

Translation

Acceptance Speech of  
**PROFESSOR ABDELKADER FASSI FEHRI**  
CoA Winner of the 2006  
King Faisal International Prize for Arabic Language and Literature  
Monday 3 April 2006 (5.3.1427H.)

*In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate  
Praise be to Allah and may peace and prayers be upon the Prophet, his family and  
companions*

Your Royal Highness, Prince Sultan Ibn Abd Al Aziz  
Crown Prince, Deputy Premier,  
Minister of Defense and Aviation and Inspector General  
Your Highnesses  
Your Excellencies  
Distinguished Guests

Assalam Alaikum

I am honored to receive the King Faisal International Prize for Arabic Language and Literature in the topic of "Arabic Language in Modern Linguistic Studies" and to share this prestigious award with a pioneer of Arabic linguistics, Professor Tamam Hassan Omer, may Allah grant him long life and reward him for his contributions to the advancement of Arabic linguistics.

I am immensely grateful to Allah for guiding me throughout my career in modern and classical Arabic linguistics and for supporting my efforts to elucidate the impact of Arabic studies on descriptive, comparative and general linguistics, and their contribution to the development of linguistic research at the international level. During my

career as an Arab linguist, I have had the honor of overseeing Arabic Linguistic institutions and publications and undertaking various responsibilities that have helped me pursue those objectives.

My studies on Arabic linguistics have been based on explicit scientific principles and theoretical models that combine new argumentation with empirical and methodological tools. Far from repeating traditional reasoning or limiting linguistically relevant data to ancient corpora, I have tried to conceive Arabic linguistic objects, and their properties, within a generative computational framework that characterizes the language faculty in the light of universal principles and parameters. In that respect, I have used a generative lexical-functional program that treats Arabic grammar and lexicon in a more comprehensive and comparative context that sets aside what is universal and what is unique in a language.

My primary objective has been to improve the perception of Arabic language. In that direction I have investigated Arabic in its natural environment, explored its numeric, symbolic, economic, communicative, computational and scientific strengths and identified its weaknesses. I have been particularly eager to identify an appropriate environment where Arabic linguistic research would thrive, advance and integrate with contemporary linguistic traditions.

Distinguished guests,

These are the main features of my work on modern Arabic linguistics, and I am most humbled by the fact that those endeavors have garnered such prestigious recognition by the Prize committee. This is an honor that bears with it a colossal obligation to sustain and develop my research program to further serve the eternal language of the Holy Qur'an, as well as out Arabic and Islamic communities and the international community at large.

May Allah support all of us in our efforts to serve our Arabic and Islamic nation and may He guide our leaders to achieve progress and prosperity to our nation.

Assalam Alaikum.