

Verbal Festivity in Arabic  
and other Semitic Languages

Proceedings of the Workshop  
at the Universitätsclub Bonn on January 16, 2009

Edited by Lutz Edzard and Stephan Guth

2010

Harrassowitz Verlag · Wiesbaden

ISSN 0567-4980  
ISBN 978-3-447-06239-8

## Table of Contents

Preface.....	7
STEPHAN GUTH, Oslo: Politeness, Höflichkeit, <i>'adab</i> : A Comparative Conceptual-Cultural Perspective .....	9
AVIHAI SHIVTIEL, Leeds: Language and Mentality: Politeness, Courtesies and Gestures in Palestinian Arabic .....	31
PIERRE LARCHER, Aix-en-Provence: Formules et dérivés « formulatifs » en arabe.....	43
GEOFFREY KHAN, Cambridge: The Expression of Deontic Modality in the North-Eastern Neo-Aramaic Dialects.....	58
LUTZ EDZARD, Oslo: Injunctive Protases and the Grammaticalisation of Elliptic Conditional Clauses in Semitic.....	74
ANDREAS KAPLONY, Zürich: The Interplay of Different Kinds of Commercial Documents at the Red Sea Port al-Quşayr al-Qadīm (13th c CE).....	94

## Preface

This volume is based on the contributions delivered at a joint workshop that the two co-editors had organized at the Universitätsclub Bonn on January 16, 2009. The immediate occasion of the workshop were the 65<sup>th</sup> birthday of Werner Diem, University of Cologne, and the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of Michael G. Carter, University of Sydney, in January 2009. Stefan Wild, University of Bonn, also joined us on this day. All three scholars, to whom the two co-organizers of the workshop are deeply indebted, contributed intensively to the discussion during the proceedings and helped us to conceptualize the final character of this volume.

The common denominator of the one-day workshop was the theme “Verbal Festivity in Arabic and other Semitic Languages”, as agreed upon by the two co-organizers. It appeared to be a reasonable idea to unite presentations about various aspects of formal and polite speech in the Semitic language area with a focus on Arabic. Stephan Guth opens the volume with a linguistic and cultural overview from a bird’s perspective: “Politeness, Höflichkeit, *ʿadab*: A Comparative Conceptual-Cultural Perspective”. Avihai Shivtiel continues along these lines with an overview entitled “Language and Mentality: Politeness, Courtesies and Gestures in Palestinian Arabic”. Pierre Larcher in his contribution focuses on a morpho-syntactic analysis of “Formules et dérivés « formulatifs » en arabe”. Geoffrey Khan addresses volitive verbal forms in his overview “The Expression of Deontic Modality in the North-Eastern Neo-Aramaic Dialects”. Lutz Edzard deals with “Injunctive Protases and the Grammaticalisation of Elliptic Conditional Clauses in Semitic”. Andreas Kaplony concludes the volume with an analysis of economic formulae in his article “The Interplay of Different Kinds of Commercial Documents at the Red Sea Port al-Quṣayr al-Qadīm (13th c CE)”.

We wish to express our gratitude to our home institution, the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages (IKOS), University of Oslo, for generous funding of this workshop.

Oslo, January 2010

Lutz Edzard

Stephan Guth