METALANGUAGE OF A MODERN ARABIC LEXICOGRAPHY

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ABSTRACT

The article describes the situation in metalinguistic structure of a modern Arabic lexicography and raises the problem of doublets and triplets which are present in lexicographical Arabic terminology. Here, we analyze many terms used in scientific Arabic literature which accepted as equivalents to common terms in the 'world' of lexicography. The study tells us that despite having a rich Arabic culture, particularly in practical Arabic lexicography, there is a problem in a unified formulation of modern Arabic lexicographical terms, which in turn points at the incompleteness of the linguistic analysis.

KEYWORDS: Meta-Language, Lexicography, Lexicology, Dictionary

INTRODUCTION

Modern Arabic lexicography has not just one but many pressing issues, especially when it comes to its description. One of the drawbacks of modern Arabic dictionaries is seen when describing a dictionary in its original form, the way we can see it or the way we would like to see it based on the experience of a modern linguistic science such as terms, content, compilation methods, pedagogical, social and cultural functions of the dictionary. In order to conduct a research in any field of science the person should know what calls "meta-language" the language of the field in which he/she will do research in (Malbakov, 1983). Therefore, it is important to know existing predominate concepts and structural terms in a modern Arabic scientific literature.

The Meta language is seen as a "second-order" language in relation to natural human language which is perceived as a subject of a linguistic research. This term initially was originated in math and logic. It was defined as formal language by which properties of a subject and object theories can be researched, described and perceived as a system of inventory terms (Linguistic encyclopedic dictionary, 1990). Thus, Meta linguistic system including its concepts and terminology of a specific field of science are important means of describing the existing pattern. Meta language acts as a reflection of a scientific, conceptual or theoretical principle of scientific discipline and that is why, essential part of it is associated with terminology.

The Meta language of linguistics, on the one hand, is based on a systemic ratio of terms and on the other hand it is based on general scientific vocabulary, i.e. words and phrases needed to describe various aspects of the linguistic research. According to Gvishiani, who performed a research in this field, argues that development of the metalinguistic system is the final stage of linguistic analysis. Gvishiani believes that linguistics can be divided into three aspects: a) the study of language sources b) the formation of concepts, and c) the formation of the meta-language (Gvishiani, 1983). Kazakhstani lexicographers describe the process as follows: 'First, the language sources are introduced to a scientific community then comes formation of concepts starts based on a primary concept. Finally the formed concepts receive names. One of the few

variants which are more close to the term by definition can be used more frequently than others or may prove its superiority from the scientific point of view, so then it can take its place as a term in science' (Malbakov, 2003: 47). Therefore, it's obvious that term variation of the formed concepts used in science indicates incompletion of linguistic analysis staging. This article raises the problem of excessive variation of the terms, doublets and triplets used in relation to the same concept in one field of science as well, as assesses several general lexicographic metalinguistic terms. It is not aimed at providing definition to well-known concept. It is aimed at analyzing the application of lexicographic terms and their definitions in a modern work of Arabic literature. In the second half of the last century many published studies initiated the formation of scientific thesaurus of a modern Arabic lexicography. Scientists such as Husain Nassar, Mahmoud Fahmi Hegazi, Ali al-Qasimi, Ahmad Mukhtar Omar, Mohammed Rashad al-Hamazawi, Abd al-'Āli al-Wadghīrī were the first who raised theoretical and practical problems of the modern Arabic dictionary as well as raised an issue on standardization of lexicographic terms.

Metalanguage in modern linguistics is used to describe a particular concept as well as to study terminology of separate branches of linguistics. In lexicography Meta language means language of description of lexical units, i.e. meta language of a dictionary. In its broadest sense, Meta language in lexicography means a language which covers general lexicographic terms, i.e. meta language of lexicography. General lexicographic meta language structure consists of terms such as lexicography and dictionary (general dictionary / monolingual dictionary / explanatory dictionary, belingual dictionary, multilingual dictionary, etc.).

LEXICOGRAPHY

Modern works on Arabic lexicography do not miss the opportunity to give a contrastive description to terms such as «Lexicography» and «Lexicology» with the obligatory indication of the differences between them. Typically, definitions come from European sources together with translated Arabic quotations. So the problem lays not so much on the existence of broad variations of definitions in foreign sources, but rather in the lack of a unified formulation of those terms in Arabic.

In 1962, the Academy of the Arabic Language in Cairo approved term «المعجميات» as an equivalent for the terms such as "Lexigraphie-Lexicography" and "Lexicologie-Lexicology" with following definition: 'The collection and classification of language lexis regarding its semantic, structural and fundamental qualities' (A set of scientific and technical terminology, 1962: 94). This definition which covers both concepts could not leave Arabic lexicographers indifferent. Professor Muhammad Rashad al-Hamazawi noted that despite close relationship, two concepts represent completely different types of sciences, each of which has its own definitions and objectives. Muhammad Rashad al-Hamazawi considered the term «المعجميات» approved by the Academy the most suitable equivalent for the term "Lexicography". In contrast, due to vastness of this field of science the term "Lexicology" was suggested as an option in the form of artificial Masdar «المعجمية» with the meaning of abstract concept of theoretical science (al-Hamazawi, 1984).

Table 1: Terms Used to Indicate "Lexicography" and "Lexicology" by Several Arabic Authors

Author	Reference	"Lexicography"	"Lexicology"
Prof.Mahmoud FahmiHegazi	Linguistic study(Hegazi)	sinā'a «صناعة المعجمات» al-mu'jamāt	'ilm al- «علم المعجمات» mu'jamāt
Prof. Ahmad Mukhtar Omar	Modern lexicography (Omar, 2009)	«المعجمية» al-mu'jamiya	al-mufradatia «المفرداتية»
Prof. Ali al-Qasimi	Arabic lexicography: theory and practice (al-Qasimi, 2003)	sina'a al- «صناعة المعجم» mu'jam	'ilm al- «علم المعجم» mu'jam

	Table 1: Contd.,		
Prof. HulmiHalil	Practical and theoretical problems of linguistics in the work of Ibn Farisa(Halil, 2009)	«علم المعاجم» ilm al-maʿājim, «علم المعاجم التطبيقي» ilm al-maʿājim at-tatbiqy, «فن صناعة المعاجم» fannsinaʿal-māʿajim	«علم المعاجم النظري» ʿilm al-maʾājiman-nazary
Groups of authors	General glossary of linguistic terms (Unified terminology of linguistics, 1989)	«صناعة المعاجم» sinaʿal-maʿājim, «معجميات» muʿjamiyāt	«دراسة المفردات» dirasa al-mufradāt, «علم متن اللغة» ʿilmmatn al-luga
Prof. Abd as-Salam al-Misaddi	Linguistics dictionary (Misaddi, 2009)	«قاموسية» qāmūsiya	«معجمية» muʾgamia
Groups of authors	Dictionary of terms of a modern linguistics (Glossary of modern linguistics, 1983)	«صناعة المعجم» sinaʿal-muʿjam	«دراسة المفردات» dirasa al-mufradāt
Prof. Ahmad al-ʿĀyed	Concerning the issue on a modern Arabic lexicography (Ayed, 1987)	«المعاجمية» maʾājimiya	«المعجمية» muʿjamiya
Prof. Abd al-Āli al-Wadghiri	Problems of Arabic dictionary(al-Wadghiri, 1989)	«علم الصناعة القاموسية» ʿilm as-sinaʿal-qāmūsiya	«علم دراسة الألفاظ» ʿilmdirāsa al-alfāz

Term «علم المعجم» ʿilmal-muʾgam has following synonyms:

«صناعة المعجمات» sinaʿal-muʿjamāt, «المعجمية» al-muʿjamiya, «المعاجمية» maʿajimia, «علم المعاجم» ilm al-maʿajim, «فن صناعة المعاجم» fannsina'a al-maʿajim, «علم المعاجم التطبيقي»ʿilm al-maʿajim at-tatbiqy, «علم الصناعة القاموسية» ʿilm as-sinaʿal-qāmūsiya. Considering definitions of the term "Lexicography" cited in linguistic encyclopedias we believe that each equivalent suggested by Arabic authors corresponds to the following definitions:

- Theoretical aspect or set of theoretical foundations needed for the development of dictionary

- Practical aspect or the same process of developing a dictionary (Hartmann, 1983)

- Practical art of developing a dictionary (which is not science) is not considered an independent branch of linguistics, but forms a part of semantics (Asher, 1994).

- Theories and methods of developing a dictionary (Svenson, 1993).

If so, then suggested equivalents are more suitable to describe theseconcepts ratherthan their equivalents. Moreover, table 1 shows that it is quite difficult to understand by which criteria distinction was made between the terms «Lexicography» and «Lexicology» as for first version proposed singular form is المعجمية al-muʿjamiya, and for the second version the plural form isالمعاجمية al-ma'ajimia or for both concepts apply equivalents which are considered synonymous in everyday life and are used to indicate the same meaning, i.e. «قاموسية» qāmūsiya, «معجمية» muʿjamiya. Given the original meaning of the terms «Lexicology» (Ancient Greek: *Logos:*"judgment", "the concept") and «Lexicography» (Ancient Greek: *Grafo:*"to write") it would be logical to assume that more closer equivalents received by tracing would be the terms proposed by Prof. M.F. Hijazy and Prof. Alial-Qasimi such as «المعجماتعلم» 'ilmal-mu'jamāt or «علم المعجم» 'ilmal-mu'jam (science dealing with the study of lexis) and «صناعة المعجم» sinā'aal- mu'jamāt«المعجمعلم» 'imal- mu'jam, (registration of examined lexis). On this occasion, Professor Ali al- Qasimi in his book "Theory and practice of Arabic lexicography» defined aforementioned concept as:

«المعجمعلم» 'ilmal-mu'jam a term referring to the science of lexis dealing with the study of spoken words, their

morphological, structural, semantic properties, synonyms, homonyms, phrase ologisms, idioms and expressions and all lexical materials which form a dictionary. The term «صناعة المعجم» sinā'aal- mu'jam indicates the process of compiling the dictionary which is consisted of five major stages: data collection, selection of the glossary, distribution of entries in a particular order, writing the material and the publication of the completed result (al-Qasimi, 2003). According to al-Qasimi, the term«المعجمية», encompasses the meaning of both concepts (al-Qasimi, 2003).

DICTIONARY

The next term which is present in scientific thesaurus in modern Arabic lexicography is «معجم» mu'jam (Dictionary) or 'a book in which lexis is collected and put in alphabetical order' (Intermediate dictionary of Arabic dictionary, 2011: 207). Now a days most of the Arabic dictionaries are called «معجم» mu'jam (Dictionary) regardless of their form and function. Despite the fact that the first Arab dictionaries appeared in VIII century, the term «معجم» mu'jam with the meaning of Dictionary came into use only in the second half of the twentieth century.

As a consequence of the growing interest of Muslims to the Holy Quran, to sayings of the Prophet and desire to clarify the hidden meaning in them (غريبgarib), primary works which represented some kind of a " glossary" intended to clarify hidden lexis of the Quran and Hadith were called «القرآنغريب»garībal-qur'ān or «الحديثغريب»garībal- hadīth. Other works which thematically described the lexis associated with the human body, body parts of camels and other animals, names of plants, military lexis were called «كتاب» kitāb, i.e. "The Book of horses", "The Book of camels ", "The Book of birds", etc., the authors of which were outstanding linguists of their time such as al- Kisa (died in 200 y.), Al- ShamilNadra bin (died in 204 y.), Kutrub (died in 206 y.), etc. Up until the middle of the XIX century authors of dictionaries tended to name their work with metaphorical titles such as «المحيط» al-muhīt (ocean), «المحكم» al-muhkam (bright), «القاموس» al-qāmūs (the ocean bed). One of the examples is dictionary Butrus al- Bustani (1819 year-1883 year) called « المحيطمحيط»muhītal-muhīt which means "the ocean in the ocean". The first general dictionaries such as «العينكتاب»kitābal-'ain Khalil bin Ahmad (100-175) or «الجيم» al-jīm Abu Omar al- Shaybani (died in 206 y.) were named with Arabic letters (al-Qasimi, 2003).

Some works from the earlier period had a description «معجم» mujam, however, they had a reference meaning and were not used for description and clarification of ambiguous lexis, but served as a directory to the names of companions of the Prophet and deliverers of Hadith, and were put in the alphabetical order. There is a perception which states that the first who applied the word «معجم» mujam in the name of work was al-Buhari (194-256 y.), then Ahmad bin Ali bin Al-Musni(210-307 y.) in the book «معجم» mu'jam and Abu Al-Kasin Al-Baġawi in the book«معجم الصحابة»mu'jamas-sahāba used the word «معجم» in naming of their works.

With the similar title works were published on other areas, namely «معجم الأدباء»mu'jamal-'udabā (the directory of names and biographies of learned men) and «معجم البلدان»mu'jamal-buldān (geographical directory) of Yākūt Al-Hamaui, «معجم الشعراء»mu'jamaš-šu'arā (directory of names and biographies of poets) of Abu 'Ubaidulla Al-Marzubani and others (Omar, 1988). Nevertheless, none of the above authors of the mentioned works implied under the word «معجم»mu'jammeaning of the word "dictionary", but proceeded from its linguistic meaning. The word «معجم»mu'jamis derived from the verb «أعجم»a'jama which has a three-letter root«ع ج م» 'ain-gim-mim. Ibn Djinni, the famous linguist scientist of the X century, providing description of the meaning of this word said ' Know, that (root) «ع ج م» 'ain-gim-mimin the speech of arabs has a meaning of "ambiguity" and "steal thiness", which contradict "clarity"

and "apprehensibility", hence their words: رجل أعجم rajula'jam or امرأة عجماء imra'a'ajmā, when defining man or woman who are not able to produce clear and comprehensive speech'. The form «أفعل»af'ala may mean "negation" of the meaning of primary root.., therefore, when we say «أعْجَمْتُ الكتاب»a'jamtual-kitābwe imply "I eliminated obscurity in the book", "I explained the book" (Ibn Djinni,1993: 36, 39). Hence, the meaning of the passive voice «مُعْجَم»mu'jam, i.e. "clarified".

At the present day, there are many modern Arabic dictionaries which have a title «مُعْجَم»mu'jam. The most popular are the dictionaries of Academy of the Arabic Language in Cairo, initially released in 1960 year; repeatedly republished dictionary «المعجم الوسيط»al-mu'jamal-uasīt(intermediate dictionary), its lightweight version «المعجم الوجيز»al-mu'jamal-uajīz (Intermediate dictionary) and being at the final stage of production its multivolume edition «المعجم الكبير» al-mu'jamal-kabīr(large dictionary), as well as "Laros" association dictionary titled as «المعجم العربي الحديث» al-mu'jamal-'arabyal-hadīth (modern Arabic dictionary), published in the year 1987; dictionary « المعجم العربي الأساسي»mu'jamal-'arabyal-asāsī(basic Arabic dictionary), published in 1989 by Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, ALECSO (Mukhtar, 1988; al-Qasimi, 2003).

Another widely known term meaning "dictionary" is «قاموس»qāmūs. As mentioned earlier, amongst medieval lexicographers there was a tradition to name their works metaphorically, giving them the attributes of the deep ocean or the bottom lesssea, representing the source of infinitely rich vocabulary of the Arabic language, for example, «العباب»al-'ubāb (the abyss of the sea), «المحيط»al-muhīt (the ocean). One of such work pieces belongs to Madj Al-Din Muhammad bin Ya'qūb Al-Fīrūzabādī, who gave his dictionary a title «القاموس المحيط»al- qāmūsal-muhīt, i.e. "ocean bed". All the advantages and disadvantages of antecedent dictionaries were considered in this new dictionary, which has a lesser volume and was easier to use, and its lexical material served as the basis for many subsequent works. Consequently, the dictionary received a great popularity and the word «قاموس»qāmūs which was used as a name of the dictionary was later applied in other lexis collections.

As noted by Professor A. al-Qasimi, in accordance with Dr. Abbasas-Suri, one of the first who raised the issue with problem aticterms «معجم»mu'jam and «قاموس»qāmūs, the latter of these terms is not the only one affected by this transformation of meaning. As stated by A. Al-Qasimi the scenario could be repeated with the dictionary of Luis Maluf«المنجد في اللغة والأدب والعلوم»al-munjidfilughaal-adabwaal-'ulūm (the assistant in language, literature and sciences), which received a great popularity amongst international students who started to use the word«المنجد»al-munjidas a synonym for the word«معجم»mu'jam (al-Qasimi, 2003). It remains to add that the professor's fears were justified. It is not by chance that the name of this work is entirely mentioned in the dictionary of Baranov, where it is not described as "the language assistant" but has a direct translation "al-Mundjid" with an explanation: "Arabic language dictionary" (Baranov, 2002). As a matter of fact L. Maluf was not the only one author who named his dictionary «المنجد»al-munjid. Similarly, other dictionaries have the same titles«المنجد العربي الفرنسي للطلاب» al-munjidal-'arabyal-faransyliat-tulāb (Arabic-French student dictionary) of Joseph Baum Hadjar,«منجد اللغة العربية المعاصرة» (modern Arabic dictionary) of Subhi Hamawi, where the word «المنجد» clearly indicates the meaning of "dictionary".

LEXICON AND DICTIONARY

Thus, it became known to us that the term «معجم» mu'jam with the meaning "dictionary" has synonyms, one of which is «قاموس» qāmūs. Virtually, one of the main function of the synonymy in the literary language is the function of replacement, when semantically appropriate unit sinter change and relieve the monotonous repetition of the same words

(Linguistic Encyclopedic Dictionary, 1990). It is extremely undesirable phenomenon when in the system terminology each term directly and explicitly indicates denoted synonymy. Raising the question on the presence of doublets and triplets in the terminology of the Arabic lexicography, the professor Ali Al-Kasimi stated 'Modern terminology seeks to allocate one term for the same concept in the semantic field of a single scientific area, resulting in a term designated to only one concept, and one concept would refer to only one term. For this reason it is necessary to eliminate homonyms and synonyms from the terms' (al-Qasimi, 2003: 7). In other words, the scientist insists that each term claimed only one scientific definition and had clear key descriptors that would accurately and plainly disclose the nature of the specific event, selecting the most suitable terms at the same time.

However, instead of "eliminating", the Arabic linguists prefer to clarify definitions of the identical by meaning terms via narrowing the scope of use for each term. Therefore, until recently similar terms «مترجم» mutarjim and «ترجمان» tarjumān referred to an individual involved in the translation from one language to another. Presently, due to scientific and technological progress, development of international relations and expanding of the field of translation activity, the term «مترجم» mutarjim is widely applied in relation to the specialist engaged in written translation, whereas the term «ترجمان» tarjumān is used to designate the person performing simultaneous interpretation (al-Qasimi, 2003). To clarify the meaning denoted by synonyms, there is usually a focus on the divergent sememes, which in turn open new sides in the denoting objects. In our case, divergent sememes in each of the terms «معجم» mu'jam, «قاموس» qāmūs are acceptable to use to clarify their definitions.

In the investigations of the field of linguistics at the end of 20th century scientists started to differentiate between definitions such as "Lexicon", indicating the vocabulary available in some language group including all of the group members, and "Dictionary", pointing at a collection of words, selected an drankedin a certain order in the lexicographical manual indicating to them the language and encyclopedic explanations. Therefore, modern Arab linguists, for example, Abd al-Āli al-Wadghiri prefer to use the double terms«معجم» mu'jamand «قاموس» qāmūs, where the first term would be applied to define the concept" Lexicon", and the other term pointing to the meaning "Dictionary"(Udghiri, 1998).

BELINGUAL, MULTILINGUAL AND EXPLANATORY DICTIONARY

Another scientist, who insisted on clarification of definitions of terms «معجم» mu'jam, «قاموس» qāmūswas Pr. Laila Masudi. After analyzing a number of Arabic dictionaries on the criteria of their specificity and purpose, the scientist came to a conclusion that the most appropriate term for «قاموس» qāmūs is "explanatory dictionary", while the term «معجم» mu'jam provides a meaning of bilingual and multilingual dictionary with no encyclopedic reference, where the vocabulary entry is limited by provision of equivalents of vocabulary units without their descriptions (al-Masoudi, 1998).

The consequences could look simpler if scientific descriptions of these terms derived from the presently available sources of world linguistics, the same way it happened with terms "Lexicology" and "Lexicography" which were mentioned earlier. In fact, the terms «معجم» mu'jam and «قاموس» qāmūs appeared before the era of the dawn of the world of linguistics at the end of XIX century and middle of the last century, and each of the terms is individually motivated for designation of the meaning "dictionary" and is based on the origins, stretching deep into the Arabic linguistic heritage and having their own unlike other conceptual norms. Consequently, terms, related to one conceptual system, in our case deriving from the Arabic linguistic tradition, cannot be subordinated to the other conceptual system, which in turn is derived from the Western linguistic tradition.

CONCLUSIONS

We have discussed in this article the meanings and terms which form part of the scientific apparatus of the Arabic lexicography quite unexplored until today by the Arabic studies. Also, an accurate analysis is required for the terms such as«المكانز»al-makāniz(Thesauruses), «المسارد»al-masārid (Glossaries,) «الفهارس» al-fahāris (Concordances) as well as the meta linguistic structure of the dictionary itself, which is combined with such terms as «المدونة»al-mudauuanah (Corpus based), «المدخل»al-madḫal (Entry-dress), «الإحالات»al-iḥalāt (Referential),«المادة»al-māddah (Crude), «التأصيل» at-ta'sīl(Etymological information) and others. Arabic linguistic tradition has been developing independently over fifteen centuries and consequently, it has own ways of finding a solution to the pressing issues of today's Arabic linguistics. Practical Arabic lexicography is distinguished by its characteristics, methods for speech interpretation and grammatical content of the dictionary. Long before the appearance of the first European dictionaries, Arab lexicographers for the interpretation of the lexis used methods such as written fixation of sound characteristics of speech segments (transcription) to obscure the difficult lexis as well as used illustrations, quotations and encyclopedic information. Today, there are many formal institutions at the international level which are aimed at addressing these problems. These include established in the first half of the last century, the Academy of Arabic Language in Cairo, main objective of which is to ensure that the Arabic language meets needs of a modern life as well as controls and approves the terms in various branches of science. In other words, the modern Arab linguistics has all the tools to solve the problems of variability of the terms raised in this article.

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