LINGUISTIC SIGN IN THE STRUCTURE AND PARSING
Semiotic Study

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Master's Degree in Arabic Linguistic

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Abstract

Interest in the linguistic sign has been rising these days. This is evident in a variety of areas, all of which have one objective: understanding how signs create meaning. Clearly, the linguistic system is viewed as the highest level of all semiotic systems.

This study sets out to investigate the linguistic sign in the structure and parsing of Arabic language. de Saussure’s semiotics has triggered the study of the sign as part of the linguistic system. Based on his conception, the study defines the linguistic sign and breaks it down into its components. It also determines the importance and status of the sign in the linguistic system. With this in mind, we have considered the sign the result of the signifier (oral image) and the signified (the functional meaning of the sign). We have adopted Saussure’s conception which differentiates between the sign and its significance since the sign is a small unit of analysis. This conception has given the sign its functional value in morphology and word formation. This value has also given value to the functions of words in sentences and has unravelled the aesthetic aspect of the sign. We have also addressed the signification of the sign, thus extending its vocal dimension. The study points out the effect of signs on many vocal phenomena.

The study has revealed the status of the sign in the literary heritage and the modern linguistic theories in light of functional grammar. Some assumptions which support this view and others which contradict it have also been posited. This is especially so in terms of parsing signs around which a lot of controversy and misunderstanding has raised as its status in the system has not been determined. This study attempts to make up for this shortage from a semiotic perspective.