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## Abstract

### **The Addressee and Context features in Sibawaihe's Al-Kitab.**

As an approach to language, pragmatics is an attempt to determine the universal factors governing language usage, and the speakers' ability to communicate with each other. In this connection, language structures are a reflection of its functions, and the structural features of any linguistic message are adjusted according to the purpose of communication and the elements of context. Such ideas are conspicuously present in the writings of Classical Arabic grammarians, such as Sibawaihe who repeatedly emphasized the importance of adjusting speech components according to context, to the addressee's prior knowledge of the subject, as well as according to the purpose of speech. The object of the present paper is therefore an attempt to elucidate aspects of Sibawaihe's views on the issue of the addressee and his knowledge of the speech subject matter, the way he relates his words and sentences to the goals that he wants to achieve through them, etc. Those factors, as Sibawaihe noted, govern features such as deletion, inversion, focusing, definition, and the like. In what follows, these ideas will be discussed within the following framework: Discourse components, language system and the addressee, the speaker, discourse and context features.

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