Genesis of Arabic Oratory

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Abstract: This article is dedicated to the study of the most important and always relevant topic of literary studies, the history of the art of speech, in particular, the beginning of the Arabic art of speech, the history of the world-famous Arabic oratory. The author tries to find out that the history of Arabic literature, whether it is prose or verse, which existed before Islam, is related to the innate skill in the art of words of the Arab people, and the factors that served the birth and development of this eloquence.

Keywords: oratory, literature, artistic, word art, prose, poetry, Arabs, language, opportunity, early Middle ages, jahiliyya, literary, scholars, talent, innate.

The author emphasizes that at the root of the Arab civilization, which has created bright pages in the history of the world, lies the fact that the Arabs had the gift of eloquence even in the earliest primitive times, this eloquence is related to their unique Arab way of life, Arab traditions, which they lived in the days of Jahiliyya and are still preserved; puts forward a scientific hypothesis that it was created as an expression of the spirit of free people, a desert nomad who fought for life in harsh natural conditions.

The oldest roots of Arabic oratory or oratorical artistic speech go back much earlier than the pre-Islamic times of the Arabs. As a matter of fact, studying the earliest history of any literature helps to study the culture, artistic thinking, values of that people, way of life, and in general, the reasons for its uniqueness in a certain social period. This creates opportunities for a complete and accurate understanding of the processes taking place on the stage of modern literature.

It should be noted, that many Arab and foreign orientalists or literary scholars use different terms to express Arab oratory: rhetoric, balag’a, address, sermon, khataba, oratory, etc. But by using the word Arabic oratory in general, we are referring to the art of arab speaking in an artistic way, with various artistic tools, figuratively, and in particular, the Arabic literary prose heritage that meets the requirements of literary prose in the early Middle Ages.

Our aim is not discussing whether the poetic or prose-artistic word was born first in the Arabs; which of these two literary types is more close to the Arabs, or whether poetry or prose is superior in the Arabs, the debate and discussions that have been going on for centuries, but we want to give an objective assessment from above, studying systematically analyzed the data collected on the problem. In addition, it is important to try to find the origin of the Arabic oratory being neutral about where and from what the basis of the mentioned poetry and prose began.

What we are researching is the beginning of Arabic artistic speech, and at the same time neither rhetoric, nor poetry, nor address, our goal is not to define these terms, but to seek sources of Arabic word power.

In the study of Arabic literary heritage, the study of Arabic is of great importance. In particular, understanding the history of the art of words, which served as the basis for both types of literature, prose and poetry, and how it was perfectly manifested in the ancient Arabs in the earliest times, is one of the important tasks of today's modern literary studies and linguistics.
Any scientist or ordinary person who is familiar with the Arabic language, Arabic literature or is interested in the history of this people has a natural question: did the Arabs enter world history only after the advent of Islam? What was this people like, their way of life, artistic ideas before Islam? Why was this people able to create high poetry, dating back to pre-Christian times, and ensure that it is brought to our days, at a time when literary views were not yet completed, and in many countries of the world clear and understandable language norms had not yet been formed?

Why today the differences between antiquity and modernity in the languages of almost any people of the world have turned the literature of the same people incomprehensible to today's reader, while the reader, a connoisseur of the Arabic literary language, easily reads and understands Jahili poetry or literary monuments written in Arabic language 2000 years ago. What is the secret of this?

The word is a great mystery. All religions believe that the art of speech is a potential - yet fully undiscovered wealth of sounds, forms and rules that God has given to man through his life.1 As mankind moved up through the stages of its thinking, it began to evaluate any phenomenon according to its development. Thousands of studies have been conducted to determine when and how the world's simplest or most complex languages appeared, and hundreds of scientific hypotheses have appeared.

There are many languages in the world, they are different: one is full of scary, scary sounds, in which instead of words you hear muttering, grunting or clapping. It can be assumed that the orchestra of the human throat - the tongue, palate, teeth and lips play in any form of breathing. All the voices and sounds that he gets are used up.2

However, the Arabic language stands out not only among the Semitic languages, but also among the languages of the world due to its charm, high level of aesthetics, melodiousness, and eloquence.

In fact, language is a tool that has the fastest impact on the mind, consciousness and psyche of those who speak it. The master of the art of words is able to use such possibilities of language. Even before Islam, the Arabs were among the peoples with such innate talent.

Mustafa Sadiq Ar-Rafi’ says about Arabic literature and language: ‘Wise men say that a language is rich due to its vocabulary. The very fact that they have survived in large numbers is a clear testimony to the ability of this people to survive in the shadows of civilizations and societies. The Arabs have nothing to remember except the literary civilization bestowed by nature. They had no knowledge of metals or industrial sites. In the dictionaries, there is no description of Arabs in the place of information about the peoples of the world, except for some small features, about the possession of work tools and social comforts like in other nations. Wisdom - in ancient civil societies, it is believed that the Chinese were given, social sciences were given to the Greeks, and the civilization of languages was given to the Arabs.3

What kind of nation is it that at one moment of its history, in an unexpected and amazing situation, it overthrew the great Persian Sassanid Empire and defeated the Roman legions and entered the world stage.4

What was the power that made the famous French orientalist think and caused the Arabs to enter unexpected bright pages in the history of the world?

This question is one of the questions that arise not only for historians or literary scholars, but

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1 Парандовский Ян, Альхимия слова. Издательство “Правда” Москва 1990, -С.131
2 Ibid.
also for any curious person who wants to know the history of the world and the development of the earliest civilizations.

Arab civilization is one of the oldest and most indelible civilizations in world history. Arab literature in the pre-Islamic and early Middle Ages forms unique bright pages in the history of world literature. That is why the interest in this ancient literature does not escape the attention of not only expert scientists of today's developing era, but also fans of literature of any age.

At the same time, the perfect form of Arabic literature, which existed before the era and existed among the Arab tribes at the beginning of the last millennium AD and developed for its time, began to attract the attention of Arab, European and Russian orientalists.

The existence of high poetry in the Arabs in the pre-Islamic period is well known by famous orientalists who are deeply involved in the history of Arabic literature, as well as by ordinary readers interested in the history of this nation. "The beauty of a person is manifested in his language skills," says an Arab proverb, or "Wisdom," it is said, later in a proverb, "is seen in three things: the brain of the Franks; in the hands of the Chinese and in the language of the Arabs". Eloquence, that is, the ability of a man to express himself artistically in a poetic and prose way, was one of the three main qualities of a perfect man in Jahiliyya, just like archery and horsemanship.-like thoughts or similar thoughts of most scholars who have studied ancient Arabic literature give a complete idea of how much this nation was able to use the power of words or how proud they are of it.

Any indelible page of the Arabs in the world history should be interpreted as the result of the influence of the power of words and the innate talent of this people in the art of words.

So, the fact that the Arabs have the art of speaking in pre-Islamic times, where are the roots of the world-famous Arabic artistic speech, what does history say about this natural speech?

The living conditions of Jahiliyya Arabs made it possible for them to create artistic text with high skill. Social events that connect them with each other; meetings of members of a single tribe or allied tribes to resolve and consult on various issues; or different relations that require the sending of assemblies, ambassadors and various delegations - representative teams to resolve disputes between neighboring tribes, to resolve conflicts, there were many events, such as very large communal ceremonies, and all of them presented very comprehensive works.

All the mentioned works and situations were carried out based on eloquent sayings and catchphrases.

In addition to all these, after the day's problems were over, the night conversations that took place at night, forming dense circles around the fires, or walking with chests in the cool breeze - all these created golden opportunities for artistic talents to practice their literary activities. In other words, they would express their creations in prose or verse according to their inclinations, talents, stories, messages or artistic expressions that could cause surprise in the people gathered. The thing that inspired every great speaker was that they were heard by men and women, young and old. , and they sharpened their skills with this power of recognition. The struggle of the Arabs to survive in the harsh and cruel natural conditions in the first centuries caused wisdom to sprout in them, nature gave such a language system for the use of such virtues and created all the opportunities to perfect this language.

Among the Arabs, the ability to embellish the speech, to pronounce the word with rhymes, to
move the Bedouin's soul, to be able to effectively use the tools of artistic imagery - these were
the most important elements of Arabic speech and the highest requirements for its primitive era.

In a number of sources about the history of the Arabs and the history of Arabic literature, the
basis of the Arab word talent is the brutal natural conditions in which they lived, the free way of
life that did not obey any laws, and of course the communication of the Arab soul, who
wandered in loneliness for a living in the endless deserts, with nature, is given. Even their art of
‘arudz, bahrs, and columns are suggested to be related to the rhythm of camels, the constant
companion of the desert Arabs.  

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