

WILLIAM LANE'S ARABIC-ENGLISH LEXICON WRITING COMPONENTS ANALYSIS: LEXICOGRAPHIC STUDIES

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Abstract: Dictionary was one of the primary sources and references of language learnings & teachings, especially for vocabulary enrichment purposes. Of the many dictionaries published, a dictionary with proven validity and comprehensive content is needed for the more-effective language learning. This research aims to analyze the comprehensiveness of Lane's Lexicon component from the perspective theory of Dr. Ali Al-Qasimy. This research uses the library research method and the descriptive analyzing methods. The primary data used in this research were obtained from the Arabic-English Lexicon, arranged by Edward William Lane and Stanley Lane-Poole. The data analysis in this research employed data triangulation techniques. The results of this study show that the Arabic-English Lexicon dictionary has 16 of the 25 specific components, as proposed by Dr. Ali Al-Qasimy.

Keywords: lexicon, Arabic-English, lexicography

INTRODUCTION

A lexicon or a dictionary is defined as a reference book containing a list of word in a language and arranged alphabetically with an explanation of how to use the word (Chaer quoted by Harun, 2019). Another definition mentioned by Kridalaksana (1984), a dictionary is a reference book that contains a list of words or combinations of words with descriptions of various information in terms of their meaning and use. Dictionary in Indonesia, which known as “*Kamus*” itself is an absorption word from Arabic, namely “*Qamus*”, and Arabic absorbs the term from the Greek “*Okeanos*” which means ocean. (Chaer, 2007). The Lexicon Dictionary or *Al-Mu'jam* has an important role in the development of science. Language has become the main medium in the transmission of knowledge from one civilization to another. Humans develop by learning, taking knowledge, and learning languages from other countries, then bringing them back to their own country. The dissemination of this knowledge goes through many processes such as the translation of major works, then the teaching of these works widely and massively. One product that is a big supporter of the process of disseminating knowledge is a dictionary or *mu'jam*.

At this time many dictionaries are widely circulated in the community. Starting from small pocket dictionaries to master dictionaries that are quite large. Of course, to make these dictionaries the main reference in scientific learning or research, verification and in-depth study of the quality and validity of a dictionary are needed. Previous studies show that dictionary does make a difference in the vocabulary learning process. According to Zhang, Xu & Zhang (2020) for between-group studies, single words yield a large effect size while multi-word units (though there are only three samples) generate a medium effect size, even the difference does not reach statistical significance.

Several important criteria and points can be used as guidelines in the assessment of a dictionary, including the systematic standard of writing used. Among the many popular dictionaries, there is one dictionary that has high popularity among Arabic learners, especially in the western world. The dictionary is entitled An Arabic-English Lexicon, compiled by Edward William Lane. This dictionary is also known as Lane's Lexicon (Stocks, 1989), which means

William Lane's lexicon. The lexicon itself means "a list of words arranged like a dictionary...", it can also be interpreted as "the richness of words possessed by a writer or speaker" (Kridalaksana, 1984). This dictionary was completed and published around 1893. (Stocks, 1989) Recently, it is found that Lane's Lexicon comes with a form of application or digital dictionary.

As Nesi (2000) mentioned, the term 'electronic dictionary' (or ED) can be used to refer to 'any reference material stored in electronic form that gives information about spelling, meaning, or use of words', such as online dictionaries, dictionaries in CD-ROM/DVD-ROM, in PEDs, or a glossary for on-line teaching materials. According to Ferrett & Dollinger (2020), the final disadvantage of online dictionaries is the suspicion that content reliability may be seriously compromised. This issue is one of the most incisive points of critique in online dictionaries. The nature of the online format has the potential to be inconsistent and unreliable, as content 'appears and disappears without warning and without trace'. (Nesi, 2015).

This paper aims to present an analysis of the writing system and content presentation of William Lane's lexicon, entitled An Arabic-English Lexicon, better known as Lane's Lexicon, a lexical dictionary of English-Arabic language, by looking at the systematics and components of writing, as well as the content it contains. This study is intended so that the public can know at a glance how complete the contents and components of the original dictionary are, as the main source of the previous digital dictionary mentioned, so the suspicion of the content reliability might be reduced.

METHODS

This study uses qualitative research by Creswell (2002), with a qualitative descriptive method that relies on literature studies. The literature studies or the library research comes by reviewing the electronic manuscript of Lane's Lexicon dictionary and with several other references as a reference for assessment such as the Arabic Lexicology book by Taufiqurrohman, and also a reference to the analysis of dictionary components by Dr. Ali Al-Qasimy in Taufiqurrohman's book and Dr. Ali Al-Qasimy himself is '*Ilm Lughah wa Shina'ah Al Mu'jam*'. The data analysis in this research employed data triangulation techniques. The research steps adopted, according to Creswell (2002) are:

1. Identifying Research Problems
2. Reviewing Literature
3. Collecting Data
4. Selecting Sample
5. Analyzing & Interpreting
6. Reporting,

The components that are used as a reference in the assessment are divided into three parts, namely the beginning, the main part, and the end. The initial part includes the purpose of compiling the dictionary, the sources used, the background of the preparation, instructions for use, grammar guidelines, meanings and symbols or images, and transliteration rules. The main part includes the font or language used, the column model used in the preparation, examples of word use, word derivation information, and information on four linguistic elements namely; phonetics (*ashwat*), morphology (*sharf*), syntax (*nahw*), and semantics (*dalalah*). The final section includes attachments, tables, maps, chronology, formulas, author biographies, and others (Taufiqurrohman, 2018). The data of this study presented with narrative text.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The finding results of the analysis of the components of the Lane Lexicon dictionary are as follows:

Beginning Part

1. *Purpose of Compiling a Dictionary*

This dictionary has a description of the purpose of compiling the dictionary in it, which is listed in the opening or preface section. The main purpose of compiling this dictionary is to translate and bring the previously existing dictionaries, namely the *Taj Al-'Arus* and *Lisan Al-'Arabic* into English (Lane, 1893), with a slightly modified lexical-alphabetical arrangement.

2. *Source Used*

In the preface or preface is also written information about the sources used by the compilers of the dictionary. The main sources used by the compilers of this dictionary are the book *Taj Al-'Arus* written by Shaykh Muhammad Al-Murtadha and *Lisan Al-'Arab* written by Ibn Manzhur. These two books are considered by the authors to be the most valid and comprehensive dictionaries ever written at that time (Lane, 1893).

3. *Dictionary Compilation Background*

The background of the compilation of this dictionary is stated in the foreword and explained clearly by the author. This dictionary was compiled with the request and encouragement of Algernon Percy (4th Duke of Northumberland), according to him, it is important to do this as one of the efforts to develop knowledge, especially in the field of Arabic in Great Britain. Although there were previously two Arabic dictionaries in England, namely those by Jacob Golius in 1653 and Georg Wilhelm Freytag in 1837, these two dictionaries were not compiled from Arabic to English but from Arabic to Latin (Stocks, 1989).

4. *Dictionary Usage Guide*

This dictionary has instructions for using the dictionary in the preface or preface subsection. Instructions for use contain; (I) Conjugation table of Arabic vocabulary, (II) Table of lexicological and grammatical rules used, (III) Arrangement of names of scholars or linguistic scholars who are referred to in writing, along with (IV) Abbreviations and titles used to denote linguistic scholars quoted.

5. *Grammar Guidelines*

This dictionary has a grammar guide attached to the introduction section. The grammar guidelines used are attached by the compilers of the dictionary in the instructions for using the second dictionary.

6. *Number of Materials or Words in the Dictionary*

In this study, the researcher did not find the number of material or words in the dictionary mentioned by the authors.

7. *Abbreviation Explanation*

The abbreviations in this dictionary are available and attached in the introduction or the preface section, namely in the I and IV sections.

8. *Meaning and Symbol or Image*

In this study, the researcher did not find an explanation of the meaning of symbols or images in the dictionary, because this dictionary also does not contain any symbols or images other than letters and words in Arabic and Latin.

9. *Transliteration Rules*

In this study, the researcher did not find the rules for transliterating Arabic into English in this dictionary.

10. More Information

In the preface and postscript to the preface, there is some information such as how the previous authors have learned a lot about Arabic, apart from the two main references mentioned earlier, namely *Al-Mudzhir* by Jalaluddin As-Suyuthi, *An-Nawadir* by Abu Zaid Al-Ansari, and *Al-Mujmal* by Ibn Faris Al-Qazwini.

Main Section

11. Font/Khat used

In this dictionary, the researcher did not find any information given about what language the compilers used in writing this dictionary.

12. Column Model

The column model used in compiling this dictionary is three columns, starting from the left column to the middle and right.

13. Phonetic Information

There is no phonetic information (*ashwat*) in the compilation of this dictionary.

14. Morphological Information

The morphological information in this dictionary can be quite complete because the authors provide examples of the use of words accompanied by examples when they undergo derivation and morphological changes, such as from the form of *fi'il madhi* (past tense verb) to *mashdar ghairu mim* then to *mashdar mim* (noun-verb), and so on.

15. Syntax Information

Syntax information in this dictionary is listed on each word along with examples of its use.

16. Semantic Information

Semantic information in this dictionary is included with explanations of their meaning, and several words are given examples of different meanings according to the context and also the writing formula.

17. Examples of Word Usage

In this dictionary, there are many examples of the use of words, ranging from their use in a sentence or short phrase to using poetry or *syahir* in presenting examples of the use of words.

18. Dalil or Syawahid (*proof of meaning*)

The proof of meaning used in this dictionary is by quoting words, verses of the Qur'an, hadith, or poetry and poetry that have been written by many linguistic scholars along with citations of the names of the scholars referred to.

19. Picture

This dictionary does not include pictures at all in its compilation.

20. Word Derivation Information

The word derivation information in this dictionary is listed in a complete and structured manner, according to the form of the word used, and includes examples of the use and meaning of the word.

Final Part

21. Attachment

This dictionary does not provide special attachments at the end, but some attachments such as tables and instructions for use are placed at the beginning before presenting the contents.

22. Table

This dictionary provides an attachment table with the names of the scholars referred to along with their chronology, instructions for use, and the derivation of words used in the dictionary.

23. Map

This dictionary does not provide information in the form of maps.

24. Chronology

This dictionary attaches chronological information and the year series of the scholars it refers to.

25. Formula(s)

This dictionary doesn't provide information on other formulas.

26. About the Compiler

This dictionary does not have a special column about the compiler, but we can get to know the compiler of the dictionary further through the introduction he wrote.

27. Other(s)

This unspecified category isn't used in the component analysis.

Notes and Annotations

In some of the findings above, there are some differences in findings from the findings in previous articles. As Stocks (1989) points out, in volume 6 of the dictionary, there is extensive biographical information, especially regarding the career of the lead author, William Lane, written by the second compiler, Stanley Lane-Poole.

Several other data sources, such as the Perseus Collection, which also uses William Lane's Lexicon as one of the data, state that there are 563,693 Arabic words contained in this dictionary, either as material entries or as examples of meaning in sentences. If you look at the data, this dictionary can be classified as a large dictionary (*Mu'jam Al-Kabir*), because it contains more than 60,000 words entries.

According to Taufiqurrahman (2015), there are at least 6 criteria for an ideal dictionary, namely: (a) there are simple symbols that explain how to pronounce the words used as entries, (b) use a good definition that is easy to understand, (c) the presentation begins from the most basic words, to other formed words, starting from the simplest affixation to the most complex ones, (d) presenting expressions and terms with a very high frequency of use, (e) presenting information on culture and civilization, (f) presenting preface about the target audience of the dictionary, how to use the dictionary, and the most basic rules of language. Based on the above-mentioned criteria and considering the results of the existing analysis, this dictionary can be said to be quite ideal, because it meets six criteria.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The Arabic-English Lexicon dictionary compiled by Edward William Lane and Stanley Lane-Poole can be said to be quite an ideal dictionary component because it does not leave out

important components in its preparation such as instructions for using a dictionary, morphological information, syntactic information, and examples. This dictionary meets 16 of the 25 dictionary components and meets six of the six criteria for an ideal dictionary. Researchers can recommend the use of this dictionary as a reference in terms of content because this dictionary is quite comprehensive and can be used to help find the equivalent of Arabic words in English widely.

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