



## Structural-Functional Framework in Ahmad Al-Mutawakkil's *An-Nachw Al-Wazhīfi*

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### Abstract

The development of modern Arabic grammar has increasingly shifted away from formal, rule-based approaches toward frameworks that integrate linguistic structure with communicative function. This study examines *An-Nachw Al-Wazhīfi* as theorized in his *Al-Lisāniyyāt Al-Wazhīfiyyah: Madkhal Nazhariyy*, through the lens of Talcott Parsons' structural-functional framework. Employing Krippendorff's content analysis methodology, this research investigates how the tripartite analytical architecture of *An-Nachw Al-Wazhīfi*: encompassing semantic, structural, and pragmatic dimensions fulfils the four functional prerequisites of the AGIL framework: Adaptation, Goal Attainment, Integration, and Latency. The findings reveal that *An-Nachw Al-Wazhīfi* operates as a coherent and adaptive linguistic system: it adapts by reconceptualizing classical grammatical categories, including *i'rāb*, as semantic-pragmatic markers; attains communicative goals through the simultaneous fulfilment of cognitive, referential, and socio-pragmatic functions; integrates semantic, structural, and pragmatic levels horizontally, vertically, and historically; and sustains theoretical relevance through continuous renewal while preserving the foundational values of classical Arabic scholarship. Diverging from Dhafir's pedagogical simplification and Halliday's functional reconstruction, Al-Mutawakkil's framework represents a sophisticated synthesis that unites linguistic form, communicative purpose, and social meaning to affirm that Arabic grammar is not a static body of rules but a theoretically adaptive, socially embedded, and communicatively purposeful system.

**Keywords:** *Al-Mutawakkil, nachw, functional, Talcott Parsons, structural-functional*

## INTRODUCTION

In this modern era, challenges in learning Arabic have become increasingly complex as traditional grammar teaching methods are often perceived as stagnant and rigid.<sup>1</sup> The current development of Arabic grammar is essentially an effort to reconstruct classical grammar rules that are considered quite complex and difficult for learners, especially for non-native speaker.<sup>2</sup> The dominance of formal approaches that focus solely on rote memorization of rules without contextual understanding causes a gap between grammatical competence and actual communicative ability.<sup>3</sup> Responding to these pedagogical and theoretical issues, Ahmad Al-Mutawakkil emerges as a reformer offering an alternative perspective in Arabic linguistics. He proposes a grammar concept with a model that is fundamentally different from classical rules, widely known as functional grammar or Arabic Functional Grammar. In this approach, Al-Mutawakkil does not merely modify old rules but builds a new framework that views language as a dynamic tool for social interaction.<sup>4</sup> This grammar provides significant revitalization through the examination of Arabic syntax that no longer revolves solely around the analysis of internal language structure and the phenomenon of *i'rab*. Furthermore, grammatical analysis is expanded to include aspects of semantic meaning as well as pragmatic roles within an integrated functional dimension. Thus, functional grammar is able to explain the dialectical relationship

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<sup>1</sup>Albatoool Abalkheel and Maha Sourani, "Exploring the Evolution of Functional Linguistics: Linking Arabic Theoretical Linguistics with Modern Linguistics," *Cogent Arts & Humanities* 10, no. 1 (2023): 11, <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2023.2207264>.

<sup>2</sup>Muhammad Attila Rifiananda et al., "Analisis Pemikiran Ibrahim Musthafa Dalam Perkembangan Ilmu Nahwu: Analisis Kritis Dan Epistemologis," *Al-Furqan: Jurnal Agama, Sosial, Dan Budaya* 4, no. 2 (2023): 390, <https://publisherqu.com/index.php/Al-Furqan/article/view/2125>.

<sup>3</sup>Sultan A. Almelhes and Hussain E. Alsaiani, "A Conceptual Framework for Teaching Arabic as a Second Language," *Theory and Practice in Language Studies* 14, no. 7 (2024): 2111, <https://doi.org/10.17507/tpls.1407.18>.

<sup>4</sup>Mirbah Syafa'ah, "al-Nazariyyah al-Nahwiyyah al-Wazifiyyah min Simon Dick ilā Ahmad al-Mutawakkil," *Majalla Al-Hikmah li Ad-Dirasat Al-Adabiyah wa Al-Lughawiyah* 13, no. 2 (2025): 15, <https://asjp.cerist.dz/en/article/271210>.

between language form and its function in communication, making the learning of *nachw* more relevant and meaningful.

The primary focal point in the development of Al-Mutawakkil's grammar is explicitly presented in his seminal work, *Dirāsat fī Nachwi Al-Lughah Al-‘Arabīyyah Al-Wazhīfī*.<sup>5</sup> This book fundamentally shifts the traditional grammatical paradigm by placing a heavy emphasis on communication rather than mere structural conformity. Al-Mutawakkil strategically designs his grammatical analysis with examples tailored for a universal audience, aiming to bridge the gap between classical theory and modern application. Consequently, this inclusive approach ensures that non-Arab learners can grasp complex grammatical rules with greater ease and clarity.<sup>6</sup> In his theoretical framework, Al-Mutawakkil elucidates that language is not a monolithic entity but comprises three distinct yet interconnected levels of structure. First, he identifies the semantic function, which deals with the underlying meaning and thematic roles within a sentence. Second, he outlines the structural or syntactic function, which governs the formal arrangement and grammatical relationships between words. Finally, he introduces the pragmatic function, which accounts for the context of the utterance and the speaker's intent. These three levels work synergistically to demonstrate exactly how a clause is mentally processed, understood, and subsequently communicated in real-world interactions.

Al-Mutawakkil's conceptual framework offers a nuanced perspective that goes beyond simply viewing Arabic grammar as a structure entirely dependent on its function. While the functional dimension is paramount, he avoids the reductionist trap

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<sup>5</sup>Ahmad Mutawakkil, *Al-Lisaniyyat Al-Wazhīfiyyah Al-Madkhal An-Nazhariy*, 2nd ed. (Dar Al-Kitab Al-Jadid Al-Muttachidah, 2010).

<sup>6</sup>Iis Susiawati Abdullah et al., "Al-Nahwu Al-Wazhifi Ahmad Al-Mutawakkil Dan Kontribusinya Pada Pengembangan Nahwu Fungsional," *Alibbaa': Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Arab* 5, no. 1 (2024): 88, <https://doi.org/10.19105/ajpba.v5i1.10970>.

of ignoring the internal mechanisms of language forms. Instead, he explicitly emphasizes the significant role of the structure itself, which operates with a degree of autonomy within the system. This structural operation is essential for the systematic formation of meaning, serving as the vehicle through which language travels from the semantic level to the pragmatic level. By acknowledging this, he highlights how specific grammatical arrangements actively contribute to constructing the speaker's intended message rather than just reflecting it. Furthermore, Al-Mutawakkil adopts a respectful yet innovative approach towards the rich tradition of Arabic scholarship. He strategically employs the standard, established terminology that was originally coined and used by classical Arabic linguists. However, he does not merely repeat these traditional definitions; he engages in a process of intellectual renewal by updating their applications.<sup>7</sup> Through this reinterpretation, he significantly expands the scope of these classical terms, making them applicable and robust enough for modern functional analysis.

Based on the critique presented by Abdullah, a significant problem arises within this specific approach to functional analysis.<sup>8</sup> The core issue lies in the fact that the examination tends to focus almost exclusively on how a language fulfils its practical functions within human communication. Consequently, in the research conducted thus far, Arabic is viewed primarily through a utilitarian lens, assessing how it serves to clarify linguistic meanings.<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, the analysis often shifts towards how language satisfies psychological aspects through the various examples provided in the

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<sup>7</sup>Rasheed Abdullah Al Rubaysh, "Grammatical Renewal in The Thought of Abdul Qaher Al-Jurjani and Its Impact on Modern Linguistic Studies," *Ijaz Arabi Journal of Arabic Learning* 8, no. 1 (2025): 346, <https://doi.org/10.18860/ijazarabi.v8i1.31883>.

<sup>8</sup>Abdullah et al., "Al-Nahwu Al-Wazhifi Ahmad Al-Mutawakkil Dan Kontribusinya Pada Pengembangan Nahwu Fungsional," 83.

<sup>9</sup>Kyle Mahowald et al., "Dissociating Language and Thought in Large Language Models," *Trends in Cognitive Sciences* 28, no. 6 (2024): 520, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tics.2024.01.011>.

text. This heavy emphasis on external function creates a methodological blind spot regarding the language's intrinsic mechanics. Specifically, the vital internal aspects of the language, such as the intricate sentence structure, are frequently overlooked. Moreover, the phenomenon of *i'rab*, which is central to Arabic grammar, is largely neglected and not subjected to rigorous examination. This omission is not accidental but rather a direct result of the overwhelming dominance of the functional framework itself. Ultimately, because Al-Mutawakkil's overarching theme prioritizes function so heavily, the structural integrity and grammatical nuances of the language are unfortunately sidelined in the analysis.

Based on the preliminary studies discussed above, Talcott Parsons' structural-functional framework offers a novel perspective for examining the concepts proposed within Arabic functional grammar. According to Parsons's structural-functionalism is defined as a complex set of activities aimed at satisfying one or more fundamental needs of a given system. To ensure a system functions effectively, Parsons proposes that it must fulfil four essential aspects, summarized by the acronym "AGIL": Adaptation, Goal Attainment, Integration, and Latency.<sup>10</sup> First, Adaptation requires that a system possesses the capability to adjust to external situations, ensuring it can meet necessary demands in accordance with the changing times. Second, Goal Attainment dictates that the system must establish clear and defined objectives, which keeps the entire system directed and focused on its purpose. Third, Integration emphasizes that the system must function as a unified whole, where various aspects are cohesive rather than fragmented into independent, disconnected operations. Fourth, Latency involves the system's obligation to provide ongoing renewal and maintenance for its members and cultural patterns. This final aspect is crucial for

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<sup>10</sup>Talcott Parsons, *The Social System* (Free Press, 1951).

ensuring that the system continues to operate relevantly and effectively meets the evolving needs of its users. By applying this sociological lens to linguistic analysis, we can better understand how Arabic functional grammar operates as a complete, adaptive system.

This research is certainly not the first scholarly endeavor to examine linguistics through the lens of Talcott Parsons' structural-functional perspective, as evidenced by a growing body of interdisciplinary literature. For instance, Ayomi previously conducted a significant study that analyzed Halliday's systemic functional linguistics specifically through this structural-functional framework.<sup>11</sup> Within the specific domain of functional grammar, Abdullah et al. provided a comprehensive examination of the thoughts and theories behind Ahmad Al-Mutawakkil's Functional Grammar.<sup>12</sup> Moving from theory to pedagogical application, Mulalic and Munandar reviewed the effectiveness of implementing functional grammar models in the teaching of *nachw*.<sup>13</sup> Regarding language usage in broader contexts, Fanshurna and Isnadi utilized structural-functionalism to conduct in-depth research on communication patterns.<sup>14</sup> In the field of sociology, this theoretical framework has been instrumental in examining complex social phenomena, such as Adibah's study on the role of the family unit, which resonates with foundational Parsonian studies on family interaction processes.<sup>15</sup> Similarly, Ranubaya applied these concepts to investigate the function and

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<sup>11</sup>Putu Nur Ayomi, "Positivism and Paradigm Structural-Functional in Systemic Functional Linguistics," *Diglossia: Jurnal Kajian Ilmiah Kebahasaan Dan Kesusastraan* 12, no. 2 (2021): 109–28, <https://doi.org/10.26594/diglossia.v12i2.2072>.

<sup>12</sup>Abdullah et al., "Al-Nahwu Al-Wazhifi Ahmad Al-Mutawakkil Dan Kontribusinya Pada Pengembangan Nahwu Fungsional."

<sup>13</sup>Ahmed Mulalic and Aris Munandar, "Inovasi Model Pembelajaran I'rāb Terintegrasi Qirā'ah dalam Meningkatkan Kinerja Aplikatif Nahwu Siswa MTs Al-Khoir Bin Baz 5," *Jurnal Manajemen Pendidikan* 10, no. 4 (2025): 2940–46, <https://doi.org/10.34125/jmp.v10i4.1392>.

<sup>14</sup>Toton Fanshurna and Isnadi Isnadi, "Religious Moderation in Minority Muslim Community Interactions: A Talcott Parsons Structural Functionalist Approach," *Eduvest-Journal of Universal Studies* 5, no. 9 (2025): 10679–92, <https://doi.org/10.59188/eduvest.v5i9.52097>.

<sup>15</sup>Ida Zahara Adibah, "Struktural Fungsional Robert K. Merton: Aplikasinya Dalam Kehidupan Keluarga,"

structure of customary law within society.<sup>16</sup> Furthermore, in the educational sector, Khair and Maunah both employed structural-functional theory to analyze the critical role of educational institutions within the community, echoing the functionalist perspectives on schooling discussed by Feinberg and Soltis.<sup>17,18,19</sup> Finally, reflecting modern advancements, several scholars have all investigated the dynamics of communication in the digital era through this enduring structural-functional perspective.<sup>20</sup> These diverse studies collectively demonstrate the versatility of Parsons' AGIL framework: Adaptation, Goal Attainment, Integration, and Latency in dissecting the complex relationships between structure and function, affirming that any system, whether social or linguistic, must fulfil these four functional prerequisites to operate cohesively across linguistics, education, and sociology.

Based on the extensive review of previous studies mentioned above, it becomes evident that the structural-functional theory has not yet been comprehensively applied to examine Arabic grammar, a discipline uniquely characterized by its robust structuralist foundation. This gap is particularly notable given that Arabic grammar has been slowly but steadily evolving to adapt to the changing patterns of societal life.

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*INSPIRASI (Jurnal Kajian Dan Penelitian Pendidikan Islam)* 1, no. 2 (2017): 171–84, <https://doi.org/10.61689/inspirasi.v1i2.12>.

<sup>16</sup>Francesco Agnes Ranubaya et al., “Hukum Adat Dayak Banua Simpakng Menurut Teori Fungsionalisme Struktural Talcott Parsons,” *Jurnal Reinha* 16, no. 1 (2025): 32–49, <https://doi.org/10.56358/ejr.v16i1.388>.

<sup>17</sup>Hubbil Khair, “Peran Lembaga Pendidikan Dalam Masyarakat Di Era Modern,” *Darul Ulum: Jurnal Ilmiah Keagamaan, Pendidikan Dan Kemasyarakatan* 12, no. 2 (2021): 24–36, <https://doi.org/10.62815/darululum.v12i2.67>.

<sup>18</sup>Binti Maunah, “Pendidikan Dalam Perspektif Struktural Fungsional,” *Cendekia: Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Pembelajaran* 10, no. 2 (2016): 159–78, <https://doi.org/10.30957/cendekia.v10i2.136>.

<sup>19</sup>Walter Feinberg and Jonas F. Soltis, *School and Society* (Teacher College Press, 2009).

<sup>20</sup>Muhammad Anas Sholihin and Akhmad Rifa'i, “Adaptasi Masyarakat Pendetang Di Kampung Inggris: Komunikasi Dan Upaya Pencegahan Disintegrasi,” *Indonesian Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences* 5, no. 1 (2024): 171–88, <https://doi.org/10.33367/ijhass.v5i1.5099>; Eny Kusumastuti Kusumastuti and Kusrina Widjantje, “Pola Interaksi Simbolik Dan Pewarisan Kesenian Jaran Kepang Semarang Berbasis Agil Di Era Disrupsi,” *Mudra Jurnal Seni Budaya* 35, no. 3 (2020): 337–43, <https://doi.org/10.31091/mudra.v35i3.883>; Ida Fitriani et al., “Fenomena Cyberbullying Di Kalangan Remaja: Analisis Adaptasi Sosial Dengan Pendekatan Teori Struktural Fungsional Talcott Parsons: Penelitian,” *Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat Dan Riset Pendidikan* 4, no. 1 (2025): 6627–34, <https://doi.org/10.31004/jerkin.v4i1.2860>.

While functionalism has been explored in general linguistics, its specific intersection with the intricate rules of traditional Arabic syntax remains largely uncharted territory. Consequently, this research is formulated to address this significant academic void by applying Talcott Parsons's sociological framework to linguistic analysis. The study is guided by two primary research objectives that seek to bridge the divide between social theory and grammatical structure. First, this research aims to meticulously explain the correlation between language function and the specific tenets of Al-Mutawakkil's functional grammar. This involves analyzing how communicative intent influences the formal structural choices within the Arabic language system. Second, the research aims to uncover and delineate the structural-functional dimensions inherent in Al-Mutawakkil's functional grammar. By doing so, it seeks to demonstrate how the four functional prerequisites: Adaptation, Goal Attainment, Integration, and Latency manifest within the rules and applications of this modern linguistic model.

Ultimately, this study aspires to provide a novel, interdisciplinary perspective that enriches our understanding of how Arabic grammar functions as a dynamic social system. This innovative model, termed *An-Nachw Al-Waz'ifi* (Functional Grammar of Arabic), constitutes a paradigmatic departure from classical Arabic grammatical tradition. Unlike conventional *nahw* that privileges morpho-syntactic form, *An-Nachw Al-Waz'ifi* positions communicative function as the primary organizing principle of grammatical analysis, operating simultaneously across semantic, structural, and pragmatic levels to explain how Arabic utterances are produced and interpreted in real social contexts.

## **METHOD**

This research adopts a library study design, specifically focusing on the intricate domain of functional grammar within the Arabic linguistic tradition. At

the core of this investigation lies the primary source, the seminal book titled *Al-Lisāniyyāt Al-Wazhifiyyah: Madkhal Nazhariyy* (Functional Linguistics: A Theoretical Introduction), authored by the renowned scholar Ahmad Al-Mutawakkil. This text serves as the foundational bedrock for understanding the theoretical nuances and structural propositions of his functional approach. To complement this primary analysis, the study incorporates critical secondary sources that provide both contemporary relevance and historical context. Notably, the scientific article by Abdullah et al. is utilized as a key reference, representing the most recent scholarly discourse on functional grammar and offering up-to-date insights into its application.<sup>21</sup> Furthermore, the research engages with *Tajdid An-Nachmi* (The Renewal of Grammar) by Syauqi Dhaif, a pivotal work that discusses the modernization of grammatical concepts, thereby serving as an essential comparative tool against Al-Mutawakkil's functional framework.

The methodological approach for data analysis in this research is grounded in content analysis, a systematic technique employed to interpret and explain the textual data derived from the selected references. This analytical process involves a deep and careful reading of Al-Mutawakkil's primary text to extract key themes, definitions, and structural arguments regarding the functional nature of Arabic grammar. Simultaneously, the secondary sources are analyzed to contextualize these findings within the broader debate of grammatical renewal. By juxtaposing Al-Mutawakkil's innovative ideas with Abdullah et al.'s modern interpretations and Dhaif's reformist perspectives, the study aims to synthesize a comprehensive understanding of how functional grammar operates.<sup>22</sup> Following Krippendorff's

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<sup>21</sup>Abdullah et al., "Al-Nahwu Al-Wazhifi Ahmad Al-Mutawakkil Dan Kontribusinya Pada Pengembangan Nahwu Fungsional."

<sup>22</sup>Abdullah et al., "Al-Nahwu Al-Wazhifi Ahmad Al-Mutawakkil Dan Kontribusinya Pada Pengembangan

content analysis approach, this study makes systematic and replicable inferences from Al-Mutawakkil's text, identifying patterns and correlations between the linguistic functions he proposes and the structural requirements of the Arabic language system as examined through Parsons' AGIL framework.<sup>23</sup> Ultimately, this rigorous textual examination facilitates a detailed reconstruction of the functionalist paradigm, highlighting its distinctive contributions to Arabic linguistic theory.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

Al-Mutawakkil elucidates a fundamental dichotomy within the field of linguistic study, categorizing it into two distinct primary branches: functional linguistics and non-functional linguistics.<sup>24</sup> The defining characteristic that sets functional linguistics apart is its unwavering perspective that the study of language cannot be isolated from its social context; rather, it must be intrinsically linked to society and human interaction. This theoretical stance stands in contrast to formalist approaches, such as those criticized for being too abstract or detached from communicative reality, a sentiment echoed in broader discussions on structural-functionalism.<sup>25</sup> The ideological foundation of Al-Mutawakkil's functional approach is deeply rooted in the philosophy of ordinary language, or everyday speech, which prioritizes how language is actually used by people in real-life situations. As Al-Mutawakkil further specifies, the core focus of this philosophy lies in examining language through rigorous semantic and pragmatic perspectives.<sup>26</sup> By centering on natural language as it is organically produced by human beings, this approach rejects artificial constructs in favour of authentic data. This aligns with

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Nahwu Fungsional.”

<sup>23</sup>Klaus Krippendorff, *Content Analysis: An Introduction to Its Methodology* (Sage Publications, 2018).

<sup>24</sup>Mutawakkil, *Al-Lisaniyyat Al-Wazhifiyyah Al-Madkhal An-Nazhariy*, 14.

<sup>25</sup>Parsons, *The Social System*.

<sup>26</sup>Mutawakkil, *Al-Lisaniyyat Al-Wazhifiyyah Al-Madkhal An-Nazhariy*, 18.

the views of scholars like Halliday, whose systemic functional linguistics also emphasizes the social semiotic of language, as noted in comparative studies.<sup>27</sup> Consequently, functional grammar does not merely analyse static forms but investigates the dynamic relationship between structure and meaning in social discourse. This emphasis on the "natural" production of language ensures that grammatical rules are derived from actual communicative needs rather than prescriptive norms. Ultimately, Al-Mutawakkil's framework posits that to truly understand the mechanics of Arabic syntax, one must first understand the semantic intentions and pragmatic contexts of the speaker within their community.

### **AGIL Concepts in Arabic Functional Grammar**

To summarize the application of the AGIL concepts in Al-Mutawakkil's Arabic functional grammar, consider the following table.

**Table 1. AGIL Analytical Model in Al-Mutawakkil's Arabic Functional Grammar**

<b>AGIL Dimension</b>	<b>Core Concept</b>	<b>Application in Arabic Functional Grammar</b>
<b>Adaptation (A)</b>	Systemic adjustment to environment and emerging needs	Grammar adapts by borrowing semantic and pragmatic concepts (agent, patient, topic, focus) to move beyond purely formal analysis; <i>i'rab</i> is reconceptualized as a semantic–pragmatic marker rather than merely a morphological case system.
<b>Goal Attainment (G)</b>	Achievement of clearly defined system objectives	Communicative goals are attained through the integration of three analytical levels: semantic (roles and argument structure), structural (subject, object, word order, grammatical marking), and pragmatic (topic, focus,

<sup>27</sup>Ayomi, "Positivisme Dan Paradigma Struktural-Fungsional Dalam Linguistik Sistemik Fungsional."

		information flow), enabling optimal meaning realization.
<b>Integration (I)</b>	Cohesion and interdependence among system components	Horizontal integration unifies semantic, structural, and pragmatic levels; vertical integration links linguistic theory with social communicative practice; historical integration synthesizes classical Arabic grammatical tradition with modern functional approaches.
<b>Latency / Pattern Maintenance (L)</b>	Maintenance, renewal, and continuity of system values	System stability is ensured through continuous theoretical renewal, preservation of classical Arabic grammatical values, and contextual–pedagogical relevance that maintains applicability for contemporary speakers and learners.

Source: Authors' analysis based on Parsons (1951) and Al-Mutawakkil (2010)

Functional Grammar accomplishes adaptation through strategically borrowing semantic and pragmatic terminology to expand classical grammatical rules beyond purely formal analysis. Semantic roles such as agent, patient, experiencer, and theme are integrated directly into syntactic analysis, enabling descriptions of subjects and objects based not merely on grammatical position but on their semantic functions within propositional structures. Similarly, pragmatic concepts including topic (*muhāwar*), focus (*bu'rah*), and rheme are incorporated to explain how sentence structures vary according to communicative needs and contexts. This terminological borrowing creates a comprehensive grammatical framework transcending descriptive functionality, instead explaining how and why speakers select particular structural forms to achieve specific communicative purposes. The grammar is simultaneously renewed through innovative

methodological approaches involving expansion of derivation systems analyzed semantically rather than merely formally, expansion of semantic aspects of subjects and objects understood beyond traditional grammatical categories, and integration of pragmatic dimensions acknowledging that grammatical structure must account for communicative intentions. These systematic expansions reflect Al-Mutawakkil's recognition that grammar operates dynamically across semantic, structural, and communicative dimensions rather than existing as isolated formal systems.

The most significant adaptation involves reconceptualizing the *i'rāb* system beyond classical morphological frameworks to incorporate semantic-pragmatic functionality. Traditionally, *i'rāb* functioned as a case-marking system indicating nominative, accusative, or genitive forms with primarily formal implications. Functionally, *i'rāb* transcends this purely morphological understanding, serving simultaneously as an indicator of both grammatical case and semantic-pragmatic function. Case marking now reflects not merely grammatical relationships but semantic role assignment, allowing nominative to indicate agents, themes, or experiencers depending on contextual circumstances. This transformation shifts analysis from memorizing formal rules toward comprehending how specific cases express semantic roles within particular pragmatic contexts. Rather than viewing case as automatic consequences of grammatical relationships, functional grammar explains case usage as systematic responses to semantic requirements and communicative purposes. This paradigmatic shift ensures grammatical analysis encompasses why particular cases appear in specific semantic-pragmatic configurations, creating an integrated system where morphological marking, semantic function, and communicative intention operate in coordinated harmony,

ultimately enabling grammar to explain actual language usage patterns across diverse communicative contexts comprehensively.

Goal attainment, the second aspect of Talcott Parsons' AGIL framework, emphasizes establishing clear, directional objectives and organizing resources to achieve them effectively. In Al-Mutawakkil's functional grammar, this aspect manifests through integrating three interconnected analytical levels—semantic, structural, and pragmatic—that collectively aim to present communicative language accommodating multiple meanings. Semantic analysis establishes clear propositional meaning by identifying semantic roles including agent, patient, experiencer, theme, and location, while simultaneously determining verb argument structures that regulate how many and what types of arguments particular predicates require. Structural analysis then maps these semantic roles onto grammatical categories such as subject and object, determines appropriate element sequencing, and establishes grammatical markers including case, gender, and aspect. These two foundational levels enable speakers to construct linguistically recognizable forms that encode semantic meaning. Pragmatic analysis completes goal attainment by optimizing information presentation according to specific communicative contexts, determining informational focus, establishing discourse topics, and organizing information flow from known to new elements. This tripartite analytical integration ensures that communicative intent receives optimal structural manifestation across multiple linguistic dimensions simultaneously.

The successful attainment of communicative goals requires achieving six interdependent linguistic aspects that operate harmoniously within functional grammar's framework. Cognitive aspects ensure messages are understood readily through clear meaning, logical structure, and managed complexity appropriate for

diverse audiences. Communicative aspects guarantee successful message transfer, minimize misunderstanding potential, maximize communicative efficiency, and contextualize responsive utterances. Socio-pragmatic aspects preserve social norms, establish relational bonds, reflect community identity, and maintain linguistic conventions. Referential aspects ensure accurate real-world reference, propositional accuracy, consistent referential relationships, and clear denotative meaning. Experiential aspects enable expressing speaker perspective, representing individual experience, accommodating perceptual variation, and providing expressive flexibility. Finally, regulative aspects facilitate behavioral organization, norm enforcement, social coordination, and authority legitimation. Al-Mutawakkil demonstrates that achieving these multifaceted objectives simultaneously represents goal attainment's true complexity, requiring speakers to navigate sophisticatedly among alternative structures, each offering distinct communicative advantages, ensuring optimal alignment between linguistic form, semantic content, and functional achievement within particular socio-communicative contexts.

The third aspect, namely the aspect of integration in Parsons's theory, within Al-Mutawakkil's functional grammar is divided into three forms: horizontal integration, vertical integration, and historical integration. Horizontal integration demonstrates how semantic, structural, and pragmatic analytical levels operate within a cohesive, unified model characterized by mutual dependence and reciprocal influence. Semantic-level decisions regarding argument structure and semantic roles directly determine which structural elements must necessarily appear in sentences, establishing the grammatical scaffolding required for propositional expression. Simultaneously, structural-level choices regarding element sequencing and grammatical marking profoundly affect pragmatic interpretation, determining

which information listeners perceive as topical or focal. This bidirectional relationship extends further as pragmatic communicative requirements motivate speakers to select particular structural forms that strategically emphasize specific semantic dimensions. Consequently, the three analytical levels form an integrated system where modifying any single level reverberates through the others, preventing isolation and ensuring systematic coherence. This horizontal integration generates a closed system where no level operates independently; rather, each constitutes an interdependent component of a larger unified framework. Understanding linguistic phenomena demands simultaneous consideration of all three dimensions, recognizing that every grammatical choice simultaneously addresses semantic, structural, and communicative objectives, creating optimal alignment among form, meaning, and function within particular utterances.

Vertical integration strategically bridges abstract linguistic theory with concrete social communicative practice, conceptualizing grammatical structures not as isolated formal systems but as integral components of broader socio-communicative systems embedded within community life. Linguistic forms are socially indexed, encoding and reflecting relationships between interlocutors, situational contexts, and communicative intentions; consequently, speakers select grammatical structures strategically based upon social context, hierarchical relationships, and communicative purposes. Meaning itself emerges through social negotiation within communities rather than existing as individual cognitive phenomena, with linguistic conventions established and maintained through repeated social usage patterns. Historical integration accomplishes synthesis between classical Arabic grammatical tradition and contemporary linguistic approaches, preserving foundational concepts, methodologies, and accumulated

knowledge from classical Arabic grammar while simultaneously incorporating semantic roles, modern pragmatics, and functional linguistic perspectives. Al-Mutawakkil's progressive modernization avoids rupturing with tradition entirely; instead, classical terminology receives redefinition within modern frameworks, generating richer, more nuanced understandings. This tripartite integrative structure—horizontal, vertical, and historical—creates a comprehensive, cohesive system maintaining both tradition and innovation, theoretical rigor and practical applicability, explaining not merely how language functions formally but why language operates as it does within specific sociocultural contexts.

Latency, the fourth dimension in Parsons' analytical framework, encompasses the mechanisms through which systems maintain internal coherence, preserve fundamental values, and sustain continuity across temporal change. Within Al-Mutawakkil's functional grammar, continuous theoretical renewal demonstrates unwavering commitment to keeping functional grammar relevant and responsive to evolving linguistic developments and contemporary communicative requirements. Through successive publications spanning from 1985 to the most recent editions extending into 2010 and beyond, Al-Mutawakkil systematically revises, elaborates, and refines theoretical propositions, ensuring that grammatical analysis addresses current linguistic challenges and emerging theoretical frameworks. This sustained intellectual engagement prevents theoretical stagnation and maintains the framework's capacity to illuminate previously unexamined linguistic phenomena. Simultaneously, latency operates through preserving classical Arabic grammatical traditions, maintaining continuity with intellectual heritage accumulated across centuries of Arabic linguistic scholarship. Despite introducing substantial innovations and modern theoretical perspectives,

Al-Mutawakkil deliberately sustains essential values embedded within classical *nahw* tradition, ensuring cultural and intellectual continuity across generational boundaries. This delicate equilibration between innovation and preservation creates a dynamic framework that honors historical tradition while remaining forward-looking and progressive, preventing either calcification through excessive conservatism or rupture through radical abandonment of established knowledge systems.

Contextual relevance constitutes another critical dimension of latency within Al-Mutawakkil's functional grammar, grounding theoretical abstractions in concrete communicative experiences accessible to contemporary speakers and language learners. By deliberately anchoring grammatical analysis in everyday communication and illustrative examples comprehensible to modern Arabic speakers, functional grammar remains practically applicable rather than remaining confined to academic abstraction or historical documentation. This pedagogical orientation ensures accessibility for successive generations of learners encountering Arabic grammatical structures, facilitating comprehension through connection between theoretical principles and lived communicative experiences. The framework's explanatory power derives substantially from this contextualization strategy, demonstrating how abstract grammatical categories and structural principles manifest concretely in authentic communicative situations. Latency therefore operates through maintaining this foundational connection between formal linguistic theory and practical communicative reality, preventing theoretical frameworks from becoming disconnected from the communicative purposes grammar fundamentally serves. Through continuous renewal responding to contemporary linguistic developments, preservation of classical values maintaining

cultural continuity, and contextual relevance ensuring practical applicability, latency functions as the integrative dimension stabilizing Al-Mutawakkil's functional grammar across temporal change while preventing either theoretical obsolescence or loss of foundational intellectual commitments.

### **Al-Mutawakkil's Motivation in the Compilation of Functional Grammar**

Al-Mutawakkil explicitly states that the formulation of this Arabic functional grammar was fundamentally driven by a pressing theoretical necessity, as his previous writings had focused predominantly on applicative aspects.<sup>28</sup> He recognized a significant gap in the existing literature where practical application overshadowed the foundational theory required to truly understand the system. Consequently, this theoretical study is deemed essential to rigorously explain how functional grammar operates as a cohesive linguistic model. By establishing this theoretical base, Al-Mutawakkil aims to demonstrate how the functional approach can effectively meet the diverse needs of modern learners through a novel and structured framework. Furthermore, Al-Mutawakkil elucidates that these functional studies were elevated to a primary focus specifically to ensure that the functional method could be understood methodologically, not just intuitively.<sup>29</sup> This shift allows for a more systematic analysis of language that transcends mere surface-level description. Beyond methodological clarity, his motivation is also deeply rooted in a desire to bridge the historical divide between classical tradition and contemporary scholarship. Al-Mutawakkil seeks to connect these two eras by synthesizing the concepts of "*nachw*" (grammar) and "functional" theory within his writing. Historically, these two fields were often viewed as distinct or even incompatible

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<sup>28</sup>Mutawakkil, *Al-Lisaniyyat Al-Wazhifiyyah Al-Madkhal An-Nazhariy*, 7.

<sup>29</sup>Mutawakkil, *Al-Lisaniyyat Al-Wazhifiyyah Al-Madkhal An-Nazhariy*, 8.

due to the rigid constraints of classical understanding. By integrating them, he challenges the conventional unfamiliarity that has long separated traditional grammatical studies from modern functionalist perspectives. Ultimately, his work serves as a critical intellectual bridge, validating the functional approach within the rich heritage of Arabic linguistics.

In addition to addressing theoretical gaps, Al-Mutawakkil is motivated by a critical examination of the limitations inherent in classical Arabic grammar. He identifies a significant weakness in the traditional approach, particularly its narrow focus on formal and structural aspects while neglecting communicative function. Al-Mutawakkil argues that classical grammarians, despite their immense contributions, often conducted only superficial observations of certain linguistic phenomena. For instance, he critiques their analysis of stylistic shifts—such as an interrogative particle moving from a question to a denial—as being limited to mere observation without explaining the underlying functional drivers.<sup>30</sup> Furthermore, he points out that the classical tradition lacked a clear, systematic methodological framework to adequately explain linguistic pragmatics. He distinguishes between "weak functionality," which merely interprets structure, and "strong functionality," which he advocates for, where pragmatic function actively determines structural characteristics. By referencing historical figures like Al-Sakaki and Al-Jurjani, Al-Mutawakkil acknowledges the roots of functional thought in the tradition but contends that even their advanced theories require reformulation. This critique serves as a powerful motivation for his work: to prove that functional principles are not alien to Arabic but need a contemporary, rigorous framework to be fully realized. Thus, his project is not a rejection of the past, but a necessary evolution

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<sup>30</sup>Mutawakkil, *Al-Lisaniyyat Al-Wazhifiyyah Al-Madkhal An-Nazhariy*, 41–42.

to empower Arabic grammar with the explanatory power of modern functional linguistics.

### **Al-Mutawakkil's Critique of Classical Arabic Grammar**

Al-Mutawakkil provides a rigorous critique of traditional Arabic grammatical scholarship, acknowledging its exceptional rigor in formal analysis while identifying substantial limitations in functional understanding.<sup>31</sup> Classical grammarians concentrated exclusively on morphological and syntactic structures, comprehensively mapping the "how" of language while neglecting the "why": the vital relationship between linguistic forms and communicative functions. This tradition treated language as static structure rather than dynamic communicative tool, leaving deeper functional drivers unexplained. Although grammarians excelled at cataloguing linguistic features, their examination remained largely descriptive and superficial. Al-Mutawakkil argues that the classical rhetorical tradition (*balaghah*) provided superior insight into these phenomena than grammar did, suggesting that integrating rhetorical sophistication into grammatical analysis would illuminate the functional power of Arabic. Specifically, when discussing meaning shifts from literal to figurative, classical scholars merely observed without providing systematic frameworks explaining the pragmatic mechanisms driving such shifts, representing a critical analytical gap requiring rectification through modern functional approaches.

Al-Mutawakkil introduces a methodological distinction between "weak functionality" and "strong functionality" to clarify classical limitations. Weak functionality characterizes traditional approaches where pragmatics merely interprets already-established structures; strong functionality demands that

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<sup>31</sup>Mutawakkil, *Al-Lisaniyyat Al-Wazhifiyyah Al-Madkhal An-Nazhariy*, 41–42.

pragmatic function actively dictates structural characteristics, with form following function directly. Al-Mutawakkil demonstrates that classical scholars, including Al-Sakaki and Al-Jurjani, predominantly employed weak functionality, treating pragmatics as secondary rather than generative. Although Al-Jurjani's theory of al-Nazm represented evolutionary advancement in viewing pragmatics generatively, even this approach requires substantial reformulation for contemporary linguistic demands. Al-Mutawakkil advocates rearticulating classical insights within modern frameworks, establishing pragmatics as central to generative grammatical processes rather than peripheral interpretive tools, thereby achieving theoretical sophistication and systematically explaining how context architectures syntax.

### **Three Levels of Language Analysis in Al-Mutawakkil's Theory**

Al-Mutawakkil proposes that functional linguistic analysis encompasses three fundamental aspects. The first and foremost emphasis in functional analysis is semantic analysis. According to Al-Mutawakkil, derivation in Arabic constitutes a crucial foundation for distinguishing between original meaning and derivative meaning.<sup>32</sup> Original meaning represents the authentic and fundamental meaning that cannot be identical to any other original meaning. Derivative meaning, conversely, denotes the addition or expansion of meaning resulting from the morphological derivation process affecting words within the Arabic language system.

Significantly, Al-Mutawakkil explicitly rejects the earlier conceptualization of the morphological process of word formation in Arabic that relied upon a single, unaffixed word as the starting point.<sup>33</sup> Instead, Al-Mutawakkil argues that the

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<sup>32</sup>Mutawakkil, *Al-Lisaniyyat Al-Wazhifiyyah Al-Madkhal An-Nazhariy*, 184.

<sup>33</sup>Mutawakkil, *Al-Lisaniyyat Al-Wazhifiyyah Al-Madkhal An-Nazhariy*, 185.



aforementioned verb, and **تفاعل** (*tafā'ala*) expresses reciprocal meaning. Second, several morphological patterns share identical grammatical meanings: *af'ala* aligns semantically with **فعل** (*fa''ala*), **فاعل** (*fā'ala*) corresponds to *tafā'ala*, and **تفعل** (*tafa''ala*) shares meaning with *infa'ala*. Third, Al-Mutawakkil explains that certain gaps exist in the application of these morphological patterns.<sup>34</sup> The derivation process illustrated in Figure 1 cannot be applied absolutely universally. For instance, the root √k t b cannot be formed into **تكتب** (*takattaba*), and the root √k l m exhibits only one basic verb form. These limitations reveal that while Al-Mutawakkil's systematic framework provides valuable insights into Arabic verb derivation and semantic expansion, the actual linguistic reality demonstrates exceptions and irregularities that complicate the universal application of morphological patterns.

Following the examination of semantic analysis, the second level of analysis within Al-Mutawakkil's functional grammar is structural analysis. In structural analysis, Al-Mutawakkil introduces the grammatical categories of *fā'il* (subject) and *maf'ūl* (object), along with an expanded concept of predicate that represents innovation in Arabic syntax. Unlike traditional Arabic grammar, which primarily focuses on subject, predicate, and object relationships, Al-Mutawakkil's approach recognizes the semantic roles underlying syntactic constituents. The *fā'il* category encompasses not merely the grammatical subject but specifically the agent performing the action denoted by the predicate. The *maf'ūl* category extends beyond the simple object to include the patient or theme affected by the verbal action. Additionally, Al-Mutawakkil redefines the predicate as a central structural element that determines the overall semantic and syntactic requirements of the clause. This structural framework proves revolutionary because it bridges the gap between

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<sup>34</sup>Mutawakkil, *Al-Lisaniyyat Al-Wazhifiyyah Al-Madkhal An-Nazhariy*, 188.

traditional syntactic categories and semantic role functions, enabling a more nuanced understanding of how Arabic sentences are organized and how grammatical elements interact to convey meaning within communicative contexts.

The subject, functioning as the primary actor within a sentence, occupies a position determined by three distinct groups of linguistic functions. First, syntactic functions establish that the subject maintains a special position relative to the verb. In Arabic, following the typical structure of verb-subject-object, the subject appears immediately after the verb. This fundamental position is strongly determined by its syntactic function, representing a relatively stable grammatical rule within sentence structure. Second, semantic functions reveal that the subject can bear various semantic roles. An agent represents the entity performing an action, an experiencer denotes the participant undergoing an event, and a theme or patient refers to the entity affected by the action. Importantly, these diverse semantic roles do not alter the subject's basic positional placement within the sentence. Rather, they represent different interpretive layers overlaying the syntactic position. This distinction proves crucial in functional grammar, as it demonstrates how a single grammatical position can accommodate multiple semantic interpretations, revealing the sophisticated relationship between form and meaning in Arabic linguistic structure and illustrating how grammatical roles interact dynamically.

In Al-Mutawakkil's functional grammar theory, the object (*maf'ūl*) transcends traditional grammatical classification, incorporating semantic role analysis as fundamental. Al-Mutawakkil defines objects not merely as grammatical elements receiving verbal action, but as entities bearing specific semantic functions such as patient, theme, beneficiary, or location. Objects are categorized as either required, obligatorily fulfilling verb meaning, or optional, without fundamentally altering core

semantic content. The presence and type of object directly depend upon the predicate's semantic structure: monadic predicates require no object, while dyadic predicates necessitate direct objects, and triadic predicates demand multiple complements. Crucially, Al-Mutawakkil emphasizes that objects function actively in determining sentence meaning and communicative intent, not passively receiving action. This perspective fundamentally differs from classical Arabic grammar, which focuses on inflectional forms and positions. In functional grammar, grammatical structure follows semantic requirements, demonstrating that the object's presence, classification, and function are systematically determined by the verb's argument structure and the specific semantic content intended for communication.

Pragmatic analysis constitutes the third and final analytical dimension in Al-Mutawakkil's functional grammatical framework, following semantic and structural analyses. This dimension focuses on how language functions within actual communicative contexts to convey meaning and achieve communicative purposes within specific social situations. Al-Mutawakkil emphasizes that previously discussed language functions operate within social community communication contexts, where linguistic structure integrates with semantic understanding as the foundation for language use in social interaction. Pragmatic analysis operates through three fundamental concepts: theme (*muḥawwar*), which establishes what is being discussed or the discourse domain; focus (*buḍrah*), which carries new or emphasized information; and rheme, which provides clarification or explanation concerning the theme. These concepts collectively form the pragmatic information structure that varies according to communicative needs. Al-Mutawakkil demonstrates that speakers employ strategic grammatical choices to achieve

specific communicative objectives, often manipulating word order from canonical structures to emphasize particular constituents, thereby illustrating language's dynamic adaptability to social communicative requirements.

The integration of pragmatic analysis with semantic and structural analyses reveals language's comprehensive functionality in social contexts. Word order flexibility exemplifies this pragmatic dimension: speakers may advance objects or agents to initial positions when emphasizing particular information, departing from standard verb-subject-object structures when communicative purposes demand. For instance, fronting an object highlights new information; while topicalizing an agent emphasizes agency. Al-Mutawakkil's framework demonstrates that grammatical structures are not merely formal systems but functional instruments serving communicative intentions. This tripartite analytical approach—semantic role assignment, structural positioning, and pragmatic information organization—operates in integrated coordination, ultimately producing meaningful, contextually appropriate utterances. By incorporating pragmatic analysis, Al-Mutawakkil's functional grammar transcends traditional descriptive linguistics, offering instead an explanation of actual language usage patterns and the deliberate grammatical choices speakers make to navigate complex social communicative environments successfully.

## **DISCUSSION**

This analysis builds upon foundational research by Abdullah et al., which comprehensively examines functional grammar dimensions through Parsons's structural-functional framework, thereby substantially deepening understanding of linguistic and communicative correlations.<sup>35</sup> This methodological approach enables

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<sup>35</sup>Abdullah et al., "Al-Nahwu Al-Wazhifi Ahmad Al-Mutawakkil dan Kontribusinya pada Pengembangan

more nuanced analysis of how grammatical systems fundamentally interconnect with communicative functions across multiple analytical dimensions. The findings presented herein identify several distinctive features differentiating Al-Mutawakkil's theoretical contributions from earlier reform initiatives within Arabic grammatical scholarship. Most significantly, Al-Mutawakkil's approach markedly diverges from Dhaif's grammatical reconstruction project, which prioritized exclusively pedagogical considerations in attempting to simplify classical grammar for enhanced student accessibility.<sup>36</sup> Dhaif's reform strategy deliberately narrowed analytical scope, presenting streamlined presentations of classical grammar to facilitate learner comprehension and acceptance. Conversely, Al-Mutawakkil fundamentally reconceptualizes grammatical theory by incorporating functional linguistic perspectives alongside classical understanding. Rather than merely simplifying existing structures for pedagogical convenience, Al-Mutawakkil's reformation involves substantial theoretical expansion, integrating functional perspectives that fundamentally reframe how Arabic grammar conceptualizes relationships between linguistic form and communicative purpose. This crucial distinction establishes Al-Mutawakkil's project as conceptually and methodologically distinct from previous modernization efforts, representing genuine theoretical innovation rather than pedagogical adaptation of established analytical frameworks.

Examining Al-Mutawakkil's framework against Halliday's functional linguistic project reveals equally significant theoretical distinctions, despite apparent similarities in both scholars' commitment to functional approaches.<sup>37</sup> Whereas

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Nahwu Fungsional.”

<sup>36</sup>Syauqi Dhaif, *Tajdid An-Nabwi*, 6th ed. (Dar Al-Ma'arif, 2013).

<sup>37</sup>Michael Alexander Kirkwood Halliday, *An Introduction to Functional Grammar* (London: Hodder Arnold,

Halliday's functional grammar fundamentally rethinks linguistic analysis through functionalist principles, prioritizing communicative purposes and social contexts as primary organizational principles, Al-Mutawakkil pursues deliberately different trajectories. Rather than wholesale reconceptualization through purely functional lenses, Al-Mutawakkil engages in sophisticated reconstruction of classical Arabic grammar, simultaneously preserving essential classical insights while systematically remapping grammatical categories to accommodate contemporary communicative situations. This dual operation distinguishes Al-Mutawakkil's enterprise from Halliday's more radical reconceptualization, which substantially departs from traditional approaches. Al-Mutawakkil's methodology demonstrates remarkable sophistication in balancing preservation with innovation, maintaining classical grammatical foundations while incorporating functional analytical perspectives that transform interpretive possibilities. Rather than replacing classical frameworks entirely, Al-Mutawakkil creates synthetic constructions integrating classical understanding with modern functional awareness. This approach acknowledges that classical Arabic grammar accumulated profound insights requiring retention, while simultaneously recognizing that classical frameworks require supplementation with functional perspectives addressing contemporary communicative needs. Consequently, Al-Mutawakkil's functional grammar represents unique theoretical synthesis, neither simply functional in Hallidayan terms nor merely simplified classicism, but rather carefully calibrated integration of tradition and innovation simultaneously.

A particularly distinctive contribution of Al-Mutawakkil's functional grammar involves integrating morphological and syntactic analysis within unified

tripartite analytical frameworks, a methodological innovation addressing classical Arabic linguistic fragmentation. Historically, classical Arabic grammatical tradition divided morphology (*ṣaraf*) and syntax (*naḥw*) into distinct disciplinary domains, each featuring separate methodologies, terminology, and analytical emphases. While *ṣaraf* traditionally examined morpheme formation and morphological meaning, comprehensive analysis of grammatical relationships and case assignments remained relegated to *naḥw*, creating what scholars characterize as a "second bridge" separating morphological and syntactic understanding. Al-Mutawakkil's integrative approach transcends this classical bifurcation by deliberately unifying morphological and syntactic dimensions within coherent analytical frameworks operating across semantic, structural, and pragmatic levels. This integration represents substantial theoretical simplification in positive sense, streamlining analysis by recognizing that morphological and syntactic phenomena constitute manifestations of underlying functional principles rather than requiring separate explanatory apparatuses. By integrating these traditionally separated domains, Al-Mutawakkil demonstrates that unified analysis serves communicative functionality more effectively than compartmentalized approaches. Rather than treating morphological and syntactic phenomena as independent analytical domains, functional grammar recognizes their intimate interconnection in facilitating authentic communication. This methodological integration ultimately serves singular paramount objective: enabling Arabic language to function optimally for genuine communicative purposes, thereby establishing functional communication as organizing principle unifying what classical scholarship had necessarily separated into distinct disciplinary branches.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study has addressed both research questions guiding the investigation. Regarding the first research question, the findings demonstrate that linguistic function operates simultaneously across three interdependent analytical dimensions: semantic, structural, and pragmatic. Semantic analysis establishes propositional meaning through argument structure and role assignment; structural analysis maps these semantic roles onto grammatical categories; and pragmatic analysis optimizes information organization according to communicative context. These three dimensions are not sequential but mutually constitutive, confirming that language function in Al-Mutawakkil's framework is never reducible to a single analytical level but always operates as an integrated communicative system.

Regarding the second research question, the analysis reveals four distinct manifestations. Adaptation is demonstrated through the systematic expansion of classical grammatical terminology to accommodate semantic-pragmatic functionality, most significantly in the reconceptualization of *i'rāb* beyond morphological case-marking. Goal Attainment is achieved through the tripartite analytical integration that simultaneously fulfils cognitive, communicative, socio-pragmatic, referential, experiential, and regulative dimensions of language use. Integration operates across three forms horizontal, vertical, and historical ensuring that semantic, structural, and pragmatic levels function cohesively while bridging classical tradition with modern functional perspectives. Latency is sustained through Al-Mutawakkil's continuous theoretical renewal across successive works while preserving foundational classical Arabic scholarly commitments.

In sum, by demonstrating that Al-Mutawakkil's *An-Nachw Al-Wazbīfī* satisfies all four AGIL prerequisites as a coherent functional system, this study

establishes that Arabic grammar is not a relic of classical scholarship but a theoretically adaptive, socially embedded, and communicatively purposeful system. It is hoped that this interdisciplinary approach will inspire further investigations into how other classical language traditions may similarly be reexamined through the lens of social theory, broadening the horizon of both Arabic linguistics and functional language studies.

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