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ABSTRACT This article reviews the process of stylistic change in urban English where social and economic conditions, are related to the changing inner city. Several factors have influenced the style and structure of the linguistic environment in the process of change.

The social environment of the inner city has been structured by such factors as the changing inner city, the economic conditions, and the social and economic factors which impact the urban environment. Thus, the style and structure of the linguistic environment in the process of change are determined by the social and economic factors which impact the urban environment.
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INTERACTION BETWEEN PROSE STYLES AND LINGUISTIC DEVELOPMENTS IN ARABIC AFTER WORLD WAR II

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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INTERACTION BETWEEN PROSE STYLES AND LINGUISTIC DEVELOPMENTS IN ARABIC AFTER WORLD WAR II

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This article has two objectives: first, to review the prose literary styles used in literary Arabic in the period following the Second World War, and second, to attempt to explain the considerable relationship between these prose styles and the developments which characterize Arabic prose in terms of form and content in this period.

This article is based on linguistic research sponsored by the Center for Research on Language and Language Behavior at the University of Michigan in the United States of America. The purpose of this study is to arrive at the linguistic developments which have occurred in Arabic prose in the last 30 years. The following participated in the study: Dr. Ernest McCarus of the University of Michigan, Dr. Wallace Erwin of Georgetown University, Dr. Peter Abhoud of the University of Texas and the writer of this article. This study was undertaken in accordance with scientific method; we first sent a questionnaire to professors specializing in Arabic language and literature in the United States and the Arab world, requesting that they provide us with names of 40 famous Arab prose authors who best represent the period after World War II; and second, that they give the most important works of each author they mention. The lists we received contained names of prose writers from most parts of the Arab world, as well as works representative of various types of modern Arabic prose, i.e., novels, short stories, plays, criticism, speeches, journalism, autobiography, and essays dealing with political, social and literary themes. Also included are works dealing with philosophy, history, science, art and religion which were written during this period.

On the basis of those lists, we chose 36 authors representing 12 Arab geographical areas. We then chose one to three works of each writer in consideration of his importance, popularity and the literary subjects for which he is distinguished. We thus acquired a representative number of writers and works, representing the period which we wanted to explore.
Our method of research is to analyze a minimum of 2,500 pages of prose and to categorize them in precise linguistic terms using a comprehensive description of each sentence with its components as well as its vocabulary. A distinctive feature of our study is the utilization of modern methods and scientific apparatus in the analysis and compilation of the information needed for study. After undertaking the process of concise linguistic analysis, the analyzed products are fed into a computer, which thereafter gives us whatever grammatical constructions we want to study, after it categorizes and examines them for us in the manner desired.

The prose writings whose analysis has been completed reveal to us that modern Arabic prose falls into three style types. I should like to make it clear that these divisions are mere generalizations, since it is difficult at this point to decisively categorize the writers, or to designate distinctive criteria for each style. This is due to the amount of intermingling of these styles and the authors' utilization of more than one designated style, as will be seen later. These styles are:

1. The modern simple style, in which simplicity and freedom of expression prevail. This style employs simple sentences and structures, which include language that can be easily understood by the public. The principle aim, here, is the true and full description of life's realities. It also utilizes, at times, words and expressions from the local dialect and from foreign languages, with the purpose of educating the masses and serving their interests. This style has become widespread today, especially amongst young authors, in addition to recent works of authors who wrote before World War II and still write today. Examples: Yousef Al-Sibaly, Ihsan Abdul-Quddus and Tawfiq Al-Hakim.

The best two examples of this type of style are the following two passages: The first one is an excerpt from the book 'nahnu laa nazrawy al-kubk', 'We Do Not See Thorns' by the Egyptian literateur Yousef Al-Sibaly (Volume 1, p. 282, 1966).

"أوًل من حمل ساعة بعدوا جمالاً في عطولة من عطلة ونضب نورها قاطعة،
- حوّر حبرك في خلفي أنت عطولة،
- ومند المساء بدأ يقبع من تحتي وهي جمع عطلة،
- كان نور نورك يسبع بدءًا حتى نور على ما نظم،
- كثر حبرك وسأ شملي نحيل،
- فحسبك يا سيداً ودي أن منعك ام عطلة شفيدة ونكهة،
- أذهب ان دخّل سنورها بأشباها من الحقاوي، مدحدها إلى المجل مباشدة،
- كل له معشوقه منجل بس جناءً،
- واجد له ببرك من جبي إليه وصوته دوا في جمي وترحب،
- فهما من الهمم التي سماها ابنها أو الأسرة،
- وسبيله ما بينه في مستحارة،
- ما الذي يقوله ما سمعه؟
These two passages represent the long strides which this "simple style" has taken to reach the intellect of the masses, through the use of simple and concise language. It should again be noted that this type of style utilizes vocabulary items and expressions from that local dialect and from foreign languages equally, for the realistic depiction of characters and events. Thus, it flows more smoothly and is easier to comprehend.

2. The pure middle style, where moderation in the choice of vocabulary items and in the construction of sentences is observed. The general aim of this style is to secularize and de-romanticize modern Arabic prose by ridding it of rhymed prose and other traditional embellishments while at the same time preserving a purely Arabic language which is almost free of foreign and dialectal elements. Since the proponents of this style are always seeking to create a balance between form and content, their works inevitably emerge unshackled by fanciful refinements of syntax,
weak Arabic constructions or loan-translations. The promoters of this style comprise those who matured professionally before World War II (and continued writing afterwards) as well as those who have come onto the scene since then. Among them we find Taha Hussein, Mikhail Nadji, Ahmad Al-Zayyat, Abbas Al-Aqqad, Maroun Abboud, Ahmad Amin, Mohammed Hussein Haikal, Suhail Idris, Nazik Al-Malaika, Satif Al-Husari and (in some of their writings) Najib Mahfouz and Mahmoud Taymouz.

Of this modern prose, distinguished for its superb control of expression and concern with content as well as form, the following two excerpts will serve as examples. The first is from Taha Hussein’s book "Adib 'Literateur' (p. 147, 1961):

"...I, together with my colleagues, have written a book on Arab literature, and among the books that have been written, perhaps the best is the one by Taha Hussein, 'Adib 'Literateur'."

And from Najib Mahfouz’s "baytun sayyi'ayn summa-‘House of ill-Repute’ (pp. 218-219, 1965) is the following passage:

"...And in the midst of this chaos, there is a man whose name is Abu al-Hasan, a man of great wealth and influence."

The most outstanding thing in these two samplings is the use of a purely Arabic medium capable of expressing ideas as well as feelings without being overcharged with erudite forms and abstractions and without, at the same time, being lowered to the use of a "street-level" dialect. The creators of this style appear to be trying to lift the standards of the reader, with respect to his spoken language, to this intermediate "written" mode which they employ.

In spite of the fact that most Arab writers of our time are endeavoring to simplify their language and render it intelligible to all, we still find this 'middle style' and its proponents to be gaining the most ground. Heading the aforementioned lists are the names of writers who now use this style exclusively, e.g., Taha Hussein, Mikhail Na'aimy, Mahmoud Taymour, Ahmad Amin and Suhayl Idris.

3. The grandiose style, which is laden with formal embellishments and rhetorical niceties. This style is rife with metaphorical and figurative devices which serve to satisfy the author's desire for eloquence and pedantry.

Although this style still follows the old model of rhymed prose and traditional rhetoric by its use of language replete with preciosities, hazy references and cliches, it nevertheless has not been unaffected by modern literary trends. This is apparent by the use of psychological and social analysis and precise description wherever necessary, as well as the resolution and ambiguities through the use of punctuation marks without being tied down by prescriptive traditional rules. This style is characterized by its use of traditional rhetorical devices, its tendency to revive passe forms from the lexicon of Classical Arabic and its widening of the application of Arabic's built-in derivational machinery. This style is not used to any notable degree today. Thus far, I have only come across one book which employs this style; a book by Mahmoud Taymour entitled "Passaxlyyatu-lfišruun, The Twenty Personalities" (1969). The following two excerpts are taken from that book. In the first, Taymour describes Lutfi Al-sayyid (pp. 9-10) in the following manner:

"...فكرة أكثر منه جذاب وعمل أكثر منه مادة، وقوة، حسن..."

...فكرة أكثر منه جذاب وعمل أكثر منه مادة، وقوة، حسن...
In the second passage (pp. 41-42) the author describes the judicial attitude of Ahmad Amin:

"As a result, the author described the judicial attitude of Ahmad Amin. The author states that the judicial attitude of Ahmad Amin is characterized by a serious and thorough approach to the cases. In the second passage, the author describes how Ahmad Amin approached the cases with a serious and thorough manner, taking into account the facts and circumstances of each case. Thus, the judicial attitude of Ahmad Amin is characterized by a serious and thorough approach.

In the university, Ahmad Amin was known for his serious and thorough approach to the cases. He was respected by his colleagues and students for his dedication and hard work.

In conclusion, the judicial attitude of Ahmad Amin is characterized by a serious and thorough approach to the cases. His dedication and hard work have earned him respect from his colleagues and students."

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In conclusion, the judicial attitude of Ahmad Amin is characterized by a serious and thorough approach to the cases. His dedication and hard work have earned him respect from his colleagues and students."
I would like to repeat here that it is not easy to make "precise" correlations between these styles and the writers who use them; especially since we find that some well-known writers in our time write in two or more styles. Mahmoud Taymour, for example, sometimes employs the grandiose style and sometimes the pure middle, while Najib Mahfouz, Tawfiq Al-Hakim, and Halim Barakat use the pure modern and simple styles. These writers vary their style in accordance with the nature and requirements of their subject matter.

After this general survey of contemporary prose literary styles, I will move on to talk about the extent of the influence of these styles upon contemporary Arabic prose with regard to form and content. I shall begin with the developments in form as follows:

1. Developments pertaining to vocabulary. These developments include the use of the following:
   a. Familiar Arabic vocabulary, such as the vocabulary used by Mahmoud Taymour in his book "Al-Fasaxsiyya_tul-Sisruun". It is a classical Arabic vocabulary containing nouns, adjectives, and verbs of rare usage, despite the fact that they are found within dictionaries, i.e.:

   انايد، كون، نجاح، حل، جامع، مطامع، عاجج، اذكر، نعاصي،
   اعصر، بيمع، وغيرها.

   b. Colloquial Arabic vocabulary, which is chiefly found in simple style writings especially in dialogue situations or discussions between
characters in a novel or play. The use of the colloquial has now become a matter of course among certain contemporary prose literateurs, for example: Ihsan Abdul-Quddous, Taufiq Al-hakim and Youssuf Al-Siba'i. There are many examples of colloquial vocabulary and expressions in their novels and plays such as the above from Youssuf Al-Siba'i and Ihsan Abdul-Quddous.2

c. Foreign vocabulary, which has become, after its Arabicization, more familiar and more common than its Arabic equivalents. This vocabulary consists of names of newly-appeared machinery and equipment, as well as certain scientific and technical terms. The use of this vocabulary depends on the type of style and the education of the writer. The users of the modern simple style, for example, employ it frequently, even though equivalents in Arabic are widespread. Those who employ the pure middle style also use this vocabulary, but only where its equivalents in Arabic do not give the precise meaning. Its use in the grandiose style is rare, however. The following selection from the book "Al-Saa'id 'The Man Who Returned' by the writer Khalil Taqiyy Al-Din (p. 82, 1968) gives us a clear idea of the use in the modern Arabic novel of Arabicized foreign vocabulary items.

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2. Developments pertaining to Arabic expressions and sentences influenced by foreign languages with regard to derivation and usage of some of their vocabulary and lexical implications. Some of the writers who were educated or lived in the West are inclined to use expressions and sentences of this type, examples of whom are: Halim Barakat, Jabir Ibrahim Jabra, Layla Hlabaki. The following are examples of these expressions:

- "He took the plane"
- 'programmed learning'
- 'the scientific field'
- 'the starry night'
- 'a starry sky'
3. Linguistic developments pertaining to certain grammatical constructions, especially the use and meaning of certain particles found in these constructions. I have noticed, for example, that contemporary Arabic uses certain constructions containing certain negative particles which have, since classical times, undergone changes in meaning and usage. Some particles have taken on new meaning while the meanings of others have become broader, and the use of still others has fallen off markedly. The constructions containing the negative particle لَمْ which negates the event in the past connected with the present, is now very rare. I have found only eight examples of it in the 25 books that I have examined. It is worth mentioning that these examples appeared in the writings of Taha Hussein, Michael Yaqub, Mahmoud Taymour and Sadi Al-Makzoubi, all of whom are of writers who appeared and matured before the Second World War.

On the other hand, أَلَيْلَلَا 'didn’t' which is mainly used to negate an event in the past, is now frequently used to negate the past whose result is still present. I have found many examples containing the negative particle - لا which indicates negation of an act in the past connected with the present, as in the following examples:

"لَمْ يَأْقُلْ عَلَيْهِ، لَمْ يَأْتِي بعد العرين، ولم ينال إلى بوسنا هذا نوى الدرام والكوبسيه."

Likewise, the use of constructions containing ُهَلْ which indicates a negative sense inferred from intonation in the sentence, has become very infrequent. I have found only three examples of this type in the books that I have read.

Regarding أَلَابْنَ أَلَان and أَلَان which grammarians call negative particles, their use has become uncommon or nonexistent today.

Other categories of sentence have also been affected by developments similar to those of negation. I have found that grammatical constructions beginning with the ِكُلِّي (the circumstantial clause) such as "مَرْضَةُ الطَّافِرَة" ُحُسْنُ لَيْلَةُ الرَّحْبِا which grammarians call negative particles, their use has become uncommon or nonexistent today.

Regarding أَلَابْنَ أَلَان and أَلَان which grammarians call negative particles, their use has become uncommon or nonexistent today.
The developments mentioned above are not intended to be a generalization but a description of the developments which the grammar of contemporary Arabic is undergoing. We will publish in detail all of the syntactic developments which have happened to the numerous categories of syntax in special articles, after complete data are available and analyzed scientifically and precisely, relying on living examples derived from literary books which are not available.

4. Developments pertaining to the composition of Arabic sentences and the construction of their words as well as the use of punctuation marks, following modern trends in writing. Today we often find Arabic novels and plays where authors do not pay attention to the old rules of punctuation or sentence length and the composition of its parts.

A more precise attempt at the writings of Hosen Abdel-Hadeem, Laila Ba’labakki, Halwa Barakat, Ahmad Al-Qamari and Khalid Taymour and at some of the recent novels by Emile Mbeirkin gives us a clear idea about their use of sentences, which fluctuate in length between one word to a line or more. Most attract our attention here is the consideration of the writers of modern Western rules of punctuation, such as placement of commas, periods and exclamation and question marks, as well as other matters on which the old rules of writing are based. In addition to this, we notice that some of the modern writers do not abide by any set principles which provide for giving the right of priority to the word or sentence, or a special concentration on the subject of the sentence. The work and subject in the hands of Halwa Barakat, for example, are equal in terms of precedence and deferent (in the sentence). The following excerpt from Barakat’s book "The Return of the Sailor to the Sea" (p. 48, 1969) illustrates how the developments just mentioned.
A study of the development of prose literary styles, as well as the linguistic changes which they affected in form and content, reveals that all of them have happened naturally as required by our living conditions and contemporary life. The environment where we live with all its cultural and social influences is that which dictates what we write. As a result of this, whatever the differences among prose styles today, they are all appropriate for our surroundings, our language and our reality. In fact, all of these differences in style and the resulting linguistic developments clearly point out the flexibility of contemporary Arabic and its pliability in expressing most ideas and meanings with accuracy, profundity and ease.

The noticeable variety in today’s prose styles can be attributed to the use of the language to express a diversity of cultural and social scenes. As long as contemporary writers consider modern literary principles in the handling of their subjects, present social and literary life as their eyes see it, and make an effort to serve the public masses which they address or to serve Arabic culture and art which they represent, it is not necessary that they all write in one style for a common single goal. Had they done so, our literature today would be characterized by weakness and constraint instead of strength and expansion.

This is with regard to the literary prose styles. As for the influences which modern literary trends have introduced to Arabic prose, such as the new treatment of the subject matter, the use of punctuation marks, the use of foreign word- and expressions and the derivation of new Arabic words, they do not mar our contemporary Arabic language or our prose writers. Faith in renewal, in liberation, in the harmony between our writings and contemporary life and all the influences they receive from modern trends in writing and education is necessary these days. There is an advantage in these for us, an enlightenment for our minds, nourishment for our literature and strength for our language.

The Cairene Scientific Academy works hard to create Arabic equivalents for foreign words or expressions. If these Arabic equivalents were come at the right time, writers would appreciate and use them, and, naturally, readers would approve and accept them. On the other hand, if they come late or if they do not give the precise meaning which the foreign words do, especially with regard to modern machinery and scientific equipment and medical and artistic discoveries, then the use of the Arabized foreign words themselves will become more certain, because their meaning is complete and clear.
Likewise, the use of the colloquial language in certain modern novels and plays to portray the events and characters in a more true-to-life fashion is a gain which makes our literature deal with real life. Whether or not this phenomenon is drawn from foreign literatures or obtained as a result of the natural development which both Arab and world literatures are experiencing, there is no doubt that it is a sound phenomenon, right in its path and goal. And so long as its use is confined to discussion or arguments for genuine literary objectives, harm will not ensue from it.

The fear which certain writers and critics have had recently, namely that the use of simple style, which employs colloquialisms and certain foreign words is corrosive to the Arabic language and destructive of its grammatical foundations, is built on fancy, not fact. The concern of the advocates of the simple style with content and their consideration of the popular classes for whom they write is not a condemnation of the Arabic language and its grammar, but rather a simplification and rendering of it appropriate to the cultural and intellectual levels of these classes. Indeed, what comes from this state of affairs is simply the disappearance of the use of syntactic constructions which do not state our ideas clearly, and in an easily digestible way. The developments we observed in the use of certain negative constructions and the hal in contemporary prose writings is the best proof of that. The tendency of simple style writers not to use negative particles showing indirect negation (such as the negative sense inferred from intonation when using خلاف), or the comprehension of the meaning of the whole sentence by considering what precedes and follows it when using حسب، and أن، or the common use today of the particle of negation لا to indicate negation of a past event connected with the present time—all of these things have not and will not harm the Arabic language or offend its grammatical rules. The same thing can be said of the avoidance by those who use the simple and middle styles of the use of the hal at the beginning of the sentence, or their avoidance of using it like an adjective, and (this can be extended) other standards of "elegance" where writers center their attention on form and embellishment, instead of conveying the meaning in a clear, easy manner.

In brief, Arabic prose has been undergoing a course of complete stabilization since World War II. The examples cited in the first part of this article greatly testify to the development of prose styles and subjects in agreement with the contemporary modern spirit. Although these developments had begun to show up during World War I and had begun to increase shortly prior to World War II, they nonetheless had matured and stabilized in the years which followed the last war. Whereas we used to find controversy, rather than isolation prevailing among pre-World War II groups of writers, we see that all that has been reversed to solidarity, order, a line and closeness after the war. And whereas we used to find writers in the past holding firmly to tradition and...
conservatism, and others zealously embracing the new and original, we see most writers today drawing from contemporary literary sources, even those who still long for the use of the old traditional style. Hence, it is possible for modern Arabic prose to be in direct contact with the life of the people, influencing spiritual, social and political factors. A spirit of research and analysis appeared in it and it became more and more inclined toward concern with meaning and form together.

Nowadays the rapprochement has become so obvious among groups of writers that we find some of them using varied styles rather than only one, according to the exigencies of the circumstances and occasions of writing. As a result it has become difficult, as mentioned earlier, to distinguish one group from another, except in generalities.

We have already seen how this diversity in contemporary literary styles is necessary to our literature and our people, because it opens the field to all people, despite their differences in type and their disparity in culture and concepts, in order that they may drink from it as much as they want. For it is unjust in a time such as this time of ours that we restrict the field of prose writing to one style or to one faction of writers. The logic of contemporary life and the nature of people in it particularly demand varied colors in literature, and not just one.

The testimony which I have given while talking about negation and hal are but a few examples of the actual developments which have occurred within our contemporary Arabic prose. These developments, and others similar to them, confirm to us our contemporary writers' awareness of the necessity of having concord between the style and language which the writer employs on the one hand, and between the writer, his style and the occasions of writing on the other. The inclusion of this concord in Arabic prose styles has great importance, for it explains to us clearly all the developments which have occurred, such as the use or non-use of some particles and syntactic constructions in accordance with the demands of styles and occasions together.

And now I would like to conclude this article with the following statement: If our goal is to keep our modern Arabic prose alive, progressing with our modern life, harmonious with both writers and readers, we cannot but accept with satisfaction the modern developments which have occurred in our contemporary prose and which have granted it flexibility in expression and image, ease in description and understanding. As a matter of fact, the power of language in expression and presentation and its power in description and clarification, come from the way in which sentences are constructed and in which elements are arranged, the congruity of the style employed with the exigencies of the circumstances, and also from adhering to the general basic principles observed in writing Arabic prose. If at any time we find
any prose literary work which is so weak in its composition and construction that there is no strong connection between its elements, we must reject it and wage war against it, whether its style be simple or eloquent.

Footnotes

1. This is a translation of the preceding article in Arabic which has been submitted to a Lebanese journal for publication.

2. See pages 34, 35 of this article.


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