

## The Contributions of Two Scholars: Raji Dan Maitoka and Dahiru Fairamma in the Development of Arabic Morphology in Nigeria

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**ABSTRACT:** This paper titled: *The contributions of two Scholars: Raji Dan Maitoka and Dahiru Fairamma in the development of Arabic language in Nigeria* is trying to highlight the educational background of Sheikh Dahiru Ibrahim Fairamma and Sheikh Muhammadu Raji Dan Maitoka, right from their early childhood, educational background, some of their scholars who taught them and their own contributions and legacies left behind. The paper will also discuss important role played by two Scholars: in the development of Arabic language in particular, and Arabic morphology in general, by mentioning some books they wrote in the development of the field of Arabic morphology, more especially how they devoted their lives in propagating knowledge and education in Nigeria. Although they are not only scholars who played this kind of important role in the development of Arabic language in general and morphology in particular. We have many of Them, such as Sheikh Abdullah bn Fodiyo, the Author of “*Alhisnu al Raseen*”, Sheikh Muhammad SALih Al- Fulati, the Author of “*Murwee al- sadee*”, and Sheikh bn Ishaq the author of *Fathu al- lateef, fi ilm al- tasreef*, and many others. Nevertheless, the two researchers decide to present in this paper, the two personalities mentioned in the title of the paper, and their works to the readers in order to allow people know a lot about them and their contributions.

**Keywords:** Contribution, Scholars, Development, Arabic language and Nigeria.

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### I. INTRODUCTION: BIOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND OF SHEIKH FAIRAMMA:

He is Muhammad Al-Dahir the son of Ibrahim, who is the son of Harun, Fulani by tribe, th at Borno, who belongs to Maliki School of Fiqh (Hassan 2008) Muhammad Bello described him as follows:

One of the great scholars of Hausaland is the conversant scholar Abubakar Al-barkum who is known as Dahiru bn Ibrahim Fulani by tribe, one of the best scholars during his periods, knowledgably, good In character, pious very gentleman (Bello 1950), he grew very brilliant in a place called: Zat at-baqar, he received his education from Sheikh Al-Bakry he then went back home and started teaching students, then he was honored by Sultan of Borno of that time who built a house for him and gave him a leadership under his council, (Bello 1940).

Sheikh Fairamma is a scholar to Sheikh Abdullah bn Fodiyo as we can see his writings where he quote from him books like *Nazm al-Sunusiyyah al-Kubra* in doctrine, more especially when Sheikh Abdullah is talking about types of people in the day of judgment those who will be in paradise and those who will be in health fire and those who committed sins which can be forgiven which is less than associating God with other idol and who cannot be forgiven as a result of associating Almighty God with idols in the book of *Diya’u al-taaweel*, while interpreting verse 48 in *Suratu al-Nisa’i* (Abdullah 1950).

#### His Educational legacies:

Sheikh Fairamma has many books in doctrine, Sufism and Arabic morphology, one of these books are:

1. *Nazm al-Kubra fi al-Tauheed and al-Aqeedah ala al-Mazhab al-Asharee.*
2. *Nazm ala al-Hikam fee al-Tasawwuf lib n Ada’i al-Allah, al-Iskandaree.*
3. *Nazm Kitab al-Jam’i al-amthali fee Ilm al-Tasreet lib n al-Shajaree.*
4. *Manar al-Jam’i fee Ilm al-Tasreef.*
5. *Al-Duraru al-Lawami’i fee Ilm al-Tasreef.*

This last book is one of the famous book of Arabic Morphology we read in our Islamic schools in Hausa Land, before evencoming the Sheikh Usmanu bn Fodiyo, Sheikh Abdulalh bn Fodiyo and others.

This is why,if we compare the two books: *Al-Duraru al-Lawami’u* of Sheikh Fairamma and *al-Hisnu al-Raseen* of Sheikh Abdullah, we found that there is a similarity between the two books and nobody will argue that there is a clear influenced and impact of Sheikh Fairamma in Sheik Abdullah in his book but we can also

see some differences in one way or the other, because al-Hisnu al-Raseen is bigger and wider than the al-Duraru al-Lawami'u in the contents and philosophy in discussing Morphological issues although the book of Fairamma is a shade and explanation to book of al-Jami'u which is also an explanation to the book of Lamiyyatu al-Afa'i of Muhammad bn Malik but he added many issues to his book which cannot be found in the book of Lamiyyatu al-Af'ali.

Another different between the two books is that, the book of al-Duraru al-Lawami'u focused deeply in the Morphology of verbs, while the book of al-Hisnu al-Raseen discussed the morphology of verbs and morphology of nouns deeply.

Finally, Sheikh Fairamma died in the year: 1660 century.

#### **Sheikh Muhammad Raji Dan Maitoka and his contributions:**

Sheikh Adam Iloree defined Raji while he is talking about Scholars in Hausa land said among them we have: Sheikh Muhammad Raji Dan Maitoka is one of the best Scholars who wrote more than fifty books, famous one among it is : Misbahu al- afaal fi ilm al taareef. ( Iloree : 1971 )

According to Yagawal: All oral authentic sources agreed that: He is Muhammad Raji Dan Maitoka by name, but the date in which he was born, no more details about his place of birth his educational background and his tribe. (Yagawal 2002 )

Some sources of historians are saying the Name of his mother is: Shekara traditional soap seller which is made by ashes she is one of the domestic servant of Sheikh Usmanu Danfodiyo she asks Shehu Usmanu to pray for her child Dan Maitoka to be blessed, and the prayer was accepted where he became a great Scholar as young of twenty five years old. His house is at old Market Sokoto. (Yagawal 2002 )

#### **His Educational legacies:**

- 1- Misbahu al- af-aal edited by Kabiru Adam from Bayero University Kano.
- 2- Talkhis al hisnu al- raseen which was started by Sheikh bn Ishaq and Completed by Dan maitoka.
- 3- Taameerul al-hisnu which is considered as editing to the book of Al- hisnu al- raseenu by Sheikh Abdullah He has almost fifty books but most of it got lost as a result of lack of appropriate keeping record.

#### **His Death:**

Sheikh Dan Maitoka died as young of twenty – five years old, and left very great legacies in Arabic morphology for the upcoming generations, such legacies like this, should not go for nothing, as well as personality like this should not be unknown to students and researchers. Some are clamoring that Dan Maitoka died young simply because he argued and challenged Sheikh Abdullah bn Fodiyo in some morphological issues he wrote in his book: Al-hisnu al raseen, such suspicions like these are in Materials, because no any reliable and authentic Sources which can support this suspicions. Dan Maitoka died at age of twenty five years, where he was buried in his Family house located at old market Sokoto, in Sokoto State, may Almighty God forgive him and make his soul rest in peace.

#### **About his book Taameerul al- hisnu:**

The book of taameerul al –hisnu is very great morphological source and reference work for a long time in the past, but it remains useful for researches and students in the field of Arabic morphology, that is why the book was edited and verified by prof Yagawal as his PhD research, submitted to the Department of Arabic, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto.

The book of Dan Maitoka is an editing an explanation to the book of Sheikh Abdullah, where he tried to discussed and analyzed morphological aspects in the book, by given more examples from Arabic poetry and other sources of Arabic Language.

But for the Writer for not being popular among Nigerian scholars this has some factors which contributed to that, more especially he is very young among many popular Scholars during that time of 19<sup>th</sup> century, secondly many historians did not Wrote details of his life and his contributions to Arabic language he wrote on Sheikh Usman. Sheikh Abdullah, Ameru al- Muminina Muhammad Bello and others.

## **II. CONCLUSION:**

With this brief note, we perceive how sheikh Dahiru Fairamma and sheikh Muhammad Raji Dan Maitoka contributed a lot for the development of Arabic Morphology in Nigeria. The paper discussed their biographical and educational background, where Sheikh Dahiru Fairamma grew in a place known as Zat al-Baqar and moved to Sheikh Bakri until he became a great scholar in Arabic and Islamic Studies, where he wrote many books, some of it were mentioned in the paper. The paper also highlighted his book al-Duraru al-Lawami'u and his educational position in Hausa Land which made him to be a great scholar who left a legacy to the Nigerian generations we see him impact in Sheikh Abdullahi Fodiyo which made him to be proud with him

in many places in his book *Diyau al – taawel* . The second part of the paper highlighted the biographical background of Sheikh Muhammad Raji Dan Maitoka which includes his Educational background and his Contributions to the development of Arabic morphology where he tried to verify, edit and shade more light on the morphological aspects discussed in the book of *Al- hisnu Al- Raseen* by Sheikh Abdullah bn Fodiyo where he titled his book *Taameeru Al – hisnu al raseen* which means: longevity of *Al- hisnu al- raseen*. Therefore, we pray Almighty to forgive them.

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