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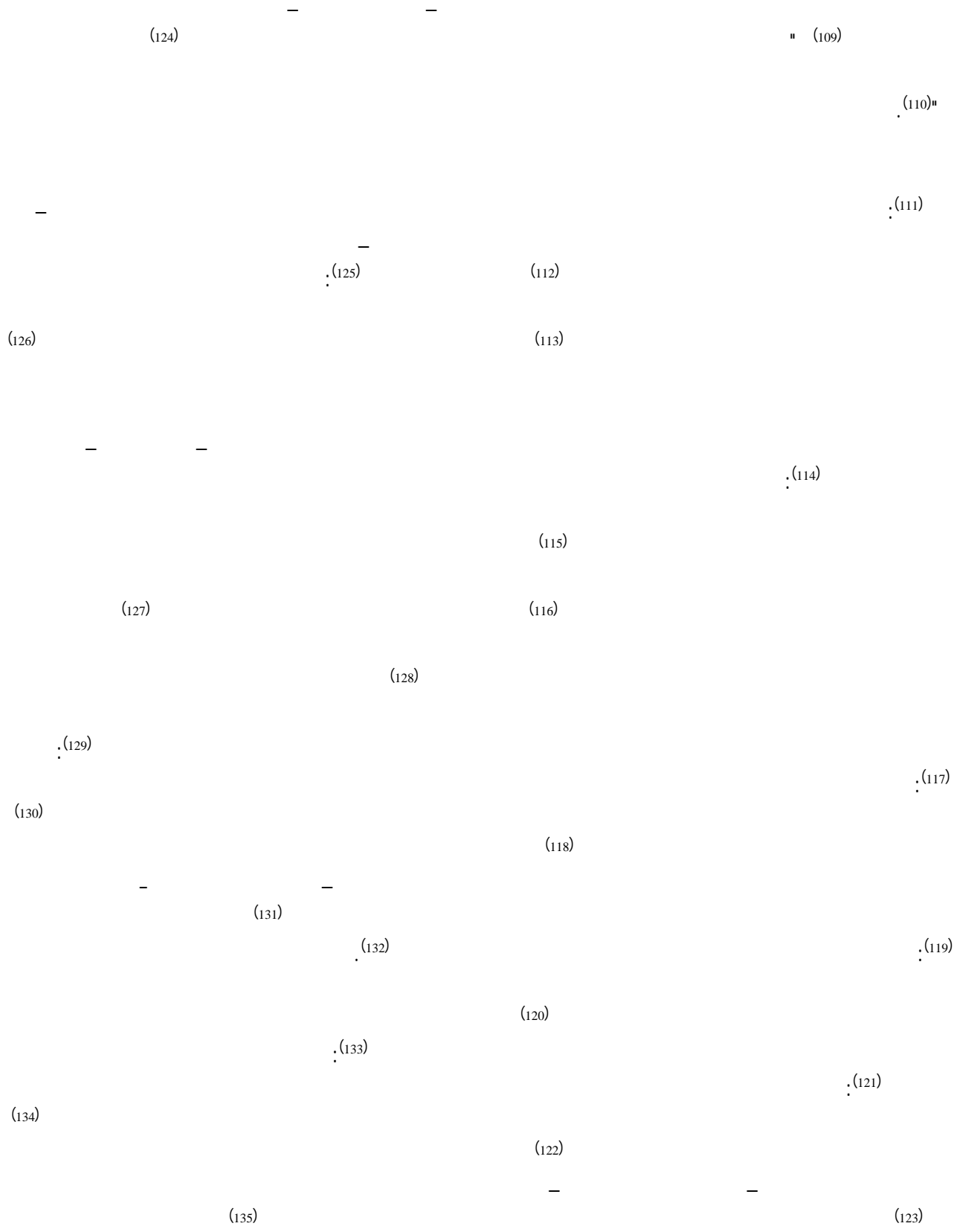
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Al-Thubab in Pre-Islamic (jahili) Poetry A Living Image

*Leila T. Al-Umari**

ABSTRACT

The study addresses the definition of Al-Thubab in the language, a definition that elucidates its meaning and type according to the linguists as a black flying insect which is present in houses, and which falls in dishes and food. Al-Thubban type is distinct from other types with which it is associated such as bees, wasps and other types of zanabir and butterflies.

As an elaboration of the definition the study deals with the differences among linguists and literary scholars relating to its singular and plural form- a difference that is rooted in their reference to the principles of grammar, or to practical manifestations relating to its behavior in life. To sum up their position “thubab ar” is singular, and its plural form denoting a few flies is “athibba” and denoting numerous flies “thibban”.

The researcher in her study of Al-Thubab in pre-Islamic poetry sheds light on the Arabs’ perception of its sound. They derived their description of it from the image in their minds of the sound of a drunken person, where wine had affected his behavior and appearance; based on this image they derived many sounds for the Thubab. It became evident to the researcher through the study that the Thubab multiplies and produces sounds expressing happiness due to the beauty of the location, and its sense of the warmth of the climate, which are two basic factors that propel Al-Thubab to sing in its flying in a chanting and warbling manner, and to express its happiness and joviality- in that state- through its varied flying movements. Nevertheless, an abundance of Thubab may be a source of irritation to some animals due to their boisterousness, and also due to their intense sting of those animals, which may force them to expel them, or to kill them in a manner manifesting the weakness and lack of ability of the fly.

Keywords: Al-Thubab, Its soUnd, Singing, Motion, Joviality, Activity, Weakness.

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