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DJAMEL KOULOUGHLI, *Le résumé de lá grammaire arabe par Zamak-
šarī*. Lyon: ENS. Editions, 2007. 203 pp.

Reviewed by SOLOMON SARA, S.J.

Zamak̲šarī. (467–538H/1075–1143 C.E.) is a twelfth century Persian
Muslim scholar who excelled in many areas of knowledge. He wrote
both in Persian and Arabic. The following works, to mention but a few
of them, he wrote in Arabic: al-kaššāf (1966), a commentary on the Qur
ān; asās al-balāɣah (1972), a book on Arabic rhetoric; al-mufas s al
(2004), a book on Arabic grammar, and many others. The book under
review is what the author calls micro-traite de grammaire (p. 7), a sum-
mary of the fuller treatise on Arabic grammar al-mufasʕsʕal. The sum-
mary was done by Zamak̲šarī himself, which he called unmūδadӡ
(1981). The book under review is a bilingual Arabic-French edition of
the book in 94 sections. Each section is a definition of a concept found
in al-mufas s al without its fuller treatment—as the author calls it, noyau
dur 'hard-core' (p. 8) of the Arabic grammatical system. Al-mufasʕsʕal,
the fuller treatise, comes in four major sections, namely: 1) asmā
'names/nouns', 2) afʕāl 'actions/verbs', 3) ḥuruwf 'Particles' and 4) al-
muštarak 'the shared topics'. The unmūδadӡ summarizes only the first
three. The selection of what does appear in the summary gives us an
indication of what, for Zamak̲šarī, constituted the essence of the Arabic
grammar.

This edition is very user friendly. Its layout is ideal for readers who
may both know or not know Arabic. The Arabic text is provided with its
full pointing and diacritical markings, followed by a full phonetic tran-
scription of its Arabic and followed by a French translation with inser-
tions, in transcription, for the appropriate examples. Due to the sum-
mary nature of the text, the translated sections are often, but not always,

followed by a commentary on specific issues of the section under discussion. The comments range over a wider time span than the time of the text. There are frequent references to the fuller treatise, al-mufasʕsʕal, and to the thorough and magisterial ten volume commentary on it by ibn Yaʕīš (1973). The reader will find very little that is missing from this format of presentation and hopefully it becomes normative for translating all such treatises.

The translation is faithful to Latin/Western terminology and the Latin paradigm of linguistics. Even though the Arabic terms are often included in the translation, their discussion is in terms of Latin terminology used in Western linguistics. It would have been more informative, especially for non-initiates in these matters, to have seen the Arabic concepts and terms translated more closely and their discussion more fully integrated into the flow of the discussion so the imagery of the original would have been maintained and the differences and originality been given more salience and made more obvious. Much of the Arabic distinctiveness is cloaked in a different garb than native choices, though the author does not hesitate to depart from the Latin paradigm like the case of "qualificatif" instead of adjective (p. 78) and "substitutif" instead of apposition (p. 81). The translation is accurate under these conditions though some sections are more summaries than faithful renditions of the original, as in (p. 176 # 80). There is also a transposed translation of two terms: *niʕma* and *biʔsa* (p. 156). There is a leveling of such terms as marfūʕ 'raised' (p. 38) and fāʕil 'actor/nominative', where the expression of the suffix and its function are conflated into one. And so also with other similar syntactic markers and their function like mans ʕūb 'erected/objective case' and marguūr 'pulled/the possessive case/prepositional object.' Not everyone will accept the same gloss for sʕara, asʕbaħa, amsa, and adʕħa as 'devenir' (p. 151). For their distinctive meanings, compare Lane (1863).

There are things missing that would have enhanced the value of this well done treatise even more. There is the issue of transcription one needs to mention. Even though the author says that his system is a system used by European Arabists (p. 8), it would have given the transcriptions more general recognition, greater phonetic verisimilitude, and a broader appeal if IPA symbols, another European invention, were used here. Besides, there is no table of correspondences between the Arabic and the transcription symbols. There is also an unexpected inclusion or omission of the glottal stop from the transcription in inconsistent ways. That being said, the transcriptions are remarkably accurate and only one case of mistranscription was noticed: *ragīfan* (p. 77). There is

Arabic text missing (p. 49 # 13), and references to al-mufasʕsʕal are mentioned throughout but no page numbers are given, nor, for example to al- anbārī, e.g. (p. 49), ibn Yaʕīš (p. 69), and Sībawaihi (p. 84). The index, merely a sorted version of the 94 topics in the table of contents, is not very robust. A deeper and more representative index is needed, and a list of all the Arabic grammatical terms and vocabulary discussed in the treatise would have been welcome. All things being equal, this is a model format of presentation, with a carefully done analysis of this dense material. The book is highly recommended to beginners and experts alike.

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ALEXANDRA AIKHENVALD and R. M. W. DIXON, eds. *Grammars in contact: A cross-linguistic typology.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007. 376 pp.

Reviewed by CHARLOTTE SCHAENGOLD

The data Aikhenvald and Dixon present in the thirteen chapters of this volume are fascinating in themselves, and the individual articles by the experts for each data set provide excellent analysis, allowing the reader to form his or her own opinion regarding theories and constraints about