the revision of the lexical and textual material of the two additional volumes of the *Lehrbuch* (Part II/1 and Part II/2) and freeing it from the ideologically enforced *ostblock*-atmosphere of the late GDR. High-quality grammatical parts, completed with ingeniously organized highly efficient drills, would harmoniously complete the grammatical and lexical core provided by the German Langenscheidt-edited *Lehrbuch* as well as its revised English version under review.

Ladislav Drozdík

OLIVERIUS, Jaroslav: *Kapitoly ze syntaxe moderní spisovné arabštiny* (Chapters from the Syntax of Modern Written Arabic). Praha, Karolinum 1998. 255 pp. ISBN 80-7184-785-2.

There is no great assortment of scholarly works and manuals dealing with the syntactic structures of Modern Written Arabic. D.V. Semenov's book *Sintaksis sovremennogo arabskogo literaturnogo yazyka* (1941) is, for all its merits, definitely obsolete since it is based on texts roughly delimited by the last decades of the 19th and the thirties of the 20th centuries. It is the period of searching for one's way in construing MWA sentences and in adopting more flexible and less burdensom modes of expression. The tentativeness of this period, often unsuccessful and fallacious, is reflected both in the lexicon and, even more patently, in the instability of sentence structures. Vincente Cantarino's *Syntax of Modern Arabic Prose* (1969; 1974-75) was probably the first large-scale syntactic description to cover the first half of the 20th century in its entirety.

It was about this time that the first version of Oliverius's book appeared in Romanized transcription, still in the form of a modestly duplicated university textbook. By the richness of material collected and its linguistically consistent classification, it proved to be of enormous help to the university students and their teachers alike. Already in this form it would have deserved to be made accessible to a larger body of learners in a foreign language version, since by far not all students in European universities possessed a manual specifically designed for the study of the MWA syntax. After more than two decades the textbook acquired quite a new shape, both in its graphical presentation (rewritten in Arabic script) and thematic organization.

The book is divided into two main parts: 1. (simple) sentences, and 2. complex sentences (CS), with further subdivisions: 1.1. noun; 1.2. verb, for the former, and 2.1. coordinate CS; 2.2. subordinate CS, for the latter. The neatly presented syntactic description is relatively concise but transparent and self-sufficient. Syntactic phenomena dealt with are supported by a wealth of really modern and well-chosen material.

The new version offers numerous improvements in classifying syntactic phenomena which are more in accordance with recent developments of linguistic theory. In the domain of subordination, perhaps one of the most important improvements concerns relative clauses (RCs) which are treated, in the old version (144 f.), under the common heading of *vedlejší věty doplňovací vztažné* (complementary relative clauses) while, in the new version, they are already subdivided into *vzažné věty ajektivní (věty přívlastkové)* (adjectival relative clauses /attributive clauses) (183 f.) and *vztažné věty substantivní* (substantival relative clauses) (193 f.).

From a linguistic point of view, perhaps the best way of distinguishing between the two main types of RCs has to be derived from the coreferential terms involved: the head noun or antecedent (A) and relative noun (R):

(1) monofunctional (attributive) RCs: A and R co-occur as autonomous elements: *ğā'a ṭ-ṭālibāni* (A) *lladāni* (R) *takallamnā ʿanhum* (183), as against:

(2) multifunctional RCs: A and R merged into one common RC indicator: AR, as in (RC as a subject clause): *alladīna* (AR) *yahtammūna bi-hādā t-taḥaṣṣuṣ yuḥrizūna 'aḥsana n-natā'iğ* (193); or (RC as an object clause): *mā* (AR) *'arāda 'an yaqūlahu lanā qad qara'nā fī l-ğarā'id* (194), etc.

As a matter of alternative solution, it is questionable whether nouns related to verbs of

the class *kāna wa-'aḥawātuhā* should not be more advantageously classified as (nominal) predicates rather than (predicative) complements: *'aṣbaḥat (al-madīna)markazan lil-'idāra wa-t-tiğāra* (24). The (predicatively relevant and mostly taken for criterial) lexical load of verbs like *'aṣbaḥa* is decidedly still lower than that of *iʿtabara* or *ʿadda,* i.e. verbs quoted in the section dealing with the nominal predicate (22).

Syntactic structures described are presented at *all* relevant hierarchical levels: parts of sentences, in the framework of simple sentences, as well as various structural patterns of subordinate clauses, within complex sentences. The concise presentation of predicative complement (*doplněk,* at the part-of-sentence level corresponding to *ḥāl* of the Arab grammarians), for instance, is comprising all levels of its representation:

- part of sentence: synthetic rendering: noun in accusative: *ʿuyyina 'ustādan li-kullīyat al-ḥuqaq* (24); *ḥarağat min al-ḥuğrati bākiyatan* (26);

- part of sentence: analytic rendering (*ka-, bi-ṣifat-, bi-waṣf-, bi-ʿtibār-*), e.g. *kāna hunāka bi-ṣifatihi mudarrisan* (25); *iltaḥaqat bi-l-'idāʿati bi-waṣfihā muḥarriratan* (25);

- clause: *tağawwala fī 'aḥyā'in šaʿbīyatin yataḥaddatu maʿa n-nāsi wa-yusağğilu mulāḥaẓātihi* (27); *qad tuwuffiyat 'ummuhu wa-huwa baʿdu ṭiflun* (161);

Finally a word of value. Oliverius book is a valuable contribution to the university level instruction of Modern Written Arabic. As a high-quality manual, specifically designed for the study of the MWA syntax, it fills a frustrating gap long perceived in this domain.*

Ladislav Drozdík

* In fact, the first large-scale syntactic description of Modern Written Arabic is only now in preparation. Part One, vol. 1 of the multi-volume monograph Hashem El-Ayoubi, Wolfdietrich Fischer, Michael Langer: *Syntax der arabischen Schriftsprache der Gegenwart* (Grundlagen der deskriptiven Syntax des Arabischen. Das Nomen und sein Umfeld), Teil 1, Band 1, Reichert Verlag Wiesbaden 2001 (543 pp.), is expected to be followed by Teil I, Band 2 (Die konnektiven Wortarten des Nomens: Pronomina, Adverbien und Präpositionen), and later, by Teil II (Die Verbalgruppe) und Teil III (Die Partikeln und ihre Funktionen. Die Satzverbindungen).