

English

for the Students
of Hadith and
Qur'anic Sciences

Dr. Hasan Rezaii Haftador
Associate Professor of University of Tehran

Ali Marami Hajikandi
Ph.D. Student, Allameh Tabataba'i University



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In the Name of Allah,
the Beneficent, the Merciful

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Introduction

The book at hand is intended to serve as an ESP textbook for undergraduate students of the Qur'ān and Hadith sciences. In the following, an outline of the book is presented.

Structure of the book

The book consists of 16 units. Best efforts have been made to ensure that the units get lengthier one after another, so that the unit sizes correspond to learners' increased ability during the course.

Texts

The book revolves around a set of texts on the Qur'ān and Hadith sciences that are written by prominent orientalists. As a result, along with the high-frequency vocabulary and grammar rules, the book provides the audience with a host of terms related to the Qur'ān and Hadith sciences as well as academic words, highly formal grammar rules, and rich textual contexts.

Each unit entails three texts. The first one is the longest and serves as the main provider of content. The second text in each unit is used to pose a cloze test exercise. The third text of each unit is offered as a translation prompt.

These texts have been chosen based on several criteria. First, the texts are intended to be of interest to the students of the Qur'ān and Hadith sciences. This has been assured through a meticulous analysis of the orientalist sources on areas related to this field of study. Second, the texts are selected according to the abundance of the Qur'ān and Hadith sciences terminology inherent in them. The texts, therefore, provide the students with knowledge at both conceptual and linguistic levels.

Regarding the length of the texts, the total words of the texts in each unit is more than the previous one. This is believed to be in line with learners' gradual development during the course.

Finally, concerning the arrangement of the texts, it is noteworthy that the texts of the book are considered as the beads of a chain, each contributing to

a whole. Consequently, the students could achieve an overall picture of the orientalist's view toward the Qur'ān and Hadith sciences at the end of the course. That is to say, the students will attain a fairly organized understanding of the orientalist stances toward Qur'ān and Hadith sciences.

Structure of units

Each unit of this book begins with a text on a subject from the field of the Qur'ān and Hadith sciences. After the main text, each unit gives in a comprehensive set of exercises, intended to help students implement and extend what they have learned from the text. These exercises have been divided into three sections. The unifying theme for the first section is the enhancement of the comprehension of the main text. Here, true-false, multiple choice, and short-response questions (exercises A, B, and C of section 1) – which help the students review the supporting details of the text – are followed by a request to figure out the main idea of the text (exercise D of section 1).

The second section of the exercises in each unit is allocated to language practice. Here, three sets of questions are presented with an emphasis on vocabulary. This part aims at deepening students' knowledge of the selected vocabulary through practice on word forms (exercise B of section 2), synonym-finding (exercises A and C of section 2), and a cloze test completion (exercise D of section 2). The cloze tests are based on original orientalist texts focusing on an array of subjects from the field of the Qur'ān and Hadith sciences. This further enhances the students' familiarity with orientalist's view toward the Qur'ān and Hadith sciences, and provides them with the related terminology.

Each unit ends with a part entitled "translation activities". This section is comprised of two subsections. The first part presents the students with another text on a subject from the field of the Qur'ān and Hadith sciences written by major orientalist thinkers, which should be translated by the students into Persian. This will assist the students of the Qur'ān and Hadith sciences in getting familiar with the orientalist's views toward various issues from their field of study. The last exercise of the unit offers a list of selected English vocabulary for which the students should find the appropriate Persian equivalents. The words are either the popular English equivalents of the field

of the Qur'ān and Hadith sciences or important general words of English, extracted from the three texts of the units. This exercise is used to help students retain the main vocabulary of the three texts.

We admit that no human work is void of faults and shortcomings. Accordingly, considering the value of constructive criticism in enhancing any human endeavor, we will be happy if the specialists of the field of the Qur'ān and Hadith sciences let us know their opinion on the book, especially the parts that can be improved.