

Abstract

Words for Geographical Features in the Yemeni Dialects of Damār Governorate: Lexical and Semantic Study

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The current study investigates the words for natural places in the dialects of the Yamani Province of Ḍamār, in a semantic and lexical approach, and comparison with Arabic and other Semitic languages, and in attempt to reveal the origins of these terms in this field. Besides, it aspires to show the extent of similarity or dissimilarity either between the words in the Yemeni dialects or between them and their corresponding terms in Arabic and Semitic languages. Moreover, the study seeks to detect the extent of influence and impact, as well as to try to reveal the extent of influence and impact, as well as the stages of developments in which these words have gone through. In this study, the researcher relied on the descriptive methodology by describing the linguistic usage of the words of places in the study area, and then utilizing the historical methodology to track the usage of these terms. Next, he relied on the comparative approach to track the corresponding terms in Arabic and other Semitic languages.

The study is organized in five sections: an introduction, three chapters, and a conclusion. The introduction provides the geographical and historical description of the study area, and the first chapter investigates words indicating high places. The second explores words indicating low places, and the third chapter track those refer to places in between. The study concluded with highlighting the important findings that had been achieved.

The outputs of this study indicate that the lexical field of natural places in the dialect of Ḍamār is a very rich domain; The study found that this dialect has 526 terms for natural places, of which 422 share, in general or special meanings, with Southern Arabic, North Arabic and other Semitic languages: Je'ez, Ugaritic, Hebrew, Syriac, Mandaean, and Akkadian. A great deal of these terms has cognates in North Arabic. The study also has shown that Ḍamār dialect produced (104) terms that have no clear cognates in other Semitic languages. The study revealed that Semitic languages that share geographical terms with Ḍamār dialects in the special meanings came in the following order: Northern Arabic, Southern Arabic, Hebrew, Akkadian, Syriac, Je'ez, Ugaritic, and Mandaic. As for sharing the general meaning, the order comes as the following: North Arabic, Southern Arabic, Hebrew, Syriac, Ge'ez, Akkadian, Mandaic, and Ugaritic

There are also other findings mentioned in the conclusions of this study.