

Speech of Professor Ahmed  
Matloob Alm Nasiri  
Winner of King Faisal's International Prize  
For Arabic Language and Literature (Com Winner)  
For the Year 1428/2008  
Sunday 1/3/1429 m 9/3/2008

In the Name of God Most Gracious, Most Merciful,

Custodian of The Two Holy Mosques,  
Crown Prince Sultan Bin Abd Alm Aziz  
Prime Minister Deputy  
Defense Minister and General Inspector  
Your Royal Highness the Princes  
Your Excellencies

Assalamu Alaykom Wa Rahmatu Ilahi Wa Barakato

Nations honor their creative sons and all those who had an influence on the scientific and intellectual life. Moreover, the Arab tribe in past times used to celebrate if a poet appeared among its people, and other tribes used to arrive and come to them, since the poet was the tongue of the tribe which expresses it and defends it with his poems that had a great influence. The Arabs used to concentrate on poetry, which they were proud of.

The World today witnesses various kinds of honor, and this land, which is the land of revelation from God, and the land of the Two Holy Mosques, had a witnessed a role in honoring scientists, scholars, and thinkers. The King Faisal Foundation decided more than thirty three years ago to honor those in the service of Islam and those who were prominent in a field from the fields of Science and knowledge. Therefore, the establishment of the King Faisal prize was the way to achieve this.

Since it was international, it acquired recognition from around the World, and those who had a broad vision and deep thinking were nominated to it, for its holds high significance, noble values, and noble goals.

The Arabic language and its sciences and literatures is a renovative prize, and the subject of the prize this year was about terminologies that are considered a gateway to the study of all sciences and a way to their understanding. As Tahanawi said in "Terminologies of Arts": "Most of what is needed in recorded Sciences, and promoted arts is the uncertainty in terminologies. For every science has certain

terminologies, without which we cannot reach a certain science and understand it.”

The Arabs were interested in terminologies and took care of them from ancient times. The Holy Quran gave new meanings for Arabic utterances to express new meanings, and ancient scholars didn't name the terminologies but “Legal Truth”: They are legal names as prayer, fasting, pilgrimage, and alms(Zakat), and religious names like: the Muslim, the Infidel, the profligate. This was a starting point to establish terminologies to the extent that the authorship and translation movements prospered in philosophy and theoretical and applied sciences in an age of brilliance for Arab Islamic Civilization.

Many past and contemporary scholars have worked in the field of terminologies, and I was one of those who worked in this field, and I produced lexicons and books, and published research in the field. Moreover, I called for the “Science of Terminologies” to be a study curriculum and it was established in Ph.D (Doctorate) programs at the University of Baghdad, and I teach this curriculum since many years, so that a generation interested in terminologies evolves, which knows the ways of its creation for the enrichment of the Arabic language in the Age of information.

Interest in the field of terminologies is important, and contemporaries found an Arabic heritage in this field, so they built on it from what was new. Arab academies were interested in it also, and lexicons of terminologies in Literatures, Sciences, and Arts and other things were produced, and scholars and researchers are still adding new things to them. In addition, The Arabization office in Rabat, the Institute of terminological studies in Fas, and some scientific institutions in many Arab countries are still working in this field.

My lexicographic efforts were gathered after many years and they weren't lost. Moreover, I was awarded The King Faisal International Prize this year, so thanks to God, and to those who found in my efforts a benefit that deserves to be honored and nominated me for the prize. I also thank those who decided to award me the prize which has noble indications, and those who worked hard in studying, achievement, and research in what God has given value them. Ways were opened for them, and they only know research and authorship, and they benefit their countries and people, and they contribute to the benefit of humanity.