

Nevertheless, it seems that the author's care for providing the user with additional data might have been of more immediate help with the synonymous terms quoted in the same entry, at least with units displaying an above-average frequency of occurrence in everyday usage: the verb *ağāda* 'to master, be proficient in' in: *lā tuğīd al-ʿarabīya bi-l-qadr al-kāfi li-kay taʿmal ka-mutarǧima* where the synonymic verbs *aḥsana*, *aṭqana* might have been quoted right away (the verb *aḥsana* happens to occur in a somewhat different context on p. 27).

The co-occurrence of alternatives within one single entry would have been welcome also in examples with a relatively less commonly used key-word, as in the case of the prepositional complex *min ǧarrāʾ* (*ǧarāʾ*) 'because of, due to': *min ǧarrāʾ* (*ǧarāʾ*) *hādīhi l-iḍṭirābāt al-mustamirra qalla ʿadad as-suyyāḥ al-aǧānib* (38), where a hint to the more current *min aǧl/li-aǧl* would perhaps be a useful reminder.

Dealing with causative/reflexive pairs of the type *takwīn/takawwun*, at the level of verbal abstracts, is notoriously problematic both in the current usage and in lexicographical practice. The geological term 'orogenesis' is, in Cairo Academy of the Arabic Language, rendered by the reflexively structured *takawwun al-ǧibāl* (*Maǧmūʿat al-muṣṭalaḥāt* 3, 84, 1961), Rabat's Coordination Bureau of Arabization prefers here the causatively featured *takwīn al-ǧibāl* (*Muṣṭalaḥāt al-ǧuǧrāfiyā wal-falak* 1, 45, 1977). The same oscillation may currently be found with many other similar pairs. The reflexively structured *iʿādat at-tasalluḥ* is, no doubt a correct equivalent to 'znovuvyzbrojení' / 'rearmament' / (11); the inclusion of both variants, however, in spite of the proper connotational opposition being substantially neutralized in an out-of-context lexicon entry, would represent a more realistic correspondence: *iʿādat at-tasalluḥ* / *at-tasliḥ*.

Nevertheless, all these remarks touch merely the uppermost surface of a solid scholarly construction and the reviewer has only to congratulate the author for his praiseworthy initiative. Oliverius' subject is truly innovative and, as such, it offered the author no significant support to guide him except a large assortment of text for a laborious analysis. The book will be appreciated by all those who have something to do with Modern Written Arabic.

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ONDRÁŠ, F.: *Egyptská hovorová arabština* (Egyptian Colloquial Arabic). Praha, SET OUT 2001, 240 pp. ISBN 80-86277-20-8.

The new Czech manual of the Egyptian Colloquial Arabic is designed for a broad audience. Primarily, it will be of invaluable help to students at various types of university and college level courses of Arabic. Here, the problem of diglossic communication, inseparable from any type of linguistic instruction in Arabic as a living language, will be supported by a full-scale description of one of the most important colloquial varieties of Arabic. Egyptian colloquial Arabic, presented in Ondráš's manual, is based on the representative Cairene usage and its knowledge is wide spread all over the Arab world owing to its high cultural status as a medium of the popular TV entertainment programs and the massive film production circulating far beyond the Egyptian borders. The key to the exercises and aural texts recorded on two cassettes give this manual the quality of a valuable self-teaching device.

After several decades, Ondráš's manual follows the pioneering Czech textbook by Oliverius–Veselý (last edition 1982) in a substantially expanded and thematically innovated form.

The book contains twenty lessons (L) which are organized as autonomous thematic and grammatical units with complete lesson-related wordlists. The selection of topics introduces the reader to the most typical situations of Egyptian everyday life and provides him with useful vocabulary items and idioms.

- L 1: *Fi 'l-maḡār* (x) (*At the airport*) / articles; attribute; nominal predicate/sentence; personal pronouns;
 (x) – for technical reasons, vertical vowel quantity markers are replaced by horizontal ones in this review).
- L 2: *It-taks(i)* (*Taxi*) / active and passive participles; *miš/muš*; feminine gender, annexion;
 L 3: *Fi 'l-fundu'* (*In the hotel*) / affixal pronouns; prepositions combined with affixal pronouns; perfect tense of the verb 'to be'; the verb 'to have'; *fi / mafīš*;
 L 4: *Fi 's-sū'* (*In the market*) / plural; dual, numeral (1-10); the perfect tense of the regular verbs;
 L 5: *Il-maḡ'am* (*Restaurant*) / demonstrative pronouns; the imperfect tense of the regular verbs; imperative; *lāzim, mumkin, 'āwiz / 'āyiz*;
 L 6: *Zijart il-mathaf* (*In the museum*) / hollow verbs; final and causal clauses (*'ašān / 'alašān*); *ḥajkūn lāzim/mumkin/'ājiz*;
 L 7: *Fi 'l-'ahwa* (*In the coffee-house*) / doubled verbs; *bitā'*;
 L 8: *Maḡaṭṭit il-'uḡrāt* (*Railway station*) / defective verbs; the verb *idda* (to give);
 L 9: *Fi 'l-ḥafla* (*At the reception*) / derived verbal stems / measure ii; connectives *inn, li'inn, lākin*;
 L 10: *Fi 'l-boṣṭa* (*At the post office*) / measures iii and iv; cardinals from 11 upward;
 L 11: *Ma'had il-lugħa 'l-'arabiya* (*Institute of the Arabic Language*) / measure v; ordinal numerals;
 L 12: *Iṣ-ṣafqa 't-tigārīja* (*Business contract*) / measure vi; *kull*;
 L 13: *'And iṭ-ṭabīb* (*At the doctor's*) / measure vii; comparison of adjectives; the verb *ḥad / chad* (to take);
 L 14: *Maktab is-sijāḥa* (*Tourist Office*) / assimilated verbs; measure viii; the verb *ge* (to come);
 L 15: *Stud(i)jo 't-taṣwīr* (*Photographer's studio*) / adjectives denoting colours, properties and physical deficiencies; measure ix; collective nouns;
 L 16: *Mukalma telefonīja* (*Phone call*) / measure x;
 L 17: *'Ism il-būlīs* (*Police station*) / telling the time; date, calendar, days of the week; multiplication numerals, adverbs; temporal clauses;
 L 18: *Iṣ-ša''a* (*Appartment*) / relative pronoun *illi / li*; relative clauses; *nafs, bi nafs* etc.;
 L 19: *Munasbāt iḡtimā'īja* (*Social events*) / conditional clauses; indirect question;
 L 20: *Rubā'ījāt Ṣalāḥ Ṣāḥīn* (*Ṣalāḥ Ṣāḥīn's Rubā'īyāt*) / Arabic writing.

Viewed by the standards accepted in the currently published ECA manuals, the grammatical description is one of the most complete and allows the student to acquire a quite sufficient knowledge of this variety of Arabic. The well organized grammatical paragraphs offer the students the amount of data that goes far beyond the average standards deemed necessary for acquiring basic knowledge and elementary oral skills. The exploitation of the manual is highly facilitated by its methodically sound interconnection of morphological and syntactic data at every step of the study progression. All these features make it fully autonomous and largely independent of a parallel or previous study of Standard Arabic. By an extraordinarily vast extent of its vocabulary Ondráš's manual can hardly be matched by most of the currently published ECA textbooks. Apart from lexical units covering the everyday usage, a relatively large number of items, derived from higher cultural levels, can be found in the word-lists as well.

Nevertheless, the same cannot be said of the treatment of the main morphophonemic features (epenthesis, elision of the unstressed short vowels, etc., as given p. 13). No comprehensive presentation of the main morphonological constraints of ECA (incompatibility of vowel quantity with the position of vowels in unstressed syllables; incompatibility of the occurrence of more than one long vowel within the limits of one phonological word; incompatibility of consonant clusters with the word-initial position; incompatibility of vowel quantity with vowels in the word-final position) is provided, and their practical application cannot be qualified as consistent.

Some of the most frequent types of morphophonemic misrepresentations:

- long vowels in unstressed syllables (stressed syllables are written here bold): *rāsīl* in *rāsīl-t* = *rāsīl-t* (i.e. *ra-silt*, when prosodically segmented), *rāsīl-ti*, *-na* = *rāsīl-ti*, *-na*, etc. (90);
- the unstressed (whence short) vowel, which had to be deleted (unless thereby generating a consonant cluster), is maintained: *ḥa-ji'ūm ba^cd rub^c sā^aa* = *ḥa-y'ūm ba^cdi rubⁱ sā^aa* (69, see below); *wi-ḍujūfak* = *wi-ḍyūfak* (125); sometimes the possibility of deletion (?) is, ambiguously enough, marked by bracketing: *ma t(i)chafīš* = *ma-ṭhafīš* (69);
- the unstressed vowel that had to be deleted, is maintained, and the previous long syllable, that had to be shortened owing to its double closure, is kept long: *rās(i)l-it* = *rasl-it*, *rāsīl-ū* = *rasl-u* (prosodically: *ras-lit*, *ras-lu*); the possibility of deletion (or a hint to the etymological status?) of the unstressed *i* in *rās(i)l-it* is marked, at the very least by bracketing (?), in *rāsīl-ū* not even this step had been done; *dāch(i)līnhā* = *daḥlinha* (162); *huwa šājiḥnī* = *huwa šajīḥnī* (29); *bēthā*, *bētna*, etc. = *betha*, *betna*, etc. (29, here the shortening is due to the double closure of the long syllable, not to the stress shift); *ša''a wāsī'a* = *ša''a was'a* (162);
- the word-final vowel quantity is improperly maintained *rāsīl-ū* = *rasl-u*, see above; *n(i)sītū ḥāga* = *nisītū ḥāga* (69); *fī ḥajātī* = *fī ḥayātī* (115); *ji'darū jiktiš(i)fū* = *yi'daru yiktišfu* (125); *ma šāfūhā* = *ma šafūha* (125);
- word-initial consonant cluster (unconnected with cluster-preventing elements in the preceding word) : *nḍīf* (12) = *nīḍīf* 'clean'; *gḍīd (il-basbōr gḍīd ...* (14)) = *gidīd* 'new'; *kbīr*, *kbīra* (wordlist entries (18)) = *kibīr*, *kibīra* 'great m/f'; *zmīlī (zmīlī ṭalab minnī... = zamīlī ṭalab minnī... (54))*; *nsīna nigīb* = *nisīna-ngīb* (69);
- cluster-preventing vowels (v) in consonant (c) clusters like *ccc* > *ccvc* are mostly ignored: (apart from special contexts where *a* and *u* may be used, the most currently occurring consonant cluster is *i*): *ba^cd rub^c sā^aa* = *ba^cdi rubⁱ sā^aa* (the cluster preventing *i* will not be distinguished here from the phonemic /i/ by any special symbol) (69); *il-'aṭr b(i)ta'na* = *il-'aṭri-bta'na* (69); *'aḥsan 'akl kalto fī ḥajātī* = *'aḥsan 'akli kalto-f hayātī* (115);

The system of bracketing, as used in the manual, is certainly the source of numerous ambiguities: *is-sauwwā^a b(i)ṭā^o* = *is-sawwā^a biṭā^o* (153 k bracketed /?/) vs. *il-kart biṭā^aak* (144 k unbracketed /?/), the last example properly: *il-karti-bṭā^aak*.

The bracketed (*i*) in *'ālū l(i)na* is not likely to remind the student about two possible readings of the prepositional complex *l(i)na* in accordance with the two possible stress patterns:

- (i) *'ālū līna (līna)* – two phonological words independently stressed, or
- (ii) *'alulna* – one phonological word with a unique stress.

As might be inferred from what precedes, the description of some single morphological features seems to be somewhat overclassitized. When disregarding the general approach to the morphonological presentation (see above) that moves the morphonological contours of the ECA too close to those of the MSA, we have in mind, quite particularly,

the treatment of the verbal stem (*wazn* 'measure') iv, to quote one of the most outstanding examples. At the beginning, it is rightly stated that ECA has only a very limited number of verbs in this stem form (92 f). Nevertheless, the crucial information that this stem form does not form part of the grammatical system of ECA, is missing. Accordingly, the stem iv perfective cannot be 'formed (in ECA) by the prefix -a . . . ' (90), since it is wholesale adopted from MSA as a lexical unit with no intrinsic structure of its own. Let us consider the following contrast:

- (i) lexical borrowing from MSA which does not form part of the linguistic system of ECA:

(preliminary note: all stem iv verbal forms with a word-initial glottal stop, occurring in the ECA lexicon as borrowings from the MSA, are opposing the general evolutionary trend toward the disappearance of the glottal stop in this position that may be seen in phonological shifts like: *'akal* (MSA) > *kal* (ECA) 'to eat' or *'ahad* > *had* 'to take', or even the nominal *'ahad* > *hadd* 'somebody, anybody'; the etymological state is still maintained with elatives (*'akbar* > *'akbar*) and 'colour' adjectives (*'ahmar* > *'ahmar*). *'ahrag* 'to direct (a play, fil)' (*'achrag* p. 92); *'asraf* 'to supervise, manage'; *'a'lan* 'to declare, announce' (ibid.); *'arsal* 'to send';

or, with hollow verbs:

'aḏāf 'to add, annexe' (93); *'aqām* 'to set up, erect', etc.

- (ii) etymological stem iv forms reshaped along with the morphonological system of ECA:

ḥarag (transitive verb) 'to put outside', with the imperfective *yihrig*, contrasting with:

ḥarag (intransitive verb) 'to go out, leave', with the imperfective *yuhrug*; or:

'ām, imperf. *yi'īm* (transitive) 'to raise', as against:

'ām, imperf. *yi'ūm* (intransitive) 'to stand, arise'; in the latter case both morphological and extended phonological (/q/ > /ʔ/, in addition to the disappearance of the word-initial glottal stop of the classical stem formative) changes had taken place (for the ECA data see Badawi-Hinds 1986).

On the strength of this evidence it may be inferred that the stem iv items, both verbal and verbonominal, do not form part of the derived stem system of the ECA.

Of course, our remarks exclusively refer to some features of formal presentation that do not lower the high quality and a fruitful exploitability of this manual. All potential ambiguities that might be experienced while working with written texts alone are reliably cleared up by the excellent audio records. The manual will be used with profit not only by the students of Arabic and linguists, but also by all those whose professions or tourist ambitions will make Egypt the goal of their journey.

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