

***A DICTIONARY OF PHONETICS: ARTICULATORY,  
ACOUSTIC, AUDITORY (ENGLISH-ARABIC), BY  
SOLOMON, I. SARA.S.J., MUCHEN, GERMANY:  
LINCOM EUROPA, 1999, pp.XIII+378.***

*A Dictionary of Phonetics* offers students of Arabic linguistics, speech scientists and scholars in related fields a current phonetic comprehensive technical vocabulary in English together with corresponding material in Arabic. It covers terminology of the various branches of phonetic sciences, including articulatory phonetics, which focus on the description of the manners and points of articulation. It also covers terms of the organs of speech and their function and involvement in the process of the production of speech. Terms of the more recently developed field of neurology of speech are also covered.

The field of acoustic phonetics is involved in the description of the physics of the speech of sounds. Visual displays of sounds, words, phrases and longer utterances are now possible through scientific speech computerized programs. Also, speech syntheses, a related area of study to acoustic phonetics, have developed very rapidly. Auditory phonetics is concerned with hearing. These and other fields related to phonetics, such as speech disorders, have developed a large body of technical terms that keep increasing. In fact, some of the terms are not even listed in most common Western language dictionaries. This is why this specialized volume is extremely valuable to students and scholars working in the fields of Arabic and English phonetics.

Although the fields of phonetics and phonology are interrelated they are concerned with two separate disciplines. Phonetics is involved in describing the speech sounds that occur in the languages of the world. As a distinct discipline, phonology focuses on the description of the systems and patterns of the sounds of a specific language and involves establishing the distinctive sounds or phonemes and their allophones and free variants of the language. Furthermore, phonology is concerned with establishing a set of rules that describe the changes in a particular sound system of a language (Peter Ladefoged, *A Course in Phonetics*, Third Edition, 1993). The compiler of this dictionary is aware of the relationship between phonetics and phonology, even though only the word phonetics is included in the title. The terms in this volume definitely include both of these disciplines.

The English-Arabic phonetic terms throughout the book are arranged alphabetically. Each entry is specified as a verb, noun or adjective. In the majority of cases the terms appear, for the first time, as a single item. For instance, on page three, the term **accent** appears by itself followed by related terms listed alphabetically. Therefore, all of the words associated with **accent** occur after it is separated by a comma. Thus, **acute accent**, **fixed accent**, **free accent** and **primary accent** appear under the term **accent** and not with the words associated with it. Another example is the term **acoustic** that first appears by itself followed by 27 terms associated with this entry. A few of these are: **acoustic analysis**, **acoustic features**, **acoustic frequency** and **acoustic spectrograph**. This arrangement occurs throughout the dictionary. However, every entry does not have associated words, only the ones that are key concept terms. The author explained that the arrangement of the English terms is unitary. However, quite often many of the terms, like those mentioned above, are listed in the form of phrases. By using this system of entering the terms and phrases associated with them, the author has avoided a lot of repetition and redundancy. Also, a comma is inserted between the head term and its modifier, which indicates that this is a phrasal term. In this manner of listing the phrasal terms there is no doubt that some redundancy does occur. For example, **accent stress**, on page 5, appears as **accent, stress**. On page 308 it is listed as **stress accent**.

This dictionary includes an introduction, pages ii to v, that is listed on the Table of Contents as Preface. It also has eight excellent charts, pages vi through xiii. Two of these charts include the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). Chart number three, page viii, contains the classical Arabic phonetic charts by al-Khalil Ibn Ahmad; chart number four, on page ix, lists the Arabic letters (sounds) by Sibawayh; chart number five on page x is entitled 'Sibawayh's List of Cross Classificatory Features; chart number six, page xi, is entitled 'Modern Standard Arabic Segments; chart number seven, page xii, is entitled 'Modern Standard English Segments' and the last chart, number eight, page xiii, is entitled 'Features of the English Segments.' The book also ends with a list of Arabic references, pages 368 to 371, and a list of English references, pages 372-378.

The author, Solomon J. Sara, S. J. is a Professor of Linguistics at Georgetown University. He has done a great deal of research in the fields of phonetics and Arabic phonetics and phonology. He has also translated and edited several classical works in the fields of Arabic phonetics and phonology. The publication of this dictionary is a welcome and much needed work. Phoneticians, students of linguistics and speech scientists will find this book very useful.

To conclude, my recommendation for the publication of any future editions of this work would be to provide transcriptions and translations of the Arabic terms. Any additions and modifications of this nature will certainly be beneficial to non-native speakers of Arabic. Also, the character of the dictionary would be enhanced and it would become more universally accessible and more widely circulated.

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