



Latent Endings

There are three groups of nouns in which the endings do not appear for phonetic reasons. These are:

المَقْصُورُ

a) The *maqṣūr* It is a noun ending in a long a like ، المُسْتَشْفَى، العَصَا، الفَتَى،

All the three endings are latent in the *maqṣūr*, e.g.:



قَتَلَ الفَتَى الأَفْعَى بالعَصَا. 'The young man killed the viper with a stick.'



Here الفَتَى (al-fatā) is the فاعِلٌ, but has no u-ending;

الأَفْعَى (al-af'ā) is the مفعولٌ بِهِ, but has no a-ending;

العَصَا (al-'aṣā) is preceded by a preposition, and so it is مَجْرُورٌ, but has no i-ending.

Compare this sentence to the following sentence with the same meaning:

قَتَلَ الولدُ الحَيَّةَ بِالْعُودِ (qatala l-walad-u l-ḥayyat-a bi l-'ūd-i)

In this sentence the endings of all nouns appear.

المُضَافُ إِلَى يَاءِ المِتَكَلِّمِ

b) The *Muḍāf* of the Pronoun of the First Person Singular

Like زَمِيلِي. In this group also all the three endings are latent, e.g.:

دَعَا جَدِّي اسْتَاذِي مَعَ زُمَلَائِي. 'My grandfather invited my teacher with my classmates.'

Here جَدِّي (jadd-ī) is فاعِلٌ,

اسْتَاذِي (ustādh-ī) is مفعولٌ بِهِ,

زُمَلَائِي (zumalā'-ī) is مُضَافٌ إِلَيْهِ.

But none of the three has the ending.

Compare this to:

دَعَا جَدُّكَ اسْتَاذَكَ مَعَ زُمَلَائِكَ.

'Your grandfather invited your teacher with your classmates.'

Here jadd-u-ka has the u-ending, ustādh-a-ka has the a-ending and zumalā'-i-ka has the i-ending.



الْمَنْقُوص

c) The *Manqūṣ*

It is a noun ending in an original *yā'*, e.g.:

القاضي 'the judge', المحامي 'the advocate', الجاني 'the culprit'.

In this group the u- and the i-endings are latent, but the a-ending appears, e.g.:

سأل القاضي المحامي عن الجاني. 'The judge asked the advocate about the culprit.'



Here القاضي (al-qāḍiy) which is مرفوع has no ending,

الجاني (al-jāniy) which is مجرور also has no ending,



but المحامي (al-muḥāmiy-a) which is منصوب has a-ending.

If the *manqūṣ* takes the *tanwīn* it loses the terminal *yā'*, e.g.:

قاضٍ which originally was قاضي.

After the loss of the u-ending and the *yā'* it became qāḍi-n (qāḍiy-u-n → qāḍi-n).

The *yā'*, however, returns in the accusative case (منصوب), e.g.:

هذا قاضٍ. 'This is a judge.'

سألت قاضياً. 'I asked a judge.'



هذا بيت قاضٍ. 'This is the house of a judge.'



Note that the *yā'* of the *manqūṣ* is retained only in the following three cases:

1) If it has the definite article *al-*, e.g.:

القاضي، الوادي، المحامي

2) If it is مضاف, e.g.:

قاضٍ مَكَّةَ. 'qāḍiy of Makkah'

مُحَامِي الدِّفَاعِ. 'defence advocate'

وَادِي العَقِيقِ. 'the Valley of Aqīq' (in Madīnah Munawwarah).



3) If it is منصوب, e.g.:

عَبَرْتُ وَادِيًا. 'I crossed a valley.'

سألت قاضياً. 'I asked a judge.'

أريد ثانياً. 'I want a second.'

