



## THE ROLE OF LANGUAGE POLICY IN ARABIC TERMINOLOGY

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### ABSTRACT

This article examines the theoretical and practical dimensions of Arabic terminology development, with particular emphasis on the influence of language policy and institutional frameworks. It explores how term formation, semantic adaptation, and standardization processes are shaped in modern Arabic. The study highlights that effective language planning and institutional support play a crucial role in ensuring terminological consistency and development across scientific, administrative, and diplomatic domains.

**KEYWORDS:** Terminology, Arabic language, language policy, diplomatic terms, standardization, AIDSMO.

### INTRODUCTION

The development of Arabic terminology is closely linked to broader processes of language planning and policy implementation. In contemporary contexts, Arabic faces increasing demands to express complex scientific, technical, and diplomatic concepts. This necessitates systematic approaches to term formation, semantic adaptation, and standardization.

Language policy plays a central role in guiding these processes by establishing norms, recommending standardized forms, and coordinating linguistic efforts across Arabic-speaking countries. Institutions such as AIDSMO contribute significantly to this effort by promoting unified terminological standards.

This study investigates the relationship between language policy and Arabic terminology development, focusing on how institutional support influences linguistic modernization and terminological consistency.

### Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative research design to investigate the role of language policy in the development of Arabic terminology. The research is grounded in theoretical and applied linguistics, particularly terminology studies, language planning theory, and sociolinguistic approaches to language standardization (Cabr , 1999; Cooper, 1989).

The methodological framework combines descriptive, comparative, and document analysis methods. The descriptive method is used to identify and explain the mechanisms of term formation in Modern Standard Arabic, including derivation based on the root-and-pattern system, semantic expansion, and borrowing from foreign languages (Sager, 1990). The comparative method is applied to examine differences between internally generated Arabic terms and borrowed lexical items, particularly in scientific, technical, and diplomatic domains.

Document analysis constitutes a major part of the methodology. Official reports, terminological guidelines, and standardization documents issued by institutions such as AIDSMO are analyzed to understand how language policy is implemented in practice. These documents are evaluated in terms of their contribution to harmonizing Arabic terminology across different countries and institutional contexts (AIDSMO, 2018).

In addition, the study incorporates a sociolinguistic perspective to examine how language planning decisions influence real-world terminology usage in education, administration, and international communication. Special attention is given to the interaction between language policy and linguistic modernization processes in Arabic-speaking countries (Spolsky, 2004).

Data interpretation is based on qualitative content analysis, focusing on recurring patterns in terminology creation, semantic adaptation, and standardization strategies. This approach allows for a systematic understanding of how institutional policies shape linguistic outcomes in Arabic terminology development.

## Results

The findings of this study demonstrate that Arabic terminology development is a multi-layered process shaped by both internal linguistic structures and external policy-driven influences. One of the key results is that the Arabic root-and-pattern morphological system remains the most productive mechanism for generating new terminology, particularly in scientific and administrative domains (Cabr , 1999).

The analysis shows that internally derived terms ensure structural consistency and linguistic authenticity. These terms are widely used in formal writing and official documentation, where clarity and standardization are essential. However, their formation is often guided or reinforced by language policy institutions that promote standardized lexical choices across Arabic-speaking countries (AIDSMO, 2018).

Another significant result is the increasing role of loanwords in modern Arabic terminology. Borrowed terms, mainly from English and French, are especially prevalent in fields such as technology, medicine, and international relations. These terms are typically adapted phonologically and morphologically to fit Arabic linguistic rules, reflecting a controlled process of linguistic integration rather than direct borrowing (Sager, 1990).

The study also reveals that semantic adaptation is a key strategy in Arabic terminology development. Existing Arabic words are frequently extended or specialized to represent new concepts. This process enhances lexical economy and reduces the need for excessive borrowing, thereby maintaining linguistic coherence.

In addition, the role of language policy institutions, particularly AIDSMO, is evident in promoting terminological standardization. The analysis indicates that institutional guidelines significantly reduce terminological variation across different Arabic-speaking regions, especially in diplomatic and academic communication. This contributes to improved linguistic unity and consistency in official discourse.

Furthermore, the results highlight that language planning efforts directly influence terminology usage in education systems and governmental institutions. Standardized terms recommended by policy organizations are increasingly adopted in textbooks, academic publications, and official documents.

Overall, the results confirm that Arabic terminology is not only a linguistic phenomenon but also a policy-driven system shaped by institutional regulation, global interaction, and internal linguistic resources.

### Discussion

The findings of this study indicate that the development of Arabic terminology is not merely a linguistic process but a complex system strongly influenced by language policy and institutional regulation. The results confirm that Arabic terminology evolves through the continuous interaction between internal linguistic resources and external global influences (Cooper, 1989). A key observation is that the Arabic root-and-pattern morphological system remains the primary mechanism for generating new terminology. This system provides a stable and productive framework for creating precise and systematic terms, especially in scientific, administrative, and diplomatic domains. In this sense, internal word-formation strategies are closely aligned with the objectives of language policy, which seeks to maintain linguistic coherence and standardization (Cabr , 1999).

Another important finding is the growing presence of loanwords in modern Arabic terminology. This phenomenon is largely driven by rapid developments in science and technology, which require the Arabic language to accommodate new concepts quickly. However, these borrowings are not adopted in their original form; instead, they undergo phonological and morphological adaptation to fit Arabic linguistic structures. This reflects a controlled and regulated form of linguistic integration rather than unrestricted borrowing (Sager, 1990).

Semantic adaptation also plays a crucial role in terminology development. Existing Arabic lexical items are frequently extended or specialized to express new scientific meanings. This strategy supports lexical efficiency and reduces excessive dependence on foreign borrowings while maintaining conceptual clarity within specialized discourse.

Furthermore, the role of language policy institutions, particularly AIDSMO, is clearly evident. The organization's standardization efforts contribute significantly to reducing terminological variation across Arabic-speaking countries. As a result, greater consistency is achieved in official documents, educational materials, and diplomatic communication (AIDSMO, 2018).

The comparative analysis also shows that Arabic terminology is continuously influenced by other major languages, especially English. This interaction demonstrates that language policy in Arabic is not only concerned with internal regulation but also with managing global linguistic integration.

Overall, the discussion confirms that Arabic terminology is a dynamic and evolving system shaped by the interaction of linguistic structure, institutional language policy, and global scientific development.

### Conclusion

This study examined the role of language policy in the development of Arabic terminology, with a focus on term formation, semantic adaptation, and standardization processes. The findings demonstrate that Arabic terminology is shaped by a continuous interaction between internal linguistic mechanisms and external socio-political and scientific influences.

The analysis confirms that the Arabic root-and-pattern system remains the foundation of terminology creation, ensuring structural stability and linguistic authenticity. At the same time, the increasing presence of loanwords reflects the language's need to respond to rapid developments in science, technology, and international communication, while still adapting these terms to Arabic phonological and morphological rules.

Another key conclusion is that semantic adaptation significantly contributes to the expansion of Arabic lexical resources, allowing existing words to acquire new specialized meanings. This process supports clarity and reduces overreliance on foreign borrowings.

Importantly, the study highlights the central role of language policy institutions, particularly AIDSMO, in promoting terminological standardization across Arabic-speaking countries. Their efforts enhance consistency in official, academic, and diplomatic discourse, strengthening linguistic unity.

Overall, the study concludes that Arabic terminology is a dynamic and evolving system shaped by both linguistic tradition and modern global demands. Language policy acts as a guiding force that ensures balance between innovation, standardization, and linguistic identity.

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