Sarf - ابواب الافعال - Introduction to Verb Groupings

Up until now we have been dealing with just one type of the base verb i.e. فَسَعَسَلَ . However, this is

not the only way a base verb can occur in Arabic. In fact, the ماضى verb (and consequently the

verb) can occur in several different *patterns* depending upon the vowelling and number of letters in the base verb. In this post, I will, Insha Allah, explain about different patterns of Arabic verbs along with some of their examples.

To start with, we may be tempted to assume that any two verbs which have the same voice, same tense, and the same conjugation number will look alike and will rhyme with one another. However, this is not the case as can be seen by looking at the following 3 examples:

- نَصَرَ 1.
- سَـَمِـع َ .2
- د َهـْـر َج َ .3

The first verb, نَصَصَر (to help), rhymes with فَعَصَلَ and has the same number of letters as فَعَصَل . The second verb, فَصَعَلَ (to hear), although having the same number of letters as مُصَع , does *not* rhyme with it due to a *kasra* on the middle letter. Finally, the last verb, دَهَسْر َج (to roll), does not rhyme with فَعَال , and also has 4 letters in it, rather than 3. As a rule of thumb, differences in Arabic

verbs can occur due to one of 6 reasons:

- 3 of these reasons relate to number of letters in the base verb and its vowelling pattern
- 3 of these reasons relate to irregularities. These have nothing to do with number of base letters

or the vowelling pattern of the verb. Rather, these difference in verbs are introduced by the

و, ی, ۹ presence of certain letters e.g. ۹

In this post I will deal with the first 3 rules which can be stated into the following expanded categories:

- 1. Difference in number of base letters of a verb
- 2. Difference in the way the verb is enhanced
- 3. Difference in the ε position vowelling of a verb

The minimum number of letters in a base verb is 3 and the maximum is 4. Each one of these two sets of verbs may comprise of only base letters (i.e. without any enhancement) or they may have addition of non-base, or extra, letters (i.e. enhanced), which provides us with 4 distinct verb groupings:

1. Verbs with 3 base letters which are not enhanced, called نسَصرَ e.g. نسَصرَر e.g.

- 2. Verbs with 3 base letters which are enhanced, called الكشر مَ e.g. ثُسلاتي مزيد فيه e.g.
- 3. Verbs with 4 base letters which are not enhanced, called د مُسْر َج e.g. رُباعي مسُجر د
- 4. Verbs with 4 base letters which are enhanced, called ر باعي مزيد فيه e.g. ر باعي مزيد فيه e.g.

ثسُلاثی مسُجر ّد position. Using the source appears on the position. Using the شبر ّد

form of ماضى and switching the vowel on the عاضى and switching the vowel on the ماضى and switching the vowel on the

فَـعَـلَ 1.

فَـعـُلَ .3

For each of these patterns of a مُسَجر د verb, there will exist 3 corresponding مسُضار ع patterns with their own vowelling patterns, giving us 9 patterns in total which are listed in the table below:

#	مـُـضارِع	ماضی
1	يَفْعَلُ	فـَعـَـلَ
2	يَفْعِلُ	فَعَلَ
3	يَفْعُلُ	فَعَلَ
4	يَفْعَلُ	فَعَلَ
5	يَفْعِلُ	فَعَلَ
6	يَفْحُلُ	فَحَصِلَ
7	يَفْحُلُ	فَحُلُ
8	يَفْحَرَلُ	فَحُلُ
9	يَفْعُلُ	فَعُلُ

The patterns 6, 7, and 8 *do not* exist in the Arabic Language, which means that you will never find a The patterns 6, 7, and 8 *do not* exist in the Arabic Language, which means that you will never find a the verb based on this pattern of vowelling. As for the remaining 6, each pattern is called a (*door*) and can be defined as an *etymological grouping which arises due to a difference in number* of letters or the *e position vowelling in both مشتارع and مشتارع patterns of a verb*. Every the verb in Arabic will follow *exactly one* of these patterns. To ease memorization of these *august* the scholars of *august* have picked up the most widely used example from each of them and have named the *up* after it. These are listed in the following table in their order of popularity:

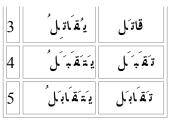
#	مـُـضارِع	ماضی
1	يـَنْصُرُ	نـَصـَر
2	يَضْرُ بُ	ضرَ ب
3	يَسْمَعُ	سَمَع
4	يَفْتَحُ	فَتَتَح
5	يكُرُمُ	كُرُم
6	يَحْسِبُ	حَسِب

I post here another way of remembering these ابواب , courtesy of <u>IANT</u>

: <u>ثُلاثي مزيد فيه ابواب</u> The

Enhancement to verbs can be done in various ways: duplication of the ع position e.g. <- عسك ع عسك عسك عسك عسك الم (or the *enabling hamza*, which is added to ease pronunciation), at the front of the verb. This can be noticed with the شريد فيه added to ease pronunciation), at the front of the verb. This can be noticed with the has 14 شريد فيه out of which 5 do not have the enabling *hamzah* in front of them and all of these 5 are popular. The rest of the 9 have the enabling *hamza* in front of them and only 3 are popular from among theses nine. The 5 ابواب 5 of acids acids the function and function and the function and the function and the function and fun

#	مُـُضارِع	ماضی
1	يُكْر ِمُ	أكرم
2	يـُصَرِّفُ	صَرَّفَ



I hope that this very brief introduction to ابواب الافعال will be a good starting point for further learning of

this vast field of صرف . Insha Allah, I will write more about this topic once we go through it in the course.