

## Vocabulary Analysis – FFM System - Introduction

### Separation between Form and Function

Many native and non-native students of Arabic complain from the abundant Arabic vocabulary. The Vocabulary Analysis has proved to be the best way and great help to handle the problem of abundant Arabic vocabulary and complicated sentence structure. It also helps non-natives have better pronunciation.

This system is based on looking at the words from three different angles, the Form, the Function and the Meaning. The Form means how the word was built, the Function means what the word is doing in the sentence i.e. subject or adjective etc and the Meaning is what the dictionary offers.

- The Form is unique and advantageous in Arabic and that's why it needs a special attention. It comprises the common Arabic forms that Arabic words take. A good understanding of the Form must be accompanied with several examples of each Form with emphatic pronunciation, because the rhythm helps too. The root system is known, but the distance between the given word and its root is not getting enough attention and regulation. This distance includes many other and relevant Forms that belong to the same family and each one is derived and functions in a specific way. The Form system also makes most of the short vowels more predictable and make sense; thus they are not written in the normal text. The following table shows few common forms: (see the complete lists of Arabic Forms)

Active participle فاعل	Passive participle مفعول	Verb فعل	Plural جمع	Form فعيل
	Verbal noun مصدر	Noun of place مفعول		

- The Function is familiar in most of the world languages and it comprises subject, verb, object, adjective, adverb, noun, preposition, names of people and places etc. Certain Function cases, such as the many ways of making adverbs and nouns in Arabic, also need special attention.

One of the best skills that this system can develop is the concept of separation between the Form and Function. It shows that any word Form can have more than one function i.e. Form فاعل can be both noun (سائق) and adjective (رائع), and it can even function as a verb (رايح) mostly in Spoken Arabic. In a case like this, student who knows this system will search deeper and not depend on translating it as an active participle only. This also explains why dictionary sometimes gives confusing results. By separating the word Form and Function, this analysis bridges the gap between traditional grammar, including translated grammar, and the dictionary. Any careful and accurate study of Arabic text or conversation with this analysis is more fruitful, practical and fun.

The method is doing a Form search of the piece of text and then a Function search. Each important word, the student should be able to recognize its **Form**, its **Function** and its **Meaning** independently, and that what's called the **F.F.M.** analysis.

This new system is the easy alternative to memorizing many thousands of endless Arabic vocabulary, because it gives a chance to Arabic to illustrate its uniqueness. It is also limited, strict and soon becomes spontaneous in guessing correctly many of the new vocabulary. For several years of experience, this analysis proved to provide the student with the best possible understanding and comprehension in Arabic study.