MKT as a theoretical framework. Merriam and Tisdell (2016) asserted that mining data from documents and artefacts is considered a source of qualitative research. To this end, the researcher has adopted the comparative descriptive method which is strongly recommended by Qaddoor (2008) who posited that studying a particular linguistic phenomenon like: morphemes, sentences and structures within particular limits is a descriptive study that belongs to descriptive linguistics.

With regard to the comparative method, Qaddoor maintained that this method scientifically tackles two languages, dialects or levels of speech in order to find the objective convergences and divergences between them. Therefore, the researcher in the current study traced the relevant data and showed it from its original sources so as to make a fair comparison in the four intended linguistic issues, viz., morpheme, position, analogical reasoning, and grammaticality of speech.

Study Sample

The researcher purposefully benefited from a number of sources relevant to the two sides like the books of Al-Farahidi and Sybawyeen from AAL side and Saussure, and Bloomfield from Structuralism side employing the MKT as a focal source for the comparison between the two sides.

The Guideline Method

The researcher adopted the MKT as a framework and as a mediating point to measure and study each concept by comparing the views of each side to the other's, illustrating the convergences and the divergences in a reasonable and justified way to show the scientific contributions of each side. The researcher sailed through the documents of each side looking for the concepts covered by the study in order to display, distinguish, define, and interpret.

Results, Discussion, and Analysis

In this section the researcher exerted copious efforts to combine the perspectives of the two linguistic sides regarding the four linguistic issues under investigation i.e. morpheme, position, analogical reasoning, and grammaticality of speech, as he narrated the details of the convergences and divergences to completely surround the reader with full information about those linguistic issues.

The Concept of Morpheme

The term *morpheme* (Lafdhah) has gained a special importance among Arab linguists who are enthusiastic about studying linguistic structures. Al-Jahiz (159-255 AH) was one of the AAL who paid a lot of attention to the issue of morpheme. He confirmed that the sound is the instrument of the utterance, (Al-Jahiz, 1998). Therefore, the movement of the tongue will not constitute morpheme or balanced speech, unless the sound that takes its way to the hearing is clearly and intelligibly produced. In the same vein, Saleh (2007) asserted that each signified utterance is a *morpheme*. In addition, Qaddoor (2008) confirmed that the morpheme in Arabic language corresponds to the "morphological unit". Similarly, Kareema, Karromi, and Gargoorah (2014) described morpheme as the basic building block in the sentence structure which leads to the construction of speech in its final form. It is therefore the smallest construction unit with influential linguistic denotation in the establishment of linguistic system.

The Classifications of Morpheme in Arabic Linguistics

According to Qaddor (2008) and Al-Sumaidai (2021), morphemes are classified as follows:

- 1- Free morpheme (المورفيم الحر) is the morpheme that stands alone as an independent unit in the language with no need for supporter. Its nomenclature emerges from two reasons; the first is its appearance lonely without assistance. The second is that it never loses its function whenever it changed within the sentence like the word *yesterday* in the following sentences:
Ali went to school *yesterday*. *Yesterday*, Ali went to school.

- 2- Bound morpheme (المورفيم المقيد) is the morpheme that appears with another morpheme during speech, and it cannot stand alone but rather should be attached to another free or bound morpheme. For example:
Alif and *taa* which indicate the sound feminine plural like *muslimaat* (مسلمات)
'Muslims (female plural)'
Waaw and *noon* which indicate the sound masculine plural like *muslimoon* (مسلمون) 'Muslims (male plural)'
- 3- Zero morpheme (المورفيم المستتر) which is the morpheme that has no overt form but it is the underlying representation in mind. It is sometime comes, estimated or omitted for a particular linguistic purpose. For instance: the pronoun *hwa* (هو) 'he' in the verb *hadhara* (حضر) 'attended'.

From a Structuralists perspective, a *morpheme* is a minimal unit which constitutes the speech stream. It is worth noting that the term *morpheme* was coined by Jan Baudouin de Courtenay in 1880 and has become widely known through its use in 1916 by Saussure who announced categorically the view that morpheme constitutes minimal sign that has parallel atomic sound-meaning pairings (Nemo, 2003). Similarly, Prague Group placed a definition for *morpheme* as the smallest meaningful unit bound to the word, and therefore not displaceable (Vachek, 2000). Moreover, according to Bloomfield's lenses, *morpheme* is a small segment or sign that is stored in the lexicon (Bloomfield, 1933).

The Classification of Morpheme in Structuralism

According to Bloomfield (1933) and Bolinger (1948), there are three types of morpheme, namely:

1. Free morpheme, which refers to the word that can stand alone, and function independently as words e.g. (town, dog) and can appear within lexemes e.g. (doghouse).
2. Bound morpheme, which appears only as a part of words, always in conjunction with a root and sometimes with other bound morphemes. For example, *un-* appears only accompanied by other morphemes to form a word. Most bound morphemes in English are affixes, specifically prefixes and suffixes. Examples of suffixes are *-tion*, *-sion*, *-tive*, *-ation*, *-ible*, and *-ing*. Bound morphemes that are not affixed are called cranberry morphemes.
3. Zero or null morpheme is a type of morpheme that carries semantic meaning but is not represented by auditory phonemes. They are often represented by /Ø/ within glosses. Generally, this type of morphemes has no visible changes. For instance, *sheep* is both the singular and the plural form. The intended meaning is thus derived from the Co- occurrence determiner, "some-" or "a-".

The multilateral views of AAL and Western Structuralists are painstakingly integrated to describe the morpheme as the smallest unit with linguistic meaning and function. Arab Linguists were famous for having superior mental abilities, which showed the accuracy of the linguistic description of the term. They confirmed that the morpheme is a unit that can be extended by increase (under certain conditions) (Saleh, 2007). Similarly, the Structuralists went to adopt this idea as it is. This means that there is rapprochement between Arabs and Structuralists in terms of morpheme extension. However, Structuralists

go beyond the limits of the morpheme by reducing it to smaller units that are inevitably based on each other (Hockett 1954).

Conversely, there are some differences that have emerged between the Structuralists and the Arab linguists when dealing with morpheme. For instance, the extravagance of dismemberment of linguistic structures that happened by Structuralists under the processes of (morpheme-based morphology) which makes use of (item and arrangement). In morpheme-based morphology, word forms are analysed as arrangements of morphemes. In a word such as *independently*, the morphemes are said to be [in-, depend, -ent, and -ly;] *depend* is the (bound) root and the other morphemes are, in this case, derivational affixes. See the morpheme-based tree for the word (independently)



After presenting the two sides' views regarding morpheme, the researcher believes that the Structuralists did not adhere to the definition authorized to this linguistic unit by their pioneers as the smallest unit with meaning and function, but rather went too far in cutting and dividing morpheme into small segments that are unique only in the linguistic function and abandon the meaning that is inherent to it. However, AAL, on their part, adhered to the definition they proposed for the morpheme as the smallest meaningful unit and did not go beyond it for any unjustified division or additions. They showed their opposition to the idea of structuralists, led by Hajj Saleh (2007), and considered any additions to the morpheme to be mere 'components' which is attached to a word, such as (*alif* 'a' in *dhariib* and *mim* 'm' in *maktab*) (Saleh, 2007). Among the non-Arabs, Chomsky (1957) also opposed the ideas of Structuralists when he said that their tendency was taxonomic and not interpretive, and he criticized all the structural approaches that were commonly used in Europe and America, as he considered these approaches descriptive, taxonomic, and static (describing linguistic structures and analyzing them in a formal way, ignoring meaning). In spite of refuting this notion from Arabs and generativists, it has strong advocacy from Martinet (1960) claiming that such segmentation is economic and enables language users to communicate easily since it is appropriate to the needs and capabilities of human beings.

As long as the focus is on morpheme, new insights that go beyond Saleh (2007) to demonstrate the importance of the study and help in employing a new contribution in the same field must be highlighted. According to Bybee (2010), the idea of what is called Dual-Level Representation emerged in the field of Psycholinguistics and Neurolinguistics, in which Bybee postulates that the morpheme is cognitively stored in memory as a functional operator. This idea goes beyond the idea of denotation that Saleh (2007) came up with, as it is used as processing and deployment dynamics.

The Concept of Position in Syntax

Arab linguists have highlighted the concept of the morpheme's *position* in the linguistic structure for the sake of its great importance. Such great grammarians and linguists paid attention to this concept and lavished it with logical, rational and scientific explanations. Saleh (2016) confirmed that the *positions* occupied by words are slots that are either filled with words or left empty. It should be noted also that what is meant by the *position* is not the position of the unit in the speech matrix, but rather in the construction of speech. Also, he added that it is a covert considerable space which does not appear in syntagmatic dimension unless it is occupied by linguistic unit. Al-Aqqad (2013) confirmed that the concept of position is one of the most important linguistic topics that deserve to be taken into consideration. Moreover, the position does not have to be changed with changing the speech, like the position of the object in the sentence *raaitu Zaidan* and *Zaidan raaitu* 'I saw Zaid'. It is worth noting, however, that the majority of late grammarians did not realize the importance of the position, (Saleh, 2007).

In the same stream, European linguistics, which have been keen to learn about other languages and cultures in the world surrounding them, have taken a great share in the concept of the morpheme's position field. Pike (1982) defined *position* as a slot in tagmemic system, which is the correlation of a syntagmatic function (e.g. subject, object) and paradigmatic fillers (e.g. nouns, pronouns or proper nouns as possible fillers of the subject).

There is a great similarity and natural affinity between Structuralists and Arab linguists in terms of highlighting the issue of *position*. According to what Saussure (1916) said about the notion and the importance of the position, which is the center of attention for linguists, Robins (1997) confirmed that there is an intimate relationship between the morpheme and the position at which it is placed, and this relationship becomes manifested in the context of speech. Bloomfield (1933) also provided decent account about the notion and the paramount importance of constituent position based on tagmemic approach for describing language aspects.

Concerning the *possibility of voiding the position* (إمكانية خلو الموضع) which was clearly emerged among the Arab linguists and the European Structuralists, their viewpoints were oriented towards its center from all sides. Notwithstanding, the fact that there is some convergence between them, there is also some difference, albeit in a relative way, due to the different linguistic systems on which they measure their applications (Al-Aqqad 2013). According to Zahra (2019), it is possible for the place in the Arabic sentence to be blank in most cases, but it is understood from the context. In the example of the word "by a book," [بكتاب] the *position* of the definite article is present in consideration between the *ba* and the *kitab*, as the definite article [ال] 'the' may appear when necessary.

It was confirmed by Saleh (2007) that the absence of the necessary word from needful place affects the understanding of speech, for example, the verb must have a noun in the Arabic language and this is what distinguishes it from other languages. If I said "is at home", the listener would ask a clarification request saying *who*? Because having this place empty is not permissible. Al-Aqqad (2013) says European languages are concerned with the integrity of structures and give space to the issue of vacancy of the position, but it is not possible to vacate the position of the **verb** - which is considered necessary. Even if

the sentence seems semantically sound like *Ahmed in the home*, it is an ill-formed English sentence. Robins (1997) also asserts that there are constituents that may be absent from the context while keeping their places empty; these places are called *zero representations* or *zero elements*.

According to Pike (1982), the structure of the sentence is divided roughly into (slots) some of which are indispensably filled with suitable fillers, these fillers according to *tagmemic* analysis are compulsory and should not to be relinquished.

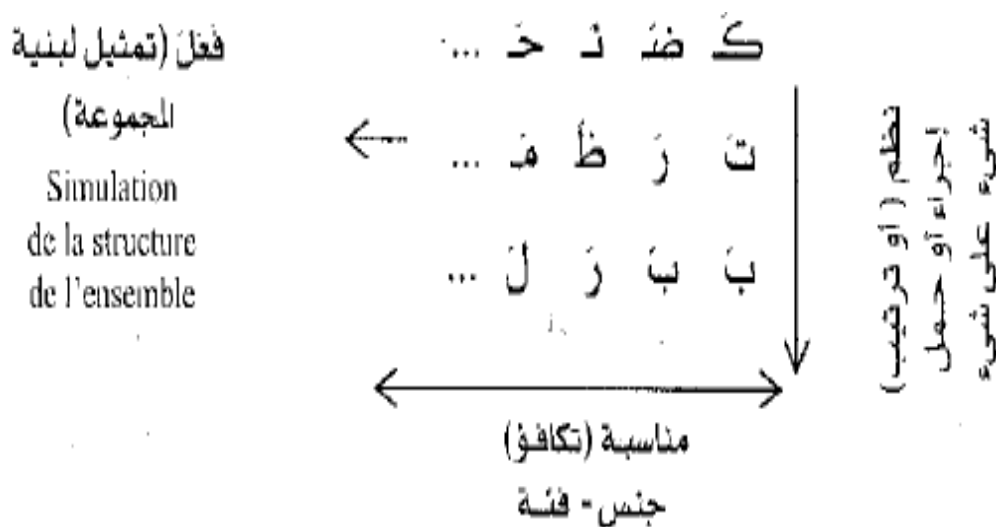
After discussing the concept of position and its voidness, the researcher has found a common ground between the two sides (AAL and Structuralists), as both of them see, deal with, and give importance of the concept of position and its voidness in the same pace.

Given the importance of position in syntax, it must be pointed out that some studies that followed Saleh's (2007) exhibited similar findings, particularly in Arabic. Among these is the study conducted by Fassi Fehri (2012), which confirmed that spatial slot is permissible only when morphological or contextual indicators compensate for the absence of an apparent filler word. This supports the stereotypical interpretations that distinguish Arabic from languages with stricter word order, such as English. Similarly, comparative studies by Aoun and Choueiri (2010) and O'Halla (2011) confirmed that the permissibility of spatial slot is rooted in Arabic's rich morphological system, not in a fundamentally different grammatical structure. In conclusion, these studies collectively demonstrate a strong convergence with the views of both AAL and Structuralists, confirming that position is a fundamental organizational principle whose existence—whether full or blank—is crucial to grammatical interpretation across linguistic traditions.

Analogical Reasoning

Linguistic structures are considered the elements which constitute the dynamic linguistic system. The early manifestation of such elements was by Arab grammarians and linguists who have made great and wide contributions a long time ago (Saleh, 2007). Al-Farahidi was the first one who put the idea of using the two linguistic axes, *the substitutive* and *the synthetic*, which are known today as Saussurian dimensions (syntagm and paradigm) that comprehend the direct relationship between parts of the sentence. Also, the AAL dealt with those dimensions and utilized them in their application of analogy (carrying a thing on another thing), which corresponds to the paradigm, and (linear arrangement of the structure), which corresponds to the syntagm, (Saleh, 2007).

Saleh (2007) also says the collector between these parts (units) is not the genus, but rather the structure that combines them. This structure cannot be understood by mixing its parts, but rather by combining each part with its counterpart taking into consideration that each part must take its right position (under certain tests). Grammarians then pay attention to the necessity of both axes (syntagmatic and paradigmatic) in connected speech to come to analyzing the common traits of structure. Qaddoor (2008) emphasized that there is a necessity for looking to the two dimensions at the same time and never deal with one of them separately.



Adopted from Saleh (2007)

Regarding to those tests, Naseema (2018) exhibited two of them in her study on the syntactic structure of the sentence, as follows:

1. The substitution test: (substitution) by replacing one morpheme with another morpheme (paradigmatically). It is a test that helps to reveal the elements of the linguistic system and the structural family to which it belongs.
2. The permutation test whose role lies in revealing the horizontal relationships in the sentence, and many researchers relied on it (syntagmatically).

Saussure, (the father of European linguistics), worked hard to develop a special approach upon which their school depends in analyzing the sentence, not as a horizontal line or a string of words, but as a gradual structure of layers in which each layer comes under a layer in divisions into smaller and larger units called morphemes (Naseema, 2018). Saussure's contribution to the field of linguistics is to highlight these two dimensions (syntagmatic and paradigmatic).

1. Syntagm is the linear or concatenative pattern of linguistic objects.
2. Paradigm is a group of linguistic objects that have similarities and can replace one another in a syntagm, See the following Table.

Paradig	Her (My, His, ..)	son	sat	on	the	chair
		Ali	works	at	a	bank (hospital, factory, ...)
	Many	students	Wrote (love, hate,			assignments
Syntagm						

Generally speaking, for the importance of the linguistic dimensions, the linguist Roman Jakobson (1987) suggested that we can understand language functions through the phenomena of interaction of paradigmatic and syntagmatic axes of language.

Based on the provided perspectives from the two sides regarding analogical reasoning, the researcher sees that both of them recognize the fundamental importance of syntagmatic (linear arrangement) and paradigmatic (substitutive) axes in linguistic analysis. Arab grammarians, notably Al-Farahidi, pioneered these concepts—termed "synthetic" (syntagmatic) and "substitutive" (paradigmatic) axes—long before Saussure formalized them, applying them to analogy (Qiyas) and emphasizing their interdependence in sentence structure (Saleh, 2007; Qaddoor, 2008). Structuralists like Saussure similarly centered analysis on these dimensions, with Naseema (2018) highlighting their operationalization through substitution and permutation tests. While both sides converge on the necessity of these axes, Saleh (2016) critiques Saussure's model, proposing multiple vertical axes to address syntagmatic complexity—an amendment underscoring the Arab contribution's nuance beyond mere precedence. Jakobson (1987) further universalizes the axes' significance in language function. Likewise, Owens's (1990) study provided a detailed analysis of the development of Arabic grammatical theory in its early centuries. It examined how concepts like (Qiyas) were debated and standardized among different schools (Basran, Kufan), offering a deeper historical context for the Arab grammarians' contributions to structural analysis beyond the specific figures mentioned in the comparison. This study touched upon the foundational ideas related to paradigmatic relationships.

Grammaticality of Speech (Integrity of Speech)

It is axiomatic that speech is made up of structural components with small parts that are formed and ordered. In order for the speech to be rect and correct, it should be semantically and syntactically right (Saleh, 2007). Long before, Sybawyeen (See Haroon, 1988) in his book devoted a separate section for this topic *grammaticality and unacceptability/meaninglessness* (بلب الإستقامة والإحالة) in which he divided the produced speech into four types: *Mustageem hasan* 'good rect, *Mustageem muhal* 'unacceptable/meaningless rect, *Mustageem gabeeh* 'irregular rect and *Mustageem kadheb* 'false rect. As for *Mustageem hasan* 'good rect, it is the semantically and syntactically right speech like: [أتيتك أمس] 'I came to you yesterday'. As for the *Mustageem muhal* 'unacceptable/meaningless rect, it is something that is paradoxical or that the mind is unable to accept in spite of its grammatical integrity, such as [أتيتك غدا] 'I came to you tomorrow'. As for *Mustageem gabeeh* 'ugly rect, it is that which contradicts the generally accepted structures such as [أنا زياد قد رأيت] 'I Ziad have seen'. Finally, as *Mustageem kadheb* 'false rect, it is the type that is syntactically right but semantically wrong or impossible to be implemented like [شربت البحر] 'I drank the sea'.

In general terms, paying heed to the integrity of speech, and using accuracy in selecting the expressions during discourse lead the speaker to produce a type of speech which is called euphemism. It is worth mentioning that Ibn Jinni (322-392 AH) was the first one who pointed to the term *euphemism* when he distinguished between the integrity of the pronunciation and the integrity of the meaning. In addition, he overemphasized the speaker's skillful selectivity of appropriate words that concord the discourse (Kareema,

Karromi & Gargoorah 2014). Likewise, Lyons (1981) confirmed that people use euphemism to avoid the use of taboo words and expressions. These taboos are socially and culturally offensive if they are used in everyday life situations.

In the light of what has been mentioned, the Structuralism school have emphasized that speech should be easy, straight and comprehensible between the speaker and the hearer during the discourse. Therefore, they must have shared background knowledge for any communication to produce successful discourse (Bloomfield, 1933). Saussure (1916) pointed out the importance of the grammaticality of speech, which requires knowledge of the language rules, since without them, speech would be neither meaningful nor important, or it might be almost impossible. He added that the importance of the grammaticality of the language is to be coincided to the reality, and that the linguistic expression must be accurately chosen. In the same vein, Bloomfield (1933) pointed out that if the speech utterance has no meaningful and righteous purpose, it will inevitably be trivial and unimportant. It might have downplayed the significance of language if it is used in wrong destination.

After viewing the perspectives of the two sides, AAL and Structuralists, the researcher acknowledges that both of them emphasized the "grammaticality of speech" (semantic-syntactic integrity) as essential for effective communication. Sibawayh classified speech into four types: Mustageem hasan (grammatically and semantically correct), Mustageem muhal (logically impossible), Mustageem gabeeh (structurally deviant), and Mustageem kadheb (semantically false), highlighting the interplay of grammatical form and meaning. In addition, Ibn Jinni extended this to euphemism, stressing the speaker's role in selecting contextually appropriate expressions. Similarly, Structuralism pioneers, Saussure and Bloomfield underscored common linguistic knowledge and adherence to language rules for coherent discourse, warning that deviations render speech trivial or incomprehensible. Both teams converge on the necessity of pragmatic alignment between linguistic structure, semantic accuracy, and contextual appropriateness.

From the extensive discussion of the four linguistic issues, it was found that there are similarities and differences between the two sides under investigation. As for the *morpheme*, there is a great similarity with regard to its definition, concept and classifications. However, there is a difference in how it is handled, in that Structuralists extravagantly dismember the morpheme into small segments that may caused it to lose its meaning or morphological functional. This deviates it form their own definition of the morpheme as the smallest functional and meaningful unit. Such segmentation is unacceptable for the AAL who see such small units as mere 'components' rather than morphemes like *alif* 'a' in *dḥarib* and *mim* 'm' in *maktab*, because they have no inherent meaning if they are segregated from the original root.

With regard to the issue of the *position*, the two sides completely agree on its importance, the possibility of it being void and its stability (i.e. it does not change if the speech changes). The difference, however, resides in the emphasis that AAL have on the necessity that there should be a noun (doer) for each verb (action), while Structuralists do not emphasize such a necessity.

There is a great extent of similarity between the two sides in the concept of dimensions of linguistic structure (paradigm and syntagm). This similarity stems from dealing with these

axes together, without segregating one from the other. Nevertheless, Saleh (2007) suggested that the paradigmatic axis should be seen as composed of more than one paradigm due to the fact that each position could represent a separate paradigm.

For the grammaticality of speech, there is a consensus between both AAL and Structuralists on the importance of the correctness and integrity of speech. Yet, Arabs have dealt with it in more details. Sybawyeesh classified it into: : *Mustageem hasan* ‘good rect’, *Mustageem muhaal* ‘unacceptable/meaningless rect’, *Mustageem gabeeh* ‘irregular rect’ and *Mustageem kadheb* ‘false rect’, while the documents of the other side-to the humble knowledge of the researcher- did not manifest any compatible divisions.

Conclusion

To conclude, this paper has explored a number of linguistic concepts, including the relationship between the morpheme and its position within the axes of linguistic structures as well as its role in the grammaticality of speech in the perspectives of both AAL and structuralists. It has also highlighted the origins of ancient Arabic linguistics to demonstrate its uniqueness in addressing the four linguistic issues discussed in this paper more than 1300 years ago by pioneers like Al-Farahidi and Sybawyeesh.

Recommendations and Suggestions for Further Studies

Depending on the findings of the current study, the researcher poses the following recommendations and suggestions for further studies:

It is recommended for the upcoming researchers to continue applying the principles of the MKT especially when examining the relationship between AAL thought and modern linguistic schools. This integration assists to highlight the scientific and methodological depth of AAL, while aligning their ideas with modern linguistic paradigms. In addition, it is advisable to develop a unified framework of linguistic terminology that harmonizes the concepts used by AAL with those employed by modern structuralists. This would enhance mutual understanding and facilitate interdisciplinary dialogue.

As a suggestion for further research, this paper discussed only four linguistic concepts (Morpheme – position – analogical reasoning, and – grammaticality of speech) among nine concepts in MKT. The residual five concepts needed to be skillfully investigated by any researcher in the future. Moreover, the researcher compared these concepts to the Structuralists, so there is an open horizon to compare the rest with the Generativists or Transformationalists.

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