Arik Sadan

A Critical Edition
of the Grammatical Treatise
Taḏkirat jawāmiʿ al-ʿadawāt
by Muḥammad b. Aḥmad b. Maḥmūd

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Acknowledgements

This scholarly edition of Taṣkīrat jawāmiʿ al-ʿadawāt written by Muḥammad b. Ḥaḍīmūd is the result of a research project which began in 2008, when I found the first copy of this work in the University library in Leipzig, Germany. I devoted two years of postdoctoral research in Paris, France and Jena, Germany to complete this edition. My research in France and Germany was supported by the French embassy in Israel and a very generous scholarship from the Minerva Foundation (part of the Max-Planck-Society), respectively.

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1 These are the initials of the project's name in German, *Katalogisierung der Orientalischen Handschriften in Deutschland*, whose English translation is *Cataloging of Oriental Manuscripts* in Germany.

Taḏkīrat jawāmiʿ al-ʿadawāt by Muḥammad b. Ṭāhir b. Māmūd, whose scholarly edition is the focus of this book, is largely devoted to a discussion of the syntactic and semantic roles of various particles in Arabic. It thus belongs to the genre known as Ḥilāl al-ʿadawāt ‘the science of grammatical instruments,’ or particles. In his immense Kašf al-qanūn, Ḥājjī Xalīfa enumerates this genre among the various sciences: ʿilm maʿānī l-ʿadawāt ilātī yaḥṭāyū ‘ilayhā l-mufassiru ‘the science of the meanings of particles which the commentator needs’. He further mentions a work entitled Kitāb al-ʿadawāt by Abū ʿAbdallāh Muhammad b. ʿAlī b. Ḥumayda l-Nahwī (died 550/1155). The modern author al-Qunnūjī explains Ḥājjī Xalīfa’s short definition as follows: wal-murādu bil-ʿadawāt l-ḥurūfū wamā šakalahā mina l-ʿasārī wa al-ʿafāli wal-ḥurūfī wa waqad šanafa fihā jamāʿatun kal-Ḥarawī fī l-ʿālīya wabnī Umm Qāsim fī l-jānā l-dānī wa adrajahu l-Suyūṭī fī l-ʿītqānī ‘the intention in [the term] ʿadawāt is the particles and the nouns, verbs and adverbial accusatives of time and place which are similar to them (i.e. to the particles). On them (i.e. the ʿadawāt) a group of people wrote [several treatises], such as al-Ḥarawī in [his] al-ʿālīya [fī Ḥilāl al-ḥurūfū] and Ibn Umm Qāsim in [his] al-jānā l-dānī [fī Ḥurūf al-maʿānī]. Al-Suyūṭī inserted them in his al-ʿītqānī [fī ulūm al-Qurʾān].

Indeed, Ḥilāl al-ʿadawāt (or Ḥilāl al-ḥurūfū) is known from the early history of Arabic grammar, in the form of various works on particles, some dealing with many and others focusing on only a few. Ḥilāl al-ʿadawāt also has a representation in modern research. Below is a short chronologically ordered survey of milestones

1 This translation is according to Fleisch’s definition of Harf in EI II, 205a. According to Blachère (ibid. I, 345b, s.v. Āla, 91), the term ʿadāt (pl. ʿadawāt), like āla (pl. ālāt), does not seem to have been used by the Arab grammarians of the third/ninth century. Towards the end of the fourth/tenth century the term harf ‘particle’ may be regarded as signifying also the grammatical ‘instruments’ later called ʿadāt and āla. He adds that this usage seems to imply a distinction between ‘casual action’ (connected with harf) and ‘syntactic function’ (represented by ʿadāt and āla). For a short survey on the role of ʿadawār in the Qurʾān, see EALL IV, 21ff., s.v. Qurʾān, §2.3.3.

2 See Ḥājjī Xalīfa, Kašf I, 16 = Ḥājjī Xalīfa, Kašf (Flügel) I, 39, 5.

3 See Ḥājjī Xalīfa, Kašf II, 1388 = Ḥājjī Xalīfa, Kašf (Flügel) V, 37, 2–3 (number 9798).

4 See al-Qumnūjī, ʿAbjad II, 509.

5 See al-Ḥarawī, ʿĀlīya; al-Murādī, Jānā; al-Suyūṭī, ʿĪtqānī. These treatises are also discussed below.

6 As the editor of al-Irbīlī’s Jawāhir notes (al-Irbīlī, Jawāhir, 5–6), the hurūfū are also discussed in the general grammars, such as Sibawayhī’s Kitāb, al-Mubarrad’s Mutaqaddab and al-Zamaxšarī’s Muṣaffaṣal.
of this genre in Arabic grammar, which are accessible to us. These are followed by some examples of modern studies.

Works until the third century AH:

One of the earliest treatises on particles is Risāla fī l-ḥurūf al-ʿarabīyya by al-Naḍr b. Šumayl (died AH 203 or 204). This work is devoted to an explanation of the roles and usages of Arabic letters, some of which function as particles.

Works from the fourth and fifth centuries AH:

Al-Zajjājī (died between AH 337–340) compiled several grammars, two of which belong to the genre of Arabic particles literature. His Hurūf al-maʿāni discusses various particles and his Lāmāt is a treatise on particles containing a lām.

Al-Rummānī (died AH 384) also wrote two treatises on particles: (1) Maʿāni l-ḥurūf, devoted to grammatical explanations of particles and perhaps built on the model of Aristotle’s similar work on particles; (2) Manāzil al-ḥurūf, a concise grammatical treatise that constitutes, with some slight variation, the final 23 ʿabwāb of his above-mentioned Maʿānī l-ḥurūf.

Al-Harawī (exact year of death unknown, probably in the fifth century AH) composed an important work named al-ʿAzhiya fī ʿilm al-ḥurūf, in which he discusses the syntactic and semantic roles of various particles in Arabic.

Works from the seventh century AH onwards:

Al-Irbilī (died AH 631 or later) wrote Jawāhir al-ʿadab fī maʿrifat kalām al-ʿarab, in which he thoroughly discusses various particles in Arabic.

7 For other surveys see the editors’ prefaces in al-Murādī, Jusnā, 3–6; al-Mazānī, Ḥurūf, 11–16.
9 Full name: al-Zajjājī, Abū l-Qāsim ʿAbd al-Raḥmān b. Isāq. Born in Nihāwand in western Persia, ca. 245–257/860–870, died (probably) in Tiberias, either 337/948 or 339–340/949–950. His main teacher was al-Zajjāj (a famous grammarian and Qurʾān commentator, died 311/923), from whom he received his nisba because of his long association with him. See EI XI, 378–379, s.v. al-Zajjājī.
12 Full name: al-Harawī, Abū l-ʿAlī b. Muḥammad Abū l-Ḥasan. According to the editor of al-Harawī’s ʿAzhiya (al-Harawī, ʿAzhiya, 6–10) he lived before 370/980–981 and died most probably in the fifth century AH. Ḥājjī Xalīfa and Brockelmann do not mention when he died; according to Sezgin his year of death is ca. 410/1019. See Ḥājjī Xalīfa, Kalb I, 73; 822; Brockelmann, GAL II, 919, 843; Sezgin, GAS IX, 69, §4.
Al-Mālaqī (died AH 702)\textsuperscript{14} devoted his famous *Raṣf al-mabānī fī šarḥ ḥurūf al-mašānī* to a detailed and systematic analysis of ninety-five Arabic particles.\textsuperscript{15}

Al-Murādī (died AH 749)\textsuperscript{16} produced the well-known *al-Janā l-dānī fī šarḥ al-maṣānī*, which is most probably the basis of Ibn Hišām’s famous *Muğnī l-labīb* (see below).\textsuperscript{17}

Ibn Qayyim al-Jawziyya (died AH 751)\textsuperscript{18} was a Hanbalī theologian and also the author of some grammars, one of which is *Maṣānī l-ʿadawāt wal-ḥurūf* where he treats the particles in Arabic.

Ibn Hišām (died AH 761)\textsuperscript{19} was the author of what is probably the most famous treatise in the genre of ḥurūf literature: *Muğnī l-labīb ’an kutub al-aʿārib*. In this work he explains the Arabic particles at length and divides their usages according to syntactic and semantic criteria.

Al-Suyūtī (died AH 911)\textsuperscript{20} was one of the famous and most productive authors in a number of fields. Among his numerous works we find *al-ʾItqān fī fiqh al-Qurān*, a work on Qurānic exegesis in which he also details and analyzes the particles used in the Qurān.

Modern researchers also discuss various aspects of the ʿadawāt and ḥurūf in Arabic. Like Arab grammarians, some treat various particles, whereas others concentrate on a single particle. The latter studies are more common than the former. Here are two examples of studies devoted to Arabic particles in general: al-Hilālī’s *al-Ḥurūf al-ʿāmilā fī l-Qurān al-karīm bayn al-naʿwīyyīn wal-baḥāriyyīn* (al-Hilālī, Ṣāḥīḥ), which analyzes the roles and positions of Arabic particles in the Qurān; Yaḥyā’s *Mawsūʿat al-Ḥurūf fī l-luġa l-farabiyya* (Yaḥyā, Ṣāḥīḥ), which aims at defining and characterizing all Arabic particles. Examples of studies concentrating on one particle are the following: Aartun’s “Arabisch Lan”, which investigates the particle lan ‘not’ (Aartun, *Lan*); Baalbaki’s “Bāb al-fā [+ subjunctive] in Arabic grammatical sources” (Baalbaki, *Fā*), which examines early grammarians’
discussions of the conjunctive particle fa- ‘and then, as a result’ followed by the subjunctive mood; Ullmann’s Arabisch ‘asā “vielleicht”: Syntax und Wortart (Ullmann, ’Asā), which treats the particle ‘asā ‘perhaps’; Wild’s “Die Konjunktion hattā mit dem Indikativ Imperfekt im klassischen Arabisch” (Wild, Hattā), which aims at studying the contexts in which the particle hattā ‘until, so that’ is followed by the indicative mood.

This preface is followed by an introduction and a scholarly edition of Taḏkīrat ḥawāmi’ al-‘adawāt. The introduction details the manuscripts used in preparing the edition and describes this work’s salient characteristics. A perusal of its contents shows that it indeed focuses on the syntactic and semantic positions of particles, but also addresses a number of syntactic, semantic, morphological, phonological and rhetorical issues, not directly related to particles.