Arabic Poems
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Arabs often consider poetry to be the *diwan al-Arab* (the essence of Arabic) (Wright, 1996). In fact, they often call their language the language of poets. This attitude towards literary poetic genre can be explained by looking at the literary heritage bestowed on Arabs. Arabs often tend to be strongly connected to classical poets and currently, in the Arab world, poetry is considered the most popular literary medium that which reflects their history, cultural values and sense of self-identify. In Arab poetry, structured classical poems represent the height of Arabic classical literature with exception of Quran. Arab poems are characterized by lineation, enjambment, rhyme, metre and foot. Lineation refers to organization or arrangement of a poem into lines including dividing a poem into verses or stanzas. Foot is the group of syllables which form the prosodic unit without considering word boundaries. Enjambment refers to the practice of carrying the grammatical structure and sense over a length of line with no punctuated pause. Classical Arabic poetry did not have enjambment. Each line created a syntactic unit and closed by a full stop (Wright, 1996).

**Rhyme**

Rhyme refers to the words at the end of a line or sounds in syllables. The patterns of the repeated rhymes are referred to as rhyme scheme. The nature of Arabic poetry is two-fold, adherence to a fixed rhyme scheme and characterized by strictly sticking to metrical rules. The identification of rhymes in Arabic poems is based on Wrights classification of rhyming words. These words are found in a poem in a line. They are often considered stylistic devices along with
sonorous effects such as alliteration and assonance. As defined by wring, the rhyme only ends in a consonant.

**Metre**

In Arabic verse, rhythm is quantitative. It consists of changing short and long syllables as opposed to English poetry which is based on changing unstressed and stressed syllables (qualitative). The syllable, either short (u) or long (-) forms the basic unit of Arabic metrical system. Also, in Arabic poetry, a combination of syllables constitutes a foot that further combines forming metres. The Arabic poetry has a trimester where a foot is repeated three times, and a dimeter, in which a foot is repeated two times. A line involving a foot that is repeated four times is referred to as a tetrameter. In Arabic poetry, the short syllable is a Consonant (C) which is followed by another vowel (short vowel (V)). The long syllable in Arabic poetry can be any of the following: C+ diphthong + C, C + diphthong, CV, and C + diphthong + C. In the classical Arabic poetry, the metric system consists of 16 different metres namely: al-baṣīṭ, almunsariḥ, al-sarīʿ, al-rajaz, alkāmil, al-hajaz, al-mutaqārib, al-wāfir, al-ṭawīl, al-mutadārik, al-mudāriʿ, -muqtadab, al-ramal, al-xaḍīfand al-madīd, and lastly al-mujtaṭ. These structures are obtained from Greek metric system. The first four are of iamb (different combinations) while the last 12 metres are further grouped and described based on their inherent structures. The iamb is the commonly used element in Arabic metres. It is in fact reflected in all Arabic morphology.
References