

## **Arabic Loanwords in *Basa Magindanawn*: A Case Study of the *Moro-Maguindanao-Español Dictionary* by Jacinto Juanmartí**

This study addresses the analysis of Arabic loanwords in *Basa Magindanawn*, or the Maguindanao language, found in what is considered the first dictionary and most important source for the study of Maguindanao: the *Moro-Maguindanao-Español Dictionary*. This work, authored by the Jesuit Jacinto Juanmartí, was published in Manila in the late 19th century with the purpose of serving as a tool for members of the Society of Jesus in the Philippines to learn the language and interact with the native population.

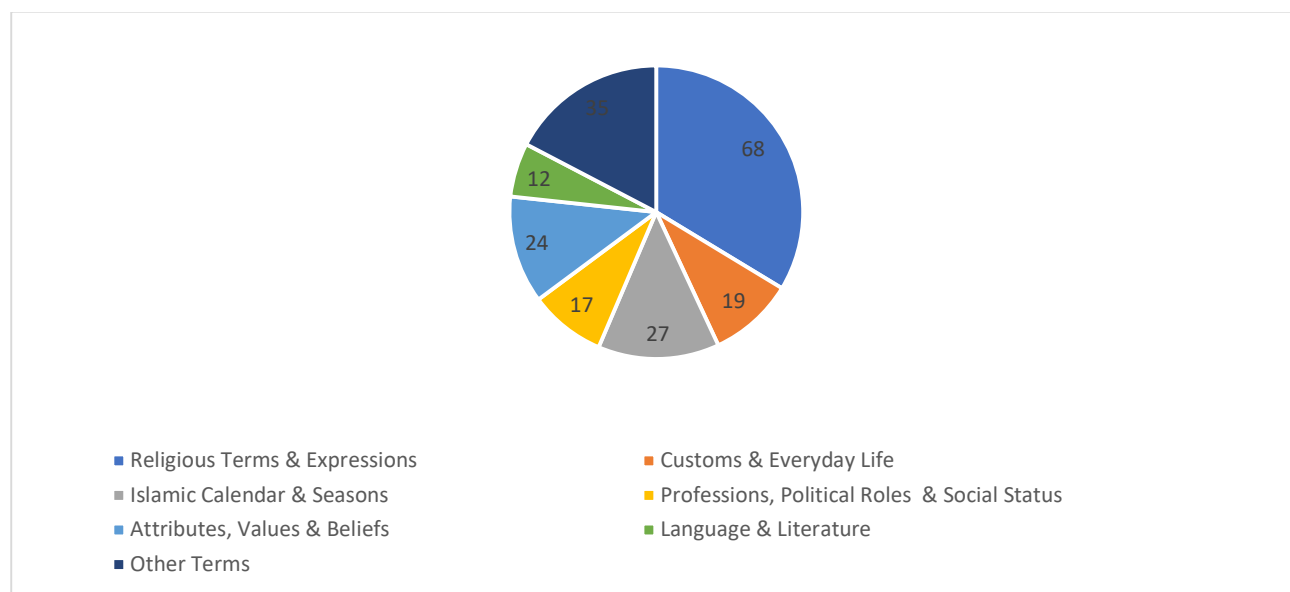
The **aim** of this work is, first, to compile the terms identified by the author in the text as being of Arabic origin, as well as others that the author indicates as being of Malay origin but which actually derive from Arabic, in addition to those whose origin is not specified in the text but are clearly Arabic loanwords. Second, we have sought to classify these terms according to semantic fields based on the translation or definition the author provides in Spanish for each term and/or expression. Finally, we analyze and comment on some aspects we consider most relevant. The goal is to highlight the significant influence of Arabic on this and other Austronesian languages and to showcase the lexical material compiled and analyzed as evidence of the rich linguistic diversity in the Philippines, particularly in Mindanao. We believe this work can serve as a starting point for future research on the subject, thereby promoting the study of the Maguindanao language and encouraging the development of studies on this language that address other aspects of the topic from different perspectives.

The **methodology** we have adopted is based on a purely philological and linguistic analysis of the Arabic terms and expressions in the original work, always bearing in mind that our intention is to highlight this existing Arabic terminology and, as in other Austronesian languages, the influence of both the Arabic language and Islamic culture on the Maguindanao language.

The **results** confirm, first and foremost, the aforementioned Arabic influence, given the significant number of loanwords identified in the dictionary. Additionally, it is notable that most of these terms and expressions have retained their original Arabic meanings, although there are instances where the terms have undergone changes.

We include in this abstract two **figures** that provide a clearer visualization of some of the results obtained:

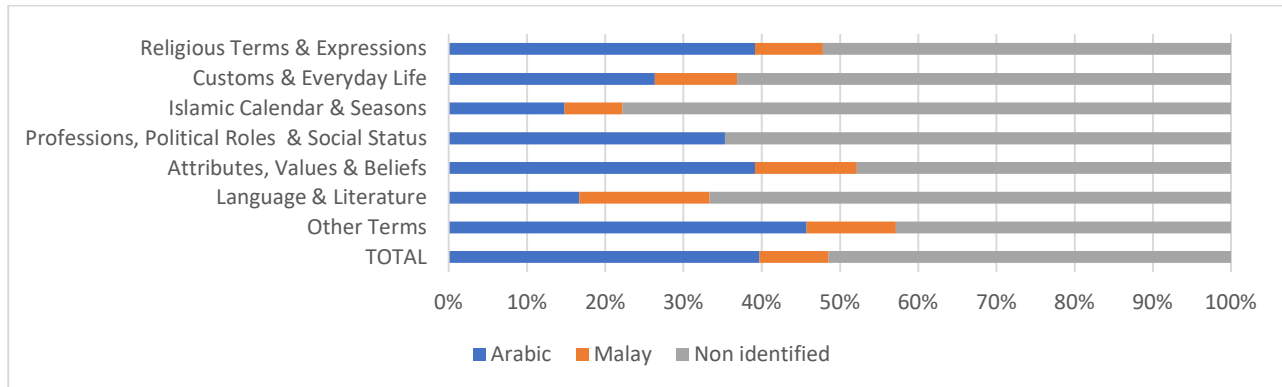
In this first chart, we observe that the most significant semantic field corresponds to loanwords related to the religious domain. However, there is also a notable number of words associated with the Islamic calendar. Some terms reflect habits and traditions of daily life, while others pertain to personal attributes and ethical values characteristic of a Muslim community.



**Figure 1.** Classification into semantic fields (approximated number of Arabic loanwords: 200)

In this second chart, we can see that Arabic loanwords in the Maguindanao language represent a higher percentage than what is indicated in the dictionary. Only approximately 40% of the total terms of Arabic origin are identified as such in the dictionary, while around 10% of the total words are considered to have Malay origins, although they are actually Arabic loanwords. The remaining 50% of Arabic loanwords are not identified as such.

The semantic field with the highest number of recognized Arabic loanwords is that of religious expressions and terms, followed by attributes, values, and beliefs. These findings suggest a strong connection between the Arabic language and the religious, ethical, and moral values present in this community.



**Figure 2.** Classification into terms identified by the author as of Arabic origin, Malay origin, and unidentified but with a clear Arabic origin

However, many questions remain unresolved, and new ones arise from this research. For instance, determining the total number of Arabic loanwords currently present in Maguindanao, identifying the semantic fields they pertain to, and examining whether the data aligns with the findings of this study, which, it must be noted, analyzes Arabic loanwords found in a work from the late 19th century.

Therefore, it also seems worthwhile to conduct a study aimed at verifying which of the terms analyzed here are still in use today in the areas of Mindanao where Maguindanao is the majority language, or, conversely, whether some of them have fallen into disuse or have been replaced by other terms, as well as the reasons for these changes.

Finally, other equally relevant issues arise, such as comparing these Arabic loanwords in Maguindanao with those found in other languages like Indonesian or Javanese, both in terms of the number of words of Arabic origin and the semantic variations and usage of these terms across different languages.

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