

STUDIA ORIENTALIA  
EDITED BY THE FINNISH ORIENTAL SOCIETY  
69

---

## ARTISTIC COLLOQUIAL ARABIC

Traditional narratives and poems from al-Balqā' (Jordan):  
transcription, translation, linguistic and metrical analysis

by  
HEIKKI PALVA



HELSINKI 1992

**Heikki Palva**

Artistic colloquial Arabic. Traditional narratives and poems from al-Balqā' (Jordan): transcription, translation, linguistic and metrical analysis.

**Studia Orientalia**, Vol. 69.

Copyright © 1992 by the Finnish Oriental Society,  
Societas Orientalis Fennica,  
Snellmaninkatu 9-11, SF-00170 Helsinki, Finland

Publication Secretary: Harry Halén  
Vignette by Virpi Hämeen-Anttila

ISSN 0039-3282  
ISBN 951-9380-18-3

#### Acknowledgements

I thank the Finnish Oriental Society for accepting this study in their series *Studia Orientalia*. My sincere thanks are due to Mr. Robert Whiting, Ph.D., and Margot Stout Whiting, M.Phil., for correcting my English, and to Mr. Harry Halén, Phil. lic., for his help in the preparation of the manuscript.

The trip during which the material published here was collected was rendered possible by the generous help of my father, Rev. Lauri Palva, and my brothers, Professor Ilmari Palva, M.D., and Professor Antti Palva, M.D. Now, more than 27 years later, it is my pleasant duty to express my gratitude to them.

I dedicate this study to the memory of my mother Aili Palva, M.A. (1905-1982).

Heikki Palva

PunaMusta  
Helsinki 1992

## Contents

1.	INTRODUCTION	7
1.1.	The Material	7
1.2.	The Narrator	8
1.3.	The Scope of the Study	9
1.4.	The Transcription	10
1.5.	Division of the Texts and References to the Texts	12
2.	THE TEXTS	13
Text I	13	
Text II	17	
Text III	23	
Text IV	36	
Text V	46	
Text VI	49	
Text VII	54	
Text VIII	63	
Text IX	66	
Text X	72	
Text XI	79	
Text XII	84	
Text XIII	88	
Text XIV	93	
Text XV	105	
3.	NOTES ON THE LANGUAGE OF THE NARRATIVES	114
3.1.	Phonetics and Phonemics	114
3.1.1.	Consonants	114
3.1.2.	Vowels	116
3.1.3.	Syllable structure	116
3.2.	Morphology	118
3.2.1.	Personal pronouns	118
3.2.2.	Demonstrative pronouns	119
3.2.3.	The concretizer ha(-l-)	120
3.2.4.	Interrogative pronouns	121
3.2.5.	Relative pronouns	122
3.2.6.	Nominal morphology	122
3.2.7.	Numerals	123
3.2.8.	The verb	124
3.2.9.	Adverbs	127
3.2.10.	Presentatives	128

3.2.11. Conjunctions	130
3.3. Syntax	130
3.3.1. Negations	130
3.3.2. Analytic genitive	131
3.3.3. Existential statements ('there is...')	131
3.3.4. Some syntactic features of narrative style	132
3.4. Lexicon	133
3.5. Conclusion	134
4. NOTES ON THE LANGUAGE OF THE POEMS	136
4.1. Consonants	136
4.2. Syllable structure	137
4.3. Pronouns	138
4.4. Tanwīn	140
4.5. The verb	142
4.6. Particles	145
4.7. Negation	146
4.8. Lexicon	146
4.9. Conclusion	147
5. NOTES ON THE METRICAL STRUCTURE OF THE POEMS	149
5.1. Quantitative analysis	149
5.2. Accentual analysis	161
5.3. Discussion	163
6. GLOSSARY	167
7. REFERENCES AND ABBREVIATIONS	179
8. INDEX OF PERSONAL AND TRIBAL NAMES	187
9. INDEX OF PLACE NAMES	190