Casein Construct State Constructions in Arabic

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Abstract—The paper deals with a syntactic structure unique to Semitic languages including Arabic, namely Construct State. It first cites the different definitions of this syntactic structure, which are contributed by some linguists in the field. The paper presents the whole syntactic picture of Construct State constructions and points out the function of each constituent in these constructions together with its structural properties. Where and how the elements a Construct State construction is composed of project in the syntactic tree is discussed in detail. The paper sheds light on feature spreading which takes place among the constituents of Construct State constructions indicating which features spread and which do not. The case assigned to each element of Construct State Constructions is explained as is in the literature. Moreover, the paper proposes a new nanosyntactic account for case assignment in these constructions in lines with Caha (2009) by referring to the theory of case selection.

Keywords: Arabic, Construct State, Structure, Function, Case, Case Selection

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