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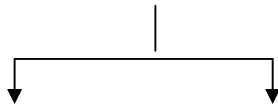
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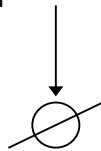
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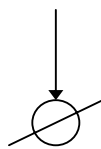
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# **ARAB GRAMMARIANS' THEORY OF RECEPTION**

**By**  
**Laila Abu Al Ghanam**

**Supervisor**  
**Dr. Jafar Nayef Ababneh**

## **ABSTRACT**

This study aims at investigating the aspects of the “reception theory” as demonstrated in the Arabic syntactic heritage, as well as investigating the theory’s features and general assumptions in the light of the well-established syntactic framework. The study also attempts at finding the similarities between the “reception theory” adopted by Arabic linguists and the novel trends in the field of linguistics including discourse analysis, functional linguistics and pragmatics.

This study assumes that Arabic syntacticians, while constructing the syntactic framework for the Arabic language, have taken into consideration the functional aspects of language as well as the elements of conversation and the three elements of the reciprocal process: the speaker and the hearer.

The study also assumes that the syntacticians, in forming the syntactic framework, have escaped the limitations of the text and the lexicon to the overall situational factors surrounding the text (contextualization of the text).this is considered to be a key concept in the structural formation of grammar. The realization of language as a means of communication is also a key concept in the framework of the “reception theory”.

The methodology of the study included the analysis of a number of texts available in the Arabic syntactic heritage moving in a chronological order from the oldest to the most recent texts, comparing them so as to extract an aspect of the Arabic syntactic tradition that has, so far, been marginalized, and to prove the importance of the relating abstract grammar to the functional aspect of language in the light of the reception theory.

The study has concluded that the analysis of the Arabic syntactic heritage proved these syntacticians to have a thorough understanding of the reception theory's assumptions. The syntactic framework established for the Arabic language took into consideration the social function of language. Both linguistic and paralinguistic factors affected the treatment of texts by Arabic syntacticians who were able to escape the limitations of language as a rigid system to the functional aspects of language as a system for communication. This understanding helps capturing the essence of language as a system.

Despite the fact that Arabic syntacticians have not attempted at constructing a linguistic theory to analyze, describe and fix the syntactic structures of the Arabic language, in the light of social aspects of language. They have shown an indispensable resemblance to the well-established theories of functional linguistics and pragmatics. A number of these syntacticians, nevertheless, have been able to assemble a full-fledged theory of grammar encompassing the concepts of the reception theory. An example is Sibawieh who demonstrated a deep understanding of the components of conversation: the speaker and the hearer. Other linguists have been said to have overcome Firth in the pursuit of the concept of social interaction.