셈어로서 아랍어의 특징 연구*
A Study on the Character of the Arabic Language as the Semitic Language

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목차

Ⅰ. 서론
Ⅱ. 셈어 연구사와 셈어의 변종
   1. 셈어 연구사
   2. 셈어의 변종
      1) 동부셈어
      2) 서부셈어
         (1) 서북셈어
         (2) 서남셈어
Ⅲ. 셈어로서 아랍어의 언어적 특징
   1. 음운론적 특징
   2. 형태론적 특징
   3. 어휘적 특징
Ⅳ. 결론

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<Abstract>

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The Semitic language family has the longest recorded history of any linguistic group and have continued to be spoken in the Middle East and north Africa today. Its number of the native speaker’s reaches about 300,000,000.

The first Semitic language attested is the Akkadian language that had used in ancient Mesopotamia from the third millennium BC. The ancestral language among Semitic languages is called Proto-Semitic(or Common Semitic) that was the hypothetical language like Proto-Indo-European.

Modern Semitic languages include Arabic, Amharic(the official language of Ethiopia), Hebrew(one of the official languages of Israel) Tigrinya(the official language of Eritrea), Aramaic(the language of the Jewish Talmud and of Jesus) etc.

Among the Semitic languages, Arabic is the most widely spoken language and it has not only the common feature of the Semitic languages but also the unique characters distinguished Proto-Semitic.

Arabic has been influenced by the other languages in Europe, middle east and north Africa including Greek, the old Persian language and Coptic language in Egypt etc as a result the Islamic expansion since seventh millenium AD. Therefore we simultaneously find the various foreign languages’ features and the characters of the Semitic features in the Arabic .

In this article, I try to research the Semitic features in Arabic language. Comparing the phonology, morphology and lexicon’s features among the Semitic languages, I will show the common features and distinguished one among Arabic and the other Semitic languages. I expect that this research will be useful to understand the Arabic and Semitic languages.