

Editorial Foreword

Academic interest in Linguistics has increased enormously in recent years, together with a similar increase in the methods of inquiry used therein and in related fields. Language research has spilled over into new disciplines, and, accordingly, new scientific fields have emerged, like, for instance, sociolinguistics, Linguistic Anthropology, linguistic psychology, communication theories, etc. It is needless to mention that such overlapping would open up new modes of thought and new areas for investigation. It would also bridge the gap between language, psychology, and sociology. As this type of interrelationship constitutes the pillar on which Tajseer is based, we intended to bring together in this issue several articles where linguistics overlaps with Qur'anic textual analysis. The overarching idea is to see whether these modern linguistic research techniques can shed some light on the Quranic style's beauty.

In the first article Sharif Samir addresses the topic of "Modern Phonological Description of Phonemic Phenomena in the Qur'an." He looks into the considerable developments in phonology due to the innovations in modern phonological research techniques. He attempts to show how phonology overlaps with various fields of knowledge. These developments in the study of phonology might help to discern the beauty of the Quranic style in a way that was not previously known to the Quranic scholars. By looking into the phonemic components of the Qur'anic language, he seeks to emphasize some of the possible benefits that Qur'anic studies could obtain from Linguistics research that was based on the phonetic lab. In a similar vein, Dr. Mohamed Isma'il 'Alwi looks into the Qur'anic Discourse, with particular emphasis on "surat Yusuf." He attempts to introduce a new epistemological frame for discourse analysis. His starting point is the "sign," from where he moves towards uncovering the deeper meanings of the text. In the third article, Dr. Abdelrahim Khiralla explores the integrative aspects of linguistics with humanities and social sciences. He highlights the Muslims' inefficient media outlets in the face of rising, anti-Islam hate discourse. Dr. Khiralla aims to see to what extent Muslim Media can benefit from what linguistics provides, particularly when linguistic results are reconciled with the principle of discourse 'cooperation' manifested in the Prophetic discourse. The fourth article focuses on the interrelationship between Linguistics and translation, where the author looks into possible means that make the relation fruitful and beneficial to both disciplines.

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The last article by Dr. Mohammed al-Tawil has, however, moved slightly away from Linguistics to the field of methodology and philosophy of science. He focuses on the philosophical and ideological underpinnings of the concept of 'objectivity. He seeks to discern its cognitive content and explain its history and development. The issue ends with a section on 'Translated Material' and a report on Ibn Khaldon's activities.

Finally, we hope that these articles address some questions that have not been adequately answered, raise questions that urge new research, and prove valuable and enjoyable.

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