論文の英文要旨	
論文題目	Meanings and Functions of (In)definiteness in Arabic
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The purpose of this thesis is to show the meanings and the functions of definite and indefinite noun phrases in Arabic. Some languages mark definite and indefinite nouns obligatorily, but others do not. Arabic belongs to the former category.

The notion of definiteness and indefiniteness is deeply related to other questions such as old-information and new-information, theme and rheme, reference and so on, even in languages which do not always mark definiteness. It is hard for speakers of Japanese or other languages which do not necessarily distinguish definite nouns from indefinite ones to realize intuitively what role definite forms play in definiteness-marking languages.

What I wish to make clear in this study are the forms, meanings and functions of definite and indefinite noun phrases in Standard Arabic and Arabic dialects.

This thesis consists of Introduction, Chapter I-IV and Conclusion.

The Introduction clarifies the purpose of this study and explains what is Arabic, our target language here, and how the problem of definiteness will be dealt with in this study. The transcription

system and lists of abbreviations are also included in this section.

Chapter I surveys (in)definiteness from the viewpoint of general linguistics based on previous studies. Definiteness and indefiniteness are not mutually exclusive but should be conceived of as poles of a continuum. Location theory of Hawkins (1978) presents "locatability" (which is similar to the notion of "familiarity" that Khan (1988) has referred to) and "inclusiveness" as the criteria of definiteness. Fuzzy-set theory of Chesterman (1991) grasped these criteria fuzzily, that is, he recognized several degrees in them.

Definiteness is considered in view of information structures, especially giving weight to the notion of "familiarity." We compare it with four other information structures: old- and new-information, theme and rheme, contrast, and reference. Through this comparison we find that the category of definiteness is independent from the other structures, although it correlates with them.

Chapter II illustrates what are the definite forms in Standard and Colloquial Arabic. Pronouns, proper nouns, demonstratives, relatives and the definite particle are referred to in this chapter. We also make a rough survey of definite markers in other Semitic languages, some of which have no definite particle.

In addition to that, the Arabic traditional grammarians have discussed the degrees of definiteness in Arabic definite noun phrases. Generally speaking, pronouns are said to be the most definite, and nouns with the definite particle "al-" are said to be nearest to indefinite noun phrases. We investigate this hierarchy of Arabic definite noun phrases, and compare it with other hierararchies presented in the field of contemporary general linguistics like The Givenness Hierarchy (Gundel, Hedberd & Zacharski 1993).

Chapter III analyses the Egyptian short play "'Arafa Kayfa Yamūtu" by T. Ḥakīm to show how the definite noun phrases are used in discourse. The result tells us that the structure of definiteness and indefiniteness is not only defined through hearers' or readers' state, but also something can be operated actively or subjectively by the speaker/writer.

Further, this chapter deals with different usages of the definite particle in the dialects. We can recognize from some examples that this differences may be due to lack of a null article (that is, nouns without a definite or indefinite particle by nature) in Arabic and the definite particle "al-" is

used more extensively, for example, than the English definite article. For example, you say "by bicycle" without an article in English, but "bə-*l*-bišklīt" in Moroccan Arabic. Sometimes it is used as a partitive article, like: "ka-ixəṣṣ-ni z-zəbda" which means "I need (some) butter."

Chapter IV examines how the different forms of Arabic definite noun phrases are used properly in text. First, we compare some kinds of Arabic text to see which form of the definite noun phrases they use there. For example, you often find many anaphoric pronouns in novels, that is, the writers' intend adult readership, though you do not find so many in children books. Another example is the difference between spoken texts and written texts. Reflection on these makes clear that the writer/speaker use kinds of definite forms properly taking into account the readers'/hearers' condition.

Then we examine the Koranic texts to see what is the effect of using different definite forms in narratives based on the staging theory of Maynard or Point of View theory of Kuno. A close look at those narrative texts reveals that forms of the noun phrases are markers of the point of view, and that there is strict correlation between using which kind of definite noun phrase forms and how the stories develop.

The Conclusion summarizes the results of each chapter and reconsiders Arabic definite and indefinite noun phrases in comparison with those of the other languages.

Thus this thesis deals with the problem of definiteness through Arabic as a concrete example. The conclusions are that definiteness is one independent information sturcuture and that it is a device which can be used actively by writers/speakers to send their message to others.