

PREFACE

Writing this book has been a very thrilling and rewarding experience. This is partly due to my passion for the field of Arabic morpho-phonology which made me venture into and even beyond its various disciplines, and to the support that I have received from different persons.

This study comes after my book, Ibn Mas'ūd, *Marāḥ I*, which deals with the strong verb, that has been published some ten years ago. After it I embarked on preparing the second part of the work, which is a study of the doubled, the hamzated and the weak verbs. The more I studied books in this field, the more I realized that the collected results of my research could, when properly systematized, represent a sort of "comprehensive" study of the Arabic morpho-phonology with its two main topics: on the one hand a presentation of the morphological forms, and on the other, a study of the phonological rules and theories that led to their making. This incited me in presenting together in this work the strong verb, the doubled, the hamzated and the weak verbs. The above mentioned Part I studied in this volume embodies many substantial additions, and can therefore be considered as an altogether different work from the earlier published book. Furthermore, references are made to the published book in those parts that have been studied more in detail there. The entire present study presented here grew to become more than just an Edition, Introduction, Translation and Commentary of Ibn Ma'ūd's *Marāḥ*. It is both a convenient introduction to a specific Arabic text in morpho-phonology of the 13th century A.D.,—and even before this period—, and to the field of morpho-phonology in general with its basics and intricacies; and since no other Arabic text in morpho-phonology has been published in modern times with an English translation and a comprehensive commentary, it is my hope that it will be of use for the readers.

Ibn Ma'ūd's *Marāḥ* can be regarded as the fruit of some six centuries of studies in morpho-phonology. At the time of Ibn Mas'ūd's living, as I established it to be sometime between the 2nd half of the 7th/13th and the beginning of the 8th/14th century, Arabic grammar has reached its climax through a succession of distinguished and original Arab grammarians.

The *Marāḥ*, which we have here between our hands, is concise but still comprehensive, and so demands for its understanding a vast literature. During these years of intensive research I was impelled to use various linguistic works, such as lexicons, grammars compiled by both Arabs and Arabists, works on Arabic morphology, syntax, linguistic principles and theories, debates between the grammatical "schools", sessions between different Arabic grammarians, qur'anical readings, poetry, and many other topics. I have as well interested myself in a few well-known works on the comparative grammar of the Semitic languages. References to them are integrated whenever I felt them to be relevant. My ambition has been constantly to integrate as many works as possible relating to this field, my belief being that it is necessary to consult many sources to become familiar with the subject, and my contention that the matters treated by these eminent researchers all merit our respectful interest and attention.

The *Marāḥ* is divided into seven chapters. The first one focuses on the study of the strong verb, the second one on the doubled, the third one on the hamzated, the fourth one on the verb with weak 1st radical, the fifth one on the verb with weak 2nd radical, the sixth one on the verb with 3rd weak radical and the seventh one on the verb that is doubly weak. Each of these chapters presents as well the *maṣḍar* of the characteristic class of verb and its nine derivatives specified to be: the perfect, the imperfect, the imperative and the prohibition, the active participle, the passive participle and the nouns of time, place and instrument.

The present volume covers five main parts: the Introduction, the Arabic Edition accompanied with the English Translation and the Commentary, and the Indices.

As previously indicated in my first book's preface, the present Edition has been restricted to the oldest manuscripts of the Bibliothèque Nationale and to two printed texts from the University of Cairo. MS A is the basic manuscript of my Edition. Editing principles have been kept

simple with only some adopted conventions necessary to present a correct Arabic text. Whenever I remarked by comparing with the other MSS and two prints, that trifling slips of the pen occurred in MS A, such as grammatical errors, errors of spelling, missing or misplaced added words affecting the context's correctness or its sense, I corrected these errors, supplied the missing word or elided the misplaced added one directly in my Arabic text. I have pointed to the deficiency in the Apparatus and referred to the source or sources of the adapted variant or variants. The original page numbers of the MS A are included in the margin. Poetical lines are presented between double guillemets “” and Qur'anic verses between brackets (). I have also furnished the Arabic section with comprehensive indices.

The English Translation alongside the Arabic text and the translations of the Arabic extracts in the Introduction and Commentary do not aim to be more literal than the original ones. They may seem unidiomatic for some because of a desire to stay as close as possible to the Arabic texts. I have, in cases of enumerations, and in order to clarify for the reader, divided the long texts into sections and in many instances I have numbered them. I have tried to use short sentences, and I have added explanations between straight brackets [] whenever I judged them as being necessary for the understanding of the context. The attribution to the different Qur'anic suras and the indication of the different morphological forms are included as well by me between straight brackets.

Each word or passage in the Translation that is commented on in the Commentary is followed by a number between brackets.

The Commentary is arranged by numbered sections, most of which consist of one or more paragraphs. The numbering refers to the English Translation, separates different topics from each other, facilitates cross-reference, and hopefully, gives a certain order and structure to the work. The sub-paragraphs are introduced by letters. They contain mostly additional material connected in some manner with the basic topics.

When dealing in the Commentary with so many authorities, some of whom necessarily influenced Ibn Mas'ūd, it became essential in the Introduction to provide the reader with a general background that introduces them and their works briefly, and that touches on some general questions, such as a few essential themes found in works of morphology, which I consider as important for the study of the *Marāḥ* in particular and for other works of this character in general.

The Commentary does what it can do to clarify most of the issues emerging in the *Marāḥ* and inspired by it, by integrating in some details the opinions of important researchers chosen before and after the compilation. It is necessary to specify that I do not discuss all the opinions concerning a special topic, but that I usually select the one or ones which I consider as the most representative. If for instance one of the well-known exploiters of the Arabic inheritance: Zamaḥṣārī, Ibn Ya'īš, Ibn Mālik, Badraddīn, Howell or Wright is referred to for a topic, this does not imply usually that this authority is its inventor, but that he/she has been chosen for explaining best an issue that is existent in the *Marāḥ* or that is inspired by it. Naturally, the older the grammarian is the more original the theory is, and philologists such as Sībawaihī, Ibn Fāris, al-Zaḡḡāḡī and Ibn Ğinnī can be considered mostly as founders. It is also important to mention that if many linguists are referred to, this does not mean that they all treated the question in the same manner. Some developed this special topic more than others by shedding new lights on it, whereas others summarized and introduced new topics demanding further inquiries, which I also tried mostly to integrate in the study.

Ibn Mas'ūd's presentation of the morphological forms is concise and his examples are limited to the most important ones. This makes me believe that his book's function was at first meant to be pedagogical and that the group to which he addressed himself to was the majority. In such cases I have felt impelled to develop a little more the study of the forms by referring to other grammarians who have dealt with them more exhaustively. I have as well supplied para-

digms whenever I felt it to be appropriate. Likewise, whenever I felt that important definitions, rules and processes were required, and that other controversies were involved, I have tried to present them, and in most cases, also develop them as clearly as possible. Important themes such as the arguments of the Basrans and the Kufans concerning the question of the origin of the derivation of the *maṣḍar* or the verb, the reasons of the declension or the undeclinability of the noun, verb and particle in Arabic, the reasons why a certain vowel is chosen to mark a specific form, the controversies concerning the *ʿafʿal* of superiority in the forms indicative of colours, subjects relating to syntax and to some linguistic theories, a few discussions raised in some of the grammarians' sessions, are only some examples of the topics which are presented and discussed in this work. I have as well and as frequently as possible, integrated quotations from various Arabic sources, ancient as well as modern, which I have as well translated. Quotations from Western sources are not neglected either. The intention with this material is to provide general background information in the field of morpho-phonology, to present a lively picture of the linguistic thinking, and to enable the reader to study these passages in their contexts, verify the advanced statements and hopefully, be stimulated for further investigations.

Qurʿanical quotations in the English sections are inserted between brackets and are attributed to the suras and verses of *The Holy Qurʿān* edited by Yusuf Ali.

Verses of poetry are identified by reference to some of their various sources. It is my hope that they bring out, beside the linguistic feature for which they have been chosen, some of the poets' special topics, interests, experiences and spiritual aspirations, so as to provide the reader with insight into the Arabic culture.

The English section has as well been rounded off with extensive indices, which facilitate the use of the book. Most of the discussed matters in the Translation and in the Commentary are mentioned and referred to by their paragraph's numbering in the section Glossary and subject-index of the Commentary. Numbers followed by letters there refer only to the subparagraphs found in the Commentary. They contain mostly additional material connected in some manner with the basic topics. I trust that this index will be of use in practice since it contains most of the topics that are treated in the field of morpho-phonology and should enable the reader to find readily those themes dealing with the topics that interest him. The Arabic examples used in the *Marāḥ*, the Qurʿanical quotations, verses of poetry, grammarians, tribes, Qurʿanical readers, peoples, schools, places, languages, dialects, referred to in the *Marāḥ* or in my Introduction and Commentary, or in both, are enclosed in separate indices.

I am indebted to the personnel of the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, who have facilitated my labour in every respect during the summers of 1986 and 1987 when I was studying the Manuscripts of the *Marāḥ* preserved there. I am as well grateful to the University of Cairo who went to the trouble of sending me the copies of some printed texts of the *Marāḥ*.

I have as well appreciated the criticisms and comments of distinguished authorities, some who have helped me by writing constructive reviews of my previous book.

I would like to offer my appreciation and gratitude to Professor Gösta Vitestam of the Department of Middle East Languages at Lund University. It is he who has directed my attention to both Ibn Masʿūd's *Marāḥ* and to Dunqūze's *Šarḥ al-marāḥ*, and who has kindly initiated the project of studying the fascinating field of Arabic morpho-phonology some seventeen years ago. He has helped me and encouraged me at various stages of my research with his enthusiasm, kindness, sensitivity, witty remarks and suggestions.

I am very thankful to the late Prof. Tryggve Kronholm, Department of Asian and African Languages of the University of Uppsala, for many inspiring and valuable discussions.

I owe much gratitude to Prof. Kees Versteegh, Nijmegen University, who kindly read two versions of this work, and offered me his invaluable insights, suggestions, criticism and references to important literature. I thank him very much as well for his willingness in including the work in the series Studies in Semitic Languages and Linguistics.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to Mrs Trudy Kamperveen, Editor of the Middle East and Islamic Studies and Mr. Jan Fehrmann, Editor of the Islamic and Asian Studies Department of E.J. Brill, for their untiring cooperation.

Last but not least, my family and friends deserves my deepest gratitude. They have all shared my dreams and encouraged me with their affectionate support. My parents, Mounir Hakim and Irene Egeland, have always stressed the value of education and different cultures. My brother, James Hakim, and his family and my parents in-law, Carl-Eric and Ellen Åkesson, have always been encouraging and enthusiastic. My husband, Ph. D. Anders Åkesson, and our son, Filip, have been very caring, helpful and understanding. It is to them that I dedicate this book.

Needless to say, the errors, oversights and infelicities are entirely my own.

Lund, August 2000