



Morphological Variations of the Dual in Modern Standard Arabic

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Abstract in English

This current study examines the morphological and syntactic features associated with the dual number in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), which constitutes a unique grammatical category for designating precisely two units. Although singular and plural number categories are common across languages, the dual is quite uncommon. The Arabic language displays a complex and systematic utilization of the dual across numerous grammatical categories. In this paper, morphological expressions of dual forms and syntactic embedding in MSA are presented in detail. The study also explores the noun, adjective, demonstrative, pronoun, and verb types, describing how these types accommodate dual marking using certain affixes. The study employs qualitative descriptive research, based on classical Arabic grammar sources, contemporary linguistic resources, and corpus examples. The main results are the retention of the dual in MSA as opposed to its loss in the majority of dialects, the role of gender and case in conditioning dual morphology, and the consequences of dual agreement for syntax. The research concludes by highlighting the significance of the dual in understanding morphosyntactic alignment in the Arabic language, suggesting that dual marking in MSA can be a model for studying typological patterns and agreement phenomena in inflectional languages.

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1. Introduction

Grammatical number specification is a fundamental property of natural languages, most typically singling out singular and plural number. Yet, there are languages such as Arabic that employ a third grammatical number: the dual number, to specify precisely

two items. Being a phenomenon in the world of languages, the dual number is comparatively uncommon, which makes its extensive application in MSA even more remarkable. MSA, as the literary and official variety of Arabic, retains the dual as a productive morphological and syntactic category. In this paper, the morphological expression and syntactic integration of the dual in MSA are addressed. While the spoken Arabic dialects typically show dual reduction or loss, MSA continues to mark the dual consistently across categories of speech. This contrast underscores the dual's use in linguistic analysis, especially in a morphosyntactic framework. Arabic grammatical heritage long accepted the dual as a core constituent. Traditional grammarians, such as Sibawayh, offered early descriptions of dual morphology, particularly its case-sensitive suffixing. While reference grammars today describe dual use, they do so descriptively and without linking it to contemporary theoretical frameworks. This paper bridges this gap by situating the dual in generative morphosyntactic theory. By doing this research, the author hopes that many aspects of the morphology of MSA will be illustrated, such as (case marking of dual in nouns, adjectives, etc. Moreover, the study will investigate the agreement between the pattern of a sentence during the use of dual in MSA.

2. Literature Review

Arabic dual has long been identified as a unique grammatical category with distinctive properties in syntax and morphology. Many Arab linguists tried to set a role of the description of dual (Sibawayh, Ryding, 2005; Holes, 2002). These studies provide detailed examinations of dual morphology, specifically its productivity in MSA and its distinction from numerous spoken dialects where dual marking has decreased. Despite this descriptive focus, nonetheless, there is minimal work that has examined the dual from the perspective of a current theoretical approach taking into consideration both morphological structure and syntactic function. This gap has limited the interpretative scope of previous studies, particularly with regards to agreement patterns and interaction between dual forms within and across various grammatical categories, including nouns, adjectives, demonstratives, and verbs. As a remedy to this shortcoming, this work draws on recent developments in morphosyntactic theory, specifically Audring's (2021) Paradigm Function Morphology (PFM), a framework that conceives of morphological realization as the mapping of sets of morphosyntactic features onto their corresponding forms. PFM is a flexible, data-oriented approach to the investigation of inflectional morphology and is thus an extremely appropriate tool for investigating dual marking in MSA, where form and meaning are inextricably interwoven. The following background covers both traditional and recent contributions to the research on the Arabic dual, sketches recent theoretical advances in morphology, and derives the rationale for applying the PFM approach in this investigation.

2.1 Classical Descriptions

Classical Arabic grammar texts, especially Sibawayh's *Al-Kitāb*, provide foundational descriptions of dual morphology. These works detail the suffixation patterns that differentiate dual from singular and plural forms, highlighting the dual's sensitivity to grammatical case. The nominative suffix *-ān* and the accusative/genitive suffix *-ayn* continue to be used in MSA.

2.2 Contemporary Studies

Modern reference grammars such as Ryding (2005) and Holes (2004) affirm the productivity of the dual in MSA. These studies describe the morphological forms and

syntactic agreement patterns, emphasizing consistency in formal contexts. Owens (2013) further explores dual marking within the morphosyntactic structure of Arabic. There also many studies that tackled Arabic Syntax and morphology from different perspectives, see among others (Abdurrahman, et al., 2022; Hazem, 2017; Kamil and Hazem, 2019; Meteab and Hazem, 2020).

2.3 Typological Context

The dual is a marked number category from a typological standpoint. Corbett (2000) notes that few languages employ a productive dual. Arabic stands out for systematically encoding dual distinctions not only in nouns but also in adjectives, verbs, pronouns, and demonstratives.

2.4 Theoretical Framework

This study adopts a generative approach, particularly within the minimalist framework (Chomsky, 1995). In this view, number is a syntactic feature that drives agreement and morphological realization. The dual is represented as a distinct feature combination (e.g., [+plural, -augmented]), influencing agreement relations and morphological output.

2.5 Previous Studies and Contribution of the Present Research

Numerous studies have touched on dual morphology in Arabic, each contributing insights into its form and function. However, most of these works either provide descriptive accounts or focus on isolated aspects of dual usage without synthesizing them into a unified theoretical analysis. Below are five notable studies that have informed this research:

1. **Ryding (2005)** in *A Reference Grammar of Modern Standard Arabic* provides a thorough descriptive account of the dual across various grammatical categories. While comprehensive in form, Ryding's work stops short of linking the dual to deeper syntactic or theoretical structures, such as those proposed in generative grammar.
2. **Holes (2004)**, in his overview of Arabic linguistics, discusses the morphological patterns of the dual and its decline in spoken varieties. However, the focus remains largely on sociolinguistic variation rather than a detailed morphosyntactic analysis.
3. **Owens (2013)** offers a more structural perspective, exploring morphosyntactic agreement in Arabic. While dual forms are acknowledged, the discussion is part of a broader typology of number agreement rather than a focused investigation into dual behavior specifically.
4. **Corbett (2000)** in *Number* frames the dual as a typologically rare number category and references Arabic as a key example. His work is essential for situating Arabic dual marking within a global linguistic context but does not delve into the internal mechanisms of Arabic morphology or syntax.
5. Aoun, Benmamoun, and Choueiri (2010) investigate agreement phenomena in Arabic syntax, and there are some references to dual forms in their work. Their concern is actually plural and gender agreement and not dual marking as a topic of discussion in itself.

Regardless of these enormous contributions, though, the subject still has no particular research that systematically investigates dual morphology and agreement on all the concerned grammatical categories in MSA. This study needs to be supported by both new and existing sources and afterward subjected to analysis within the generative morphosyntactic theory framework. Besides, the educational consequences of dual marking in MSA teaching have not been examined enough in recent research. This

study completes a major gap in Arabic linguistics in its theory proposal of a harmonious account of dual morphology and its syntactic incorporation in MSA. First, it tackles with classical Arabic and generative theory.

Second, it presents extensive morphological analysis of dual forms in various grammatical categories such as nouns, adjectives, demonstratives, pronouns, and verbs, and examines with care the functional operations of these forms in various syntactic environments. The book is of great utility to theory and practice in unifying descriptive grammatical traditions and formal syntactic theory. Its presentation of glossed examples, as well as formally organized appendices, considerably increases its utility for research and instructional purposes.

Furthermore, it is sensitive to the continued utility and productive value of the dual form in formal Arabic, particularly in comparison to its more limited or derivative status in the vast majority of spoken dialects. Through doing this, this study adds to Arabic linguistics and general theoretical accounts of inflectional morphology and agreement systems. Hazem et al. (2023) present studies on binomials in the Glorious Quran in their recent research that can serve as a rich source for people who desire to be informed about Arabic syntax, morphology structure, and usage.

3. Analysis and Discussion

Here, the author discusses the methodological framework, data sources, and analytical methods used to study dual morphology and agreement in MSA.

3.1 Research Design

It is qualitative linguistic research integrating descriptive analysis and theoretical explanation.

3.2 Data Sources

Data were collected from diverse sources to provide historical depth as well as modern relevance. These are:

1. Ancient grammar texts, especially Sibawayh's Al-Kitab, provide the bases.
2. Reference grammars currently being employed, like Ryding (2005) and Holes (2004), to provide a modern descriptive purpose.
3. Real corpus-based examples from modern Arabic literature, news reporting, scholarly writing, and official writing.

3.3 Data Collection and Analysis Procedures

Linguistic examples were selected and classified by grammatical category and each example was examined for Morphological structure, i.e., identifying suffixes (-ān for nominative; -ayn for accusative/genitive) and patterns of affixation. Secondly, Syntactic agreement investigates concord in gender, number, and case with adjectives, verbs, and other modifiers. Third Morphosyntactic placement drawing formal morphological markers to theoretical syntactic structure. For the analysis of the data, I adopt **Audring's (2021) PFM**. This approach presents a description of dual in MSA because MSA is rich of inflections. Moreover, this model combines morphology with inflections and this is a characteristics of dual in MSA. Data collected were then tabulated and glossed with morphological and syntactic annotations. The study is especially interested in how dual forms operate within sentence structure, how they interact with other grammatical constituents, and how this informs broader theories of inflection and agreement. Dual forms were extracted from the sources and classified by

part of speech. All instances were morphologically and syntactically examined, with special attention given to case, gender, and agreement. A glossed table of examples was produced for reference (see Appendix A). I adopt Audring's (2021) PFM because it offers a robust descriptive-functional theory to inflectional morphology by representing the connection between morphosyntactic features and their corresponding surface forms within paradigms. The inspiration to apply PFM arises from a number of considerations. On the one hand, Arabic's rich and complex inflectional morphology, particularly its marking of number, gender, and case, is optimally matched with PFM's capacity to handle complex feature combinations and their morphological realization. On the other hand, MSA's dual number makes use of specific sets of morphosyntactic features, including [+dual], [+masculine/feminine], and case contrasts, and these are ideally represented by PFM's paradigm-based representations. Third, unlike purely syntactic or generative approaches, PFM provides a transparent and surface-oriented analysis of morphological patterns, which is especially valuable for descriptive clarity and pedagogical application. Within this framework, dual forms are analyzed as the output of mappings from morphosyntactic feature bundles to morphological exponents. For example, a masculine dual noun in the nominative case corresponds to the feature set [+dual, +masc, +nom], which the paradigm function maps to the suffix **-āni** in MSA. The model further allows examination of how these dual-marked forms enter into agreement relations with adjectives, verbs, and demonstratives, modeled as feature-sharing operations that ensure morphosyntactic coherence within noun phrases and clauses. By adopting Audring's PFM, this study provides a modern, theoretically informed, and empirically grounded analysis of dual morphology and agreement in MSA. This framework not only advances beyond earlier descriptive or Minimalist accounts but also offers practical insights for teaching and further linguistic research. Thus, my study contributes to the literature by applying this recent and comprehensive morphological model to a key but understudied aspect of Arabic grammar. To illustrate how Audring's (PFM) analyzes the dual in MSA, consider the following examples that show the dual forms across different grammatical categories:

Example 1: Dual Nouns

- الطالبان مجتهدان

al-ṭālibāni

the-student-DUAL.MASC.NOM

“The two students are hardworking.”

mujtahidān

hardworking-DUAL.MASC.NOM

Example 2: Dual Adjectives

- الطالبتان مجتهدتان

al-ṭālibatāni

the-student-DUAL.FEM.NOM

“The two female students are hardworking.”

mujtahidatān

hardworking-DUAL.FEM.NOM

Example 3: Dual Demonstratives

- هذان الكتابان جديان

Hādhāni

these-DUAL.MASC

“These two books are new.”

al-kitābāni

the-book-DUAL.MASC.NOM

jadīdān

new-DUAL.MASC.NOM

Example 4: Dual Verbs

- الطالبان ذهبا إلى المدرسة

al-ṭālibāni

the-student-DUAL.MASC.NOM went-DUAL.MASC

“The two students went to school.”

dhahabā

ilā al-madrasah

to the-school

PFM Analysis of the Dual

Within PFM, the dual forms are generated by mapping specific morphosyntactic feature bundles to their corresponding morphological exponents (suffixes or stem changes). This involves two key steps:

1. Feature Bundle Specification

Each word form is associated with a bundle of morphosyntactic features representing number, gender, case, person, tense, etc. For example:

For *الطالبان* (*al-ṭālibāni*) “the two students” (masculine dual nominative), the feature bundle is:

+dual,+masculine,+nominative,+definite,+noun+dual,+masculine, nominative,
+definite, +noun+dual,+masculine,+nominative,+definite,+noun

2. Paradigm Function Mapping

The paradigm function takes this feature bundle and selects the appropriate morphological exponent—here, the dual suffix **-ān(i)** for nominative masculine nouns—based on the morphotactic rules of MSA. The suffix attaches to the stem *ṭālib-* yielding *ṭālibān*.

For **agreement**, the adjectives and verbs receive the same or compatible feature bundles to ensure morphosyntactic concord:

- The adjective *مجتهدان* (*mujtahidān*) “hardworking” shares the features [+dual, +masculine, +nominative], so the same suffix **-ān** appears, ensuring agreement.
- The verb *ذهب* (*dhabā*) “went” agrees in number and gender with the subject, marked as dual masculine.

Why Audring’s PFM?

Audring’s model explicitly accounts for the morphological realization of inflectional categories within paradigms, where each form is predictable from the feature set it represents. It models:

- **Paradigmatic relations:** how forms relate within inflectional classes, e.g., singular, dual, plural.
- **Morphotactic constraints:** which suffixes occur with which stems under which feature combinations.
- **Agreement patterns:** how feature-sharing ensures syntactic coherence.

This approach is ideal for MSA dual morphology, where the suffixes and agreement patterns are highly regular but interact with gender and case in a non-trivial manner.

The following 20 examples illustrate how dual morphology and agreement function in MSA within the PFM framework proposed by Audring (2021). Each example presents the Arabic sentence, gloss, morphosyntactic features, the dual suffix employed, and a brief analysis of agreement patterns.

Using Audring’s Framework

No.	Arabic Sentence	Gloss/Translation	Morphosyntactic Features	Dual Suffix	Analysis Summary
1	الطالبان مجتهدان	<i>al-ṭālibāni</i> <i>mujtahidān</i> "The two students are hardworking."	[+dual, +masc, +nom, +noun/adjective]	-ān	Noun and adjective agree in dual masculine nominative.
2	الطالباتان مجتهدتان	<i>al-ṭālibatāni</i> <i>mujtahidatān</i>	[+dual, +fem, +noun/adjective]	-atān	Feminine dual suffix

No	Arabic Sentence	Gloss/Translation	Morphosyntactic Features	Dual Suffix	Analysis Summary
		"The two female students are hardworking."			agreement in noun and adjective.
3	هذان الكتابان جديان	<i>hādhāni al-kitābāni jadīdān</i> "These two books are new."	[+dual, +masc, +nom, +demonstrative/noun/adjective]	-ān	Demonstrative, noun, adjective show full dual agreement.
4	الطابتان ذهبتا إلى المدرسة	<i>al-ṭālibatāni dhahabatā ilā al-madrasah</i> "The two female students went to school."	[+dual, +fem, +noun/verb]	+nom, -atā	Verb suffix agrees with feminine dual subject.
5	الكتابان جديان	<i>al-kitābāni jadīdān</i> "The two books are new."	[+dual, +masc, +noun/adjective]	+nom, -ān	Noun and adjective agree in dual masculine nominative.
6	الولدان يلعبان في الحديقة	<i>al-waladāni yal'abāni fī al-ḥadīqah</i> "The two boys are playing in the garden."	[+dual, +masc, +noun/verb]	+nom, -ān	Verb and noun agree in dual masculine nominative.
7	الفتاتان تدرسان بجد	<i>al-fatātāni tadrusāni bijidd</i> "The two girls study diligently."	[+dual, +fem, +noun/verb]	+nom, -āni	Verb suffix matches feminine dual subject.
8	هاتان المدرستان كبيرتان	<i>hātān al-madrasatān kabīratān</i> "These two schools are big."	[+dual, +fem, +demonstrative/noun/adjective]	+nom, -tān	Feminine dual suffix consistently applied.
9	الرجلان ذهبا إلى السوق	<i>ar-rajulāni dhahabā ilā as-sūq</i> "The two men went to the market."	[+dual, +masc, +noun/verb]	+nom, -āni, -ā	Noun and verb suffixes agree in dual masculine nominative.
10	الطالبان يدرسان بجد	<i>al-ṭālibāni yadrusāni bijidd</i> "The two students study diligently."	[+dual, +masc, +noun/verb]	+nom, -āni	Verb agrees with dual masculine noun subject.

No	Arabic Sentence	Gloss/Translation	Morphosyntactic Features	Dual Suffix	Analysis Summary
11	الطفلتان تلعبان في الحديقة <i>at-ṭiflatāni</i>	<i>tal'abāni fī al-ḥadīqah</i> "The two girls play in the garden."	[+dual, +fem, +nom, +noun/verb]	-tāni, -āni	Agreement in feminine dual nominative on noun and verb.
12	الطالبان ذهبا إلى المكتبة <i>al-ṭālibāni</i>	<i>dhahabā ilā al-maktabah</i> "The two students went to the library."	[+dual, +masc, +noun/verb]	+nom, -āni, ā	Dual suffixes on subject and verb show agreement.
13	الطالبات نجحن في الامتحان <i>al-ṭālibatāni</i>	<i>najahatā fī al-imiṭhān</i> "The two female students succeeded in the exam."	[+dual, +fem, +noun/verb]	+nom, -atā	Feminine dual verb suffix agrees with subject.
14	هذان الولدان يلعبان <i>hādhāni al-waladāni</i>	<i>yal'abāni</i> "These two boys are playing."	[+dual, +masc, +demonstrative/noun/verb]	+nom, -āni	Full dual masculine agreement in demonstrative, noun, verb.
15	الولدان يلعبان في الحديقة <i>al-waladāni</i>	<i>yal'abāni fī al-ḥadīqah</i> "The two boys are playing in the garden."	[+dual, +masc, +noun/verb]	+nom, -āni	Noun and verb dual suffix agree in number and gender.
16	الطفلتان ذهبتا إلى المدرسة <i>at-ṭiflatāni</i>	<i>dhahabatā ilā al-madrasah</i> "The two girls went to school."	[+dual, +fem, +noun/verb]	+nom, -atā	Verb suffix corresponds with feminine dual subject.
17	الطالبات مجتهدتان <i>al-ṭālibatāni</i>	<i>mujtahidatān</i> "The two female students are hardworking."	[+dual, +fem, +noun/adjective]	+nom, -atān	Agreement between noun and adjective dual feminine.
18	هذان الكتابان جديدان <i>hādhāni al-kitābāni</i>	<i>jadīdān</i> "These two books are new."	[+dual, +masc, +demonstrative/noun/adjective]	+nom, -ān	Consistent dual masculine suffix across categories.
19	الطالبان ذهبا إلى المدرسة <i>al-ṭālibāni</i>	<i>dhahabā ilā al-madrasah</i> "The	[+dual, +masc, +noun/verb]	+nom, -āni, ā	Subject and verb dual agreement in

No	Arabic Sentence	Gloss/Translation	Morphosyntactic Features	Dual Suffix	Analysis Summary
		two students went to school."			masculine nominative.
20	الطالبان تلعبان في الحديقة	<i>al-ṭālibatāni tal'abāni fī al-ḥadīqah</i> "The two female students play in the garden."	+dual, +fem, +nom, +noun/verb]	-atāni, -āni	Feminine dual noun and verb agreement in nominative case.

4. Theoretical and Practical Frameworks

The examination of MSA through the lens of Audring's PFM framework uncovers distinct patterns regarding dual morphology and agreement. Notably, dual suffixes in MSA exhibit systematic predictability based on gender and case features, while the requirement for agreement across noun phrases and predicates is consistently upheld. The findings indicate that dual forms in MSA are not merely ornamental constructs but rather robust, productive elements firmly integrated into the morphosyntactic architecture of the language. This evidence reinforces the utility of PFM in analyzing inflectional morphology, as it adeptly models the systematic relationships between morphosyntactic feature bundles and their morphological realizations. Furthermore, the continued presence of the dual in MSA—contrasting sharply with its diminishing use in various Arabic dialects—underscores the formal, classical essence of MSA as a linguistic register that effectively retains traditional grammatical distinctions. To fortify the analysis, subsequent studies would benefit from encompassing a wider range of case forms, delving deeper into verb agreement morphology, incorporating discourse or pragmatic considerations, and evaluating dialectal variations. A synthesis of PFM's formal paradigmatic approach with syntactic and semantic analyses will yield a more holistic model for understanding agreement and inflection within the Arabic language. Dual marking in MSA is highly systematic. It is observed in the following grammatical categories:

4.1 Nouns Nouns mark the dual with suffixes that vary by case:

- Nominative: -ān (e.g., *waladān* "two boys")
- Accusative/Genitive: -ayn (e.g., *waladayn* "two boys")

Examples:

1. *kitābān jadīdān* – two new books (NOM)
2. *ḥadīqatayni jamīlatayni* – two beautiful gardens (ACC/GEN)

4.2 Adjectives

Adjectives must agree in number, gender, and case:

3. *waladān ṭawīlān* – two tall boys (NOM)
4. *bintayni jamīlatayni* – two beautiful girls (ACC/GEN)

4.3 Pronouns

Arabic features special dual pronouns:

5. *humā* – they two (3rd person dual)
6. *antumā* – you two (2nd person dual)

4.4 Demonstratives

The dual forms of demonstratives are:

7. *hādhān* – these two (masculine, NOM)
8. *hātayn* – these two (feminine, ACC/GEN)

4.5 Verbs

Verbs agree with dual subjects using dual suffixes.

Past Tense Examples:

9. *ḍarabā al-waladāni* – The two boys hit (masc.)
10. *katabatā al-bintāni* – The two girls wrote (fem.)

Present Tense Examples:

11. *yaktubān risālatan* – They two (masc.) are writing a letter
12. *taktubān risālatan* – They two (fem.) are writing a letter

Dual marking triggers agreement across modifiers and verbs, with suffixes aligning for case and gender. This confirms the dual's syntactic visibility. The findings confirm the robust productivity of the dual in MSA. Morphological suffixes clearly indicate dual number and are systematically applied across grammatical categories. Agreement phenomena demonstrate that the dual interacts closely with gender and case, maintaining coherence throughout sentence structure. The syntactic importance of the dual is evident in verb agreement and demonstrative-noun constructions. For instance, demonstratives such as *hādhān* require accompanying nouns and adjectives to be dual and nominative. Failure to mark one of the elements for dual results in ungrammatical constructions. These properties contrast sharply with spoken dialects, where the dual is often lost or reduced to plural forms. MSA's preservation of the dual thus reflects its formal and conservative character. From a theoretical perspective, the dual supports models that assume fine-grained number features in syntax. Morphologically, the dual suffixes exemplify inflectional complexity that aligns with case and gender, making Arabic a useful language for testing morphosyntactic theories. Pedagogically, the dual should be emphasized in Arabic language instruction, particularly for students of MSA who may be unfamiliar with dual forms if they come from dialect-speaking backgrounds.

5. Conclusion

This study employed Audring's PFM framework to investigate the dual number in MSA. By analyzing 20 carefully selected examples representing various syntactic contexts and morphosyntactic feature bundles, the study systematically examined how dual suffixes encode gender, number, and case, and how agreement operates across nouns, adjectives, verbs, demonstratives, and pronouns. The research confirmed that MSA dual morphology is highly regular and predictable, with dual suffixes reliably marking the [+dual] feature and triggering obligatory agreement across related elements. This supports the research questions regarding the formal realization of dual features and the nature of agreement patterns in MSA, affirming that dual marking is a productive and morphosyntactically integrated phenomenon. The main contribution of this study lies in applying a formal, paradigm-based morphological theory to Arabic dual forms, bridging empirical linguistic data with a rigorous theoretical model. This approach not only clarifies the systematicity of dual agreement in MSA but also highlights the persistence of classical morphological distinctions in a modern standardized variety. Such integration of formal morphology and Arabic linguistics enriches both theoretical understanding and practical applications, including pedagogy. For further research, it is recommended to broaden the dataset to include more varied

case forms (accusative and genitive), explore verb agreement complexities beyond the nominative, incorporate discourse and pragmatic factors influencing agreement, and examine dialectal variation in dual marking. Additionally, combining PFM with syntactic and semantic analyses could offer a more holistic account of dual agreement phenomena in Arabic.

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Abstract in Arabic

تدرس هذه الورقة البحثية السمات الصرفية والنحوية المرتبطة بالعدد المثنى في اللغة العربية الفصحى الحديثة، والذي يُشكل فئة نحوية فريدة للدلالة على اثنين بدقة. ان الاعداد الفردية والجموع هي من الظاهر اللغوية في العديد من اللغات العالمية، إلا أن المثنى نادرٌ جدًا. تُظهر اللغة العربية استخدامًا مُعقدًا ومنهجيًا للعدد المثنى في العديد من الفئات النحوية. تُقدم هذه الورقة البحثية بالتفصيل التعبيرات الصرفية لأشكال المثنى والتضمين النحو العربي. يستكشف البحث أنواع الاسم والصفة والإشارات والضمائر والفعل، ويصف كيفية استيعاب هذه الأنواع

للعلامات المثنوية باستخدام لواحق مُحددة. يعتمد البحث على بحث وصفي نوعي، استنادًا إلى مصادر قواعد اللغة العربية الكلاسيكية، والمصادر اللغوية المعاصرة، وأمثلة من النصوص. تتمثل النتائج الرئيسية في بقاء المثنى في اللغة العربية الفصحى الحديثة بدلًا من فقدان العديد من اللغات العالمية لمثل هذه الظاهرة الفريدة، ودور الجنس في تحديد شكل المثنى، و توافق المثنى على النحو. ويختتم البحث بتسليط الضوء على أهمية المثنى في فهم المحاذاة الصرفية النحوية في اللغة العربية، مما يشير إلى أن وضع اشارات الثنائية في اللغة العربية الحديثة يمكن أن يكون نموذجًا لدراسة الاشكال النمطية وظواهر التوافق في اللغات التصريفية.

Appendix A: Dual Examples with Glosses and Morphosyntactic Analysis

#	Sentence	Gloss	Morphosyntactic Breakdown
1	kitābān jadīdān	two new books	kitāb-ān (book-DU.NOM), jadīd-ān (new-DU.NOM)
2	waladayni ṭawīlayni	two tall boys	walad-ayn(i) (boy-DU.ACC/GEN), ṭawīl-ayn(i) (tall-DU.ACC/GEN)
3	humā yaktubān they risālatan writing a letter	two are	humā (3DU), yaktub-ān (write-DU.M), risālat-an (letter-ACC)
4	hātayn al-bintayn these two girls are jamīlatayn beautiful	these two girls are	hātayn (DEM.F.DU.ACC/GEN), bint-ayn (girl-DU), jamīl-atayn (beautiful-F.DU)
5	katabatā They (fem. dual) risālatayn wrote two letters	They (fem. dual) wrote two letters	katab-atā (write-F.DU.PAST), risālat-ayn (letter-DU.ACC)