

# اللغة العربية

## مَعْنَى «الإِعْرَابِ»



### Question

In Grammar lesson 3 (النَّعْتُ الْمَقْطُوعُ) the sentence:

أَطْعَمَ هَذَا الْوَلَدَ الْمَسْكِينُ.

- without *ḥarkāt* and *i'rāb*, would read:

أطعم هذا الولد المسكين

الولدَ . would be mistakenly considered an adjective for المسكينُ

How would we read these words correctly as Arabic is mostly written without *ḥarkāt* and *i'rāb*?

Faḍīlat al-Shaykh Dr. V. Abdur Rahim (حفظه الله) replies:



Dear Br Amin  
السلام عليكم

First of all, I want to make two corrections.

1. You write: *ḥarkāt* (حَرَكَات). This is not correct.

The correct form of the word is *ḥarakāt* حَرَكَات.

The singular is حَرَكَةٌ where the *rā* has *fathah*.

And the plural also retains this *fathah* حَرَكَاتٌ.

2. You say written without any *ḥarakāt* and *i'rāb*.

In the Indian subcontinent the word إِعْرَاب is used in the sense of حَرَكَات. This is wrong.

As you know, the word إِعْرَاب means declension, i.e., the partial change the Arabic nouns and *mudāri'* verbs undergo to indicate their function in the sentence. It is one of the key terms in Arabic grammar.

We should be careful not to use this word to denote حَرَكَات (the diacritical signs).

Now the answer to your question is that normally Arabic is written without *ḥarakāt*, but ضَبَطَ is used where necessary.

If a particular word is likely to be misread, it is written with *ḥarakāt*.

And if *ḥarakāt* are not available in a system, the correct ضَبَطَ of the word is indicated in brackets by saying, e.g.,

أطعم هذا الولد المسكين (بضم النون) . (*bi ḍammi l-nūn*) .

Hope this has helped you to understand the problem.

والسلام,

Abdur rahim