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**THE ARABIC LANGUAGE: BETWEEN THE PAST AND THE
PRESENT**

The paper focuses on the issues concerning the history, functioning, structure and diversity of the Arabic language as well as determines the influence of the Arabic literature on shaping the literary landscape in the modern literature.

Key words: *international communication, the Arabic language, modern literature, historical importance, diversity, dialects.*

The Arabic language has a long and rich history dating back to the 4th century. The language originated in the Arabian Peninsula and spread throughout the Middle East and North Africa in the 7th and 8th centuries. The Arabic language was originally spoken by nomadic tribes in the Arabian Peninsula. It was a language of poetry and oral tradition. The revelation of the Quran in the 7th century CE marked a turning point in the history of Arabic. The Quran was written in classical Arabic, and its poetic and linguistic beauty helped to spread the language throughout the Islamic world. In this period Arabic became the language of the Quran. During the Islamic Golden Age (8th-13th centuries), Arabic became the language of science, philosophy and literature. Many important works in these fields were written in Arabic. Al-Khwarizmi, a mathematician was credited with introducing the concept of algebra; Al-Kindi who was a philosopher, Ibn Sina was renowned for his contributions to philosophy, medicine and science. The language was widely spoken and understood across the Islamic world.

Arabic belongs to a Semitic group of languages characterized by a unique system of roots and patterns, which allows speakers to form words by combining consonantal roots with various vowel patterns. Arabic words are usually formed

from a root of three or four consonants, which are then modified by the addition of vowels, prefixes and suffixes.

One of the most distinctive features of Arabic is that it is written from right to left, and we can say that it has a tricky vocabulary: the meaning of a word can change based on the way it is conjugated, and words have a large number of synonyms.

The Arabic alphabet consists of 28 letters, with each letter representing a distinct sound. We can classify them into three main groups: consonants, long vowels, and short vowels. Arabic has a rich system of phonology, including a number of consonants that do not exist in English, as well as three long and two short vowels. It also makes extensive use of sound changes, such as assimilation and elision, which can make it difficult for non-native speakers to understand spoken Arabic.

The Arabic grammar is complex and involves a system of case endings, gender agreement and verb conjugation. Nouns, pronouns and adjectives are declined according to their case and gender, while verbs are conjugated according to tense, person and number.

One of the most important developments in the history of Arabic was the creation of a standardized version of the language, known as Classical Arabic, which was based on the dialect of the Quraysh tribe in Mecca. This form of Arabic became the language of the Quran and other religious texts, and it remains the language of religious and scholarly texts to this day.

But we should note that Arabic is a diverse language with many dialects and variations across different regions and countries. The dialects of Arabic are often so different from each other that speakers of one dialect may have difficulty understanding speakers of another dialect.

We can take some examples:

Maghrebi dialect: spoken in the Maghreb region of North Africa, which includes countries such as Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania.

Maghrebi Arabic is heavily influenced by Berber languages and French as well as some Spanish;

- Egyptian Arabic: spoken in Egypt and is one of the most widely spoken dialects of Arabic. It borrowed words from Turkish, French and English.

- Gulf Arabic: spoken in the Arabian Peninsula, including countries such

Arabic literature has been influenced by the culture and traditions of the Arab world and has had a significant impact on world literature. Arabic poetry is especially well known for its complex rhyme schemes and meter. Famous works of Arabic literature include the “Thousand and One Nights”, also known as the “Arabian Nights”. This collection of stories has been translated into many languages and has had a significant impact on the world literature. Al-Mutanabbī composed 300 folios of poetry. His poetic style earned him great popularity in his time and many of his poems are not only still widely read in today's Arab world.

In modern literature, Arabic continues play a significant role in shaping the literary landscape. One of the current trends in modern Arabic literature is the exploration of new forms and styles of writing. Many contemporary writers are experimenting with various narrative techniques and structures to tell their stories. Some writers are also incorporating elements of other languages and cultures into their work, creating a unique blend of styles and perspectives. Also, the modern Arabic literature focuses on the social and political issues. Many writers use their works to comment on current events and to address important social and political issues such as human rights applying new forms and styles of writing. So, the modern Arabic literature is diverse and constantly evolving, reflecting the complex and dynamic nature of the Arab world.

Currently, Arabic is a language that continues to adapt to the changing needs of its speakers. In addition to its historical importance, Arabic remains an important language for international communication, particularly in the areas of

business, diplomacy and international relations. With the rise of globalization and the Internet, it has become more widely used in the fields like business, technology and entertainment. Arabic is the official language of 26 countries and is also an official language of the United Nations.

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