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ANALYSIS OF ARABIC; 1. Basic issues; 2. Morphological rules and relationships in Arabic; 2.1 Autosegmental morphology; 2.2 Problems with templates; 2.3 Morphological rule types; 2.4 Templatic and affixational morphology revisited: Templates as constraints; 3. Organization of the lexicon; 3.1 The form of lexical entries; 3.2 Levels; 4. Low-level phonological effects on morphology; 4.1 Syllable structure constraints; 4.2 Epenthesis and glide formation; 4.3 Syncope and glide deletion; CHAPTER III. THE ARABIC NOUN PLURAL SYSTEM 1. General aims; 2. Observations on productivity and regularity; 3. Analysis by singular-plural groups; 3.1 Group (1): underived masculine nouns of three or fewer consonants; 3.2 Group (2): triconsonantal and shorter feminine nouns; 3.3 Group (3): quadriconsonantal nouns; 3.4 Group (4): three-consonant stems with long vowel treated as four-consonant stems; 3.5 Group (5): the problem of derivation of derived forms I: the active participle CaaCiC; 3.6 Group (6): the problem of derivation of derived forms II: verbal adjectives and nouns (CaCiC, CVCaaC, etc.) 3.7 A general account of groups (4), (5), and (6) 3.8 Group (7): special adjectival types; 3.9 Form and distribution of the 'sound' external plural; 3.10 Synopsis of the Arabic level I plural system; CHAPTER IV. HISTORY OF THE BROKEN PLURAL PROBLEM WITHIN THE COMPARATIVE SEMITIC TRADITION; 1. Overview; 2. The major theories; 2.1 Brockelmann (1913); 2.2 Barth (1894); 2.3 Kuryowicz (1962, 1973); 2.4 Murtonen (1964); 2.5 Corriente (1971); 3. The major theories considered against the Arabic data; 3.1 Plurals of underived masculines (Group 1): CiCaaC, ?aCCaaC, CuCuuC, ?aCCuC 3.2 Plurals of underived feminines (Group 2): CVCaC, CiCaaC, CVCaCaat 3.3 Group (3) and group (4) plurals: CaCaaCiC(at); CaCaa?iC, CawaaCiC, etc.; 3.4 Group (5) plurals: CuCCaC, CuCCaaC, CaCaCat, CuCa(C)at; 3.5 Group (6) plurals: CuCuC, ?aCCiCat, ?aCCiCaa?, CuCaCaa?; 3.6 Group (7): special adjective types; 4. Conclusion from study of previous scholarship; CHAPTER V. THE COMPARATIVE SEMITIC EVIDENCE; 1. Diachronic problems presented by the plural systems of Semitic languages; 1.1 The broken plural and the sub-classification of Semitic languages; 2. Noun pluralization in East Semitic; 3. Noun pluralization in Northwest Semitic.

Sommario/riassunto

The formal aspects of non-concatenative morphology have received considerable attention in recent years, but the diachronic dimensions of such systems have been little explored. The current work applies a modern methodological and theoretical framework to a classic problem in Arabic and Semitic historical linguistics: the highly allomorphic system of 'stem-internal' or 'broken' plurals. It shows that widely-accepted views regarding the historical development of this system are untenable and offers a new hypothesis. The first chapter lays out a methodology for comparative-historical research