An Approach for Arabic Root Generating and Lexicon Development

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Summary

This paper presents a novel approach for Arabic root generation and lexicon development. The approach provides three algorithms; in the first algorithm Arabic word root is generated using the concept of permutation and combination, the root generator algorithm generates roots by applying permutations to the Arabic alphabetic letters. Then, the second algorithm is used for developing difference words from that root using Arabic morphology template, the morphology developing algorithm develops the Arabic word by formulating the roots according to the Arabic template. Finally, lexicon is constructed by providing meaning and other information. The paper provides a contribution to the field of Natural Language Processing (NLP); and hence it provides a novel Arabic NLP approach that might be used in different ways in generating Arabic roots and developing Arabic lexicons. The approach presented in this paper can be used as a basis for processing, understanding and electronically using of Arabic language, because it provides a way for covering most of Arabic language components. The results show that this approach provides up to 21,924 different Arabic roots with their morphological information.

Key words:

Arabic Language; Stemming Algorithm; Arabic Lexicon; Arabic Root; Arabic Word; Morphology; Natural Language Processing (NLP).

1. Introduction

Arabic language is characterized by a set of features including:

- 1- Link revelation, because it is the language of the holy Quran, which was the holly book for all Muslims (more than 1.62 billion people) [19].
- 2- It is the native language for More than 422 million speaker.
- 3- Well-established language, which is rooted in the depths of history for more than fifteen centuries [20].
- 4- Abundance of vocabulary: we can derive dozens of words from one root, for example from the root (ب ،كتب ، يكتب ، اكتب ، اكتب ، اكتب ، اكتب ، وكتب ، وكتب ، ومكتوب اكتبوا ، اكتبن ، وأكتب، ويكتب ، ويكتب ، وكاتبة ، وكاتبة ، ومكتبة، ومكتب، وكُتْبً ، وكتيبة، وكاتبة، وكاتبون، وكاتبات، etc).

- 5- The connotations or linguistic features are carried on the structural templates not like other languages that provide connotations by connecting to the body of words for example in English (ing) at the end of word to indicate continuous tense. In Arabic this is based on templates such as (افاعل): for the noun of the subject (معول), writer), مکتوب) the noun of the objective: (مکتوب - written)...etc.
- 6- Arabic language consists of 28 alphabetic letters and it is written from right to left. The letters in the Arabic words are written in cursive way not separated as in English language. Also, the shape of characters are different according to their position in the word.
- 7- The Arab lexicon is the richest dictionaries of languages in vocabulary and synonyms (wealth verbal); the large Arabic dictionaries can have more than one million vocabulary. The Arabic vocabulary does not have an inventory of the lexicon materials; because Arabic is derivative language, and the language article in traditional Arab lexicon is just the root. Many words with different meanings can come from one root, Figure 1) shows an example of different words generated from one root.



Figure 1: Example of difference words generated from one root "کنب" (wrote)

According to these characteristics; processing Arabic language and analyzing its morphology is not an easy task. Therfore many efforts have been done to provide the basis for Arabic language processing, but till now there is no satisfactory results or successful algorithms for generating Arabic word roots or morphological information.

This paper provides an algorithm that generates the root of Arabic words by applying permutations on the Arabic letters. The paper also provides another algorithm to build Arabic lexicon by generating different morphological information for these roots and then provides meanings and examples for each word from a holy Quran dataset [18] (the holy Quran is considered as a standard Arabic reference since around 15 century).

1.1 Contribution

This paper provides a contribution in the field of NLP by: providing a novel root generator algorithm for giving the roots of Arabic words using an approach that permutes and combines the Arabic alphabet. This way of generating the word root was used by Al Khalil Bin Ahmed in constructing his valuable and well-known lexicon before more than 1200 years ago.

Building a comprehensive electronic Arabic lexicon (Arabic language dataset) that can be used in Arabic language processing and for other purposes such as dictionaries, word processing, spelling checker.. etc.

1.2 Previous work

Most of Arabic language processing achievemnets are in the area of Arabic morphology. The research projects that work on Arabic stemming algorithms or root generating can be classified into two categories:

- Rule-Based stemming or root generating algorithm: This category is studied more than the other kinds of algorithms, because it provides more accurate results than other algorithms. Most of works on rule-based stemming algorithms depend on affix removal such as khoja stemmmer and Tim Buckwalter morphological analyzer. In general there are many examples of recently research work under this category such as [7], [4],[1], [5] and [9].
- Classification or clustering algorithms: The stem in this category of algorithms is classified or clustered according to the stem type and language document. For example in [13] the association rules are used in clustering the stem of text. In [14] Stem is generated based on feature reduction technique which is used to categorize Arabic Text. In [21] algorithm based on Naive Bayes is developed to categorize Arabic document. In [15] the authors use classification with p-stemmer for Arabic text. Authors in [8] studied the effect of stemming on Arabic text classification.

In the area of lexicon development most of the previous work concentrated on morphological analysis either to provide a special corpus or documents set such as [2], [3], [10] and [12] or in grammar or morphological computational such as [11], [17], [16].

2. Proposed Algorithms

This paper presents an approach for generating Arabic word roots by emulating the Arabic letters and then generate the corresponding word, morphology, and adding the meaning to resulted Arabic lexicon. Consequently, two main algorithms have been initiated, one for generating roots and the other for developing lexicons.

2.1. Generating the Roots

Most of the roots of Arabic words are made up of three characters in form of (فعل) template, no roots less than three characters [20] exist in Arabic language. The roots that consist of two characters are usually has repeated characters or bugs. There are some roots, which consist of 4 or 5 characters, these types of roots are for special words which can be studied individually such as (خَانَ وَسُوس دِرْهَم دَحرج. يعثر. زلزل.) as for 4 characters root, which is in form of (سَعَرْجَل زَيَرْجَد. غَصَنَقُوْر عَالَ (عَالَ) as for 5 characters root, which is in form of (سَعَرْجَل زَيَرْجَد. غَصَنَقُوْر مَال (فعال) template, and (سَعَرْجَل زَيَرْجَد. عَصَنَقُوْر عالي template. Therefore, most of Arabic linguistics and morphological analysis are based on three-character root. Accordingly, our proposed algorithms work in generating three characters root. The root generator algorithm is formulated according to the following approach:

- 1- State the framework (the mathematical permutation and combination theory).
- 2- Apply the algorithm.
- 3- Present the results.
- 4- Test the results.

2.1.1. The framework for our proposed algorithm

Our proposed algorithm for generating the Arabic roots based on the mathematical permutation and combination theory. According to the permutation theory (equation (1)) if we want to arrange unrepeated three items out N elements then the result will be equal to $N \times (N-1) \times (N-2)$, and it is equal to $N \times N \times N$ if it has repeated items.

$$p_r^n = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!} \qquad (1)$$

In Arabic language there are 28 alphabetical letters or characters (see table 1). The three characters in an Arabic root can be a combination or a permutation of any three letters without repeating of one character three times, repeating of two characters is allowed. Based on this concept and on the permutation theory we can generate two types of correct Arabic roots:

- 1- Maximum Arabic word roots: the roots that can have adjacent repeated two characters. This kind of roots can be generated using the following formula:
 - a. Find all possible roots, the maximum three arrangement groups of characters (i.e. with one repeated character). This is equal to 21952 ($28 \times 28 \times 28$)
 - b. Remove the repeated one character root (28 roots: the number of Arabic alphabets), then the maximum number of roots that can be generated from 28 Arabic alphabetical letters will be 21924 roots (21952-28). These roots represent the maximum possible of all Arabic Language roots.
- 2- The strong Arabic roots: the roots that have no adjacent repeated two characters, these kinds of roots represent the roots of the common used Arabic words. To generate this kind of root we need to find a way for avoiding the occurrence of the adjacent repeated two characters, if we do that the total number of roots must be equal to 28×27×27= 20412.

#	Arabic letter	English name	Pronounce		
1	ĺ	Alef	А		
2	ب	Baa ¹	Bah		
3	ت	Taa'	Tah		
4	ث	Thaa'	Thah		
5	ε	Jeem	Jah		
6	ζ	Haa'	Hah		
7	ż	Khaa'	Khah		
8	د	Dal	Dah		
9	ذ	Thal	Thah		
10	ر	Raa ¹	Rah		
11	ز	Zain	Zah		
12	س	Seen	Sah		
13	ش	Sheen	Shah		
14	ص	Saad	Sua		
15	ض	Daad	Dhah		
16	ط	Taa'	Tah		
17	ظ	Zaa'	Zhah		
18	ع	Aain	Aaa'		
19	ż	Ghain	Ghah		
20	ف	Faa'	Fah		
21	ق	Qaaf	Qah		
22	ك	Kaf	Kah		
23	J	Lam	Lah		
24	م	Meem	Mah		
25	ن	Noon	Nah		
26	هـ	HHaa'	HHah		
27	و	Waw	Wah		
28	ي	Yah	Yah		

Table 1: Arabic alphabetic

2.1.2 Root Generation algorithm

To generate all possible three characters root, either the maximum root or the strong root, we will use three nested FOR loops, as it shown in fFigure 2). For the maximum root we use the operation AND inside IF statement clause. For the Strong root we use the operation OR instead of AND. The results (the roots) are stored into structured database table because the number of roots is large and we are going to use this database table also to store electronic information about lexicon. We used visual basic.net and Microsoft access for implementing our algorithm. Figure 3) shows snapshot of actual code that used in generating our roots, while Figure 4) show snapshots for the database tables that used to store the maximum roots and strong roots respectively.

Array [¹ , ث, ت, ب, أ]
For i=0 to 27
For j=0 to 27
For $k=0$ to 27
If (Array[i] <> Array[j]) AND/OR (Array[i] <> Array[k])
Then
Root= Array[i] & Array[j] & Array[k]
New Database record = root
End if
i=i+1
j=j+1
k=k+1

Figure 2: Root generation Algorithm

2.1.3 Root Generation results

The implementation of the maximum root generation algorithm provides all possible Arabic roots, 21924 roots, including adjacent repeated two characters, (figure 4-a) which is equal to the number that is calculated by the emulation equation (see section 2.1.1). All roots are made of three characters; no two roots have three repeated characters.

The roots that are generated by this algorithm (maximum root) can be suitable to use as a basis and framework for all Arabic language, because it generates all possible roots in Arabic language. The only point against this generator is that, it may generate roots that are not an actual Arabic word root, especially when the root includes adjacent repeated two characters, but we think this is an advantage because it may cover the extinct Arabic language, or the special Arabic language. (There are varieties of Arabic language according to varieties of regions or tribes). Accordingly, we suggest that the maximum roots can be used as reference or a useful Arabic language dataset.



Figure 3: Snapshot of part of the root generation algorithm VB.Net code

The implementation of the strong root generator algorithm provides 20412 Arabic roots (figure 4-b) which is equal to the number that calculated by the emulation equation (see section 2.1.1). All roots are made of three characters without any three repeated characters or adjacent repeated two characters. The roots that generated by this algorithm has the characteristics of common and most used Arabic words. Accordingly, this root can be suitable for many of NLP process.

The suggested root generator algorithm is used for generating two kinds of roots, as it presented above. In addition, this algorithm can generate another kind of roots, for examples; if we remove one of the For Loops we can get two characters root, in the other hand if we add additional For-Loop we can get four characters root, and so on. Also, if we made any changes in the if-condition or if-operators we can get different kinds of roots, (figures (2) and (3)).

2.2. Developing the Arabic Lexicon

The proposed Arabic lexicon is developed in two steps: generating the morphology and providing the meaning.

ind		root -	alain	
	1	يزد	/ ind •	root -
	2	يزد	14	
	3	ېزر	بت 2	4
1	4	بزز	ىت 3	þ.
	5	يزس	4 2/	
	6	يز ش	5 5	
	7	يزص	6 24	
	8	بزض	7 4	
	9	بزط	8 2/	
	10	يرط	ابر 9	
	11	بزع	ابز 10	
	12	بزغ	بى 11	1
	13	بزف	ش 12	1
	14	برى	س 13	ų) ,
	15	بزك	ص 14	¢t.
	16	بزل	15 14	
	17	يزم	16 44	
	18	بدن	1/ 5/	
	19	یژہ	18 2	a.
	20	يرو	19 4	
	21	يز ي	20 02	
	22	لسا	22 -44	
	23	يسبيه	22 0	
	24	يست	24 14	
	25	يست	25 4	
cord: I4 4 2	25 of 2	1925 • H •0	Record: 14 4 25 of 2041	2 + H +=
	(A)		(B)	

Figure 4: Snapshot of part of the roots tables (a) part of the maximum root table (25 records out of 204120) (b) part of strong root table (25 records out 20412)

2.2.1 Generating the morphology

استفعل

Arabic language is based on root [20]; hence, all Arabic linguistic and morphology analysis is carrying on the structural templates based on word root. Arabic morphology templates are providing the format in which words are structured (Table 2).

 			BJ	r
فعل	فاعل	فعول	فعيل	
مفعل	مفاعل	مفعول	مفاعيل	
تفعل	يفعل	فعلل	يتفوعل	
افعل	افعال	افتعال	دفتعل	

مستفعل

ىستفعل

استفعال

Table 2: An example of Arabic morphology templates

The morphology generation algorithm generates different words from one root by inserting or adding letters to that root at certain positions according to the morphology template (Table 2). As it mentioned in section (2.1) the three characters root is of "i = i" template can be used as a basis for generating new words by adding characters at different positions. For example, if we want to generate a word in "i = 0" template then we will insert the letter "I" at the second position, from right of the root string.Figure 5) shows how the algorithm works.

Open the root database table									
While not end of the root table									
String = root									
word1 in " ^ن فاعل" template = insert "أ" into									
the second position of string									
into "و " template = insert "فعول" into									
the third position of string									
word1 in "فعيل" template = insert "أ" into									
the second position of string									
Update root set value =,,									
Move to next record									
Update table									
End loop									

Figure 5: Morphology generator algorithm

The morphology generation algorithm is implemented using VB.Net and MS-Access database. Four templates are used to generate four words, as an example, given that the same algorithm can be used for generating large number of words (all possible words can be generated). Figure 6) shows snapshot of part of the code that used in generating these words and Figure 7) shows snapshot of part of the database table where the roots and the words that are generated as a morphology from that roots are stored. This table presents the first stage in our proposed lexicon.

2.2.2 Providing the meaning

The last stage in developing our proposed Arabic lexicon is to provide meaning and examples for our generated roots and the words that structured from those roots. To do this we can use any searching algorithm that searches for the root or the structured word in one of the well-known Arabic datasets and then add the searching results to our proposed lexicon (the database records).

Figure 8) shows a snapshot of the code that we developed to search for the meaning of the generated words from one of holy Quran datasets [18]. The searching results are then added to our proposed lexicon, these results include all available data in the dataset, such as the Arabic meaning, English meaning, an example sentences include the word (the Quran verse that contains the word or the root), the pronouns ... etc. Figure 9) shows part from the resulted lexicon.

```
Con.Open()
Dad = New OleDbDataAdapter("SELECT * FROM alain1 ORDER BY ind", Con)
Dad.Fill(Dst, "alain1")
Con.Close()
Dim Str, s As String
Dim i, j As Integer
i = CurrentRow
j = Dst.Tables("alain1").Rows.count - 1
Try
Con.Open()
While i <> j
s = Dst.Tables("alain1").Rows(CurrentRow)("root")
Str = LSet(s, 1) & "! & Mid(s, 2)
Dst.tables("alain1").rows(CurrentRow)("faail") = Str
Str = "p" & LSet(s, 1) & "! & Mid(s, 3)
Dst.tables("alain1").rows(CurrentRow)("faail") = Str
Str = LSet(s, 2) & "g & Mid(s, 3)
Dst.tables("alain1").rows(CurrentRow)("faail") = Str
Str = LSet(s, 2) & "g & Mid(s, 3)
Dst.tables("alain1").rows(CurrentRow)("faail") = Str
Str = LSet(s, 2) & "g & Mid(s, 3)
Dst.tables("alain1").rows(CurrentRow)("faail") = Str
Str = LSet(s, 2) & "g & Mid(s, 3)
Dst.tables("alain1").rows(CurrentRow)("faail") = Str
Str = Str = "p" & LSet(s, 2) & "g & Mid(s, 3)
Dst.tables("alain1").rows(CurrentRow)("faail") = Str
Str = "p" & LSet(s, 2) & "g & Mid(s, 3)
Dst.tables("alain1").rows(CurrentRow)("faail") = Str
Str = "g" & LSet(s, 2) & "g & Mid(s, 3)
Dst.tables("alain1").rows(CurrentRow)("faail") = Str
Str = "g" & LSet(s, 2) & "g & Mid(s, 3)
Dst.tables("alain1").rows(CurrentRow)("faail") = Str
Str = "g" & LSet(s, 2) & "g & Mid(s, 3)
Dst.tables("alain1").rows(CurrentRow)("faail") = Str
Str = "g" & LSet(s, 2) & "g & Mid(s, 3)
Dst.tables("alain1").rows(CurrentRow)("faail") = Str
Str = "g" & LSet(s, 2) & "g & Mid(s, 3)
Dst.tables("alain1").rows(CurrentRow)("faail") = Str
Str = "g" & LSet(s, 2) & "g & Mid(s, 3)
Dst.tables("alain1").rows(CurrentRow)("faail") = Str
Str = "g" & LSet(s, 2) & "g & Mid(s, 3)
Dst.tables("alain1").rows(CurrentRow)("faail") = Str
Str = "g" & LSet(s, 2) & "g & Mid(s, 3)
Dst.tables("alain1").rows(CurrentRow)("faail") = Str
Str = "g" & LSet(s, 2) & "g & Mid(s, 3)
Dst.tables("alain1").rows(CurrentRow)("mfaail") = Str
Str = "g" & LSet(s, 2) & "g & Mid(s, 3)
Dst.tables("faain1").rows(CurrentRow)("faail") = Str
Str = "g" & LSet(s, 2) & "g & Mid(s, 3)
Dst.tables("faain1").rows(CurrentRow)("faail") = Str
Str = "
```

Figure 6 :Snapshot of part from morphology generator VB.Net code

ind •	root •	faail •	facol +	fail -	mfaail •	mfacel •	mfaiil •	yfal •	ť
3875	خل	خلال	خرل	خليل	مغاذل	مطول	مقاتلي	يخل	تغل
14195	قسل	فأسل	فسول	فسيل	مغاسان	مقسول	مقمتول	يسل	نكسل
17764	ei.	رفا	لمون	لغ	مالغ	ملتوح	لمفتى	eły –	<u>di</u>
17343	لبح	્રિ	لبوع	ليبع	ملبح	ملجو ج	ملجيح	يلجح	ئلبح
9288	مىغز	مىلغر	مىئور	مخبز	سلغر	ىمىغون	سخز	ېمىغز	ئىنغر
4265	خأق	خانق	خرق	خليق	مذلق	مظرق	مظنن	بخأن	نظق
17386	لحت	لاط	ئەر ب	لوف	ملاطب	ملحرف	مأحزف	بلط	للمل
14715	فنمض	فلمتض	فنرض	لغرض	مقاضض	ملطيرض	المخترض	يفنض	للمض
12661	عنر	sile	مناور	عدي	gibes	مشرر	محتاي	إمغر	أستر
1757	ئىپ	تأعب	ترب	نوب	مآعب	متعوب	متجي	ېتىپ	تتب
12250	sk	sle	عارد	ite	ساد	sulçe.		يعاد	ئىلا
8936	<u>*:</u>	3C2	ئىگرى 🕹	इंद्र:	مذلك	<u>م</u> تكرك	<u>علم:</u>	ېنگ	<u>K:</u>
8937	ئىكل	دکل	شگول	نكيل	مشكل	متكول	متكلى	بتكل	تتكل
8941	<u>}:</u>	نگو	نكر ر	نکو	منكر	متكور	منكو	<u></u>	<u>تنب</u> و
3894	خرص	خارمر	خررص	خريص	ىخارەن	مخررص	مغريص	يغرص	تغرص
19630	الار	فلو	الترز	فتر	مهاتر	مهتور	مهتتو	<u>141</u>	ئېر
17391	لمن	لامن	لعرن	لحين	ملاحن	ملحون	ملحين	بلحن	نلمن
1/390	لم	, Teo	لحري	ph	ملام	inh	day	ilan	ites
14550	قرض	قارعتن	قررهن	قريض	مقارض	مقورهن	مغريض	يلوهن	ترض
17387	لعق	لاهز	لمرق	لحيق	ىلىق	ملحوق	ملحيق	بلحن	تلعن
12608	يسب	عاسب	عمرب	عسوب	ساسب	مسرب	مست	يسي	ئسب
3890	غزر	خارر	خرور	خرير	منارر	مغزوز	مغرين	بغرر	لغرر
14206	فعنح	لأهنح	فعوح	فعيح	مناهيع	ملحوح	متحيح	وسعنو	للحنح
3885	áر ج	غ ار ع	غر <u>ر</u> ع	لغريع	مذارع	مغروع	مذريح	بفرع	نغرج
14538	فرت	لأوت	فررت	فريت	متأوت	مفروت	منويت	يفوت	لغوث

Figure 7: Snapshot of part of database table shows the roots and the words that generated as morphology for those roots



Figure 8 :Snapshot of the meaning developer algorithm.

ind 🔸	mt .	KIR .	SuralD -	Versell •	Wordl + QuranVL	WordRo -	ClearWor -	Qutanili -	WortiRnot •	WordPronounce -	MeaningFig • •	 ClearWord
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16921	كب	Ø	7	33	رَجْرَاعِنَ 1	لاوب	ركواعب	زلأرع	كعباو	WakawaAAiba	Andsplendidic	ركراعب
14909	فر	Ø	7	51	فَتُرْزَةٍ 8	300	قرر:	ندر. فرزي	قر إقرر	qaswaratin	alion?	قررة
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Figure 9: Snapshot of our suggested lexicon

3. Conclusion

This paper presents a new root generation algorithm for developing Arabic word root, the algorithm is based on permutation being applied to the Arabic alphabet letters (28 letters), the result are all possible Arabic roots. This approach was used by Al Khalil Bin Ahmed in developing his well-known Arabic lexicon "Alain" more than 1200 years ago.

The paper also presents an automated approach for developing all possible Arabic roots, including developing phase, the implementation phase, and then finally presenting the results. Therefore, this way of developing Arabic roots can be recognized as a base approach for dealing with Arabic language processing, understanding, learning, using ...etc.

The finding shows that the maximum roots generation algorithm generates 21,924 roots. When these roots are compared with the Quranic dataset roots [18] we found that 1476 of these roots are in common with the Quranic dataset roots. The total number of roots in Quranic dataset that we used is 1613 root which composes 92% of Quran words roots. In addition, the strong roots generation algorithm generates 20,412 roots, 1325 from these roots are in Quranic dataset roots, with percentage of 82%. These results indicate two main conclusions:

- The first is that the results don't cover all Quranic dataset roots and that because most of roots that was not covered in our data contain HAMZA "e". The algorithm can be enhanced if we considered HAMZA "e" as the 29th Arabic alphabet. In our suggested algorithms, we can easily add the HAMZA. We can do that by adding it to the array and changing the end of the FOR-LOOPs from 28 to 29 (figure (2) and (3)). Because HAMZA is special character and its came in different shapes, therefore most of Arabic language forms do not consider it as the 29th alphabet letter. Accordingly, we did not include it in this study. This issue can be covered in future work.
- The second is that the generated roots are more than the roots that are included in the holy Quran (according to the dataset we used), and that is the case in Arabic language, because not all Arabic roots are in Quran, according to [6] only 15% of them are in the Quran.

Moreover, the paper presented an algorithm for generating the Arabic morphology by formulating the roots according to Arabic templates. This way of generating Arabic morphology can be used for generating any Arabic word because all Arabic words are generated from roots. The implementation of the algorithm provides correct Arabic words according to the templates that are used.

Finally, the paper shows how the Arabic lexicon can be generate and developed automatically. The paper provides two Arabic lexicons in MS-Access database tables, one with 21,924 records, and the other with 20,412 records. Each record presents a root with its corresponding words, meaning, English translation ...etc (see figure (9)). In this paper, our concern was mainly to provide an algorithm that can be used to generate Arabic language dictionary including roots and other comprehensive lexicon.

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