



History & Development of Lexicology

Dr. Riak Hussain

Overview

- Lexicology in Islamic world
- Lexicology in India
- Lexicology in China
- Lexicology in Europe



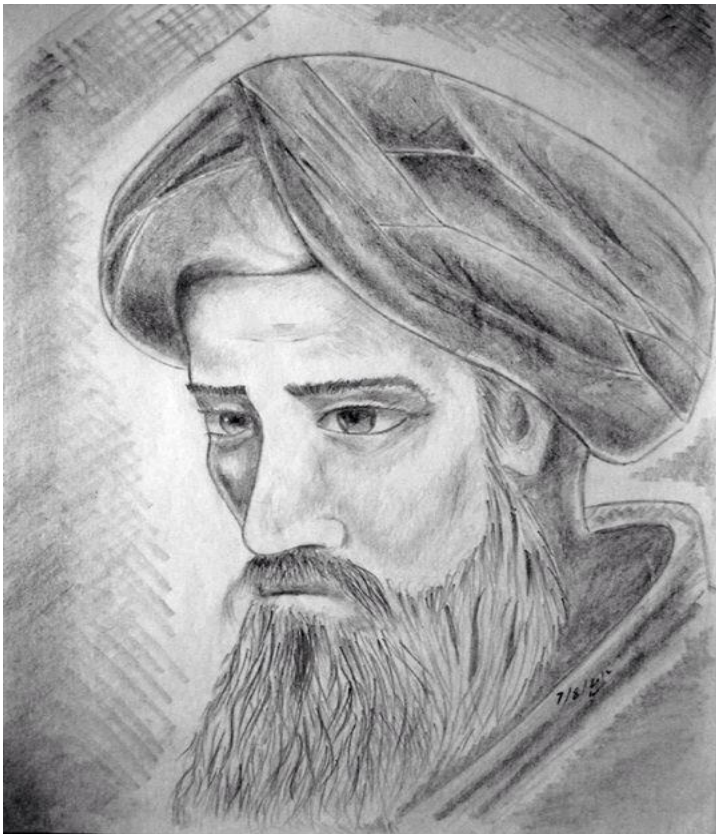


History of Lexicology in Islamic world

Al-Khalil ibn Ahmad al-Farahidi

الخليل بن أحمد الفراهيدي

(718 – 786 CE)

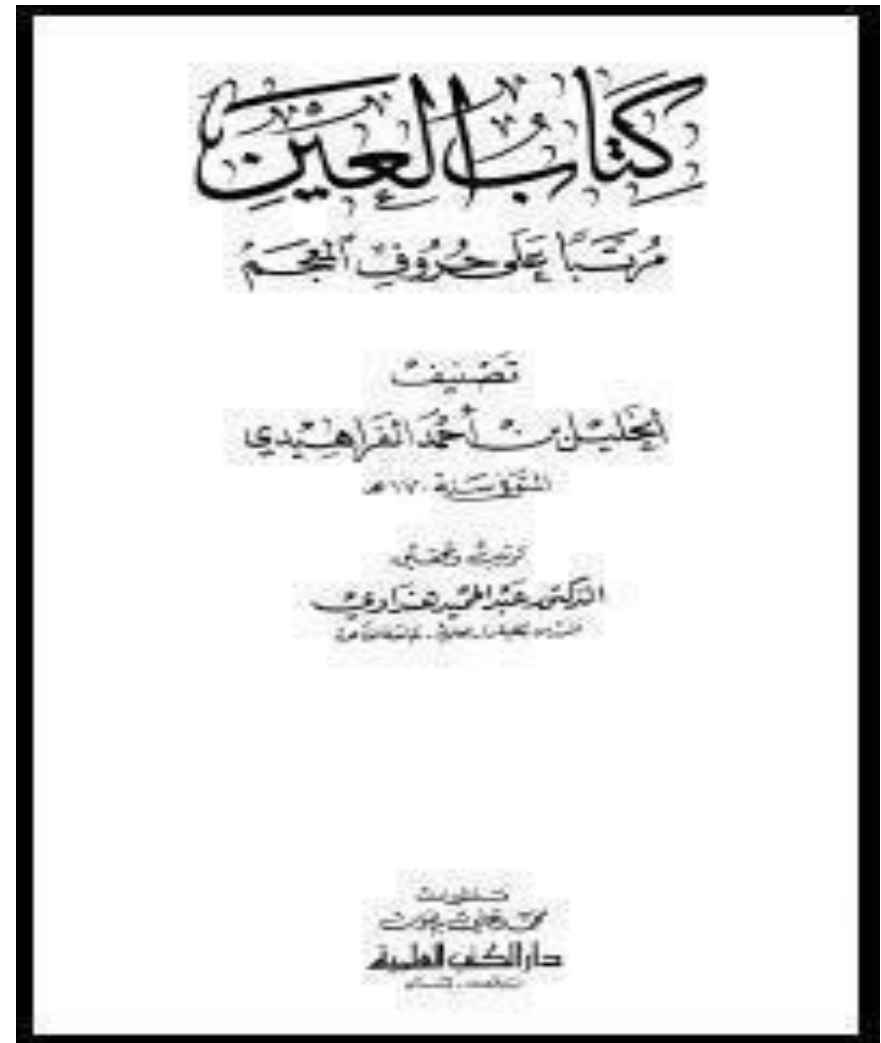


- He is known as known as **Al-Farahidi**, or **Al-Khalīl**. He was a lexicographer in the Muslim world who was born in Oman and died in Basra.

كتاب العين

Kitab al-Ayn

Author	Al-Khalil ibn Ahmad al-Farahidi
Original title	كتاب العين
Language	Arabic
Genre	Dictionary
Publication date	8th century



Kitab al Ayn

- The dictionary was not arranged alphabetically, but phonetically, according to the pronunciation of the Arabic alphabet, starting with the lowest articulated in the throat letters) ع ' Ain) - hence the book title - to the last letter in its arrangement: Alif with [Hamza](#).

History of Lexicology in Islamic word

- Traditions are rich in grammatical scholarship, and the earliest Arab grammarian al-Khalil ibn Ahmad (died AD 791), is known to have begun work on an Arabic dictionary, using a phonological principle for ordering the word. But the leading lexicographers in the Islamic world were the Persians , according to Halliday.

Persian Lexicography



ابوحفص سغدی Abu Hafs Sughdi

He was a Persian poet . Not much is known about his life. But, it is believed that Abu Hafs was the first poet to write poetry in New Persian language. According to some primary sources, he was the author of an Arabic-Persian dictionary as well, which is lost today, but was available as late as 11th-century AH. It is also possible that the author of this dictionary was another person also named Abu Hafs.



Asadi Tusi : the Persian Lexicographer

- The eleventh- century Lughat-e Fars(Farsi dictionary), by Asadi Tusi ,is extant. Persian scholars also produced bilingual dictionaries, Persian –Arabic and persian-turkish dictionaries.

کتاب

لغت فارس

تألیف

ابو منصور علی بن احمد اسدی طوسی

با انتخاب استاد

مصباح و التمام

عیسی افشار

استاد دانشگاه

باسم مبارک من - عیدالذکر حسین طاهری

طهران - چاپخانه آفرین - ۱۳۷۹

Bilingual Dictionaries in Islamic World

- Persian scholars also produced bilingual dictionaries, Persian –Arabic and Persian-Turkish dictionaries.

محمود زماخشری

Al-Zamakhshari (1075 –1144)_

Abu al-Qasim Mahmud ibn Umar al Zamakhshari, known widely as al-Zamakhshari was a 11th century medieval Muslim scholar of Persian origin. He was born in Zamakhshar, Khwarezmia, but lived most of his life in Bukhara, Samarkand, and Baghdad. He studied at Bukhara and Samarkand while enjoying the fellowship of jurists of Baghdad. He was a great authority on the Arabic language as well as a rationalist theologian. He wrote ***Muqaddimat al-adab*** , this is a Arabic-Persian dictionary



مؤسسه مطالعات اسلامی



مقدمه الأدب

علامه جلال‌الدین ابوالقاسم محمود زماخشری خوارزمی
از روی چاپ لنینگراد آلمان ۱۸۴۳ میلادی

با مقدمه
دکتر مهدی محقق

تهران ۱۳۸۶

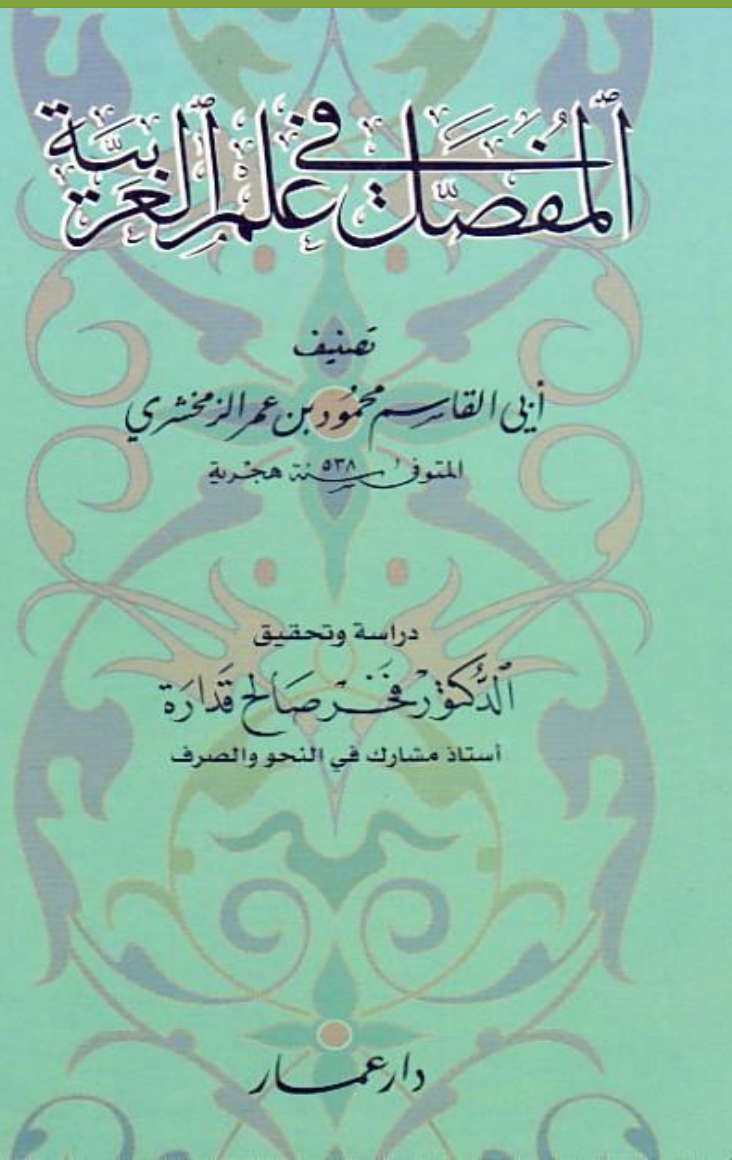
Zamakhshari



The author of more than fifty books. As a philologist, he considered Arabic the queen of languages, in spite of the fact that his own native tongue was Persian (and though he wrote several minor works in that latter language). Zamakhshari is also known for *Al-Kashshaaf*, a seminal commentary on the Qur'an. The commentary is a linguistic analysis of the verses and has been criticized for the inclusion of Mu'tazilite philosophical views.

Zamakhsharī's Other Works

Of al-Zamakhsharī's grammatical works, Al-Mufaṣṣal fī 'ilm al-'Arabīyah ("Detailed Treatise on Arabic Linguistics," written 1119–21, published 1859; it is sometimes titled Kitāb al-Mufaṣṣal fī al-Naḥw ["Detailed Treatise on Grammar"]) is celebrated for its concise but exhaustive exposition.



History of Lexicology in Egypt

- Egyptians Produced thesaurus-like topically arranged wordlists from as early as 1750 BC, although none has survived.

History of Lexicology in India

- In India as early as the third to second century BC, glossaries were drawn up to explain the difficult words in the *Vedas*, which by that time were already a thousand years old. These glossaries gradually evolved into what we would recognize today as dictionaries.



- In the seventh century AD, the scholar *Amera Sinha* or Amarasimha prepared a Sanskrit dictionary, the *Amera Kosha* or The **Amarakosha** .

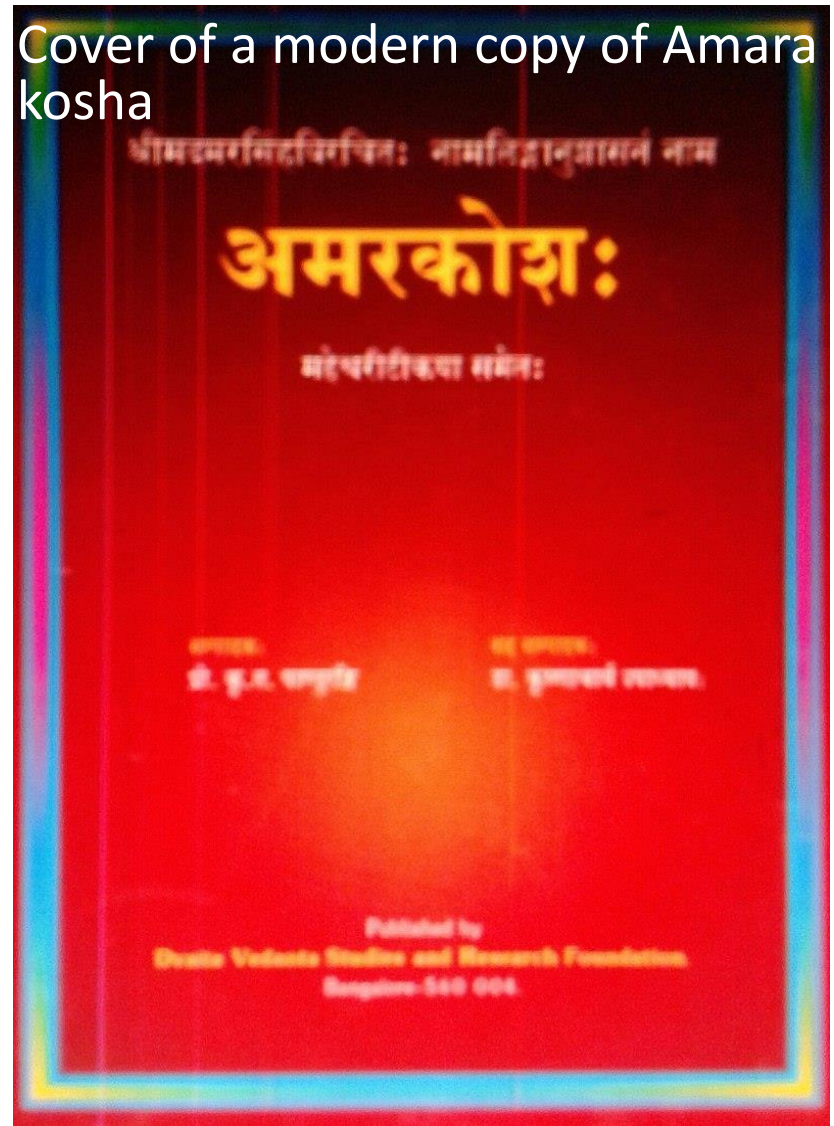


The Amarakosha

The **Amarakosha**

- More than ten centuries later, this was still in use it was translated into English by Cole Brooke ,and Cole Brooke's translation ,published in serampur in 1808, is acknowledged by Roget as one source of ideas for his Thesaurus .

Cover of a modern copy of Amara
ksha



History of Lexicology in India

- Hamacandra's great dictionaries of Sanskrit and of Prakrit, the *Abhidhana Kintamani* and the *Desi-namamala* date from the twelfth century . By this time, Indian scholarship in grammar and phonology had reached a high degree of sophistication and dictionary making took its place as par of the systematic description of language.

History of Lexicology in China

- In china, the earliest extant lexicological work is in fact a thesaurus , the Er Ya ‘Treasury of fine words’. Compiled in this form in the third century BC, it is a list of about 3,500 words found in ancient texts, arranged under 19 headings: the first three sections contain words of a general nature – nouns –verbs and figurative expressions; the remaining 16 being topical groupings, headed Kin, Buildings, implements, music, Sky (l.e calendar and climate) Land, Hills, Mountains, Water (rivers and lakes) ,plants ,trees, insects and Reptiles, Fishes ,Birds, wild animals and Domestic Animals .

History of Lexicology in China

- Each word is glossed, by a synonym or super ordinate term ,or else briefly defined. The Chinese paid little attention to grammar: since Chinese words are invariant ,the question of why words change in form ,which was what led the Indians ,Greek and Arabs to study grammar ,simply did not arise. But their study of vocabulary developed in three directions: (1) recording dialect words, as in the Fang Yan ,by Yang Xiong, in the first century BC.

History of Lexicology in China

- (2) investigating the origin of written characters, in Shuo Wen Jie Zi by Xu Shen ,in first century AD; and
- (3) describing the sounds of words, classifying them according to rhyme, notably in the Qie Yun (AD 600) and Tang Yun (AD 750).
- By the time of the Ming and Qing dynasties, large-scale dictionaries and encyclopedias were being compiled: notably the Yongle Encyclopedia (1403-9) in 10,000 volumes, few of which, however, survive and the Kangxi Dictionary (1716), containing some 50,000 characters together with their pronunciation and definition.

Greek Lexicography

- In Greece, as in India, the earliest studies of words were glossaries on the ancient texts – Homeric texts ,in the case of Greece. Apollonius, an Alexandrian grammarian of the first century BC, compiled a Homeric lexicon , but both this and later glossaries by Hesychius are lost.

Greek Lexicographer

- Perhaps the greatest work of the Byzantine period was the Shuda, a tenth century etymological and explanatory dictionary of around 30,000 entries from literary works in ancient, Hellenistic and Byzantine Greek and in Latin.

History of Lexicology in Europe

- The development of dictionaries in the modern European context was associated with the spread of education and the promotion of emerging national literary languages. From about 1450 onwards bilingual dictionaries were being produced for use in schools, at first for learning Latin (Latin-German, Latin-English, etc) but soon afterwards also for the modern languages of Europe.

- Many of the nation states of southern and eastern Europe then set up national academies, and these were responsible for establishing norms for the definition and usage of words: for example , the Italian vocabulario deglimici della Crusca, 1612; the dectionnaire de l' Aacademici della Crusca,1612; the dectionnaire de l'Academie francaise,1694 (the lexicographer Furetiere was expelled from the academy because he published his own dictionary, the Universal Dictionary Containing All french Words, in 1690 before the official one had appeared); the dictionary of the Spanish Academy in 1726-39, and that of the Russian Academy in 1789-94.

History of Lexicology in Europe

- By the nineteenth century the great publishing houses were bringing out extended series of lexicological works: notably in France (Littre, Dictionnaire de la langue française, in four volumes plus supplements, in 1863-78; and Larousse, Grand Dictionnaire universel du XIXe siècle, an encyclopaedic dictionary in 15 volumes, 1865-76) and in Germany (Meyer's Great Encyclopaedic Lexicon in 46 plus 6 supplementary volumes, 1840-55). Each of these major works was followed by a large number of spin-off publications of various kinds.

Thank you very much