

## METRICAL ANALYSIS OF THE POEMS

Tables I-X (see Appendix) show the use of different types of verses in the poems of the five poets. In the case of Bashīr, Ğandal and Ghaylān, I have included only those poems which have four or more verses, and in the case of the larger collections of al-Aghlab and Ḥumayd, only poems which have five or more verses. As in MSRP 1, I have taken only the longest variant into consideration when there have been several variants of the same poem (e.g., Ḥumayd no. 6b is analyzed, 6a is not).

The following tables show the ratio of acatalectic and catalectic verses counted in the whole corpus (i.e. including fragments of less than four verses):

	Aghlab		Bashīr	
	fragments	verses	fragments	verses
acatalectic	21	159	4	28
catalectic	20	109	1	8
	Ğandal		Ḥumayd	
	fragments	verses	fragments	verses
acatalectic	15	168	19	104
catalectic	9	45	19	117
	Ghaylān			
	fragments	verses		
acatalectic	17	96		
catalectic	6	72		

In the following, the acatalectic verses and the catalectic verses are analyzed separately. The above table shows that the catalectic variant of the raġaz verse was more favoured by al-Aghlab and Ḥumayd al-Arqaṭ than by the other three poets<sup>86</sup> in the present volume and by Abū'n-Naġm al-ʿIḡlī<sup>87</sup>.

### Acatalectic verses

The frequency of the individual foot patterns as the 1st, 2nd and 3rd feet in the poems of al-Aghlab are:

<sup>86</sup> The relatively high ratio of catalectic verses in the poems of Ghaylān is caused by the length of no. 1, which has been better preserved than his other poems. Excluding no. 1, Ghaylān has only 15 catalectic verses as compared with the 96 acatalectic verses.

<sup>87</sup> See MSRP 1, p. 90.

pattern	1st	%	2nd	%	3rd	%	total	%
˘ ˘ ˘ -	6	4.7	1	0.8	2	1.6	9	2.3
˘ - ˘ -	36	28.1	22	17.2	30	23.4	88	22.9
- ˘ ˘ -	33	25.8	39	30.5	12	9.4	84	21.9
- - ˘ -	<u>53</u>	41.4	<u>66</u>	51.6	<u>84</u>	65.6	<u>203</u>	52.9
total	128		128		128		384	

The frequency of the individual foot patterns as the 1st, 2nd and 3rd feet in the poems of Bashīr are:

pattern	1st	%	2nd	%	3rd	%	total	%
˘ ˘ ˘ -	5	17.9	-	-	2	7.1	7	8.3
˘ - ˘ -	10	35.7	2	7.1	9	32.1	21	25
- ˘ ˘ -	4	14.3	15	53.6	6	21.4	25	29.8
- - ˘ -	<u>9</u>	32.1	<u>11</u>	39.3	<u>11</u>	39.3	<u>31</u>	36.9
total	28		28		28		84	

The frequency of the individual foot patterns as the 1st, 2nd and 3rd feet in the poems of Ğandal are:

pattern	1st	%	2nd	%	3rd	%	total	%
˘ ˘ ˘ -	9	5.6	5	3.1	1	0.6	15	3.1
˘ - ˘ -	65	40.6	30	18.7	82	51.2	177	36.9
- ˘ ˘ -	27	16.9	59	36.9	12	7.5	98	20.4
- - ˘ -	<u>59</u>	36.9	<u>66</u>	41.2	<u>65</u>	40.6	<u>190</u>	39.6
total	160		160		160		480	

The frequency of the individual foot patterns as the 1st, 2nd and 3rd feet in the poems of Ḥumayd are:

pattern	1st	%	2nd	%	3rd	%	total	%
˘ ˘ ˘ -	3	3.8	4	5.1	-	-	7	3.0
˘ - ˘ -	25	32.0	9	11.5	35	44.9	69	29.5
- ˘ ˘ -	20	25.6	33	42.3	1	1.3	54	23.1
- - ˘ -	<u>30</u>	38.5	<u>32</u>	41.0	<u>42</u>	53.8	<u>104</u>	44.4
total	78		78		78		234	

The frequency of the individual foot patterns as the 1st, 2nd and 3rd feet in the poems of Ghaylān are:

pattern	1st	%	2nd	%	3rd	%	total	%
˘ ˘ ˘ -	1	1.2	1	1.2	1	1.2	3	1.2
˘ - ˘ -	24	29.6	9	11.1	43	53.1	76	31.3
- ˘ ˘ -	19	23.5	22	27.2	5	6.2	46	18.9
- - ˘ -	<u>37</u>	45.7	<u>49</u>	60.5	<u>32</u>	39.5	<u>118</u>	48.6
total	81		81		81		243	

In the level of syllables, we obtain the following statistics for the five poets (taking into account only the syllables which can be chosen freely, i.e. the first two in the foot):

	al-Aghlab	%	Bashīr	%
˘	190	24.7	60	35.7
–	<u>578</u>	75.3	<u>108</u>	64.3
total	768		168	

	Ġandal	%	Ḥumayd	%
˘	305	31.8	137	29.3
–	<u>655</u>	68.2	<u>331</u>	70.7
total	960		468	

	Ghaylān	%
˘	128	26.3
–	<u>358</u>	73.7
total	486	

A comparison of the above tables and the tables in MSRP 1, p. 91, shows that despite individual variation, e.g. the relatively high ratio of ˘˘˘ – and, to a lesser extent, ˘ – ˘ –, in Bashīr<sup>88</sup> and Ġandal, there seems to be a general consensus among the poets of MSRP 1 and 2 in the use of the different acatalectic feet as the first, second and third foot of the verse. Thus a basic acatalectic raġaz verse seems to have either ˘ – ˘ – or – – ˘ – as the first and third feet, and either – ˘ ˘ – or – – ˘ – as the second, ˘ ˘ ˘ – being used only marginally, and very rarely twice in the same verse.

### Catalectic verses

The frequency of the individual foot patterns as the 1st, 2nd and 3rd feet in the poems of al-Aghlab are:

pattern	1st		2nd		3rd		total	
˘˘˘ –	2	2.3	3	3.4	-	-	5	2.8 <sup>89</sup>
˘ – ˘ –	29	33.0	15	17.0	-	-	44	25
– ˘ ˘ –	19	21.6	27	30.7	-	-	46	26.1
– – ˘ –	38	43.2	43	48.9	-	-	81	46.0
˘ – –	-	-	-	-	55	62.5	-	-
– – –	-	-	-	-	<u>33</u>	<u>37.5</u>	-	-
total	88		88		88		176	

<sup>88</sup> Here a reminder may be necessary that in general it is very precarious to draw any exact conclusions, especially in the case of Bashīr, whose extant poems add up to no more than 36 verses.

<sup>89</sup> These percentages have been counted on the basis of the first and second feet.

The frequency of the individual foot patterns as the 1st, 2nd and 3rd feet in the poems of Bashīr are:

pattern	1st		2nd		3rd		total	
˘˘˘˘	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90
˘˘˘˘	4	50	1	12.5	-	-	5	31.2
˘˘˘˘	1	12.5	4	50	-	-	5	31.2
˘˘˘˘	3	37.5	3	37.5	-	-	6	37.5
˘˘˘˘	-	-	-	-	2	25	-	-
˘˘˘˘	-	-	-	-	6	75	-	-
total	8		8		8		16	

The frequency of the individual foot patterns as the 1st, 2nd and 3rd feet in the poems of Ġandal are:

pattern	1st		2nd		3rd		total	
˘˘˘˘	-	-	2	6.5	-	-	2	3.2 <sup>91</sup>
˘˘˘˘	13	41.9	5	16.1	-	-	18	29.0
˘˘˘˘	3	9.7	11	35.5	-	-	14	22.6
˘˘˘˘	15	48.4	13	41.9	-	-	28	45.2
˘˘˘˘	-	-	-	-	12	38.7	-	-
˘˘˘˘	-	-	-	-	19	61.3	-	-
total	31		31		31		62	

The frequency of the individual foot patterns as the 1st, 2nd and 3rd feet in the poems of Ĥumayd are:

pattern	1st		2nd		3rd		total	
˘˘˘˘	1	1.2	7	8.1	-	-	8	4.7 <sup>92</sup>
˘˘˘˘	31	36.0	6	7.0	-	-	37	21.5
˘˘˘˘	18	20.9	35	40.7	-	-	53	30.8
˘˘˘˘	36	41.9	38	44.2	-	-	74	43.0
˘˘˘˘	-	-	-	-	53	61.6	-	-
˘˘˘˘	-	-	-	-	33	38.4	-	-
total	86		86		86		172	

The frequency of the individual foot patterns as the 1st, 2nd and 3rd feet in the poems of Ghaylān are:

pattern	1st		2nd		3rd		total	
˘˘˘˘	5	7.9	3	4.8	-	-	8	6.3 <sup>93</sup>
˘˘˘˘	20	31.7	6	9.5	-	-	26	20.6
˘˘˘˘	15	23.8	33	52.4	-	-	48	38.1

<sup>90</sup> These percentages have been counted on the basis of the first and second feet.

<sup>91</sup> These percentages have been counted on the basis of the first and second feet.

<sup>92</sup> These percentages have been counted on the basis of the first and second feet.

<sup>93</sup> These percentages have been counted on the basis of the first and second feet.

--˘-	23	36.5	21	33.3	-	-	44	34.9
˘--	-	-	-	-	8	12.7	-	-
---	-	-	-	-	<u>55</u>	87.3	-	-
total	63		63		63		126	

In the level of syllables, we obtain the following statistics for the five poets (taking into account only the syllables which can be chosen freely, i.e. the first two in the foot):

	al-Aghlab	%	Bashīr	%
˘	155	35.2	12	30
-	<u>285</u>	64.8	<u>28</u>	70
total	440		40	

	Ġandal	%	Ḥumayd	%
˘	48	31.0	159	37.0
-	<u>107</u>	69.0	<u>271</u>	63.0
total	155		430	

	Ghaylān	%
˘	98	31.1
-	<u>217</u>	68.9
total	315	

In the catalectic verses, too, there seems to be a consensus among the poets of MSRP 1 (see p. 96) and MSRP 2, and the basic catalectic raġaz verse seems to have either ˘-˘- or --˘- as the first foot and either -˘˘- or --˘- as the second. The greatest variation is seen in the third foot, where ˘-- is usually slightly more common than ---, but where Ġandal and Ghaylān seem, on the contrary, strongly to favour ---, although here again one should remember the small size of the corpus of the poems.