

COLLOCATION IN ARABIC (MSA) AND THE TREATMENT OF COLLOCATIONS IN ARABIC DICTIONARIES

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0 Introduction

First of all the title of this paper should be narrowed; with Arabic dictionaries in the framework of this paper we mean (mostly) bilingual dictionaries having Arabic as one of its languages.

An impressive amount of linguistic theoretical research has been carried out in the field of collocation. Because of practical needs, we have not made a very extensive study of all these works. These practical needs will be discussed later in this paper.

We will now mention some aspects of collocation. The phenomenon of collocation means that two (or sometimes more) words appear in each other's company because the usage of a particular word (for example a noun) limits the choice of an adjective to a small number of adjectives that can combine with this particular noun. The same can count for a noun and a verb.

One might say there is a core word (the word that comes to the mind first) and a collocator that combines with that core-word. One has, for example, in mind the noun 'crime' in English, and looks for the verb which combines with it, and which denotes the action of 'doing it' (the crime). This has to be either the verb 'commit' or 'perpetrate'. This applies for Arabic as well. When having the noun *ġarīma* in mind, only the verbs *irtakaba* or *iqtarafa* can be used. While still having the same noun in mind and seeking for an adjective that expresses the bad, violent and harmful nature of the crime one can in English choose from a limited number of adjectives like 'atrocious', 'vicious' and some others. The same in Arabic; with *ġarīma* one can combine a limited number of adjectives like *nakrā'*.

Collocations (also called recurrent combinations or fixed combinations) are specific combinations of, for example, a noun and an adjective, or a noun and a verb.

In a bilingual context collocations are very important for learners of a language. Usage of the right combinations, being a part of style, results in correct language production at least at this stylistic level. We will come back to this later.

1 *Classification of types of collocations*

The following classification of collocations was published by Peter Emery (1991):

a) *Open collocations*: combinations of two or more words co-occurring together, without any specific relation between those two words. Combinations in which both elements are freely recombinable. Each element is used in a common literal sense.

examples given by Emery: *intabat al-ḥarb*, *bada'at al-ḥarb*

b) *Restricted collocations*: combinations of two or more words used in one of their regular, non-idiomatic meanings, following certain structural patterns, and restricted in their commutability not only by grammatical and semantical valency, but also by usage.

examples from Emery: *ḥarb dārra*, *ḡarīma nakrā'*

examples from our corpus: *aḥraza taqadduman*, *ḥasārāt ḡismiyya*

c) *Bound collocations*: a bridge category between collocations and idioms. One of the elements is uniquely selective of the other. example by Emery: *atraqa r-ra's*

d) *Idioms*: the constituent elements of idioms are opaque, i.e. used in 'specialized' senses, together forming a single semantic unit.

Another publication on collocation is a specialized collocations dictionary of the English language: *The BBI Combinatory Dictionary of English, a Guide to Word Combinations* by Morton Benson, Evelyn Benson and Robert Ilson (a photocopy of one page has been added as *Annex A*). The authors argue the existence of this dictionary as follows:

"This material is of vital importance to those learners of English who are native speakers of other languages. Heretofore, they have had no source that would consistently indicate, for example, which verbs are used with which nouns; they could not find in any existing dictionary such collocations as call an alert, lay down a barrage, hatch a conspiracy. [...] This dictionary provides such collocations; in order to enable the user of the dictionary to find them quickly and easily, they are given in the entries for the nouns.

Knowledge of other languages is normally of no help in finding English collocations. For administer an oath, French has *faire prêter serment*, Spanish - *hacer prestar juramento*, German - *den eid abnehmen*.

Use of the Combinatory Dictionary will help learners avoid such errors as *they mentioned him the book, *a stranger was lurking, *we are very fond, etc." (Preface, vii)

In this dictionary the authors make a distinction between grammatical and lexical collocations. A grammatical collocation is defined by the authors as 'a phrase consisting of a dominant word (noun, adjective, verb) and a preposition or grammatical structure such as an infinitive or a clause. About lexical combinations the authors write: 'Lexical collocations, in contrast to grammatical collocations, normally do not contain prepositions, infinitives, or clauses. Typical lexical collocations consist of nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs. Of course both categories are further divided into subcategories.

As a teacher, and at the same time still a learner of Arabic I wished a similar work would be available in Arabic. I will come back to this wish later.

2 *Why concentrate on Restricted and Lexical Collocations?*

We will concentrate on the category of the so called Restricted Collocations. First we will argue why this category deserves special attention.

This attention is because of practical use: learners of Arabic as a foreign language need this since this category of collocations is very large and unpredictable.

A collocation in L1 will very often not be equal in L2. Heliel (1990: 34) gives the example of seven collocations with the English adjective 'heavy' that should in Arabic be translated with seven different adjectives. Heavy rainfall, fog, sleep, seas, meal, smoker, industry are translated in Arabic as *ḍabāb kaṭīf*, *maṭar ġazīr*, *ṣinā'a taqīla*, *mudahhin mufrit*, *waġba dasima*, *biḥār hā'iġa*, *subāt 'amīq*.

Or as Emery (1991:61) states it:

"It is this interlingual incongruence which can give rise to second-language learning difficulties and problems of translation equivalence".

Being a teacher of Arabic to Dutch students, and working as a translator himself, the present authour became very much interested in this category of word combinations, and found support with Shakir & Farghal (1992:227), who state:

"Collocations constitute a key component in the lexicon of natural language. Translators and/or interpreters should, therefore, possess a high syntagmatic competence alongside their paradigmatic competence. .. Unnaturalness comes as an immediate consequence of the translators'/interpreter's inability to call up the relevant collocations in the target language".

So collocations are generally considered to be problematic to learners of foreign languages. Or, to be more exact, restricted collocations cause problems when it comes to production in the foreign language. Obviously open collocations do not deserve special attention from the teacher's or translator's point of view. Bound collocations, as marking a transitional stage, seem interesting from a linguistic scientific point of view, but rather limited in occurrence. Idioms are of interest to anyone but should be studied separately.

So a useful instrument for learners of Arabic would be a dictionary containing great numbers of restricted collocations. As will be demonstrated in paragraph 4, existing contemporary dictionaries contain only

a very limited number of collocations, so a *BBI*-like combinatory dictionary for Arabic would cover the needs of many learners of Arabic. It was decided to carry out a small pilot study to collect a number of collocations from authentic Arabic texts. The aim of this pilot study was to see what would be the result in terms of types of collocations found, how far these were covered in bilingual dictionaries, ways of presenting the results etc.

However, because of practical reasons one has to limit the scope and so we chose from Emery's various categories only the Restricted Collocations, and from the *BBI*'s main categories we only chose the lexical collocations. Grammatical collocations in Arabic seem less frequent than in English. Of course some categories exist but for the present time we did exclude these from the study. *Annex B* shows part of the results.

3 *Various categories of restricted collocations*

About the category of Restricted Collocations Emery (1991:60) remarks that in Arabic, as in English, this type of collocation occurs in various types of syntactic configuration. The author mentions Subject/Verb, Verb/ Object and Adjective/Noun collocations.

So Emery makes a distinction that is partly syntactic (Subject/Verb, Verb/Object) and partly based on parts of speech (Adjective/Noun). He mentions examples to all three subcategories.

The *BBI* category of Lexical Collocations comprises 7 subcategories:

- 1) *verb + noun or pronoun*, the verb denotes creation or activation (reach a verdict, launch a missile)
- 2) *verb + noun*, the verb denotes eradication or nullification (reverse a decision, repeal a law)
- 3) *adjective + noun* (strong tea, not *mighty tea)
- 4) *noun + verb*, the verb names an action characteristic of the person or thing designated by the noun (bees buzz, bombs explode etc.)
- 5) *unit associated with a noun* (a school of whales, an act of violence)
- 6) *adverb + adjective* (deeply absorbed, keenly aware)

7) *verb* + *adverb* (affect deeply, appreciate sincerely)

Here we see a distinction according to parts of speech, but semantic information is also taken into consideration since the distinction between category 1 and 2 is based on the meaning of the verb: creation/activation vs. eradication/nullification.

After some contemplation, and after going through some Arabic texts, it was decided that a classification system for Arabic collocation, which aims at serving the learner of Arabic, should include both syntactical information and information based on parts of speech.

Unless contextual information is given, a user must, for example, know if a given noun will be the object or the subject of the verb that collocates with it.

It was also decided to treat verbal nouns (*masḍars*) as verbs in all cases in which the noun simply denotes the action of the verb. Only in cases where a masdar has acquired an independent meaning the *masdar* is registered as a noun. The same rule applies for participles: only those with a separate meaning are marked as an adjective. All others as verbs.

This has led us to the following classification:

- 1) noun + verb, the noun being the subject
(in some cases the verb is passive, this should be indicated)
- 2) noun + verb, the noun being the object
- 3) preposition + noun + verb, the noun being the indirect object
after a preposition that comes with the verb
- 4) noun + adjective
- 5) noun + noun, a construct phrase (*iḍāfa*)
- 6) verb + adverb
- 7) adjective + adverb
- 8) noun + preposition + noun
- 9) adjective + noun, the so-called *ḥasan al-waḡh* construction

In addition to these categories Arabic style uses combinations of synonyms or antonyms very often. These categories can be added to the above mentioned categories:

- 10) word + synonym
- 11) word + antonym

A list of examples for every category goes separately as *Annex C*.

Once more it needs to be emphasized that this classification seems based on grammatical principles. However lexical collocations are identified and selected on semantical and usage-based grounds, or maybe intuitions. Two words occur in each other's vicinity because of their meanings and/or their mutual attraction.

As the word intuition indicates, a collocational list for teaching purposes is drawn up on the basis of subjective judgements: which combinations are fixed and what others are open? It would be an interesting experiment to present a short text fragment to a number of respondents and ask them to indicate which combinations of two or more words they consider to be lexical collocations.

4 Treatment of collocations in bilingual dictionaries containing Arabic

First of all some remarks considering the representation of collocations in dictionaries in general.

Where is the dictionary maker going to store collocations, and where will the dictionary user try to retrieve a combination of words? Two essential factors influence these decisions.

First is the question whether the dictionary will comprise collocations of the source language (SL) or the target language (TL). It is most common for a bilingual dictionary to contain collocations of the source language as point of departure. A translation or paraphrase of the specific combination will then be given in the target language. However the TL expression does not necessarily have to be a collocation. So an English-Arabic dictionary will primarily contain collocations of entries in English, with equivalent translations in Arabic. These Arabic equivalents do not necessarily have to be collocations.

The second factor is the type of bilingual dictionary in question. Is it an active dictionary (for production) or a passive dictionary (for understanding). This distinction should affect the type and number of collocations contained by the dictionary. This factor also affects the

question where the collocation is stored in the dictionary: with the core-word or with the collocator.

The factors and decisions described above are illustrated in the following table.

<i>type of dictionary</i>	<i>Engl-Ar active</i>	<i>Engl-Ar passive</i>	<i>Ar-Engl active</i>	<i>Ar-Engl passive</i>
<i>target group</i>	foreigners writing/speaking Arabic	Arabs reading English	Arabs writing/speaking English	Foreigners reading Arabic
<i>SL collocation</i>	vicious crime	vicious crime	<i>ḡarīma nakerā'</i>	<i>ḡarīma nakerā'</i>
<i>look up at</i>	crime (core)	vicious (colloc)	<i>ḡarīma</i> (core)	<i>nakerā'</i> (colloc)
<i>reason</i>	not certain that the equivalent of <i>vicious</i> will combine with the eq. of <i>crime</i>	meaning of <i>crime</i> is probably known	not certain that the equivalent of <i>nakerā'</i> combines with the eq. of <i>ḡarīma</i>	the meaning of <i>ḡarīma</i> is probably known
<i>ideally dictionary contains</i>	<i>ḡarīma nakerā'</i>	<i>(ḡarīma) nakerā'</i>	vicious crime	vicious (crime)

Collocations in Arabic Dictionaries

Emery (1991:63) argues that classical lexicographers of Arabic made the classical dictionaries contain a wealth of collocational information, but often in an unsystematic arrangement. Contemporary bilingual dictionaries of MSA like Wehr's (1979, 1985) do not contain enough collocational information to support learners of Arabic. According to Emery, up-to-date monolingual dictionaries of Arabic simply do not exist. Here an updating remark is needed because recently the ALECSO *Basic Dictionary* appeared (Al-Kasimi et al. 1989). However, the amount of collocations is rather limited. We will come back to this later.

In order to compare a number of contemporal bilingual dictionaries with Arabic as their source language we made a simple statistic count of the number of combinations with some Arabic words that combine easily. Some of the resulting combinations could also be classified as compounds, but for the mere statistical comparison we did not distinguish between various categories of combinations.

An inventory of the following words has been made: *ġihāz*, *āla*, *ħarb*.

The numbers of combinations containing these three different core-word are listed below.

core-word	number of combinations in dictionary					
	Schregle Ar-Germ	Baalbaki Ar-Engl	Wehr Ar-Engl	Krahl Ar-Germ	Al-Kasimi Ar-Ar	Reig Ar-Fr
<i>ġihāz</i>	70	19	29	7	19	27
<i>āla</i>	38	20	31	8	9	14
<i>ħarb</i>	9	18	14	12	16	31

An obvious conclusion is that the above mentioned dictionaries show considerable differences in the numbers of combinations/ collocations they contain. However, many of these combinations should be considered compounds and not collocations.

A more detailed comparison of all the combinations presented by the different dictionaries goes beyond the scope of this paper.

Another, more qualitative, comparison between 5 dictionaries has also been made by the present author. A small corpus of collocations, resulting from the pilot study, has been used to test the already mentioned dictionaries. The collocations from this small corpus seem representative, without being exclusive for the given core-words. As already stated, the process of collecting collocations is intuition-based, so of some of these collations it can be discussed whether they are open collocations or restricted collocations. According to our standards they can be regarded as restricted collocations.

The results of the comparison are shown in the following table.

collocations in various dictionaries containing Arabic as source language¹

	Baalbaki Ar-Engl	Wehr '79 Ar-Engl	Krahl Ar-Ger	Al-Kasimi Ar-Ar	Reig Ar-Fr
<i>iğrā'āt</i>					
<i>ittahada iğrā'āt</i>	+	+	-	-	+
<i>iğrā'āt mudādda</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>iğrā'āt idāfiyya</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>'alāqa</i>					
<i>'alāqāt ahawiyya</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>'alāqāt sadāqa</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>'alāqāt hasan al-ğiwār</i>	-	-	-	+	-
<i>ta'āwun</i>					
<i>'ammaqa t-ta'āwun</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>ta'āwun mutmir</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>taqaddum</i>					
<i>ahraza taqadduman</i>	-	-	-	-	+
<i>taqaddum malmūs</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>mawqif</i>					
<i>haddada mawqifan</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>mawqif istrāt iğī</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>mawqif hāzim</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>mawqif muğrid</i>	-	-	-	-	-

The results of this comparison lead us to the conclusion that contemporary well known dictionaries with Arabic as their source language do not contain a considerable number of frequent collocations, although we may assume the Arabic part of these dictionaries was selected from representative text materials.

However, the above mentioned dictionaries are passive dictionaries, and many learners of Arabic will be able to understand the meaning of combinations like *ta'āwun mutmir* or *taqaddum malmūs*. But will the same learner of Arabic, when writing or speaking in Arabic, be able to produce the same combinations. And if not, will he or she first of all find a FL-Arabic dictionary that contains the collocation 'fruitful

¹ There was no opportunity to include Schregle's Arabic-German dictionary (1981-) in this comparison.

cooperation' (in English or any other source language) and secondly will this lead him to the right Arabic combination.

These uncertainties lead to a conclusion that for production of Arabic a monolingual collocational dictionary can be very useful.

Another comparison was made between three contemporary dictionaries containing Arabic as target language. By searching at the SL equivalents of *iğrā'*, *'alāqa*, *ta'āwun*, *taqaddum*, *mawqif* we tried to discover any of the collocations mentioned above. However, the results were even more disappointing than the earlier described results.

collocations in various dictionaries containing Arabic as target language

	Baalbaki Eng-Ar	Krahl Ger-Ar	Schregle Ger-Ar
Ger: Massnahme			
Eng.: measure/step			
<i>ittahada iğrā'āt</i>	-	-	-
<i>iğrā'āt mudādda</i>	-	-	-
<i>iğrā'āt idāfiyya</i>	-	-	-
Ger.: Beziehung/ Verbindung			
Eng.: relation/bond			
<i>'alāqāt aḥawīyya</i>	-	-	-
<i>'alāqāt ṣadāqa</i>	-	-	-
<i>'alāqāt ḥasan al-ğiwār</i>	-	-	-
Ger.: Zusammenarbeit/Kooperation			
Eng.: cooperation			
<i>'ammaqa t-ta'āwun</i>	-	-	-
<i>ta'āwun mutmīr</i>	-	-	-
Ger.: Fortschritt/ Vormarsch			
Eng.: process/advancement			
<i>abrāza taqadduman</i>	-	-	-
<i>taqaddum malmūs</i>	-	-	-
Ger.: Stellungnahme/Einstellung			
Eng.: position/attitude			
<i>ḥaddada mawqifan</i>	-	-	-
<i>mawqif istrātīğī</i>	-	-	-
<i>mawqif ḥāzim</i>	-	-	-
<i>mawqif muğrid</i>	-	-	-

The two comparisons, at the same time being a limited inventory, show us that Arabic dictionaries, both active and passive, contain very few collocations. Even FL-Arabic active dictionaries (Schregle (1972) Ger-Ar, Krahl (1983) Ger-Ar) do not offer the user a useful set of frequent collocations. To our opinion this is a second argument to support the assumption that a monolingual Arabic collocational dictionary is urgently needed. This will be further argued in the concluding paragraph.

Collocations as part of the micro structure

If a certain word occurs in many different combinations (collocations, idiomatic expressions or even compounds), a very complex lemma may be the result. A well known and qualitatively high standing dictionary like Wehr's (1979, 1985) shows in our view a lack in systematic representation of combinations. A lemma like the noun 'ayn is very complex and it takes the dictionary user a great effort to find a specific combination.

At the Dutch dictionary publishing house 'Van Dale Lexicografie' a so-called two-digit code has been formulated to create a hierarchy within a lemma. Different meanings of words receive a number (meaning 0.1, meaning 0.2 etc.). After the presentation of all meanings, a block of combinations and examples is printed. And here the second digit is introduced: all combinations of the headword with a noun get a 1.X code, combinations with an adjective get a 2.X code, with a verb 3.X etc. Then both codes are mixed and the dictionary user will find under 2.3 examples or combinations of the headword with meaning 0.2 in combination with a verb.

To demonstrate this in *Annex D* the reader will find two examples of lemmas taken from Wehr (1979) but reorganized according to the two-digit system.

5 Conclusion

It has been demonstrated that the learner of Arabic has very little materials to consult in order to find collocations in Arabic. Ar-FL dictionaries, even though not the first category to consult when the user wants to produce Arabic, do not contain a great amount of collocations. FL-Ar passive dictionaries meant for Arabs (to understand the foreign language) are very often used by non Arabs. However these dictionaries do not contain a great number of collocations in Arabic. FL-Ar dictionaries for non Arabs contain SL collocations with not necessarily the equivalent Arabic collocations.

Learners, teachers and translators of Arabic with different mother tongues are in need of a reliable dictionary that concentrates on collocations in a more systematic way than existing dictionaries have done so far. To our opinion these arguments support the necessity of a monolingual combinatory dictionary of Arabic like the *BBI* for the English language.

The small pilot study, as carried out by the present author, has shown that such a project is feasible. A collocational list containing about 1000 collocations has so far been the tangible outcome of this study (see *Annex B*). However, for such an extensive project to reach the volume that would make it useful for learners of Arabic, it cannot be carried out by one single person. It has to adopt the shape of a joint project of a number of scholars both from the Middle East and from other countries. Advanced technical facilities would of course very much ease such a project.

To conclude we wish to express the desire that a joint project can be started in order to produce a *BBI*-like collocational dictionary of Modern Standard Arabic.

Annex A: one page from *The BBI Combinatory Dictionary of English*

languish

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der; enrich; purify a ~ 6. (the) spoken; written ~ 7. one's native ~ 8. a foreign; international, world; national; official; second; universal ~ 9. colloquial, informal; formal; idiomatic; literary, standard; nontechnical; substandard; technical ~ 10. an ancient; artificial; classical; creolized; dead, extinct; living; modern; natural; sign; trade ~ 11. an agglutinative; inflecting; isolating; synthetic; tone ~ 12. an object, target; source ~ [style of speaking or writing] 13. abusive; bad, coarse, crude, dirty, foul, nasty, obscene, offensive, unprintable, vile, vulgar; rough, strong, vituperative ~ 14. elegant; everyday, plain, simple; flowery; polite; rich ~ 15. children's; diplomatic ~ [system of signs, symbols used by a computer] 16. a computer, machine, programming ~ [misc.] 17. ~ acquisition; ~ maintenance

languish *v.* (D; intr.) (to ~ in prison)

lantern *n.* 1. to light a ~ 2. to shine a ~ on 3. a battery-operated; kerosene (AE), paraffin (BE); propane ~ 4. a ~ flashes; gleams; shines

lap *I n.* [complete circuit around a track] 1. on a ~ (they are on the last ~) [part of the body from the knees to waist of a sitting person] 2. in, on smb.'s ~ (the little girl sat in her mother's ~) 3. (misc.) in the ~ of the gods (with an uncertain future)

lap *II v.* (d; intr.) to ~ against (the waves ~ ped against the sides of the boat)

lapse *I n.* 1. a momentary, temporary ~ (of memory) 2. a linguistic ~ 3. a ~ into (a ~ in judgment)

lapse *II v.* (d; intr.) to ~ into (to ~ into a coma)

larceny *n.* 1. to commit ~ 2. aggravated; grand; petty; simple ~

lard *n.* to render ~

larder *n.* a full, well-stocked ~

large *I.* at ~ ('uncaptured') (the prisoner was still at ~) 2. an assemblywoman at ~ ('an assemblywoman who represents several or all districts') 3. by and ~ ('in general')

lark *I n.* ['prank'] for a ~ (he did it just for a ~)

lark *II n.* ['type of bird'] ~s sing, warble

lash *v.* 1. (d; intr.) to ~ against (the rain ~ ed against the roof) 2. (d; intr.) to ~ at, into (the speakers ~ ed into the government) 3. (d; tr.) to ~ into (to ~ a crowd into a fury)

lash back *v.* (D; intr.) to ~ at, against (to ~ at one's critics)

lash out *v.* (D; intr.) to ~ against, at

lasso *n.* 1. to throw a ~ 2. to catch with a ~

last *I adj., adv.* 1. to come in ~ (in a race) 2. the ~ to + inf. (she was the ~ to finish) 3. at ~; at long ~

last *II n.* to breathe one's ~

last III v. 1. (d; intr.) to ~ from; to, until (the meeting ~ ed from one to three) 2. (P; intr.) the examination ~ ed two hours; the food will ~ (us) (for) a week; the meeting ~ ed (for) an hour

last rites *n.* to administer (the) ~

last word *n.* to get in, have the ~ (she had the ~ in the argument)

latch *v.* (colloq.) (d; intr.) to ~ onto (since he didn't know anyone else, he ~ ed onto us)

late *adj.* 1. ~ for (she was ~ for class) 2. ~ in (we

were ~ in filing our tax return; I was ~ in getting up) 3. ~ with (they are ~ with the rent) 4. of ~ ('recently')

later *adv.* ~ on

lathe *n.* 1. to operate a ~ 2. a turret; vertical ~

lather *n.* ['sweating'] to work oneself into a ~

latitude *n.* ['freedom of action'] 1. to allow smb. ~ in (we are allowed quite a bit of ~ in selecting our subjects) [distance measured in degrees north or south of the equator] 2. high; low ~s 3. at a ~ (at a ~ of ten degrees north)

laudable *adj.* (formal) to ~ + inf. (it was ~ of you to help them)

laugh *I n.* 1. to get a ~ (the joke got a big ~) 2. to stifle, suppress a ~ 3. a belly; derisive; forced; hearty, loud; infectious; sardonic; subdued ~ 4. (misc.) to have the last ~ on smb.; to do smt. for a ~ (for ~s)

laugh *II v.* 1. (D; intr.) to ~ about ('to show one's amusement by laughing') (everyone ~ ed about the incident) 2. (D; intr.) to ~ at ('to respond to smt. funny by laughter') (to ~ at a joke) 3. (D; intr.) to ~ at ('to show one's derision') (they ~ ed at our efforts; she ~ ed at our warnings) 4. (d; tr.) to ~ out of ('to drive out by laughter') (he was ~ ed out of court) 5. (N; used with an adjective) he ~ ed himself hoarse 6. (misc.) to ~ up one's sleeve ('to laugh secretly'); to burst out ~ing

laughingstock *n.* to make a ~ of smb.

laughter *n.* 1. to cause, provoke ~ 2. contagious, infectious; convulsive; derisive; hearty, loud, raucous, uproarious; sardonic; subdued ~ 3. a burst, fit, gale; ripple of ~ 4. (misc.) to double up with ~

launch *v.* 1. (D; tr.) ('to fire') to ~ against, at (the missiles were ~ ed against enemy targets) 2. (d; intr.) to ~ into ('to begin') (to ~ into a tirade)

laundry *n.* ['clothes, linens that are to be washed or have been washed'] 1. to do the ~ 2. to dry; fold; iron the ~ 3. clean; dirty ~ ('establishment for washing clothes, linens') 4. a self-service ~ 5. at, in a ~ (they work at a ~)

laurels *n.* to rest on one's ~

lava *n.* ~ flows

lavish *I adj.* ~ in, with (~ with praise; ~ in donating money to charity)

lavish *II v.* (d; tr.) to ~ on (to ~ gifts on smb.)

law *n.* ['statute, regulation'] 1. to administer, apply, enforce a ~ 2. to adopt, enact, pass, draft; promulgate a ~ 3. to obey, observe a ~ 4. to interpret a ~ (courts interpret ~s) 5. to annul, repeal, revoke a ~; to declare a ~ unconstitutional (US) 6. to break, flout, violate a ~ 7. to challenge, test; cite; strike down a ~ (in the courts) 8. a fair, just; stringent; unfair ~ 9. a blue (US); dietary; ex post facto; lemon (US); shield (US); sunset (US); sunshine (US); sus (GB); unwritten; zoning ~; the licensing ~s (GB) 10. a ~ against (there is no ~ against fishing) 11. a ~ that + clause (there is a ~ that all income must be reported) [body of statutes, regulations] 12. to administer, apply, enforce the ~ 13. to obey the ~ 14. to interpret the ~ (courts interpret the ~) 15. to break; flout the ~ 16. administrative; antitrust; business, commer-

Annex B: one page from the provisional 'collocational list', resulting from the pilot study. An explanation of the codes *na*, *nsv*, *nov* etc. can be found in Annex C.

nov	تلقي	برقية			أ
nn	منتهي	بساطة	na	كبير	تأثير
nn	مسافات	بند	na	محدد	أجل
nov	ضاعف	مبلغ	nov	تقنية: - ذات ال	أدوات
nov	خصص	مبلغ	npn?		الغالية
npv	تبرع ب	مبلغ		ضرورة: بال	أحي .. الى
na	ختامي	بيان			vadv?
nn	حماية	بيئة	na	ملامسة	أرض
na	تصديرية	مبيعات	nn	حدة	أزمة
na	ناقصة	بيانات	npv	تعرض ل -	أزمة
na	كاذبة	بيانات	nsv	اشتد	أزمة
na	مدومة	بيانات	nsv	اشتد	أزمة
		ت	na	واقعي	أساس
	مشرق:	تجارة	npv	استند الى	أساس
	npn?	بال	nov	طبق	أساليب
	جملة: بال	تجارة	nov	استبح	أسلوب
		npn?	na	إضاحية	مأساة
na	عالية	تقنية	na	ثابتة	أصول
na	رئيسي	تيار	na	ثابتة	أصول
		ث	na	وحدوي	إطار
na	عميقة	ثفات	na	تجارية	أفاق
na	خارجية	استثمارات	nov	اتسع	أفاق
nov	شجع	استثمارات	na	جازم	تأكيد
	مدمج مع	ثمن	na	خفية	مأكولات
		apn?	nov	لاقي	آلام
na	عظيم	ثمن	npv	دفع الى	أمام: ال
		ثمن		تأجم عن	أمر
		ج	nov	أصدر	أمر
?	قابل ل -	تجديد	na	تأسيسي	مؤتمر
npv	شكك في	جدية	na	صحفي	مؤتمر
an	وفير	جدارة			أمل
na	رقيقة	جراحية	nsv	تضائل	خيبة
npv	أصاب ب	جروح	na	قومي	أمل
nov	ارتكب	جريمة			أمن
na	مشتركة	إجراءات			أمن
na	إضافية	إجراءات	na	راسخ	استتب
na	إدارية	إجراءات	na	صحي	إيمان
na	مضادة	إجراءات	nn	حالة	تأمين
na	متخذة	إجراءات	nov	وضع	تأهب
nov	اتخذ	إجراءات	aa?	شبه	أولويات
nov	أقام	جسور		كامل: - بال	اوتوماتيكي
npv	عبر عن	جسور			اوتوماتيكي
na	صناعي	تجسس			aadv
na	عاصفة	جلسة			فب
nn	شيوخ	مجلس	nov	اجتاز	بحيرة
nn	طوارئ ٧	مجلس ١	npv	الترم ب	مبادئ
na	طائرة	جلسة		اختيار	بدائل
na	طائر	اجتماع	npv?		بين
na	مصفر	اجتماع	na?	متاحة	بدلية
nov	عقد	اجتماع	na	تجاري	تبادل
nov	دام	اجتماع	na	منطقي	مبرر
na	عمومية	جمعية		تهنئة؟	برقية ١
na	مهنية	جمعية			n1n2

Annex C: Examples of collocations from different categories

These examples were taken from newspaper articles and radio news items treating general political and other issues and from written texts treating economic subjects, as those texts were used in teaching.

1) *noun + verb*, the noun being the subject (code nsv) (in some cases the verb is passive, this should be indicated): *istaddat al-azma, tadā'ala l-amal, inhafada s-si'r, habata s-si'r, istagraqat al-mudda, iktanafat al-ġumūd, afadat al-anbā', šuwihat aš-šūra, ša'adat al-awdā'*

2) *noun + verb*, the noun being the object (code nov): *qaddama wu'ūdan, ahalla salāman, ahraza taqadduman, mārasa ta'assufan*

3) *preposition + noun + verb*, the noun being the indirect object after a preposition that comes with the verb (code npv): *'abbara 'an taqdīr, i'tadara 'an mudāyaqa, sa'ā ilā ġarad, ihtāra bayna badā'il, ta'arrada li-mahātīr*

4) *noun + adjective* (code na): *iktifa' dātī, ġahd dahm, aġlabiyya mutlaqa, 'alāqat qarwiyya, qadāyā mulihħa, hāġiz nafsi*

5) *noun + noun*, a construct phrase (*idāfa*) (code nn or n1n2): *sundūq iqtirā', qā'imat muntaġāt, tasalsul ahdāt, muzāharat ihtigāġ, nizām tarhīs, qitār šahn*

6) *verb + adverb* (code va): *antaġa bi-l-ġumla, naffada bi-diqqa, ittāsala hātifiyyan, ta'arada bi-šidda, i'taqada wāhiman, 'alima yaqīnan*

7) *adjective + adverb* (code aadv): *mahdūd li-l-ġāya, aqallu qiyāsan bi-, ša'b li-l-ġāya*

8) *noun + preposition + noun* (code npn): *šabaka min at-turuq, hatar 'alā istiqrār, širā' alā s-sulta, uslūb fī t-tafkīr*

9) *adjective + noun*, the so-called *hasan al-waġh* construction (code an): *hasan at-taġhiz, wafīr al-ġadāra, qašīr al-aġal, šadīd al-lahġa, muta'addid al-ġinsiyyāt, wāsi' an-nitāq*

In addition to these categories Arabic style uses combinations of synonyms or antonyms very often. These categories can be added to the above mentioned categories:

10) *word + synonym* (code syn): *ta'hīl wa-tadrīb*

11) *word + antonym* (code ant): *šahn wa-tafrīġ, tāra wa-ahsaqa, aqlā'a wa-habata, ziyāda wa-inqās, maqarr wa-furū'*

Annex D

Two lemmas from Wehr (1979), according to the two-digit code.

عين *ʿayn* f., pl. عيون *ʿuyūn*, أعين *aʿyun* 0.1 eye 0.2 evil eye 0.3 spring, source, fountainhead (of water) 0.4 scout, reconnoiterer 0.5 hole 0.6 mesh 0.7 flower, choice, prime (of s.th.) 0.8 - (pl. أعيان *aʿyān*) an eminent, important man, used esp. in pl.: people of distinction, important people, leading personalities, leaders, notables, prominent persons 0.9 substance, essence 0.10 self, individuality 0.11 - chattel, object of material value, (corporeal or personal) property, personality, capital asset (Isl. Law) 0.12 - ready money, cash 0.13 name of the letter *ʿayn* ♦

1.1 العين سَوَاد eyeball, عين شاهد eyewitness, بأَم عينه with one's own eyes, نظر بعيني رأسه do., رأى رأي العين, do. to find out, or see, with one's own eyes, نظر إليه بعين الاحتقار to look at s.o. contemptuously 1.7 عيون الشعر gems of poetry, choicest works of poetry 1.8 مجلس الأعيان senate (Ir.) 1.9 للسبب بعينه for the same reason 1.10 فرض العين individual duty (Isl. law) 1.11 اسم العين concrete noun (gram.) 1. على العين والرأس 1. very gladly! with pleasure! 3. وقعت العين على العين 3. fighting broke out, ملاً بعينه to satisfy s.o.; to please s.o. 6.10 بعينه in person, personally; exactly the same, the very same thing, هو هو بعينه it's none other than he 6.11 هو شخص بعينه he is a real person, a man who actually exists, أعاده أثراً بعد عين to ruin s.th. completely 6. نزل من عيني 6. I lost all respect for him

All expressions and collocations containing the word عين with meaning 0.1 (eye) can be easily found as X.1. Surprisingly these only appear in 1.1, which means: in combination with a noun. Meaning 10 (self, individuality) occurs in combination with a noun in 1.10: فرض العين and with a preposition in 6.10: بعينه. Meaning 11 (- chattel, object of material value) also occurs with a noun: اسم العين and with a preposition هو شخص بعينه.

In long lemmas this system makes it easier to find the expression or combination we want to look up. If the entry occurs with a verb, look at 3.Y, and if it occurs with a preposition, look at 6.Y.

نفس *nafs* f., pl. نفوس *nufūs*, أنفس *anfūs* 0.1 soul 0.2 psyche 0.3 spirit, mind 0.4 life 0.5 animate being, living creature, human being, person, individual (in this sense, masc.) 0.6 essence, nature 0.7 inclination, liking, appetite, desire 0.8 personal identity, self (used to paraphrase the reflexive pronoun; see examples below) ♦

1.2 علم النفس psychology 1.4(?) بشق النفس or بشق الأنفس with (the greatest) difficulty, barely 1.6 في نفس الأمر in reality, actually, in fact نفس الأمر the essence of the matter, nature of the affair نفس الشيء the thing itself, the same thing, the very thing 1.8 الثقة بالنفس and الاعتماد على النفس self-confidence, self-reliance محبة النفس amour propre, selfishness 1. في نفس الواقع ¶ in reality, actually, in fact 2.3 صغير النفس base-minded, low-minded عفيف النفس unselfish, selfless, altruistic كبير النفس high-minded, proud 3.4(?) بذل النفس والتفيس to make every conceivable sacrifice, sacrifice all, give up all one's possessions 4.5 (بنفسه) هو جاءني he himself came to me, he came personally to see me 4. عند أنفسهم ¶ in their own opinion 6.5 بنفسه he himself, personally, in person نحن بنفوسنا we ourselves 6.7 جاء من نفسه he came of his own accord 6.8 ما وعدت به فيما بيني وبين نفسي what I had promised myself

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