

Title page in the Arabic manuscript: An analytical codicological study considering models from the Süleymaniye Library in Istanbul

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Abstract

This study examines the title page in Arabic manuscripts as a fundamental structural and documentary element in textual verification and scholarly editing. It adopts a descriptive-analytical approach based on a selected sample of five manuscripts preserved in the Süleymaniye Library in Istanbul, dating from the 10th to 12th centuries AH. The findings reveal that the title page plays a central identificatory role, typically presenting the book title and the author's name in varying formulations that reflect the cultural and historical context of manuscript production. The study also highlights the dominance of institutional endowments (waqf ownership), particularly those associated with “Ra’īs al-Kuttāb Mustafa Efendi,” indicating the significant role of Ottoman waqf institutions in manuscript preservation. Conversely, some key codicological elements—such as the scribe’s name and copying date—are often absent from the title page, suggesting their placement elsewhere in the manuscript. The study contributes to bridging theoretical and applied manuscript studies and emphasizes the importance of title pages in textual authentication. It recommends expanding comparative studies and employing digital imaging technologies for deeper manuscript analysis.

Keywords Arabic Manuscripts, Title Page, Textual Editing, Waqf, Codicology.

INTRODUCTION

The Arabic manuscript represents the original vessel of knowledge in Islamic civilization, and it is not limited to being a linguistic text but represents an integrated physical and historical structure. Hence, his study entails going beyond textual reading to analysing its codicological components, foremost among which is the title page.

The title page stands out as the first entry of the text, as it contains the basic data that identifies the book and documents its percentage. Abdulsalam Harun pointed to the centrality of this element by saying: "The verified book is the one whose title, author's name and attribution are correct."¹

Hence the importance of studying the title page, not only as a definitional element, but also as a structural component that contributes to the understanding of the text and its history.

This research is organized into two main chapters: the first is concerned with the theoretical rooting of the title page, while the second deals with applied study and comparative analysis.

Previous studies

The topic of the "title page" falls within the concerns of general manuscript science, and it has been addressed sporadically in many sources and studies. Before embarking on the applied study, the researcher referred to a number of the most important guiding sources, such as: "The Arabic Manuscript" by Abdul Sattar Al-Halwaji, "The Science of the Arabic-Islamic Manuscript" by Qasim Al-Samarrai, "Introduction to the Science of the Manuscript with the Arabic Letter" by François Derouche (translated by Ayman Fouad Sayed), and "The Traditions of the Arabic Manuscript (Bibliography Department)" by Adam Jask (translated by Mahmoud Zaki). As well as the book "The Reference in the Science of the Arabic Manuscript" by the same author (translated by Murad Tadgout).

Despite the richness of these sources in presenting the issues of the Arabic manuscript, the topic of the "title page" has not been studied separately. References to it have been sporadic, and there are partial studies that focused on certain elements that may be found on the title page, such as endowments or ownership.

At the level of specialized studies closer to the subject, an important study was found by Sharif Hatem Al-Awni entitled "The correct title of the book: its definition, importance, means of knowledge and precision", which focuses primarily on the investigative bibliographic aspect of the title and its control. There are also articles such as: "From my experience in achieving the proportion of the book and documenting its title" Ramadan Abdul Tawab "and "From the rules of scientific investigation: documenting the title of the manuscript and achieving the name of its author "by Hilal Naji,

¹Investigating and Publishing Texts, Abdul Salam Muhammad Harun, Al-Khanji Library, Cairo, 7th Edition, 1418AH-1998AD.(2, p. 49)

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which is concerned with the practical aspect, but from the point of view of the investigator, not from the point of view of the manuscript as a physical document.

Chapter One: Theoretical Rooting of the Title Page in the Arabic Manuscript

The first topic: the knowledge framework of manuscript science and its importance

The science of manuscripts is not limited to reading lines or knowing the types of paper, but includes the study of the organization of the manuscript, the arrangement of its papers, titles, restrictions, possessions, speakers, and other elements that contribute to the understanding of the text and its history.

The importance of this science lies in: Preserving heritage, as it preserves manuscripts from loss and extinction. This science also provides methodological tools to verify the authenticity of texts and document their attribution to their original authors. It is also a window to study the intellectual and scientific development in Islamic civilization.

Dr. Ramadan Abdel Tawab believes that "the honest investigator may spend a whole night correcting a word, establishing a phrase, graduating a house of poetry, or searching for knowledge of the flags in the books of translations and classes."² This statement highlights the strenuous effort required by scientific dealing with the manuscript texts, and confirms the depth of responsibility that the investigator bears towards the heritage in his hands.

Title Page – Concept and Function

First: Concept:

The title page is the first interface of the manuscript, and therefore occupies a special place, because it often contains the basic information needed by the researcher. It may contain the title of the book, which is: "The pronunciation or words that are on the front of the book and are intended to be a sign of the book that distinguishes it from other books and foretells its content³." The title page also contains the name of the author, and sometimes the name of the transcriber, the date of the transcription, and its place, along with the phrases of ownership or endowment.

The title page also contributes to determining the identity of the manuscript and distinguishing it from other works, especially considering the sometimes-similar titles. One of the functions of the title page is to document the attribution of the book to its author, which prevents errors in the attribution of works. Dr. Ramadan Abdel Tawab has recorded stark examples of such errors, including the erroneous attribution of the book "Errors" to the ornamental class, when in fact it is part of the book "Correcting the Correction" of Salah Safadi⁴.

²From my experience in achieving the percentage of the book and documenting its title, Ramadan Abdel Tawab, Journal of the Institute of Arab Manuscripts, Volume 34, 1410AH- 1990AD, p. 8.

³The correct title of the book: Its definition and importance, its means of knowledge and precision, examples of errors in it, Sharif Hatem bin Aref Al-Awni, Dar Alam Al-Fawafid, 1, 1419AH. Page 16

⁴From my experience in achieving the percentage of the book and documenting its title, pp. 8-9.

In addition, the title page may carry historical references that are useful in knowing the copying time, the name of the transcriber or its place, and the famous titles reveal the extent of the book and its influence in the scientific community.

Determining the correct title of the book is the first and most important step in the science of achieving texts, and it is a cornerstone that can only be investigated. This is why Abdulsalam alerted Haroun to the importance of the correctness of the title by saying: "However, there are four principles that are not disputed, which is that the verified book is:

- 1- whose address is correct.
- 2- Name of author
- 3- And the proportion of the book to him.
- 4- Its body was as close as possible to the image left by the author⁵. "

Hatem Al-Awni expresses the importance of the title and says: "As the book whose title is not correct, one of the pillars of its investigation has collapsed, so it is not described as an investigator. Except for passing!!!". ⁶

Second: Position:

The title page in the Arabic manuscript is not limited to being a formal element or an introductory entry to the text but performs a complex methodological function in which the documentary, scientific and civilizational dimensions overlap, which makes it one of the main pillars in the study of manuscripts and the achievement of texts.

In terms of documentation, the title page represents the first source of proof of the identity of the book, as it often includes the title of the work and the name of its author, which are the two elements on which the scientific investigation is based. Abdul Salam Haroun confirmed this function when he made the authenticity of the title and the author's name a prerequisite in describing the text as verified, which indicates that the title page is not just an interface, but is a basis for adjusting the proportion of the text and documenting it.

From a methodological point of view, the title page plays a crucial role in guiding the investigation process, as the investigator relies on it to verify the validity of the title, compare it with what is stated in bibliographic sources and biographies books, and it also represents a starting point for comparing different versions, especially in the event of different or multiple titles. In this context, Hatem Al-Awni points out that the misalignment of the title leads to a defect in one of the pillars of the investigation, which reinforces the centrality of this page in scientific work.

⁵Verification and Dissemination of Texts, Abdulsalam Muhammad Harun 42.

⁶The correct title of the book: its definition and importance, its means of knowledge and precision, examples of errors in it, p. 16.

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On the other hand, the title page performs a semantic function, as the title is not limited to being a label, but often reflects the content of the book and its scientific direction, and may even carry dialectical or persuasive dimensions, as in lengthy titles that include a description of the subject or purpose of the book. This makes the title a Paratext that guides the reading and comprehension of the text.

The title page also has a historical and civilizational function, through its forms of endowment and ownership, which represent a record of the movement of the manuscript and its movement between individuals and institutions. Ramadan Abdel Tawab said that documenting property in manuscripts is a key to understanding the history of text circulation, which confirms that the title page goes beyond its textual dimension to become a social document that reflects the structure of scientific life⁷.

Besides, the absence of some elements – such as the name of the transcriber or the date of copying – from the title page is not a functional deficiency but rather indicates the distribution of information within the structure of the manuscript, where the page integrates with other elements, such as the conclusion of the copies, to form an integrated documentary system.

Accordingly, it can be said that the title page represents a structural element with a multidimensional function, in which the introductory, documentary, methodological, semantic and civilizational functions are integrated, which makes its study an essential entry point for understanding the Arabic manuscript in its entirety.

The second topic: The Codex dimension of the title page

The title page can only be thoroughly understood scientifically within its codex framework, and so the title page falls within the manuscript's codex structure, representing an element that combines documentary function with physical form. It cannot be understood in isolation from the context of manuscript production.

François Dérouche asserts that: "The study of the manuscript is not limited to the text but includes its physical form and internal organization." This means that the title page is part of a wider semantic system⁸.

The title page went through several stages, as it was not at its beginning separate, and then evolved into an independent element, especially in late times. Their characteristics also differ between cultural environments; Ottoman manuscripts tend to be organized, while Moroccan ones show a clear decorative dimension.

The title page also does not function in a vacuum but is linked to other elements of the internal control of the manuscript, such as the conclusion of copies, headings and comments, where the title may appear in a different or more detailed form elsewhere in the text, which requires the researcher to look at it in a holistic context, not as a single source of judgment. This confirms that the manuscript in its codex structure

⁷From my experience in achieving the percentage of the book and documenting its title, p. 10.

⁸Introduction to the Science of the Manuscript Book with the Arabic Letter/ François Derouche; transferred to Arabic and presented to him by Ayman Fouad Sayed, Al-Furqan Foundation for Islamic Heritage, London, 2nd Edition, 2010.232

represents an integrated system in which information is distributed, so that it does not take a single page to carry all of it.

On the other hand, the linear and output characteristics of the title page reveal an organizational awareness of the transcriber, as it is noticeable in many models to distinguish the title with a larger font size or a clearer font, or to separate it from the author's name in a way that suggests an intentional order, which indicates the realization of its definitive function within the structure of the manuscript. It is not excluded that these features also reflect the artistic taste prevalent in the environment in which the manuscript was copied, especially in later models that tend to have a degree of morphological care.

In addition, a multiplicity of hands can be observed on the title page, sometimes juxtaposing different writings from different times, which is clear in the possessions and endowments that were proven in later times. This is an indication that the title page was not a static element, but an open space to which layers of writing were added reflecting the history of the manuscript's circulation and transmission between individuals and institutions.

Also, the absence of some elements, such as the name of the scribe or the date of copying, from the title page should not be understood as a lack of structure but is mostly the result of the nature of the organization of information within the manuscript, as it is customary to prove these data at the conclusion of the copies. This again confirms that the title page performs a specific function within a wider system, perceived only by looking at the manuscript in its entirety.

On this basis, the title page, in the light of this codicological dimension, is not only a place to prove the title and the name of the author, but also a structural element that reveals the history of the material manuscript, contributes to tracking its circulation, and understanding the mechanisms of its internal organization, which makes its study a systematic necessity in every work related to the realization of texts or the study of the manuscript heritage.

The third topic: Civilizational connotations of the title page in the Arabic manuscript

The title page in the Arabic manuscript not only performs an introductory or documentary function but also becomes a semantic carrier that reflects deep civilizational and cultural dimensions, through which the features of the scientific and social environment in which the manuscript originated can be extrapolated. Hence, reading the title page is an analytical reading that allows the researcher to go beyond the phenomenon of the text to its implicit references related to the culture of authorship, the value system, and the mechanisms of knowledge circulation.

First: The title page as a mirror of scientific culture

The formulas on the title page, especially those related to authors' names, reveal a cultural structure based on maximizing scientists and highlighting their scientific status. Prolonged titles such as: "Sheikh Imam Al-Alama" do not represent a mere linguistic decoration but reflect what Qasim Al-Samarrai pointed out that Islamic culture has

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"surrounded the world with a symbolic aura that elevates it in the collective consciousness⁹."

Hence, these formulas reflect the nature of the scientific field in Islamic civilization, where knowledge is associated with social status, and the definition of the author has become part of building confidence in the text.

Second: Civilizational connotations of waqf formulas

The endowment formulas are one of the most prominent elements that reveal the civilizational dimension of the title page, as endowments represent an integrated institutional system for preserving knowledge and ensuring its circulation. The models studied showed a clear presence of the institutional waqf, especially associated with the library of "the head of the book Mustafa Effendi", which reflects the vital role of waqf institutions in Ottoman civilization.

Waqfs goes beyond being a proof of ownership, to become an expression of a civilized perception of science as a current charity, which is reflected in the waqf phrases linking the preservation of the book and the pursuit of the eschatological wage. In this context, waqf can be understood as a mechanism to ensure the continuity of knowledge outside the boundaries of individual ownership.

Third: Individual Ownership and its Social Significance

The forms of individual ownership reveal an important aspect of the social life associated with the manuscript, as they reflect the ways in which it is transmitted between individuals, whether through purchase, gift, or inheritance. The variety of forms of ownership, such as: "who wrote," "entered a king," "from what God has provided," indicates the multiplicity of trading patterns.

It is striking that the language of humility is present in these formulas, as in the phrases: "the poor slave" or "the mean slave," which are morally significant formulas that reflect a conception of science based on humility and self-exile. This is consistent with what Ramadan Abdel Tawab pointed out that documenting property in manuscripts allows understanding the social dimension of the circulation of texts¹⁰.

Fourth: Title page and knowledge circulation record

The title page, with its stamps, possessions, and endowments, represents a micro-record of the manuscript's trading movement through time. It not only documents the moment the text is produced but also monitors the course of its transmission between individuals and institutions, enabling the network of scholarly relationships to be rebuilt.

⁹Al-Iktana Al-Arabi Al-Islami / Qasim Al-Samarrai, King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, Riyadh, 3rd Edition, 2024AD. (20, p. 136)

¹⁰From my experience in achieving the percentage of the book and documenting its title, p. 10.

Adam Gaske referred to this feature by saying: "The Arabic manuscript bears the traces of its users as much as its text¹¹," which confirms that the title page is an important source for the study of the history of reading and acquisition in Islamic civilization.

Fifth: The civilizational dimension of the absence of some elements

The absence of some elements – such as the name of the transcriber or the date of copying – is no less significant than the presence of others, as it indicates the nature of the organization of information within the manuscript. The absence of these statements on the title page indicates their distribution elsewhere, as the conclusion of the copies, which reflects a structural awareness in the organization of the manuscript.

This absence can also be explained considering the priorities of the manuscript culture, which focused on the introduction of the text and its author on the first page, while the technical data were postponed to later places.

It is clear from the above that the title page in the Arabic manuscript represents a multidimensional civilizational document, which goes beyond its introductory function to reveal the structure of scientific culture, the mechanisms of knowledge circulation, and the value system associated with science. Hence, its study is not limited to serving the science of inquiry but contributes to the reconstruction of the cultural history of Islamic civilization through one of its smallest and most significant material components.

Chapter Two: Applied Study and Comparative Analysis

The first topic: Description of the sample and the study method

A sample of **five manuscripts** preserved in the "**Head of the Book Mustafa Efendi**" section of the Sulaymaniyah Library in Istanbul was selected for the applied study. These manuscripts were chosen to cover a period between the tenth, eleventh and twelfth centuries AH¹², and belong to a variety of cognitive arts: (literature, grammar, comparison of religions, explanation of the Prophet's hadith), which enriches the study and makes its results more indicative. Below is a detailed description of the sample.

This research aims to highlight the importance of the title page in the Arabic manuscript through an applied study. It takes an analytical descriptive approach, which is based on extrapolating the elements of the title page in a specific sample of manuscripts. The importance of the research comes from the fact that it combines the theoretical framework based on the review of previous studies, and the direct practical application to manuscript models.

Thus, this applied research attempts to monitor and analyse the title page as it appears in the models of some manuscripts, which enhances the applied aspect of manuscript science and links it to the requirements of scientific investigation.

¹¹Reference in Arabic Manuscript Science/ Adam Jask; Arabization of Murad Tadvout; Presentation and Review by Faisal Al-Hafian, Institute of Arabic Manuscripts, Cairo, 1, 1431AH / 2010AD. (19, p. 213)

¹²It represents a book: (Al-Durrah Al-Yatima and the Luxurious Answers) in the tenth century AH, and it represents a book:(Al-Ashbah, Al-Nazar, and Irshad Al-Sari) in the twelfth century AH , and the book: (Al-Bayan and Al-Tabiyyin) came as a representative of the eleventh century AH.

First Manuscript: The Orphan Pearl and the Precious Jewel

The title in the manuscript: Al-Durrah Al-Yatima and the Precious Jewel.

Author: Abdullah bin Al-Muqaffa '(d. 142AH / 759AD).

Date of copying: Rabi Al-Awwal 983 AH.

Copier Name: Not mentioned.

Custody number: Head of the book Mustafa Efendi 791.

Manuscript 2: Luxury Answers to Obscene Questions

Title: Luxury answers to obscene questions.

Author: Shihāb al-Dīn Aḥmad ibn Idrīs al-Qarāfī al-Mālikī (d. 684AH / 1285AD).

Date of copying: 974AH.

The name of the transcriber: Al-Sharif Ahmed bin Ahmed Al-Bardi Al-Hassani Al-Shafi 'i.

Custody number: Head of the book Mustafa Efendi 548.

The Third Manuscript: Analogues and Syntactic Analogues in the Origins of the Science of Arabic

Title: Analogues and Syntactic Analogues in the Origins of Arabic Science

Author: Jalāl al-Dīn 'Abd al-Raḥmān al-Suyūṭī (d. 911AH / 1505AD).

Date of copying: 1122AH.

The name of the transcriber: Mustafa bin Muhammad Al-Shafi 'i, nicknamed Al-Aqd.

Custody number: Head of the book Mustafa Efendi 1027.

Manuscript Four: Irshad Al-Sari to Sharh Sahih Al-Bukhari

Title: Irshad Al-Sari to Sharh Sahih Al-Bukhari.

Author: Abū al-'Abbās Aḥmad ibn Muḥammad al-Qastalānī al-Shāfi'ī (d. 923AH / 1517AD).

Date of copying: 1127AH

The name of the transcriber: Ali bin Ali bin Ali Al-Hamaki Al-Shafi 'i.

Custody number: Head of the book Mustafa Efendi 181.

Manuscript V: Statement and Explanation (Part I and II)

Title: Statement and Disclosure.

Author: Abu Othman Amr bin Bahr Al-Jahiz (d. 255AH / 868AD).

Date of copying: 1028 AH.

Copier Name: N/A

Custody number: Head of the book Mustafa Efendi 762.

Notes: A copy that includes the first and second parts of the book.

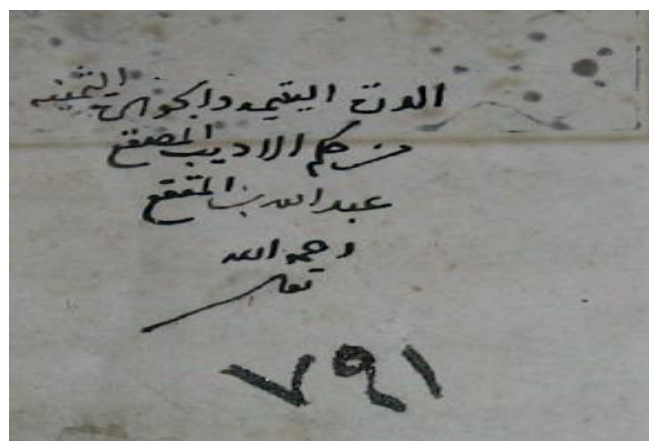
The fourth section: The Applied Study

In this section, the elements of the title page in the studied sample are analysed, with the help of the images attached to each manuscript. The analysis focuses on monitoring and documenting phenomena.

First Manuscript: The Orphan Pearl and the Precious Jewel

1- Book's Title

The title "**The Orphan Pearl and the Precious Jewel**" appears clearly at the top of the manuscript page.



2- Author's name:

The author's name appears under the title directly in the formula: "**From the words of the writer Abdullah bin Al-Muqaffa** ", may God have mercy on him."

3- Endowments:

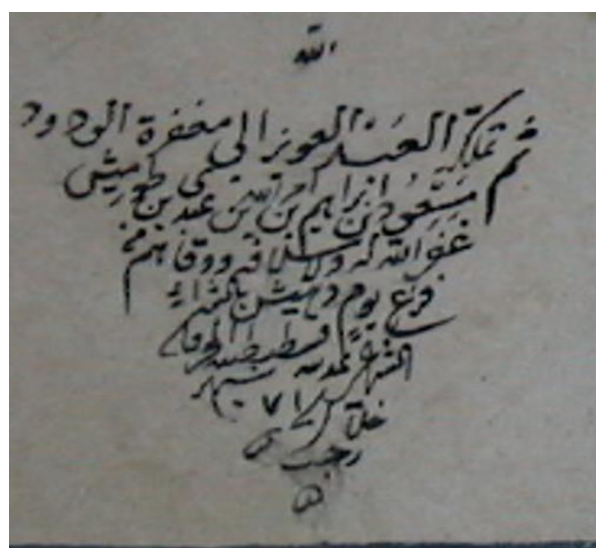
Endowment Institutional Ownership "Head of the Book Mustafa Effendi"

The wording of the Waqf comes: "In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. This book was written by Mustafa, the former head of the book, for the sake of Allah, the Creator. He handed it over to the Guardian and ruled its health by the ruler of the Sharia, if it is used for his children. Then, after them, he works with it as in the Waqf until the Hour, and Allah disgraced those who bought it and sold it, in 1154AH." ¹³



4- Ownership:

¹⁴It appears from the sample that the predominant form of **appropriation is endowment institutional appropriation: owning**: "the head of the book Mustafa Effendi," a common style of major Ottoman libraries.



¹³Thus, the form of waqf comes in all the samples studied.

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Masoud bin Ibrahim bin ...Allāh ibn Tūrmīsh

, Ownership by purchase in the city of Constantinople, date Rajab 1071AH, the form of ownership through the attached photo, shows the phrase of traditional ownership (owned by the slave.....)

Notes: There are no reviews on the title page, the name of the transcriber, the date of copying, or the name of the respondent.

Manuscript 2: Luxury Answers to Obscene Questions

1- Book's Title

The title "**Luxury Answers to Insulting Questions in Response to the Unbelieving Faith**" appears clearly at the top of the manuscript page.



2- Author's name:

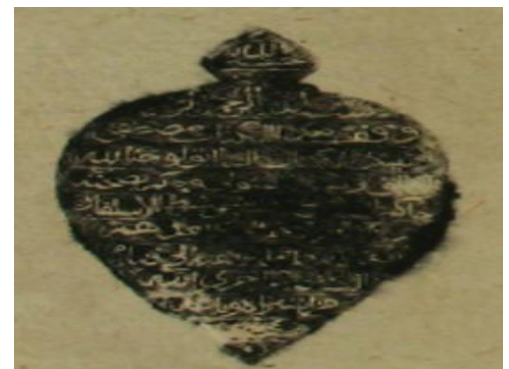
The author's name appears under the title directly in the formula: " **Written by Sheikh Imam, the pious working scientist, Zahid Shihāb al-Dīn Aḥmad ibn Idrīs al-Qarāfi al-Mālikī**"

3- Endowments:

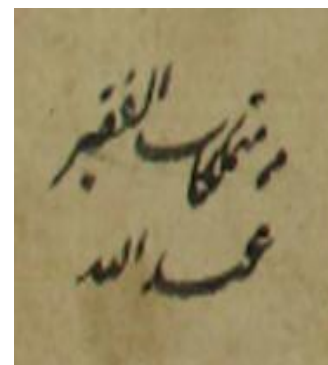
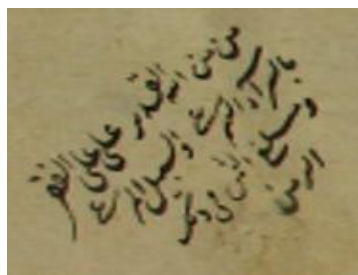
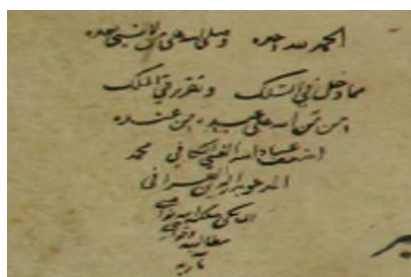
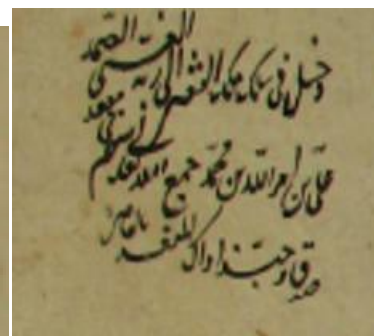
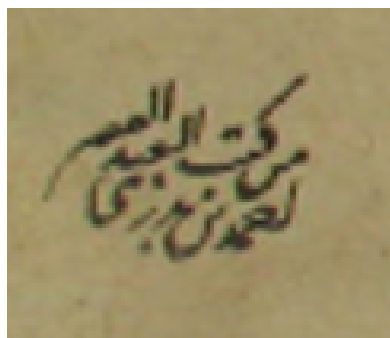
Endowment Institutional Ownership
"Head of the Book Mustafa Effendi"

4- Ownership:

It appears from the sample that the predominant form of **ownership is institutional endowment ownership: Ownership:** "The **head of the book, Mustafa Effendi**," in addition to a number of properties amounting to six properties, two of the owners authorized the purchase, and the forms of ownership were different (from the property of the poor, from whom is God Almighty over the poor in the legitimate purchase, which entered the wire and decided in the king, who wrote, entered in the king).



Notes: There are no reviews on the title page, the name of the transcriber, the date of copying, or the name of the respondent.



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1- Book's Title

The title “**Syntactic Analogues in the Origins of the Science of Arabia**” appears clearly at the top of the manuscript page.



2- Author's name:

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The author's name appears under the title directly in the formula: "**To our master, Sheikh Imam, the scholar, the scholar, the mayor, the mayor, Abū al-Faḍl 'Abd al-Raḥmān Jalāl al-Dīn ibn al-'Alamah Kamāl al-Dīn al-Suyūṭī**"

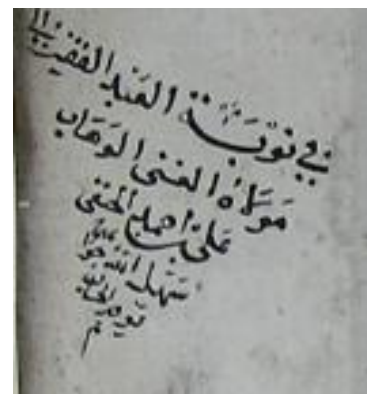


3- Endowments:

Endowment Institutional Ownership "Head of the Book Mustafa Effendi"

4- Ownership:

It appears from the sample that the predominant form of ownership is **institutional endowment ownership**: ownership of: "**The head of the book, Mustafa Effendi,**" in addition to owning one of them in the name of Ali bin Ahmed Al-Hanafi, and the form of ownership came (in the nuba of the poor slave). The second is in the name of Haj Ahmad bin Awad, and the form of ownership came: (From what God wanted to Nubia..).



5-Notes: There is no on the title page how ownership passed to the owners, and there are no readings, the name of the transcriber , the date of copying, or the name of the respondent.

Manuscript Four: Irshad Al-Sari to Sharh Sahih Al-Bukhari

1- Book's Title

The title "**Irshad al-Sari to Sharh Sahih al-Bukhari**" appears clearly at the top of the manuscript page.

2- Author's name:

The author's name appears under the title directly in the formula: "**Ahmed bin Mohammed Al-Khatib Al-Qastalani**"

3- Endowments:

Waqf stamp is obliterated on the cover page



4- Ownership:

It is written on the sample from what the All-Knowing King gave to his servant Mustafa

Notes: There are no readings on the title page, the name of the transcriber, the date of copying, or the name of the respondent.

Manuscript V: Statement and Explanation (Part I and II)

1- Book's Title

The heading " **Part I and II of the Manuscript and Disclosure**" appears clearly at the top of the manuscript page.

2- Author's name:

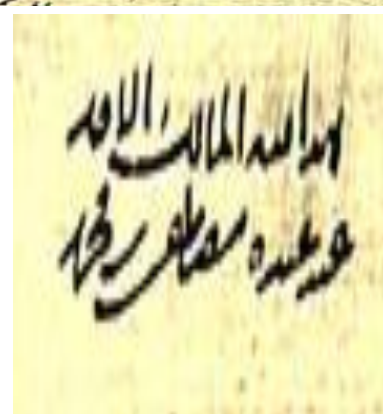
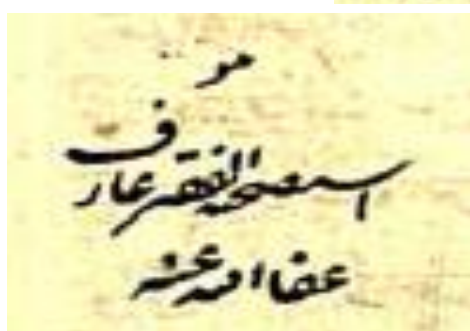
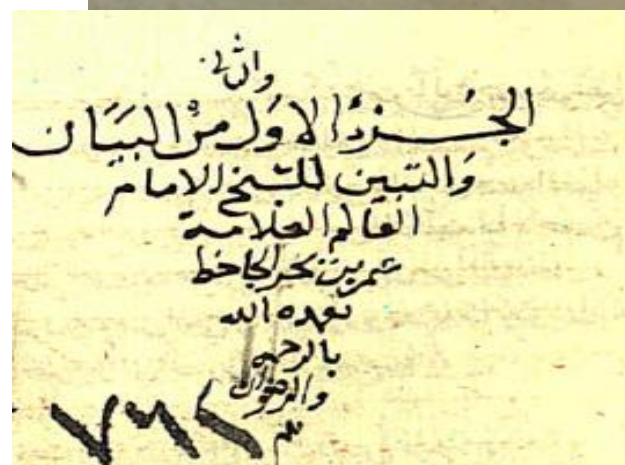
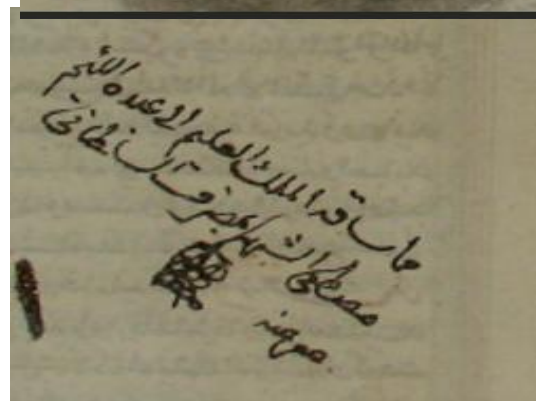
The author's name appears under the title directly in the formula: "**Sheikh, Imam, scholar Omar bin Bahr Al-Jahiz**"

3- Endowments:

Endowment Institutional Ownership
"Head of the Book
Mustafa Effendi"

4- Ownership:

It appears from the sample that the pre-dominant form of ownership is **institutional endowment ownership: ownership: "The head of the book, Mustafa Effendi,"** in addition to two ownership and came in the form of ownership (accompanied by the poor Aref, may God forgive him). Second: Allah is the owner of the Sunday with Abdo Mustafa Muhammad..).



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Notes: There is no on the title page how the property came to be owned by the owners, and there are no readings, the name of the scribe, the date of copying, or the name of the client.

CONCLUSION

After the applied study of the title page in five Arabic manuscripts preserved in the library of "Head of the Book Mustafa Effendi" in Sulaymaniyah, a set of results about the importance and function of this page in the manuscript texts is clear.

First: The sample confirms that the title page carries a basic declarative function, as the full title of the book and the name of the author appeared clearly in all the studied models, which enhances its role as a main means of defining the text and documenting its proportion. However, a difference was noted in the manner in which the author's name was presented, as it ranged between the abbreviated version and the extended version that included titles and maximizing adjectives, reflecting the cultural and social context in which the manuscript was written.

Second: "Institutional endowments" emerged as a predominant phenomenon in all manuscripts, where a seal or reference to "the head of the book Mustafa Effendi" appeared as an endowment, indicating the central role of Ottoman endowment libraries in preserving the manuscripts and organizing their circulation. This is next to individual possessions, whose formulas varied, even if some of them showed the method of ownership, which is buying, and the possessors also used phrases of humility such as: "the poor slave" or "from what the All-Knowing King mentioned." The sample did not record the presence of readings or headphones on the title pages, and the name of the transcriber or the date of copying was not mentioned on the title pages, which may indicate that this information was often recorded at the end of the manuscript and not at its beginning.

On the other hand, the study revealed some physical phenomena, such as the existence of a blurring effect of a waqf seal in one of the manuscripts, and there were also some differences in writing the titles, such as mentioning the part in the title (such as "the first and second part of the statement and identification"), although the word "the second" came as if to confirm the content of the manuscript, which increases the accuracy of the definition of the content.

Recommendations:

The researcher proposes to deepen the studies on the title page to include manuscripts from different copy libraries and schools, such as the Maghreb, India and Persia, to find out the extent to which the geographical and cultural environment affects the form and content of this page. Also study the title page in its full physical context, in the sense of linking it to other manuscript components such as page margins and copy ends, to better understand the information that surrounds the text.

He also suggests making comparisons between dated and undated manuscripts, and between those with references to copiers and those without, to identify patterns prevailing in certain time periods. Digital technologies can also be used to analyze high-

resolution images of title pages, to reveal details that may be invisible to the naked eye, such as traces of obliterated seals or faded writings.

Finally, the researcher recommends integrating the study of the title page within the curricula of manuscript science education and investigation, given its practical importance in identifying and documenting texts.

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