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Abstract

Syntactic Entailment in the Works of Al-Farahidi and Al-Farra'

This study investigates the forms of syntactic entailment in the works of the two early Arabic grammarians Al-Khalil bin Ahmad Al-Farahidi and Yahya bin Ziyad Al-Farra'. The study analytically criticizes and refutes the opinions of some modern scholars as with regards to the forms of entailment used by these two grammarians. The study refutes the claim by some scholars that early Arabic grammarians like Al-Farahidi and Al-Farra' lacked any syntactic foundations especially when it comes to forms of entailment. The study also refutes the claim of other scholars that the syntax of such early Arabic grammarians was not purely syntactic, but was rather influenced by rhetoric. The study also refutes generalizations about the two grammarians such as "Al-Farahidi rejected grammatical irregularities used by some minorities" and "Al-Farra', unlike other grammarians of al-Kūfah, did not reject grammatical irregularities used by some minorities." It is worth mentioning that, both Al-Farahidi and Al-Farra' were founders of two distinct grammar schools and each one of them was knowledgeable in using entailment in syntax.

Keywords: syntactic entailment, forms, early Arabic grammarians, Al-Farahidi, Al-Farra', rhetoric.

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