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Methods of Forming Arabic Terms in the Context of Media Language

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Abstract

Specific terminology in the media field plays a vital role in ensuring accurate, clear, and effective communication. As knowledge, technology, and the media industry evolve, every language—Arabic included—faces the challenge of creating new terms that meet contemporary communicative needs. Appropriate methods are therefore required to ensure that newly formed terms conform to the structural and semantic principles of Arabic. This study identifies and analyzes how Arabic media terms are formed, using forty terms beginning with the letter "A" drawn from the Mustalahat I'lamiah dictionary compiled by Dr. Hamid Ja'id. A qualitative content analysis approach was employed. The findings show that Ishtiqaq (derivation), Tarkib (compounding), Al-Nahat (blending), Ta'rib (Arabization), and Sawabiq wa Lawahiq (affixation) are the dominant formation methods, with Ishtiqaq accounting for half of the sample. This study contributes to the development of Arabic media terminology and reinforces Arabic's role as a precise, adaptable medium of communication amid globalization.

Keywords: *terminology; methodology; Arabic language; term formation; media*

ملخص

تلعب المصطلحات الخاصة في مجال الإعلام دورًا حيويًا في ضمان التواصل الصحيح والواضح والفعّال. ومع تطور العلم والتكنولوجيا وصناعة الإعلام، تواجه جميع اللغات، ومنها اللغة العربية، تحدي ابتكار مصطلحات جديدة تلبي احتياجات التواصل المعاصرة، وهو ما يستدعي وجود أساليب محددة لضمان ملاءمة المصطلح الجديد لبنية اللغة العربية ودلالتها. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تحديد وتحليل أساليب تشكيل المصطلحات العربية في سياق لغة الإعلام، باستخدام أربعين مصطلحًا تبدأ بحرف "A" من قاموس "مصطلحات إعلامية" للدكتور حامد جائد، عبر منهج كيفي قائم على تحليل المحتوى. وتشير النتائج إلى أن الاشتقاق والتركيب والنحت والتعريب والسوابق واللواحق هي أكثر الأساليب شيوعًا، وأن الاشتقاق يمثل نصف العينة المدروسة. ويؤمل أن تسهم هذه الدراسة في تطوير المصطلح الإعلامي العربي وتعزيز دور اللغة العربية كوسيلة اتصال دقيقة وفعّالة في عصر العولمة.

الكلمات الرئيسية: *المصطلحات؛ المنهجية؛ اللغة العربية؛ تكوين المصطلحات؛ الإعلام*

Abstrak

Istilah khusus dalam bidang media memainkan peran penting dalam menjamin komunikasi yang akurat, jelas, dan efektif. Seiring berkembangnya ilmu pengetahuan, teknologi, dan industri media, setiap bahasa—termasuk bahasa Arab—dihadapkan pada tantangan untuk menciptakan istilah baru yang memenuhi kebutuhan komunikasi kontemporer. Oleh karena itu, diperlukan metode yang tepat agar istilah yang dibentuk sesuai dengan prinsip struktural dan semantik bahasa Arab. Penelitian ini bertujuan mengidentifikasi dan menganalisis metode pembentukan istilah Arab dalam konteks bahasa media, dengan menggunakan empat puluh istilah berhuruf awal "A" yang diambil dari kamus Mustalahat I'lamiah karya Dr. Hamid Ja'id. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan metode analisis isi (content analysis). Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Ishtiqaq (derivasi), Tarkib (komposisi), Al-Nahat (akronim/pemaduan), Ta'rib (arabisasi), dan Sawabiq wa Lawahiq (afiksasi) merupakan metode dominan dalam

pembentukan istilah media berbahasa Arab, dengan Ishtiqaq mencakup separuh dari seluruh sampel. Penelitian ini diharapkan dapat memperkaya kajian istilah bahasa Arab, khususnya dalam kerangka bahasa media, serta memperkuat peran bahasa Arab sebagai alat komunikasi yang tepat dan adaptif di era globalisasi.

Kata kunci: *istilah; metodologi; bahasa Arab; pembentukan istilah; media*

A. Introduction

According to Ali al-Qasimi (2008), a term is a specific agreement among a particular group of language users in assigning a word to indicate a direct name for a particular field; it is also understood as an expression of scientific meaning that goes beyond a word's ordinary linguistic sense. A term must further be evaluated against the fundamentals of generic-term formation, its distinctive features, and its construction methods, so that coining a new term can rarely be separated from the particulars already established for both the language itself and the specific field it is meant to serve. When a term is created for a given field, those involved must attend to the intended structure of the language so that the resulting term satisfies the semantic standards of that field. Indeed, the formation of terms has been placed on a par with linguistic research, dictionary compilation, grammar-book writing, publishing, and translation (Asrul Azuan et al., 2014). The continuing advancement of knowledge, technology, and the arts likewise drives the emergence of new words and terms across specialized industries, including the media industry, and these developments naturally affect many languages, Arabic among them.

Classical and modern Arabic linguists generally recognize several established strategies through which new Arabic terms are formed. Ishtiqaq, or derivation, is the process of generating new words from a root while preserving compatibility of pronunciation and meaning, typically through a fixed wazan (morphological pattern) (al-Asma'i, 1968; Abu Sakeena, 2015; Syamsul Hadi, 2017). Tarkib, or compounding, joins two or more words into a single lexical unit, and is commonly divided into Tarkib al-Wasfi (descriptive compounding), Tarkib al-Idhafi (genitive construction), and Tarkib al-Idhafi al-Wasfi, a composite of the two (al-Qasimi, 2008). Al-nahat refers to the blending of two or more words into a single shortened expression, comparable to an acronym (al-Qasimi, 2008). Ta'rib is the Arabization of foreign words, either by adapting them phonetically into Arabic (al-Dakhil) or by reshaping them to conform to Arabic morphology (al-Mu'rab) (al-Qasimi, 2008; Mahdi Solih, 2012; Syamsul Hadi, 2017). Finally, Sawabiq wa Lawahiq, or affixation, modifies a root through prefixes (sawabiq) and suffixes (lawahiq) that alter its morphological structure without changing the root itself (Mohamed Nasr, 2017).

Together, these seven strategies constitute the principal morphological apparatus through which Arabic accommodates new concepts.

Previous studies have examined Arabic term formation from a variety of thematic angles, yet a focused account of media terminology remains comparatively scarce. Malik (2009) traced the historical and descriptive dimensions of Ta'rib in Arabic, while Pakaya et al. (2023) examined how foreign terms are Arabized and restructured morphologically in modern usage. Albantani et al. (2020) demonstrated that Ishtiqaq remains one of the most productive mechanisms for expanding Arabic vocabulary, and Islamy (2019) showed that Al-nahat, although less frequent, plays a strategic role in the development of contemporary Arabic.

Studies situated within specific thematic domains—such as Nurul Aini (2018) on the neology of political terms, and Nurhuda et al. (2024) and Alwi and Aini (2021) on the morphosemantics and neology of Arabic terms during the Covid-19 pandemic—further confirm that derivation and borrowing dominate when Arabic must rapidly accommodate new concepts. Febryani (2024) likewise found that Ta'rib was the primary strategy used to Arabize English vocabulary within a literary text. However, these studies tend to focus on isolated themes (politics, health crises, literary works) or on a single formation method, rather than mapping all recognized formation strategies within one coherent dataset drawn specifically from the media domain. The novelty of the present study lies in its systematic examination of a dedicated media-terminology dictionary, the Mustalahat I'lamiah compiled by Dr. Hamid Ja'id, across all seven commonly recognized formation methods at once, thereby offering a more comprehensive picture of how Arabic media terminology is actually constructed.

Building on this gap, the present study focuses on identifying and analyzing the various methods used in the formation of Arabic terms within the context of media language, drawing on forty terms beginning with the letter "A" from the Mustalahat I'lamiah dictionary. By examining how modern media concepts are rendered into Arabic through both traditional and modern linguistic techniques, this research contributes to the broader goal of strengthening Arabic's role as a precise and adaptable language for professional and academic communication in the digital age.

B. Method

This study employed a qualitative research design using the content analysis approach to investigate the methods of Arabic term formation within the context of media language. A qualitative-descriptive design was selected because the objective of the study is to describe and interpret the morphological mechanisms underlying a bounded set of lexical items, rather than to test a hypothesis statistically.

The population of this study consists of all entries in the Mustalahat I'lamiah dictionary, a specialized reference for media-related terminology in Arabic compiled by Dr. Hamid Ja'id (2001). From this population, a sample of forty (40) terms, all beginning with the letter "A", was systematically selected using a purposive sampling technique to ensure consistency of scope and manageable depth of analysis.

Data were collected through a documentary technique, in which each of the forty sampled terms was recorded together with its Arabic equivalent and then examined for its morphological and structural construction. The research instrument was a researcher-developed classification sheet, built from the seven formation-method framework established in the Arabic morphology and lexicography literature (al-Qasimi, 2008; Abu Sakeena, 2015; Syamsul Hadi, 2017; Mohamed Nasr, 2017): Ishtiqaq (derivation), Tarkib al-Wasfi (descriptive compounding), Tarkib al-Idhafi (genitive construction), Tarkib al-Idhafi al-Wasfi (genitive + descriptive construction), Al-nahat (blending), Ta'rib (Arabization), and Sawabiq wa Lawahiq (affixation). To support the credibility of the classification, the categorization of each term was cross-checked against the wazan (morphological pattern) and root listed for the term, and ambiguous cases were discussed among the research team until agreement was reached.

Data were analyzed using the stages of qualitative content analysis: (1) identification, in which each term's Arabic structure, root, and wazan were recorded; (2) classification, in which each term was assigned to one or more of the seven formation methods; (3) interpretation, in which the function and meaning of each construction were explained; and (4) a comparative step, in which the Arabic terms were compared with their English equivalents to examine structural similarities and differences between the two languages. This procedure allowed for an in-depth, descriptive account of Arabic term-formation strategies and their practical application in contemporary media discourse.

C. Results and Discussion

Forty terms beginning with the letter "A" were selected from the Mustalahat I'lamiah dictionary to ascertain how they are formed in Arabic. Seven formation methods were identified, and the results for each are presented below, followed by a discussion that situates the findings within the wider literature on Arabic term formation.

1. *Ishtiqaq (Derivation)*

Derivation emerged as the most frequently used method, accounting for 20 of the 40 terms (50%). This method involves the systematic derivation of new words from triliteral or quadriliteral root forms by applying established morphological

patterns (wazan). Using a pre-existing wazan to create new words and concepts is one of the hallmarks of Ishtiqaq (Syamsul Hadi, 2017): built on the root fa'ala (فعل), these patterns are classified into several types—Isim fa'il, the noun of the perpetrator; Isim maf'ul, the passive-participle noun denoting the receiver of an action; Isim alat, the noun for equipment; Isim makan, the noun of place; Isim zaman, the noun of time; Ṣifah mushabbahah, the noun describing an attribute; Isim tafdil, the noun of comparison ("more"); and Ṣīghah al-mubālaghah, the noun of intensity ("very") (Abu Sakeena, 2015). The prevalence of this method demonstrates the central role of root-pattern morphology in Arabic, which allows for the generation of precise and functionally diverse terms, particularly suitable for describing processes, tools, roles, and abstract concepts in media. For example, the word مكبِّر from the wazan مُفعِّلٌ (Isim alat) is used to construct a term for equipment (اسم الآلة), while the word جذّاب from the wazan فعّال is used to construct a term for a noun describing an attribute (صفة مشبّهة, Ṣifah mushabbahah). The remaining words are derived directly from their root. The terms formed via Ishtiqaq are as follows:

a. abbreviation : اختصار *(wazan: افتعال)*

Indicates a process or action related to shortening.

b. abridgement : اجتزاء *(wazan: افتعال)*

Refers to the act of summarizing or condensing content.

c. antenna : هوائيّ *(wazan: فعيل)*

Derived from the word هواء (air), indicating something related to air.

d. alteration : تعديل *(wazan: تفعيل)*

Represents the process of modifying or changing something.

e. amendment : تعديل *(wazan: تفعيل)*

Shares the same form as "alteration", using the same wazan to indicate the process of modification.

f. amplifier : مكبِّر *(wazan: مُفَعِّلٌ)*

Refers to a device or tool that amplifies.

g. anchorperson (TV) : مقدِّم *(wazan: مُفَعِّلٌ)*

Denotes a person who presents or moderates content.

h. angle : زاوية *(wazan: فعالة)*

Derived from the root زوا (corner/edge).

i. annotation : تحشية *(wazan: تفعيل)*

Refers to the act of annotating or making marginal notes.

j. answering machine : ردادة *(wazan: فعّالة)*

Indicates a device name formed using a pattern denoting function or repeated action.

k. anthology : مختارات *(wazan: مفعالة)*

Derived from the root خير (choice), following a pattern that denotes selected works.

l. aperture : فتحة *(wazan: فعالة)*

Derived from the root فتح (open); often used for concrete nouns.

m. attention-getting : جذاب *(wazan: فعّال)*

Forms a noun indicating an intense, attractive quality.

n. audibility : مسموعية *(wazan: مفعولية)*

Derived from the root سمع (to hear), indicating a quality or state.

o. audio signal : إشارة *(wazan: فعالة)*

Derived from the root أشر (to show).

p. audit : فحْص *(root noun form: فعل)*

Derived directly from فحص (to examine).

q. audition : استماع *(wazan: افتعال)*

Indicates the act of listening or a formal hearing.

r. auditorium : حجرة *(wazan: فعلة)*

Derived from the root حجر (room), denoting a physical space.

s. availability : متاحيّة *(wazan: مفعولية)*

Derived from the root تاح (to be available), expressing a state or quality.

t. avant-garde (fr. advance guard) : طليعيّ *(wazan: فعيل)*

Derived from طليع (vanguard), indicating a leading or pioneering role.

Thus, Ishtiqaq is a foundational pillar of Arabic morphology that utilizes root-based word formation to expand vocabulary systematically. This method provides exceptional flexibility, allowing the creation of accurate and context-specific terms while preserving linguistic authenticity, and its consistent application ensures that Arabic remains capable of meeting contemporary terminological needs without compromising its historical and cultural integrity.

2. *Tarkib al-Wasfi (Descriptive Compounding)*

Six terms (15%) were formed using the Tarkib al-Wasfi method, each consisting of two words in which the second word qualifies or further specifies the meaning of the first. This method is often used to create compound words that convey complex ideas more clearly. The terms formed by the Tarkib al-Wasfi method are as follows:

a. **access channel :** قناة للعلوم *(قناة (channel) + للعلوم (for sciences))*

The second element specifies that the channel is dedicated to scientific content.

b. **acronym :** نحت أوائلي *(نحت (carving/abbreviation) + أوائلي (initial))*

The second word clarifies that the abbreviation is formed from the initial letters of a phrase or term.

c. **advertorial :** مقال اعلاني *(مقال (article) + إعلاني (advertising))*

The second word designates the article as promotional content presented in article format.

d. **aerial advertising :** إعلان جوي *(إعلان (advertising) + جوي (aerial))*

The second word indicates that the advertisement is delivered through aerial means, such as via aircraft.

e. **animated cartoon :** رسوم متحركة *(رسوم (drawings) + متحركة (animated))*

The second word describes the movement of the drawings, resulting in a term for animated visual media.

f. **autobiography :** سيرة ذاتية *(سيرة (biography) + ذاتية (self))*

The second word specifies that the biography pertains to the subject, forming a term for a self-written life story.

The Tarkib al-Wasfi method is highly effective and practical in Arabic term formation. By combining two semantically connected words, where one functions as a descriptor, the method allows for terms that are both linguistically accurate and contextually meaningful—an efficiency that is particularly valuable in fields such as media, where clarity and specificity are essential.

3. *Tarkib al-Idhafi (Genitive Construction)*

Ten terms (25%) employed the Tarkib al-Idhafi method, in which two nouns are combined in a possessive or genitive structure: the first noun (mudaf) is defined or specified by the second noun (mudaf ilayh), establishing a close semantic relationship between the two. This structure is widely used in Arabic to form technical and domain-specific terms with high precision. The terms formed by the Tarkib al-Idhafi method are as follows:

a. **Agony column :** ركن الاجتماعيات *(ركن (corner) + الاجتماعيات (social affairs))*

The second word specifies the thematic focus of the column, typically relating to advice or societal issues.

b. airtime; broadcast time : مدة البث *(مدة (duration) + البث (broadcast))*

The second element clarifies that the time duration relates to a broadcasting schedule.

c. all-star-cast : فلم النجوم *(فلم (film) + النجوم (stars))*

The second noun indicates that the film features a cast of notable or well-known actors.

d. amateur film-maker : سينمائي هاوٍ *(سينمائي (cinematic) + هاو (amateur))*

The second word describes the filmmaker's non-professional status.

e. air date : تاريخ البث *(تاريخ (date) + البث (broadcast))*

The second word specifies the scheduled broadcast date of a program.

f. Air waves : موجات البث *(موجات (waves) + البث (broadcast))*

The second word refers to the transmission frequencies used for radio or television broadcasting.

g. audio dubbing : ترجمة صوتية *(ترجمة (translation) + صوتية (audio))*

The second word indicates that the translation is rendered in audio form, typically via voiceover.

h. audio mixer : مازج الصوت *(مازج (mixer) + الصوت (sound))*

The second word denotes a device used to mix audio signals.

i. audio tape : شريط سمعي *(شريط (tape) + سمعي (audio))*

The second word refers to a magnetic tape used for sound recording and playback.

j. autocue; teleprompter : عارض النصوص *(عرض (display) + النصوص (texts))*

The second word describes a device that displays scripted text for a speaker, often in news broadcasting.

By connecting nouns with other nouns, Tarkib al-Idhafi is another effective method for creating compound terms in Arabic, enabling the construction of precise and context-appropriate vocabulary in fields such as technology, media, and broadcasting. This systematic method demonstrates the suitability and accuracy of Arabic morphology in meeting the requirements of modern terminology.

4. *Tarkib al-Idhafi al-Wasfi (Genitive + Descriptive Construction)*

Two terms (5%) utilized Tarkib al-Idhafi al-Wasfi, a composite method combining Tarkib al-Idhafi (genitive construction) with Tarkib al-Wasfi (descriptive compounding). This structure typically takes the form mudaf + mudaf ilayh + sifat,

where the first two elements form a possessive compound and the third provides a descriptive modifier. The terms formed by this method are as follows:

a. **all rights reserved :** جميع الحقوق محفوظة *(جميع الحقوق (all rights) + محفوظة (reserved, descriptive modifier))*
   The phrase begins with a genitive construction (جميع الحقوق) and concludes with an adjective (محفوظة) describing the legal status of those rights, together conveying the meaning of intellectual-property protection.

b. **alternative media :** وسيلة إعلامية بديلة *(وسيلة إعلامية (media) + بديلة (alternative, descriptive modifier))*
   وسيلة إعلامية functions as a compound noun indicating a type of media platform, while بديلة describes its nature as an alternative to mainstream channels.

This method enhances semantic richness by layering relationships and attributes within a single term, allowing terminology to maintain structural clarity while conveying additional conceptual information. Particularly in the media field, where ideas such as ownership, originality, or categorization matter, Tarkib al-Idhafi al-Wasfi proves to be a precise and valuable linguistic tool.

5. *Al-Nahat (Acronym/Blending)*

One term (2.5%) was identified as being formed through Al-nahat, the process of forming new terms through acronyms or blending, in which elements from two or more words are combined into a single, shortened expression. This method is particularly useful in modern linguistic practice, where brevity and efficiency are required, especially in technical fields such as media, science, and technology. Although less frequent than other methods, Al-nahat plays a strategic role in Arabic terminology by enabling the creation of concise, expressive terms while preserving the core meaning of the original words. The term formed via Al-nahat is as follows:

- **Colorless :** لالوني *(لا (negation) + لوني (color-related))*
  Composed of the negation particle لا ("no/without") and the adjective لوني (color-related). This blended term combines the two into لالوني, meaning "without color" or "colorless", succinctly conveying the intended meaning in a compact linguistic form.

The Al-nahat method is therefore a valuable linguistic tool in Arabic for creating acronyms or short terms by shortening or combining parts of words. This approach contributes to language economy and enhances linguistic efficiency, making it an important tool for enriching Arabic's capacity to address contemporary communication demands.

6. *Ta'rib (Borrowing and Arabization)*

Three terms (7.5%) were derived through Ta'rib, the process of borrowing foreign words and integrating them into Arabic. This method is applied when no suitable Arabic equivalent exists, especially for modern concepts or technological advancements; borrowed terms are either adapted phonetically to Arabic pronunciation or modified morphologically to align with Arabic grammatical structures. Ta'rib plays a crucial role in expanding the Arabic lexicon, allowing it to accommodate global terminology while maintaining linguistic functionality. The terms formed via Ta'rib are as follows:

all-star-cast : فلم النجوم — the word فلم is borrowed directly from the English word "film", adapted to Arabic phonology and script while retaining its original meaning; النجوم is a native Arabic word meaning "star." Combined, فلم النجوم means "movie star."

amateur film-maker : سينمائي هاوٍ — the word سينمائي is derived from the English word "cinema", morphologically adapted to Arabic adjectival patterns through the suffix يّ (nisbah), indicating relation to cinema; هاوٍ is a native Arabic word meaning "amateur."

atlas : أطلس — borrowed from the Greek word "atlas", meaning "collection of maps", and integrated into Arabic usage without significant morphological alteration.

The Ta'rib method is an important linguistic tool for incorporating foreign terms into Arabic, especially in fields where Arabic lacks an equivalent vocabulary. This approach not only enriches the Arabic lexicon but also ensures that the language remains relevant and functional in a globalized world.

7. *Sawabiq wa Lawahiq (Affixation)*

Five terms (12.5%) were formed using Sawabiq wa Lawahiq, which refers to the use of prefixes (sawabiq) and suffixes (lawahiq) in term formation. This method is deeply embedded in Arabic morphological structure and serves as a primary strategy to modify, specify, or expand the meaning of root words, enhancing lexical productivity without altering the root itself. Common affixes observed in this study include ya' nisbah (ياء النسبة), used to show relationship or attribution (e.g., changing a noun into an adjective); ta' marbutah (تاء مربوطة), often used to indicate femininity or to form abstract nouns; and shaddah (الشدة), a sign indicating the doubling of a consonant that affects both pronunciation and meaning. The terms formed using the Sawabiq wa Lawahiq method are as follows:

a. aerial; antenna : هوائيّ *(root هواء (air) + suffix ya' nisbah (يّ))*

Forms هوائيّ, indicating something related to air.

b. audibility : مسموعية *(root سمع (to hear) + suffixes ta' marbutah and ya' nisbah (يّة))*

Forms مسموعية, a noun expressing the quality of being audible.

c. audio dubbing : ترجمة صوتية *(root صوت (sound) + suffix ya' nisbah (يّة))*

Forms صوتية ("audio/related to sound"), combined with ترجمة (translation) to mean "audio dubbing."

d. availability : متاحيّة *(root تاح (to be available) + suffixes ta' marbutah and ya' nisbah (يّة))*

Forms متاحيّة, a noun referring to the state of being available.

e. avant-garde (fr. advance guard) : طليعيّ *(root طليع (vanguard) + suffix ya' nisbah (يّ))*

Forms طليعيّ, an adjective referring to a person or group leading in innovation or progressive ideas.

The Sawabiq wa Lawahiq method is therefore a fundamental aspect of Arabic morphology that enables the creation of new terms through prefixes and suffixes. Its systematic and flexible nature highlights the depth of Arabic morphology in addressing the demands of modern terminology.

Based on the seven methods described above, each of the 40 terms in the sample has its own pathway of formation. Ishtiqaq is the most dominant method in Arabic media terminology, followed by Tarkib al-Idhafi and Tarkib al-Wasfi. Less frequent methods such as Ta'rib, Al-nahat, and Tarkib al-Idhafi al-Wasfi nonetheless play crucial roles, particularly where brevity is required or where foreign concepts must be accommodated. Notably, several terms were formed through a combination of methods, reflecting the language's adaptability: هاويّ combines Ishtiqaq and Lawahiq; فلم النجوم and سينمائي هاوٍ combine Ta'rib and Tarkib al-Idhafi; مسموعية combines Ishtiqaq and Sawabiq wa Lawahiq; ترجمة صوتية combines Tarkib al-Idhafi and Lawahiq; and متاحيّة and طليعيّ combine Ishtiqaq and Lawahiq. This confirms the diversity and flexibility of Arabic term-formation strategies, particularly in adapting to the evolving demands of modern media discourse.

These findings are broadly consistent with, and extend, the prior literature on Arabic term formation. The dominance of Ishtiqaq corroborates Albantani et al. (2020), who likewise found derivation to be one of the most productive mechanisms for developing Arabic vocabulary, as well as Nurul Aini (2018), whose study of political-term neology in modern Arabic found that derivation and compounding were the principal strategies used to coin new political vocabulary. A parallel pattern appears in the health domain: Nurhuda et al. (2024) and Alwi and Aini (2021) found that Arabic terminology coined during the Covid-19 pandemic relied heavily on morphosemantic derivation and borrowing, mirroring the present study's finding that Ishtiqaq and Ta'rib jointly account for a majority of the sampled media terms. With respect to Ta'rib specifically, the present results echo Pakaya et

al. (2023) on the morphological Arabization of foreign terms, Malik (2009) on the historical trajectory of Ta'rib in Arabic, and Febryani (2024), who found Ta'rib to be the dominant strategy for Arabizing English vocabulary within a literary text—suggesting that Arabization operates similarly across the literary and media registers despite their different communicative purposes. Finally, the limited but strategically important presence of Al-nahat in this study (2.5%) is consistent with Islamy (2019), who likewise described Al-nahat as a minor yet indispensable method for achieving lexical economy in contemporary Arabic. Taken together, this cross-study consistency suggests that Ishtiqaq and Ta'rib function as the two principal engines of Arabic lexical modernization across domains, while Tarkib and Sawabiq wa Lawahiq provide the structural refinement needed for precise, context-specific media terms, and Al-nahat remains a marginal but useful economy-driven device.

This study is nonetheless limited by its reliance on a single dictionary source and a sample restricted to forty terms beginning with the letter "A", which may not fully represent the formation patterns found across the entire Arabic media lexicon. The analysis is also descriptive-qualitative and does not incorporate corpus-frequency or diachronic data that could reveal how these formation methods have evolved over time. Future research is therefore encouraged to extend the analysis to other alphabetical segments of the Mustalahat I'lamiah dictionary, to apply the same framework to media terminology in other dictionaries or live corpora, and to conduct comparative studies between Arabic and other Semitic or Indo-European languages in order to validate and enrich the seven-method framework used here.

D. Conclusion

This study has identified and analyzed seven methods used in the formation of Arabic terminology in the context of media language: Ishtiqaq (derivation), Tarkib al-Idhafi, Tarkib al-Wasfi, Tarkib al-Idhafi al-Wasfi, Al-nahat (blending), Ta'rib (borrowing), and Sawabiq wa Lawahiq (affixation). Among the 40 analyzed terms from the Mustalahat I'lamiah dictionary, Ishtiqaq proved to be the most dominant method, accounting for half of the sample, followed by Tarkib al-Idhafi and Tarkib al-Wasfi. Other methods, though less frequent, still contribute significantly to the linguistic richness and adaptability of Arabic; seven terms—سينمائي هاوٍ, فلم النجوم, هاويّ, متاحيّة, ترجمة صوتية, مسموعية, and طليعيّ—were found to use more than one method at once, most commonly in combination with Sawabiq wa Lawahiq. This indicates that the formation of Arabic media terms is rarely confined to a single method for a single term; rather, it invites a broader, more integrative discussion of how these methods interact.

The findings illustrate how Arabic, through its morphological and semantic flexibility, is capable of absorbing, adapting, and producing precise and meaningful

terminology to meet the evolving demands of the modern media landscape—an adaptability that is crucial in a world increasingly shaped by rapid technological change, globalization, and the constant creation of new concepts. The use of methods such as Ta'rib and Al-nahat further reflects Arabic's capacity to engage with foreign terminology while maintaining linguistic integrity. Importantly, this study highlights the necessity of standardized and systematic approaches to Arabic term formation, especially within specialized fields such as media: since terminology plays a central role in education, journalism, broadcasting, and digital communication, the accuracy and consistency of Arabic terms can significantly enhance comprehension, cross-cultural dialogue, and the preservation of linguistic identity. From a broader perspective, these findings can support efforts in Arabic language planning, lexicography, and curriculum development, and may serve as a reference for linguists, translators, media professionals, and terminologists seeking to expand Arabic's functional scope in technical and professional domains. Future studies are encouraged to explore other alphabetical segments of the Mustalahat I'lamiah dictionary, to analyze terminology in other disciplines such as science, technology, and law, and to undertake comparative studies between Arabic and other Semitic or Indo-European languages so as to build a more comprehensive and dynamic framework for Arabic terminology.

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