

ABU HILAL AL'ASKRI'S TREATMENT OF VARIOUS DIALECTS USED IN THE QUR'AN

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The interaction and overlapping of various dialects (*lughat* or *lahajat*) of the Arabian peninsula has been a complex issue in the history of the Arabic language. Without going into details of various dialects, it seems important to point out that it is generally accepted that the Qur'an was revealed in the common Arabic language (*al-Lughah al-'Arabiyyah al-Mushtarakah*) — a language understood in the whole of the Arabian peninsula, and used by poets and orators as a medium of communication,¹ A small book on the dialects used in the Qur'an² ascribed to 'Abd Allah b 'Abbas (d 68 A.H.)³ is transmitted by Ibn Hasnun, in which numerous entries from different tribes are listed. Although probably not comprehensive, this work determines the origin of at least 255 words used in the Qur'an.

Of these :

104 are derived from the dialect of Quraysh ;

45 " " " Hudhayl ;

36 " " " Kinanah ;

23 " " " Himyar ;

21 " " " Jurham

79. Al-Isbahani, *al-Aghani*, vol. 3, P. 123 (Zayd was a Jahily poet)
80. Ibn Qutaybah, *al-Muhabbar*, PP. 171, 172 ; *al-Munammaq*, PP. 175-78
81. Ibn Qutaybah, *al-Ma'arif* PP. 27, 29 ; al-Mas'udi, *Muruj* vol. I, P. 89, vol. 2, P. 102
82. Ibn Qutaybah, *al-Ma'arif*, P. 27.
83. Al-Mas'udi, *Nuruj*, vol. I, P. 84
84. Ibid P. 87
85. Q. al-Bruj 85 : 4-7; al-Tabari, *Tarikh*, vol. 2, P. 123; al-Mas'udi, *Mruj*, vol. I, PP. 80, 81
86. Al-Mas'udi, *Mruj* vol. I, P. 88
87. Ibid.
88. Ibn Qutaybah, *al-Ma'aeif* P. 27.

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60. Ibid; al-Tabari, *Tafsir*, vol. 17, P. 97; al-Mas'udi, *Muruj*, vol. 2 PP. 242, 42
61. Ibn Qutaybah, *al-Ma'arif*, P. 266
62. Ibn Kathir *Tafsir*, vol. I, P. 104 ; al-Tabari, vol. I, P. 126
63. Al-Tabari, *Tafsir*, vol. I, PP 253
64. Al-Tabari, *Tafsir*, vol. I, PP. 252, 53 (10) ibid
- 65.
66. Al-Tabari, *Tafsir*, vol. I, P, 126
67. Ibn Habib, *al-Muhabbar*, P. 161 (He gives a list of eight people from the Quraysh who were known as *zindiq*, not one of them accepted Islam except Abu Sufyan, see *al-Munammaq*, PP. 487, 88
68. Ibn Manzur, *Lisan al-Arab*, see "zindiq" vol. 10 P. 147
69. Al-Maqdasi, *al-Bad wa al-Tarikh*, vol. 4, P. 302
70. Q. al-Jathiyah 45 : 24
71. Ibn al-Athir, *al-Kamil* vol. I, P 241
72. Ibn al-Athir, *al-Kamil* vol. I, P. 242; for further ideas of Mazdak see al-Tabari, vol. 2, PP. 92, 93
73. Al-Tabari, *Tarikh*, vol. 2, P. 92 ; Ibn Qutaybah, *al-Ma'arif*, P. 291
74. Al-Tabari, *Tarikh*, vol. 2, PP. 92, 93; Ibn Qutaybah, *al-Ma'arif*, P. 292:
75. Al-Tabari, *arikh*, vol. 2, P. 95 ; Ibn al-Athir, *al-Kamil* vol. I, P. 243 ; al-Malati (d. 377 A. H) considered the Mazdaikiyyah as a sort of zandaqah, see *al-Taubih wa al-Cadd* (Baghdad, n. d) P. 92 ; al-Yaqubi, *Tarikh* vol. I, P. 257, al-Yaqubi mentions that Hujr b. 'Amar al-Kindi who converted to zanadaqah.
76. Kister, A. J., "al-Hira," (Arabica xv, 1968) PP. 144, 45
77. Ibid.
78. Al-Mas'udi, *Mruj* vol. 2, P. 103 ; The Qur'an also refers to this group see al-Mumtahinah 23 : 37 ; al-Jathiyah 45 : 24 ; also see al-Sharastani, *al-Milal wa al-Nihal* (Cairo, 1968) vol. 2 PP. 79, 80 ; He mentioned them as al-Mu'attilah.

42. Kister, M J., "Some Notes on Relations with Arabia", (Arabia xv 1968) P. 145
43. Q. al-Baqarah 2 : 105 ; Al-'Imran 3 ; 64, 70, 71, 72, 75, 98, 99
44. Q. al-Bruj 85 : 5-9 ; al-Tabari, *Tarikh*, vol. 2, P. 123 (According to al-Tabari, (some twenty thousand Christians were killed) ; al-Ms'udi *Muruj al-Dhahab*, vol. 2. P. 52 ; Wahb b. Munabbih, *Kitab al-Tijan* (San'a 1979), P. 312.
45. Ibn Qutaybah, *al-Ma'arif* (1970) P. 266
46. Al-Maqdasi, *al-Bad wa al-Tarikh*, voi. 4, P. 31
47. Al-Ya'qubi, *Tarikh*, vol. I, P. 257 ; Jawad 'Ali, *al-Arab Qabl al-Islam*, vol. 6, P. 514
48. Al-Samhudi, *Wafa al-Wafa*, vol. I, P. 177
49. Ibid P. 178
50. Q. al-Ma'idah 5 : 18
51. Ibn Qutaybah, *al-Ma'arif*, P. 226; al-Maqda'i, *al-Bad wa al-Tarikh*, vol. 4, P. 31
52. Al-Ya'qubi, *Tarikh*, vol. I, P. 257; *al-Maqdasi, al-Bad'*, vol. 4, P. 31
Ibn Qutaybah, *al-Ma'arif*, PP. 27, 29
53. Ibn Hisham, *Sirah* vol. 1, 35
54. Al-Tabari, *Tarikh*, vol. 2, P. Wahb b, Munabbih, *ai-Tijan*, PP. 312, 13
55. Ahmad Amin, *Fajr al-Islam* (Beirut 1969) P. 25
56. O'Leary, D.L., *Arabia before Muhammad*, PP. 125, 26, 169, 170 (It is note worthy that the Gospel is not found in the ancient arabic language is spoken by Jesus ; all the translations are based on Greek versions of the Gospels.
57. O'Leary, D.L., *op. cit.* PP. 126, 29
58. Lane E.W., *Laxicon* (Arabic—English, Beirut, 1958) ; Morony, M., article "Magus" in *Encyclopaedia of Islam*
59. Al-Maqdasi, *al-Bad wa al-Tarikh*, vol. 4, PP. 26, 27

- mentions their names, see *Wafa al-Wafa*, vol. I PP. 162—214.
21. Wensinck, A. J., *Muhammad and the Jews of Madina* (Eng. tr. by Wolfgang, Berlin Adiyok, 1982) P. 32.
 22. Seargent R. B., "Sunnah Jami'ah", (B.O.S.A.S. XLI, 1278) P. 36.
 23. Ibn al-Athir, *al-Kamil*, vol. I, PP. 680, 81.
 24. Ibn Hisham, *Sirah*, vol. I, PP. 584, 85 ; al-Samhudi, *Wafa al-Wafa* vol. I PP. 218, 219.
 25. Smith, W. R., *Kinship and Marriage in Early Arabia*.
 26. Jawad Ali, *Tarikh al-Arab qabl al-Islam*, vol. 5, P. 487.
 27. Ibid P. 488
 28. Ibid P. 488.
 29. Ibid P. 503 (Every tribe had its own hakim whose ability to administer justice was known to them, see Jawad Ali, *Tarikh al-Arab*, vol. 5, PP. 635-654)
 30. Jawad Ali, *Tarikh al-Arab*, vol. 5, P. 497.
 31. Al-Ya'qubi, *Tarikh*, (Dar Sadir, Beirut, 1960) vol. I, P. 258 ; Ibn Habib gives a list of thirty four *hukkams* of the clans of the Quraysh, see *al-Muhabbar*, PP. 132-37.
 32. Ibn Manzur, *Lisan al-Arab* see "al-kanin"
 33. Muwayei, *Subh al-A'sha* (Cairo, 1963) vol. I, P. 398 ; al-Muwayei, *Nihayat al-Arab*, vol. 3, P. 132.
 34. Al-Muwavri, *Nihayat al-Arab*, vol. 3, P. 128.
 35. Ibn Hisham, *al-Sirah*, vol. I, P. 208
 36. Ibn Hisham, *al-Sirah*, vol. I, PP. 15-18 ; al-Mawayri, *Nihayat al-Arab* Vol. PP. 129, 30; al-Tabari, *Tarikh*, Vol. 2, PP 1121-114
 37. Al-Muwayri, *Nihayat al-Arab* vol. 3, PP. 132, 33; A similar contention between 'A'idh and al-Harith was brought to a *kahin* at 'Usfan, see Ibn Habib, *al-Muhammaq*, PP. 107-108.
 38. Mitchell, E.K., article, "Prophecy in Christianity", Ency. of Religion and Ethics ; and Konig, E., "Prophecy Hebrew" in the same Ency.
 39. Ibn Khaldun, *al-Muqadimah*, (Eng. tr. Rosenthal) vol. I, P. 305
 40. Q. al-An'am 6 : al-Nahl 16 : 57; al-Saffat 37 : 149 ; al-Zukhruf 42 : 16 and al-Tur 52 : 39
 41. Al-Maqdasi, *al-Bad wa al-Tarikh* vol. 4, P. 32.