

## **The triangulation of linguistic, orthographic, and diglossic factors in reading development in Arabic**

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Three conspicuous features of the Arabic language and orthography shape the development of reading in this language: (a) vowelization/vocalization, or the use of diacritical marks to represent short vowels and other features of articulation; (b) morphological structure, mainly, the predominance and transparency of derivational morphological structure in the linguistic and orthographic representation of the Arabic word; and (c) diglossia, specifically, the lexical and lexico-phonological distance between the spoken and the standard forms of the Arabic word. The talk will discuss evidence showing that the triangulation of these three features of the Arabic language, orthography and context of language acquisition and use govern the development and deployment of reading mechanisms. Moreover, developmental language and reading difficulties are better understood when evaluated within these language-specific features.