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**THE EFFECT OF ISLAM ON ARABIC LANGUAGE: A STUDY**

**Mohammed Sagher Ahmed Zaid Mutahar**

*Research Scholar*

*Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded*

*Nanded, India*

&

**Dr Rajkumar Lakhadive**

*Head, Dept. of English*

*S.M.B. College, Latur*

*Latur, India*

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**Abstract:**

*Studying the relationship between languages and religion has been the concern of many sociolinguists nowadays. It is an argumentative topic because some look at religion as an effective tool through which language spreads. On the other hand, other sociolinguists think that language affects the religion and through it, language can be spread. This paper aims to study the influence of religion in language with special reference to the influence of Islam in Arabic language .It will shed light in the status of Arabic before the emergence of Islam and then the position that this language obtained after the spread of Islam. The factors that effected the Arabic position will be explained in this paper. The findings of the study indicate that Islam effected Arabic so much and shifted it from a language of a small region called the Arabian Peninsula to a widely used language that is spoken all over the world.*

**Keywords:** *Language, Arabic, Islam, Religion, Sociolinguistics, etc.*

**• Introduction:**

Though language is defined as a means of communication through which people convey their messages, it has another meaning for Arabs in particular and Muslims in general. They do not look at languages as a means of communication only but as a part of their religion and culture. Thus, they learn it with the religion at the same time all around the world. Their prayers and other religious activities are performed only in Arabic. So, Arabic for them is not only a language for communication but a medium through which they perform and convey their religious acclivities. So, there is a strong relationship between Arabic and Islam. Studying the relationship between language and religion is considered to be a new field in sociolinguistics. Socio-linguists started to study the relationship between languages and religion only in the past few decades. In addition to that, this field of study is still new in studying the relationship between Arabic and Islam. Therefore, it is appropriate to write about the effect of Islam in the spread of Arabic language .A brief glance is about the status of Arabic before Islam and the vision of Islam towards the Arabic language. Then, a glance is about Arabic after Islam.

**• Arabic before Islam:**

Before we talk about the status Arabic language in the Pre-Islamic period, we have to know that Arabic is that branch of the Afro – Asiatic or human Semite family of languages that consists of more than three hundred languages, most of which had died and some others are marginalized and few are still alive. Arabic and Hebrew and are examples of the living once of such big tree of languages. This period is called the pre-Islamic Arabic era which refers to the period prior to 630. Before this

year, Arabic was only used in a small region called Arabian Peninsula. It was the language of the people who live at that small part of the Arab world. A.F. Becton describes it in his book “languages of pre Islamic religion as “The Arabic peninsula should be regarded as being bounded on the by the so called fertile crescent and thus inducing the descent areas between Euphrates and the life valley which stretches. North from Agoba”. From this quotation, we can say that the Arabian Peninsula was a small region of the big Arabic country where Arabic was spoken. It is known as the Arabia. It is the Peninsula of western Asia salted north east of Arabic on the Arabian plate. It consists of the countries Yemen, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabic and the Arab Emirates. In brief, Arabian Peninsula where Arabic was used in the pre-Islamic period is known as the gulf countries nowadays. The other parts of the Arabic world used to use another languages such as Ammonic and it Hebrew.

Though Arabic was used in a small region, it was in its glorious time, In Arabian Peninsula, people in general, and literary ones in particular used to speak the standard Arabic as a sign that indicates that the user is highly educated. So, poets used to write their poems in a very highly standard Arabic. This led to a completion among the poets and writers. The result of such linguistic competence was the establishment of one of the most famous literacy clubs in all over the world and centuries. It is called “Soack Okath” Okath club where people from all the Arabian Peninsula come for shopping, and attending the linguistic and poetic competence that used to be held once a year. So, though it was used in a small region, Arabic was so proud of their language. They enjoyed high linguistic skills. The large literary works produced at the pre-Islam period reflects the importance that Arabic language played at that time, As Ibn Rashid in the Islamic the Quran and the Arabic liberator by moraine 1988 writes.

“Whenever a poet emerged in an Arabic tribe, other wits would come to congratulate, feasts would be appeared, the woman would join together on lutes as they do act weddings and all young men would all rejoice at the good news. The Arabs used to congratulate each other only on the birth of a child and when a poets rose among them”. So, it is clear that Arabic language was used in a small region but it was in its glories time.

#### • **Islam’s View towards Arabic:**

After we have a glance about the status of Arabic language in the pre-Islamic period, we shift into another point that is Islam’s view towards Arabic. As it was noted earlier that Arabic was in its golden time before the appearance of Islam so, Islam appeared while Arabic was in its glorious time regardless of the small region that it was used in. Islam and Quran are in Arabic and were carried by an Arabic prophet Mohamed. It was supported by Quran that is spoken and written in Arabic language which Muslims look at it as a miracle that challenge their linguistic and literary ability. This language is looked at as pure and perfect that no one can write like. All the poets and literacy people were astonished of its purity and perfectness. It was looked at as a real proof that this speech is the speech of Allah. So, Arabic was thought the language of Allah through which Allah conveys his message to people according to Muslim belief.

Since the language was considered as the language of Quran, Allah says that this language will be alive according to Islamic view. So, we can say that Islam look at language as part of the religion by which Muslims all over the world, regardless of their mother tongue which has to be used while performing their religious activities or while worshipping Allah. The result is that the relationship between Islam and Arabic connects the Arabic language with unique and lasting relationship.

#### • **Arabic after Islam:**

Coming to know the relationship between Arabic language and Islam, one will come to know how important it is for Muslims to carry Arabic with them in the same way that they do with Islamic principles mainly the Holy Quran and Sunna. After the birth of Islam, Arabic started to accompany Islam into many other regions outside the Arabian Peninsula. It was the medium through which Islam was conveyed in and outside the Arabian Peninsula. Muslims used to teach Islam and Arabic at the same time because Quran and Sunna which are the two sources of Islamic religion in Arabic. The new Muslims who are non-Arabic users have to learn Arabic because it is only through Arabic languages that they have to perform their religious activities. Secondly, it is due to the doming of the Islamic empire that many people, even non Muslims started to learn Arabic. The spread of Arabic in new countries and the interaction with people in such countries enabled even non-Muslims to learn Arabic.

The Christians and Jewish in Syria are an example of this. They learnt Arabic because they found themselves among a society that started to be an Arabic language user.

The third reason that helps in spreading the Arabic language after Islam is that the Arabic rulers were so interested in teaching the languages. It is reported that Caliph Omar wrote to Abu Mossa al- Aa'share, an Arabic ruler and ordered him to teach Arabic. So, he told him teach the Sunna and teach Arabic, teach Quran in Arabic for it is Arabic.

Another speech repented about him, he said learn Arabic for it is a part of your religion and learn how the estate of the deceased should be divided for parts of your religion. These two commands from the Caliph to the responses refer to the fact that these rulers were so careful about teaching Arabic language to non-Arabic people. They belied that Arabic is the only way towards understanding the Quran. Another point to consider is as a part of Islam, so they used to order the responsible ones to teach it.

We can say that by the spread of Islam outside the Arabian Peninsula, Arabic started to be taught and used in such areas. The result is that other Arabic countries whose mother tongue was not Arabic started to study Arabic for example, the language that were used in countries like Lebanon and Syria was Armani so, people in these countries started to use Arabic instead of Armani, after that Arabic went beyond the boundaries of the Arabic countries. It started to be used in regions like Spain, Iran and Africa. It is reported that by the beginning of the eighth century, Arabic accompanied Islam in such places. It is also reported that by the spread of Islam by the medium of Arabic, there was a kind of effect in some of the languages found in those regions. These languages were influenced by Arabic and the result was that some of them either borrowing some words or taking the alphabet system of Arabic as in the case of Persian, Pashto, Kashmir and Urdu so, we can say that with the great and fast spread of Islam from the Arabian Peninsula into other parts of the world, there was also a spread of Arabic language to such places. Arabic is being used by more than 300 million people as their mother tongue language. Also, it is being used in some non-Arabic countries such as the Republic of Chad and Central Africa as a second languages. It is also used by millions of Muslims all over the world. So, Islam transferred Arabic from languages of particular region namely the Arabian Peninsula into an international language that is used by people all over the world.

#### • Conclusion:

It is clear that the population who use Arabic was small in the Arabic Peninsula which is actually a small region in the Arabic world. It is known nowadays as the Gulf countries. With the birth of Islam, Arabic also got a new birth. Islam carried the language with it wherever it spreads due to several reasons such as the view that Islam and Muslims have towards Arabic language. Also, the fact that says that Arabic is the language of Islam and Quran has a significant effect in the speed of Arabic. In addition, the interest of the Arabic rulers in teaching Arabic to the non-Arabic Muslims played a vital role. The result is that Arabic was shifted from a languages used at a small region into a global languages used all over the world.

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