

Chapter Eleven

The Inflective and Non-Inflective Noun

المتصرف و غير المتصرف

In grammar, inflection refers to the ability of a word to change its form to reflect a change in number, gender, case, tense, person, and voice. The noun capable of inflection is *Mutasarrif* (مُتَصَرِّفٌ) vs. *Ghair-Mutasarrif* (غير المتصرف). The first can change into the dual, the plural, the diminutive noun and the relative noun (منسوب).

Section One

The Dual (المثنى)

The dual signifies two members of a specie and is recognized by appending a suffix to the end of the noun. This suffix is 'ان' in the state of *Raf'* and 'ين' in *Nasb* or *Jarr*; so 'حُسَيْن' is not a dual because 'ن' is its original letter, 'إِثْنَيْنِ' is not dual because 'ي' is its original letter and ...

The dual form in different word goes through some rules; in '*Maqsoor* word, the short *Alif* will convert back to the original letter which is 'و' (such as in 'عَصَى، عَصَوَيْنِ' or 'عَصَوَانِ، عَصَوَيْنِ') or 'ي' (such as in 'فَتَيَانِ، فَتَيَيْنِ'); in the *Mamdood* word, the *Hamzah* can covert to 'و' as in 'دُعَاءِ، دُعَاوَانِ، دُعَاوَيْنِ'; in the *Idhaafah* compound, the first word gets the sign of dual but the 'ن' is removed because of *Idhaafah*, as in 'عَبْدُ اللَّهِ، عِبْدَا اللَّهِ، عِبْدَى اللَّهِ'.

Note:

There are five words that are attached to the dual, although they are not actually duals:

إِثْنَانِ، إِثْنَتَانِ، ثِنْتَانِ، كِلَا، كِلْتَا

The last two are to emphasize, as in:

موسى و عيسى عليهما السلام كلاهما من الأنبياء:

Musa and 'Isa, peace be upon them, are both prophets