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Compound Lexical Particles: a Syllable Structure Study

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to study the compound lexical particles and shed light on their structural aspects as regards their syllable structure and the identification of their constituents and whether they are radical or extra. Moreover, the paper will present scholars' different opinions about whether these particles are simple or compound. The paper will also focus on the various processes that they undergo, such as assimilation, elision, inversion, and replacement.

It should be noted that although particles are not subjected to the morphological balance, it is vital to study their syllable structure because they can only be studied through analyzing their syllables. Some syllables can be part of the structure of compound particles while other syllables cannot. The latter include: superheavy with a single coda, superheavy with a complex coda, and superheavy with a geminate coda. This means that particles are lighter than nouns and verbs.

It is noteworthy that this is a translation from Arabic of Dr. Omar A. Albaruni's paper, published in the Journal of Academic Research, issue 3 (2015). I believe that this paper is important in that it introduces the compound lexical particles, their structural makeup and syllable structure. The paper also introduces the Arabic linguistic heritage and the contributions of the Arabic scholars to linguistics generally, and particularly to morphology, phonetics and phonology. I ended the translation with some comments which may further illustrate some points raised by the author.

Keywords: compound lexical particles, syllable, closed syllable, open syllable

Introduction

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the worlds; peace and prayer are upon the master of all creatures, Prophet Mohamed, and upon his family and companions.

It is known that Arabic form classes are divided into three types: noun, verb, and particle. It is also known that morphology is concerned with the first two, excepting the third (Ibn ŒuŒuur 1983). In fact, the third type is not completely ignored when it comes to morphological analysis, though no attention is paid to the morphological balance (AlxaŒiib 2003).

The third type includes the particles conventionally known as *tools*, and it comprises particles that belonging to the same category in that they assume similar functions (Hassaan 1979).

God willing, in this paper I will deal with structural aspects of the compound lexical particles, paying special attention to their internal structure, whether the structure is agreed upon or controversial. This will enable me to identify the various processes they undergo such as insertion, elision, replacement or assimilation that affect their syllable structure. Building on what has already been said, the paper will be divided into two sections, each subsuming some subsections as follows:

Section (1) definitions; under this sections there are two subsections

a. definition of *particle* and *tool* linguistically and conventionally.

b. definition and types of syllable structure

Section (2) radical properties of compound lexical particles, under which there are four subsections.

a. biliteral particles.

b. trilateral particles

c. quadrilateral particles

d. quinquiliteral particles

1. Definitions

1.1 Definition of particle and tool

Some scholars use the term *tool*; other scholars use *particle*, which is more commonly used. Given this observation, I have decided to define both terms and briefly show the difference between them.

a. The particle ² is defined linguistically as one of the members of the alphabet (Ibn ManŒuur 1999). In convention, it is any meaningful word class other than noun and verb (Alkafawi 1992; Sibawayh 1991).

This definition shows that particles are of two kinds. The first is a particle that has no meaning in isolation, apart from being a particle. This is the one known as a structural particle. The second is the one which has meaning when it is part of another word indicating meaning in something else and which is used for a functional reason. Therefore, some scholars defined it as "a word that denotes a meaning in something else only" (Almuradi 1992: 20).

b. The tool is defined linguistically as an instrument (Ibn Manḍuur 1999). In grammatical convention, it is "a word that joins either the two parts of the sentence, or these two parts and the adjuncts, or two sentences together" (Alyalayini 1986). Thus the tool is used to link two parts, or to denote a meaning of another word, as the definite article in nouns or futurity in verbs (Almuṣṣam Alwasiit). "It is a classificatory unit denoting a relationship. This relationship is necessarily between the different parts of the sentence" (Tamam 1979: 123)

The two definitions show that the term *tool* is confined to denoting a functional meaning. It has a noticeable effect which cannot be achieved without its presence.

Almakhzuumi (1958) says that Basran scholars call the tools *lexical particles* and that Kufis call them *tools*. This generalization, however, is imprecise because Sibawayh and Alzubair call the oath particles *tools* (Sibawayh 1991; Alzubair 2010). Alssaqi (1977) adopts the Kufi term as he believes that it is better, making it include lexical particles and some tools that fall outside the scope of noun as they cannot take signs that denote membership to the class of nouns. This means that the term *particle* does not include the noun, whereas the term *tool* includes both the particle and the noun.

The author of this paper prefers to use the term *particle* rather than the term *tool* because *tool* is not restricted to particles but includes other categories as well.

1.2 Definition and types of syllable

Although particles are not subjected to the morphological balance because they are rarely inflected (Alastarbaadi 1975), they must be subjected to syllable analysis, since their structure can only be analyzed through the syllable. Consequently, we must first define the syllable and introduce its types.

The syllable is defined as a combination of a consonant and a vowel that harmonizes with the structure of the language and depends on the respiratory rhythm (Shahiin 1980: 38).

The particle, be it simple or compound, may comprise a minimum of one and a maximum of four syllables, according to the findings of this paper. By contrast, an Arabic word generally contains a maximum of seven syllables (Aniis (n.d.); Alxuuli 1987). Arabic syllables are divided into the following four types.

a. Light: it is called light because it is made up of a consonant and a short vowel represented as CV, as in *ka.ta.ba* 'he wrote' (CV, CV, CV)

b. Heavy: this can take two forms.

- i. open, comprising a consonant and a long vowel, CVV, as in *maa* 'what', *fii* 'in', and *ḍuu* 'with'.
- ii. closed, made up of a consonant, a short vowel, and a consonant (CVC), e.g. *qad* 'indeed', *min* 'from', *xuḍ* 'take!'
- c. Superheavy: this also takes two forms.
 - i. superheavy with a simple coda, consisting of a consonant and a long vowel followed by a consonant, CVVC, e.g. *ḍaal.liin* 'stray m. pl.', *mus.li.miin* 'Muslims', in pausal forms.
 - ii. superheavy with a simple coda, consisting of a consonant and a short vowel followed by two consonant, CVCC, e.g. *bint* 'girl', *ṣams* 'sun', *qaṭṭ* 'never', *ḥadd* 'border', in pausal forms.
- c. super-superheavy. This is attested only in pausal forms, comprising a consonant, a long vowel, and geminate consonant CVVCC, e.g. *ḥaarr*, *ḥaadd*, in the pause (Alshayib 2004: 100-1; Albakkuush 1973: 77).

As we will see in the next section, none of the compound particles falls within the last two syllable types.

2. Structural properties of compound lexical particles

Some compound particles are composed of two or more lexical particles. Sometimes these particles undergo certain changes. We, therefore, need to trace them to find out the various changes influencing them. This section aims to check the originality of the compound particles and the different process they go through, like replacement, assimilation, elision, insertion. Since a mixture of these processes may target the particle, we will find out whether the change is due to one process or more.

We will mention the particles according to their alphabetical order and the number of letters they contain. Thus we will first deal with biliteral particles, followed by the trilateral and so on.

2.1 biliteral particles

Some particles are biliteral. These include:

- a. the definite article *ʔal*: CVC. Alfarahiidi believes that *ʔal* is one word. Sibawayh says "Alfarahiidi treats the *ʔalif* [a] and the *laam* [l] of the definite article as one word like *qad* and *ʔan*, neither separate from the other." (Sibawayh 1991: 3/324; 4/148; Alzubairid 2010: 1/83; Alrumaani 2005: 45; Ibn Jinni 2000: 2/15). Ibn Kisan (Andalusi (n.d.): 2/985; Alsuyuuṭi (n.d.): 1/271) and Ibn Alsiraj (1985: 1/39) followed Alfarahiidi. According to them, this particle has an independent structure, and no external factors have to do with its functional performance.

The majority of scholars, on the other hand, believe that *ʔal* is made up of the *ʔalif* and the *laam*. The *laam* alone, they argue, is for definiteness while the *ʔalif* is extra. This is so-called hamzat alwasl 'glottal soft catch', used mainly to avoid having an initial sequence of vowel-less consonants (Ibn Jinni 1999: 94-95; Almaliqi 2002: 158-9; Almuradi (1992: 138). This is why Alfarahiidi calls it *ʔal*, while Sibawayh dubs it *ʔalif* and *laam* (Sibawayh 1991: 3/324-5; 4/148; Alzubair 2010: 2/94). This is the opinion of many Basra and Kufa scholars (Ibn yaʕiij (n.d.): 9/17).

Alfarahiidi's opinion that *ʔal* is monoliteral means it is one morpheme comprising three sounds /ʔ/, /a/, and /l/, and this indicates that it is a heavy, closed syllable CVC. This opinion is in harmony with Arabic phonotactics. However, it is rejected because the glottal stop deletes in connected speech. Had it been a phoneme of *ʔal*, it would not have been dropped in the flow of speech, as can be seen in *walwalad* 'and the boy' (Abdah (n.d.): 72)

Ibn Jinni justifies the deletion of ʔ, saying "because ʔ is heavy, abounds in speech and its position is known, it is elided in connected speech as a means of ease of articulation (Ibn Jinni 1999: 89). The elision of ʔ in connected speech means that it is part of a syllable rather than a fully-fledged syllable.

b. declarative *kam*: CVC. Almuradi (1992: 261) says that this is a compound particle. Sibawayh (1991: 2/156) and the majority (Alsuyuti 1975: 4/386) believe that it is simple rather than compound. Alkasaʔi and Alfarraʔ (Almuradi 1992: 261) think that it is compound, consisting of likening *kaa* and interrogative *maa*, whose /aa/ has been dropped (Ibn Hisham 1969: 246). The assumption that it is compound indicates that it is disyllabic. The first syllable is light; the second is heavy, open *ka.maa* CV.CVV. Later on the *aa* was elided, rendering the particle with one heavy closed syllable *kam* CVC.

c. prohibiting *laa*: CVV. It is known that *nahi* 'prohibition' is a kind of demand. Some scholars argue that this *laa* is derived from imperative *li* CV, with an inserted /a/. This /a/ caused the preceding /i/ to harmonize with it, giving rise to [laa] with a heavy open syllable CVV.

d. *lan* 'will not': CVC. Sibawayh and the majority say that *lan* is simple (Sibawayh 1991: 3/5; Almuradi 1992: 270). On the contrary, Alkasaʔi (Almuradi 1992: 270) and Alfarahiidi contend that it is compound containing the two morphemes *laa* and *ʔan* with elision of /a/ and /ʔ/, a contention rejected by Ibn Hisham (1969: 374). Before elision, it comprised two syllables, a heavy open and a heavy closed *laa.ʔan*: CVV.CVC; after elision, it became monosyllabic, heavy closed CVC. Alfarraʔ claims that *lan* was originally *laa*, with the last /a/ replaced by /n/. Again this claim was rejected by Ibn Hisham and weakened by Almuradi (Ibn Hisham 1969: 373; Almuradi 1992: 272). I comment on this, saying that according to Alfarraʔ's argument, its syllable structure changed from the input stage to the output stage. It was heavy open *laa* (CVV). Later on, it became heavy closed *lan* (CVC).

2.2 trilateral particles

The following particles fall under this type:

a. *ʔiḏan* 'so': CV.CVC. Most grammarians consider this particle to be simple (Ibn Hisham 1969: 30). However, Alfarahiidi, Ibn Maalik, and some Kufis believe that it is composed of *ʔiḏ* 'when' and *ʔan* 'that', with the glottal stop dropped (Ibn Maalik 2001: 3/343; Ibn Hisham 1969: 30). Almaliqi (2002: 157) rejected this analysis. It had two closed heavy syllables *ʔiḏ* + *ʔan*. After deleting the glottal stop, the first syllable became light, while the second remained intact: *ʔi.ḏan* (CV.CVC).

b. *ʔalaa* 'verily': CV.CVV. This particle is mainly used to introduce speech and to suggest (Almuradi 1992: 381-2). Alzamaxfari (n.d.: 1/180) regards introductory *ʔalaa* as being compound, interrogative *ʔa* and negative *laa* (*ʔa* + *laa*).

Regarding syllabic structure, this particle consist of two syllables, the first of which being light, the second being heavy open: *ʔa.laa* (CV.CVV).

c. *ʔamaa* 'introductory particle': CV.CVV. Almaliqi (2002: 181) says that this particle encompasses a hamza and negative *maa* (*ʔa* + *maa*). Therefore, it designates confirmation, and reprimand. On the other hand, Almuradi, whose opinion is adopted by Ibn Hisham, believes that *maa* is a noun meaning 'thing', and that thing is true. Consequently, the particle means 'really?' (Ibn Hisham 1969: 79; Almuradi 1992: 390-1). Its syllabic structure is identical to the particle in (b) above.

d. *balaa* 'yes': CV.CVV. This particle is used to answer a question (Ibn Hisham 1969: 153). Basran scholars claim that it is simple rather than compound, while the Kufis believe that it is composed of conjunctive *bal* and confirmative or feminine *aa*. Thus, before adding this /aa/ it was a heavy, closed syllable *bal* (CVC). Appending the morpheme *aa* rendered it disyllabic, with a structure exactly the same as the forms listed in (b) and (c) above.

e. *kamaa* 'as/like': CV.CVV. Almaliqi thinks that this particle can sometimes be simple; other times it can be compound (Almaliqi 2002: 288; Almuradi 1992: 482-3) Commenting on Almaliqi's statement, Almuradi (1992) says "I have never heard of anyone who thinks that *kamaa* is simple except this man [Almaliqi]" (p. 484).

Sibawayh sees it as compound (1991: 3/116), made up of likening *ka* and infinitival *maa* (Almuradi 1992: 480-1). Irrespective of theses opinions, its structure is the same as the last four forms in (b, c, d, and e) (CV.CVV).

f. *laata* 'no': CVV.CV. Some grammarians classify this as a simple negative particle originally traced to *laa*, to which *taa* was appended (Ibn Hisham 1969: 335; Almuradi 1992: 485), an opinion attributed to the majority and Alʔakhfash (Alsuyuṭi (n.d.): 2/121).

According to Sibawayh, this contains negative /laa/ and feminine /t/ as in *rubbat* 'perhaps' and *ḥummat* 'afterwards' (Ibn Faris 2007: 123; Almuradi 1992: 485; Alsuyuṭi 1975: 2/121). The /t/ was voweled in order not to have a cluster of two vowel-less consonants.

Taking the opinion of those who consider it to be compound, we see that it has two syllables; the first one is heavy and open, the second light *laa.ta* (CVV.CV)

g. *laysa* 'not': CVC.CV. Ibn Alsiraj, Alfarisi, and Ibn Shaqiir believe that *laysa* is a particle (Almuradi 1992: 494). Kufi scholars also consider it as conjunctive (ibid: 498).

Alfarahiidi says that it is made up of *la* and *ʔaysa*; the /a/ of *la* and the glottal stop were elided. Subsequently, the /l/ became adjacent to /aysa/. He links this to the expression /ʔitini bihi min hayto ʔaysa walaysa/ 'fetch him to me from where he is or is not' (Alfarahidi (n.d.): 4/112).

This means that, before elision, it contained three syllables: heavy open, heavy closed, and light *laa.ʔay sa* (CVV.CVC.CV).

h. *munḏu* 'since': CVC.CV. Scholars from the Basra school categorize this as a simple particle. Kufi scholars, by contrast, categorize it as being compound. Alfarraʔ, for example, says that it comprises genitive *min* 'from' and *ḏu* 'with', which is attributed to the ʔaaʔif tribe.

Some Kufis believe that it contains genitive *min* 'from' and adverbial *ʔiḏ* (Almuradi 1992: 501; Alrumaani 2005: 118), originally *min ʔiḏ*. The /ʔ/ was deleted, and this caused the /n/ and /ḏ/ to be contiguous. The /m/ was rounded [i.e. followed by /u/] to distinguish between *min* in isolation and as a part of a compound particle.³

According to the Kufi's first opinion, it originally constituted two syllables: heavy closed, and heavy open *min.ḏuu* (CVC.CVV). However, according to the Kufi's second opinion, both syllables were heavy and closed *min.ʔiḏ* (CVC.CVC)

2.3 quadrilateral particles

The particles subsumed under this category are as follows.

a. *ʔallaa* 'don't': CVC.CVV. This is an encouragement particle. Alrumaani (2005: 501) "Note that *ʔallaa* may include *ʔan* (which attaches accusative case to verbs) and negative *laa*. Therefore, it is two particles, not one, as in "*ʔallaa taʔlu ʔalayya*" (Holy Quran: 31/27)." Alzamaxʔari (n.d.: 3/146) argues that *ʔan* is explanatory here, an argument which is more plausible.

In this example, vowel-less /n/ is immediately followed by /l/, so this /n/ assimilates totally to the /l/, yielding [ʔallaa]. Thus it has two syllables: heavy closed and heavy open *ʔal.laa* (CVC.CVV).

Some scholars also believe that it stemmed from *hallaa*, where the /h/ was replaced by /ʔ/ but with the same syllable structure. Other scholars reject this hypothesis (Alrumaani 2005: 509).

b. *ʔillaa* 'except': CVC.CVV. It has several meanings, most prominent of which being the exception. It can also be used as a conjunction (Ibn Hisham 1969: 246). Alfarahiidi and Sibawayh contend that this is an uncompounded, monomorphemic particle (Sibawayh 1991: 3/332). Alfarraʔ claims that it is made up of negative *ʔin* and negative *laa* (2001: 2/377; Almuradi 1992: 517). Here as well /n/ assimilates to /l/, producing [ʔillaa]. And just

like the example in (a) it comprises a heavy closed syllable and a heavy open one *ʔil.laa* (CVC.CVV).

c. *ʔammaa* 'if': CVC.CVV. According to Sibawayh, this is a simple, conditional particle (1991: 3/332). Thaʕlab, on the other hand, believes that it contains conditional *ʔin* and *maa*, with ellipsis of the conditional verb after it. The vowel of this particle is high /i/ in the presence of the conditional verb, and it is low /a/ when the verb is absent (Alrumaani 2005: 523). The following example illustrates this: "*ʔammaa ʔanta munṭaliqan ʔinṭalaqtu maʕak*" 'if you are going, I'll go with you'. The underlying representation of this example is "*ʔanna ʔanta ...*" 'if you are... ', in which case /n/ assimilated to the /m/ following it, resulting in a geminate *mm*.

Ibn Hisham says that it contains infinitival *ʔan* and augmented *maa*. This is traceable to *laʔin kunta*, from which the preposition and *kaan* were dropped with the aim of abridgement. In consequence, the pronoun became independent as there was nothing it could attach to. Afterwards, *maa* was utilized as a compensation for the deleted /kaan/, and /n/ assimilated to /m/ because of proximity.

Considering both opinions, /n/ and /m/ were adjacent and this caused the former undergo total assimilation to the latter. As for its structure, this particle is disyllabic: a heavy closed syllable preceding a heavy open one (CVC.CVV).

d. *ʔimmaa* 'either': CVC.CVV. Sibawayh maintains that this is a compound particle (Sibawayh 1991: 3/332; Ibn Hisham 1969: 84; Almuradi 1992: 533-4). Some scholars classify it depending on its meaning. Hence, when it means doubt or optionality, it is monomorphemic. But when it denotes penalty, it is an amalgam of conditional *ʔin* and *maa*.

The assumption that it consists of *ʔin + maa = ʔimmaa*, leads us to conclude that the /n/ assimilated to the following /m/ to yield [ʔimmaa]. Taking this opinion into account, we observe that it has two syllables: heavy closed and heavy open (CVC.CVV)⁴

e. *kaʔanna* 'as if': CV.CVC.CV. Almalīqi (2002: 284) says that most grammarians consider this particle to be simple. However, Alfarahiidi, Sibawayh, Alʔakhfash, Alfarraʔ, and many Basran scholars classify it as consisting of likening *kaa* and *ʔinna*. So, for example, the sentence "*kaʔanna Zaydan ʔalʔasad*" 'as if Zayd is the lion' is originally "*ʔinna Zaydan kalʔasad*" 'Zayd is like the lion.' Then the *kaa* was fronted in order to emphasize the similitude and /i/ was lowered to /a/ because /i/ cannot take a preposition (Ibn Faris 2007: 117; ʔibn yaʕiish: 1973: 33; Almuradi 1992: 568; Alʔazhari 2005: 214).

It contains three syllables: light, heavy closed, and light, *ka.ʔan.na* (CV.CVC.CV).

f. *kallaa* 'nay': CVC.CVV. It implies deterrence, intimidation, and threat (Ibn Hisham 1969: 249). The majority of grammarians regard it as a simple particle. Thaʕlab, by contrast, considers it to be consisting of likening *kaa* and responding *laa*. The /l/ was geminated to exclude its likening meaning (Ibn Hisham 1969: 249; Almuradi 1992: 578). This shows that originally it is *ka + l + la = kallaa*.

g. *lawmaa* 'why not': CVC.CVV. It implies encouragement (Ibn Hisham 1969: 364; Alrumaani 2005: 177), as in "lawmaa ʔakramta Zaydan" 'why din't you honour Zayd'. Alrumaani says that it incorporates *law* and *maa* (Alrumaani 2005: 177). With regard to its structure, it is bisyllabic; the initial syllable is heavy closed, the second heavy open *law.maa* (CVC.CVV).

h. *hallaa* 'will you': CVC.CVV. This is a mixture of *hal* and *laa* and has the same meaning and structure as those of the particle in (g), but with a geminate *l* resulting from assimilation (ibid: 188).

2.4 quinquiliteral particles

The following particles are listed under this group.

a. *rubbamaa* 'maybe': CVC.CV.CVV. Alharawi says that some grammarians see this particle as comprising two parts *rubba* and *maa*. This *maa* is either nullified or indefinite, meaning *thing* or *human being* (Alharawi (n.d.: 93-6). So, according to them, it includes three syllables: heavy closed, light, and heavy open (CVC.CV.CVV).

b. *laakinna* 'but': CVV.CVC.CVV. Basaran scholars say that it is a simple particle with a rarely-occurring structure (Ibn yaʕiiʕ 1973: 34; Almuradi 1992: 617). Alfaraʔ, on the contrary, believes that is compound, and can be traced back to *laakin* and *ʔanna*. Later on, /ʔ/ and the /n/ of *laakin* were left out, because speakers disfavoured having three meanings in a single word (Almuradi 1992: 617; Ibn Faris 2007: 123).

According to Alfaraʔ's opinion, it had a quqdrisyllabic structure before deletion: *laa.kin.ʔan.na*: heavy open, heavy closed, heavy closed, and light (CVV.CVC.CVC.CV). Deletion, however, rendered it trisyllabic: heavy open, heavy closed, and light *laa.kin.na* (CVV.CVC.CV).

Conclusion

Studying the compound particles revealed the following findings, with which I would like to conclude this paper.

- a. When morphologists say that morphology does not tackle particles, they mean that particles do not conjugate derivationally, not that studying particles is not at the heart of morphological analysis.
- b. Not dealing with the derivation of particles does not mean we cannot deal with their morphological and syllabic structures.
- c. The maximum number of the syllables of the compound particles is five.
- d. Some syllables cannot be part of the structure of compound particles. These include: superheavy with a single coda, superheavy with a complex coda, and superheavy with a geminate coda. This means that particles are lighter than nouns and verbs.

The claim that some particles are compounded is attributed to the efforts of some grammarians and morphologists. This is supported by the fact that some scholars have their own opinions, not shared by their fellow scholars.

Translator's comments.

1. In the Arabic text, the author uses the term *ḥarf*. Unfortunately, in the Arabic literature, this term has a variety of meanings. For instance, it can mean alphabetical letter, speech sound, particle, and even syllable.

2. I believe that the /i/ of /min/ underwent rounding, in regressive harmony with the high back vowel /u/ of /ḏu/.

3. Its structure will be the same even on the assumption that it is simple rather than compound. Since geminates are ambisyllabic, the first /m/ will be coda to the initial syllable, rendering it heavy. The second /m/ will be onset to the ultimate syllable, a weightless obligatory constituent of Arabic syllables.

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حروف المعاني المركبة دراسة بنائية مقطعية

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المستخلص

تهدف هذه الورقة إلى دراسة حروف المعاني المركبة وتسلط الضوء على ملامحها البنائية من حيث التأصيل البنائي للحروف وبيان الأصلي والمزيد منها وكذلك بيان المكونات التي تتألف منها هذه الحروف، إضافة إلى توضيح آراء العلماء التي تتفق أحيانا وتتباين أحيانا آخر في تحديد بساطة أو تركيب حروف المعاني، كما ستركز الورقة على العمليات والتغيرات المختلفة التي تؤثر في تركيبها كالإدغام والحذف والقلب والإبدال.

وتجدر الإشارة إلى أن الحروف وإن أُبعدت عن الميزان الصرفي فلا بد من دراسة تركيبها المقطعي لأن دراستها لا تتأتى إلا من خلال تحليل مقاطعها، فمن المقاطع ما يدخل في بنية حروف المعاني ومنها ما لا يدخل، كالطويل المفرد الإغلاق، والطويل المزدوج الإغلاق، والمديد، ومعنى ذلك أن الحروف مبنية على الخفة وليست كالأسماء والأفعال.

هذه الورقة هي ترجمة من اللغة العربية لورقة عنوانها "حرف المعاني المركبة: دراسة بنائية مقطعية"، أعدها الدكتور عمر علي الباروني وتم نشرها في العدد الثالث لسنة 2015 من مجلة البحوث الأكاديمية التابعة للأكاديمية الليبية فرع مصراتة، ويرى المترجم أهمية ترجمة هذه المقالة للتعريف بالتركيب البنائي والمقطعي لحروف المعاني المركبة في اللغة العربية، وكذلك للتعريف بالإرث اللغوي والجهود التي أسهم بها علماء اللغة العربية في مجال علم اللغة بشكل عام وعلم الصرف والصوتة بشكل خاص. وقد ذيلت الترجمة ببعض الملاحظات التي قد تساعد في زيادة توضيح بعض النقاط التي ذكرها المؤلف.

الكلمات المفتاحية: حرف المعاني المركبة، المقطع، مقطع مغلق، مقطع مفتوح