various Arab states. Secondly, the historical background of the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire and the imperial policy of the victorious Great Powers after WWI are both examined. No less important is the critical evaluation of the dramatic developments in Palestine under the British mandate and its aftermath after WWII, which has continued to the present day in an even more turbulent form. Sorby's monograph is a welcomed enrichment to Slovak and Czech historiography, which will undoubtedly attract both the relevant experts and the broader professional public.

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WALTISBERG, Michael: *Satzkomplex und Funktion, Syndese und Asyndese im Althocharabischen* (Sentence complex and function. Syndetism and asyndetism in Classical Arabic). Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2009. 393 p. ISBN 978-3-447-05993-0.

Waltisberg's monograph is one of the very few treatises offering a comprehensive description and classification of complex sentence construction from the general perspective of syndetism and asyndetism. The syntactic material that is examined involves constructions previously studied by various authors at various times (ranging from the nineteenth to the twenty-first centuries) and with very different aims and techniques, mostly in reference to the general feature of coordination and related structures, as well as to the *ḥāl*-sentences[*] (*Zustandssätze* or the author's neologism *Umstandssätze*), final, temporal and some other circumstantial clauses, and the like.

The book consists of eight chapters. Chapter I, Topic's presentation (Problemstellung, pp. 1–12) introduces basic notions, aims of the inquiry, the list and content of the subsequent analytic parts of the monograph, numbered model constructions referred to later in the text, and technical remarks.

Chapter II, Constructions (Konstruktionen, pp. 13–54), is a listing of constructions examined in the monograph as well as those excluded out of consideration (unberücksichtigte Konstruktionen).

Syndetic constructions are identified with: *ḥāl*-sentence, antecedent (vorzeitiger Umstandssatz), type *fa-ntabaha wa-qad šaddūhu,* and simultaneous (gleichzeitiger U.); types *mātat ʾāminatu wa-hija rāǧiʿatun ilā makkata,* or *ʾaḫraǧū saʿdan wa-huwa marīḍun;* syndetic final sentence (syndetischer Finalsatz); type: *tub li-jaġfira laka llāhu,* asyndetic final sentence (asyndetischer Finalsatz), type: *ʾatā ʾilā ʿajni māʾin jašrabu.* Asyndetic constructions involve, among others: asyndetic modal sentence

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[*]Since there is no generally accepted English term (Wright ii, 1898, 5: 'clauses expressing a state or condition /*āl*/', or thoroughly inacceptable Badawi's et al., 2004, 156, 456: 'circumstantial qualifier'), we prefer the native term *ḥāl* and related derivatives.

(asyndetischer Modalsatz), type *āʾa zajdun jaḏḥaku,* asyndetic final sentence (asyndetischer Finalsatz), type: *ʾatā ʾilā ʿajni māʾin jašrabu,* asyndetic non-verbal sentence (asyndetischer Nicht-Verbalsatz), type *āʾa zajdun jaduhū ʿalā raʾsihī,* participial adjunct (Partizipialadjunkt), type *ḥaraġnā mutawaġihīna ʾilā l-jamani;* raising, types *samiʿtu n-nabīja jaḥṭubu,* and *raʾajtuka nāʾiman,* and so forth. The syndetic and asyndetic constructions listed are, in the following section, rearranged in opposition pairs (Oppositionspaare).

Chapter III, Junction (Junktion, pp. 55–82), examines the syntactic status of junction, and attempts to create a hierarchy of junction strategies (Junktionsskala). Chapter IV, Form (83–210), reexamines constructions listed in Chapter II and confronts these, as well as relevant basic notions, with parallel, possibly competing conceptual and structural units. The last analytic part of the monograph, Chapter V, Function (Funktion, pp. 211–362), examines the functional side of the constructions analysed. The final chapters (VI, VII and VIII) present abbreviations, literature and a very useful index of textual quotations that is arranged according to author and page number (Stellenindex).

In spite of the author´s fairly acceptable argumentation (see *unberücksichtigte Konstruktionen,* p. 19 f.), the exclusion of relativisation, traditionally relying on the classificatory relevance of the opposition *syndetic – asyndetic,* impoverished the structural database and its structural diversity. Furthermore, this exclusion prevented the possibility of testing additional classificatory criteria (category of definiteness /determination/ interacting with that of the predicate´s finiteness). The confrontation of *asyndetischer Relativsatz* with structurally identical modal or final clauses (with the latter found in the following example) shows that there are points of contact between them that are not yet clarified: ´. . . *ḥattā ttaḥaḏa rasūlu llāhi ṣlʿm ḥiġran jastatiru bihī ʾiḏā ṣallā* ´ so that the Messenger of God set a barrier to hide oneself from them when he prayed // by which he concealed himself from them when he prayed´ (§ 4.2.3, p. 90).

Terminology, used in the monograph, is thoroughly innovative. The arguments for substituting the author´s coinage *Umstandssatz* for the traditional and well-established *Zustandssatz* do not sound convincing (13, fn. 3). On the other hand, the term *Kopf* (< head), once accepted, might well put an end to the disturbing and largely useless alternation between *Kernnomen, Bezugsnomen* (El-Ayoubi et al., 2001, 2003), *Leitwort* (Brockelmann 1913, 556 ff.), *übergeordnete Nomen* (Brockelmann 1965, 189) or even a descriptive */das/ als Regens benannte Substantiv* (Fischer 2002, 182, 193, and so forth). Another hopeful unit, *Klause* (< clause), might be of similar service.

A truly impressive part of the Classical Arabic complex-sentence grammar found in the monograph is an expert and well-documented rearrangement along the opposition of syndetic – asyndetic. Such a process is not solely a matter of taxonomy. Its main import consists in discovering new and so far hidden relationships as well as new perspectives which confirm or invalidate previously accepted syntactic identities.

Waltisberg´s monograph will find a respectable place in the library of ambitious Arabists, especially those of them who are seriously interested in problems of the sentential syntax.

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