

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARABIC LANGUAGE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF AJAM (NON-ARAB) ELEMENTS

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### INTRODUCTION

The Arabic language has long served as the primary medium for religious, cultural, and scientific discourse in the Islamic world. Over the centuries, its development has been significantly influenced by interactions with other languages, particularly Persian, Greek, Syriac, and Indian languages. This article explores the impact of Ajam (non-Arab) languages on Arabic and examines how this process has shaped its lexical, phonetic, and syntactic evolution. Ajam tilining arab tiliga ta'sirini shakllantiruvchi omillar

1. The Expansion of the Islamic Caliphate. During the 8th century, the Islamic Caliphate expanded geographically, encompassing regions where Persian, Indian, Greek, and Syriac languages were widely spoken. These linguistic interactions introduced various lexical and semantic changes into the Arabic language.

◦ Persian Influence: Persian terms were adopted for administrative purposes, such as *diwan* (bureau or administrative office) and *bahr* (sea).

◦ Greek Influence: With the translation of Greek philosophical and medical texts into Arabic, terms like *falsafah* (فلسفة, philosophy) entered the Arabic lexicon.

2. The Translation Movement (8th–10th Centuries) Baghdad's Bayt al-Hikma (House of Wisdom) served as a prominent center for scientific and cultural exchange during the 8th to 10th centuries. It facilitated the translation of Greek and Persian texts into Arabic, significantly contributing to the enrichment of the Arabic language. The translation process introduced a wealth of new scientific and technical terminology into Arabic. Concepts from Greek philosophy, medicine, and astronomy, as well as Persian administrative and literary traditions, were assimilated into the Arabic lexicon. This movement not only expanded the language's vocabulary but also laid the groundwork for Arabic to become a dominant medium for intellectual and scientific discourse across the Islamic world.

◦ Algebra (الجبر) and Chemistry (الكيمياء): Terms like algebra (الجبر) and alchemy or chemistry (الكيمياء) were incorporated into Arabic from Indian and Greek languages, reflecting the influence of these civilizations' scientific contributions.

3. Cultural and Literary Influence. There was significant mutual influence between Persian and Arabic literature. The Persian Shahnameh genre profoundly impacted the development of *qissa* (قصص, stories) and historical narratives in Arabic literature.

The Shahnameh introduced a structured and heroic style to storytelling, inspiring the creation of elaborate and narrative-driven Arabic historical accounts. This exchange enriched Arabic literary traditions, leading to a more diverse and sophisticated repertoire of

genres and styles. The blending of Persian and Arabic literary elements highlighted the dynamic cultural exchange within the Islamic world.

#### The Outcomes of Ajam Influence on the Arabic Language

1. Lexical Enrichment: New words introduced into the Arabic language played a crucial role in the development of cultural and scientific fields. For example, the term *bimaristan* (hospital), borrowed from Persian, became integral to the advancement of medical science in the Arab world.

2. Phonetic Adaptations: Certain foreign sounds were adapted to fit Arabic phonology. For instance, the Persian *p* sound was replaced with the *f* sound in Arabic, as seen in the transformation of *parvardigar* to *farvardigar*.

3. Syntactic Diversity: The influence of Persian introduced syntactic variations that enriched Arabic prose and poetry. This diversity expanded the stylistic possibilities of the Arabic language, making it more versatile in literary expression.

#### Significance of Ajam Influence

The influence of Ajam (non-Arab) languages, particularly during the expansion of the Islamic world and the growth of science, was profound. Lexical, phonetic, and syntactic elements borrowed from Persian, Greek, Indian, and Syriac languages significantly contributed to the enrichment and evolution of Arabic.

Terms from Ajam languages facilitated the development of Arabic as a scientific language, especially in disciplines such as Islamic philosophy, medicine, mathematics, and chemistry. This integration enabled Arabic to serve as a universal medium for knowledge during the Islamic Golden Age, shaping its historical and cultural significance as a global intellectual language.

The translation movements, particularly the activities of *Bayt al-Hikma* (The House of Wisdom) in Baghdad during the 8th–10th centuries, enriched the Arabic language with new scientific terms. This process transformed Arabic into a language of the international scientific community. Such enrichment enabled Arabic to be widely used not only in religious contexts but also in worldly sciences and philosophy. For instance, administrative and cultural terms borrowed from Persian were utilized in governance and literature, while words from Greek philosophy broadened the logical foundations of scientific works in Arabic.

The Arabic language not only adopted these influences but also adapted and developed them. For example, terms like *bimaristan* (hospital), borrowed from Persian, were extensively used in later Arabic scientific writings. Phonetic adaptations, such as the substitution of the Persian *p* sound with the Arabic *f* sound, facilitated the integration of foreign words into the language. This demonstrates Arabic's flexibility and its ability to preserve its linguistic foundation while assimilating external elements.

Additionally, the influence of Ajam played a significant role in the stylistic and generic development of Arabic literature. The *masnavi* genre of Persian poetry influenced Arabic poetic forms, while Persian elements also appeared in narrative genres and historical writings. This process greatly contributed to the diversity and richness of Arabic literature.

Today, the Arabic language continues to maintain its global significance while preserving these historical influences. The impact of Ajam languages has opened new

opportunities for Arabic, enhancing its relevance in both scientific and cultural domains. This process also highlights the importance of interaction between languages and cultures. The relationship between Arabic and Ajam languages serves as a vivid example of cultural exchange and scientific advancement.

Thus, the elements borrowed from Ajam languages have contributed to the recognition of Arabic as a multifaceted and rich language in the modern world. This influence is not confined to the historical past but also finds its place in contemporary global communication. The lexical and stylistic adaptability of Arabic ensures that it remains a relevant and distinctive language, continuing to evolve in the future.

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