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## 160. From Classical Arabic to the modern Arabic vernaculars

1. History of the Arabic language
2. Morphology of the verb
3. Morphology of the noun
4. Demonstratives and interrogatives
5. Pidginization and creolization in Arabic
6. References

### 1. History of the Arabic language

For the purposes of this article the term “Classical Arabic” will refer to the type of

Arabic that was used in the Arabian peninsula during the pre-Islamic period in poetry and the *Qurʾān* and that was to remain the standard language throughout the entire Arabo-Islamic history. Its modern form is usually called “Modern Standard Arabic”; this variety is distinguished from Classical Arabic mainly by its lexicon and phraseology, as well as minor syntactic adaptations. According to most Western Arabists, in the pre-Islamic