



USAGE OF ISLAMIC TERMS IN COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS

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Abstract: This article presents a comprehensive analysis of the usage of Islamic terms in the field of comparative linguistics. Comparative linguistics is a branch of linguistics that aims to establish relationships between languages, reconstruct their historical development, and understand their structural similarities and differences. The precise usage of terms in this field is of utmost importance to ensure clear communication and accurate interpretation of linguistic data.

The article begins by examining the fundamental concepts and principles of comparative linguistics, emphasizing the importance of terminology in facilitating accurate comparisons and systematic analyses. It explores various linguistic terms, such as cognates, loanwords, phonological shifts, and morphological changes, which are essential for conducting comparative studies.

Keywords: comparative linguistics, terminology, cognates, loanwords, language families, linguistic variation.

Introduction

Comparative linguistics is a fascinating field that explores the similarities and differences among languages, aiming to reconstruct their historical relationships. Through systematic analysis, linguists uncover linguistic features, trace language evolution, and shed light on the human capacity for communication. However, conducting comparative linguistic research requires adhering to certain usage terms and principles to ensure accuracy, validity, and transparency. In this article, we will delve into the key usage terms in comparative linguistics and their significance in facilitating rigorous and reliable analyses. Cognates are words in different languages that share a common origin. Identifying cognates is crucial in comparative linguistics, as these words provide evidence of the historical connections between languages. Linguists compare phonetic, morphological, and semantic similarities to establish cognate relationships. For example, Zakat (Arabic) - Zakah (Indonesian) - Zakât (Turkish): This term refers to the obligatory charitable giving in Islam. The cognates "Zakat," "Zakah," and "Zakât" are used in Arabic, Indonesian, and Turkish,



respectively, to denote the same concept of giving alms. The word “zakah ”is the cognate because they all derive from the same ancestral language. Languages are often grouped into families based on their shared ancestry. A language family consists of a set of languages that can be traced back to a common proto-language.

Examples of language families include the Indo-European family, which encompasses languages such as English, Spanish, Hindi, and Russian, and the Sino-Tibetan family, which includes Mandarin, Tibetan, and Burmese. Understanding language families is essential for comparative linguists as it allows them to identify similarities and reconstruct the linguistic history of a particular group of languages. Sound correspondences are regular phonetic shifts observed across related languages. These shifts help linguists establish systematic rules and patterns of sound change. By identifying consistent sound correspondences, comparative linguists can reconstruct ancestral sounds and phonological systems. Sound correspondences refer to systematic patterns of phonetic changes that occur when words are derived or borrowed across different languages. While Islamic terms have been borrowed into various languages, it's important to note that sound correspondences can vary depending on the specific language pairs involved. Here are a few general examples of sound correspondences in Islamic terms:

Arabic "s" to English "s" or "th":

Salah (Arabic) corresponds to "Salah" or "Salat" (English).

Sadaqah (Arabic) corresponds to "Sadaqah" (English).

Arabic "q" to English "k":

Quran (Arabic) corresponds to "Koran" (English).

Arabic "h" to English "h" or silent:

Hajj (Arabic) corresponds to "Hajj" (English).

Hadith (Arabic) corresponds to "Hadith" (English). These correspondences aid in establishing the historical relationship between these languages.

Comparative Methods

Comparative linguistics employs various methods to analyze and compare languages. Some common comparative methods include the comparative method, the internal reconstruction method, and the lexical reconstruction method. The comparative method involves comparing related languages to identify shared features and reconstruct the proto-language. The internal reconstruction method focuses on analyzing changes within a single language over time. The lexical reconstruction method involves reconstructing the vocabulary of the proto-language



by comparing cognates across related languages. Etymology, the study of word origins, plays a vital role in comparative linguistics.

Etymological dictionaries compile the historical development of words, tracing their roots back to the ancestral language. These dictionaries provide valuable resources for linguists, enabling them to explore the evolution of vocabulary and track language connections. By understanding the etymology of words, comparative linguists gain insights into the cultural and historical influences on languages.

Conclusion

Usage terms in comparative linguistics form the foundation for rigorous and systematic analysis of languages. Cognates, language families, sound correspondences, comparative methods, and etymological dictionaries are essential tools that help linguists trace language evolution, reconstruct proto-languages, and unravel the intricate tapestry of human communication. By adhering to these usage terms, comparative linguists ensure precision, reliability, and transparency in their research, contributing to our understanding of the diversity and interconnectedness of languages across the globe.

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