

Arabic Rhetorical Device Taxonomy

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From The Encyclopedia of Arabic Rhetoric

The **Arabic Rhetorical Device Taxonomy** (ARDT) is a [taxonomy](#) of classical Arabic rhetorical devices published as part of the [Encyclopedia of Arabic Rhetoric](#). The ARDT was originally developed in 2021 for research into [rhetorical density](#), a quantitative linguistics metric for measuring the density of rhetorical devices in texts, where the accurate and consistent identification of rhetorical devices is essential. In continuous development since 2021, the ARDT is now a foundational resource in [Arabic rhetoric](#). It provides educators and researchers in corpus linguistics, natural language processing, digital humanities with a stable, citable reference for Arabic rhetorical devices.

The ARDT systematises 95 rhetorical devices drawn from the three major branches of classical rhetoric: *ʿilm al-maʿānī*, *ʿilm al-bayān*, and *ʿilm al-badīʿ*, in addition to a small set of [negative rhetorical effects](#).

It includes:

- A [hierarchical ontology](#) of all Arabic rhetorical devices
- Definitions grounded in classical Arabic sources
- Examples and usage notes
- [PDF](#), self-contained [HTML](#), and [machine-readable](#) snapshots of all entries
- A complete [taxonomy index](#) for quick navigation
- Version-locked documentation suitable for academic citation and peer review

Page information

🔗 Live DOI

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19 November 2025

Supplementary file

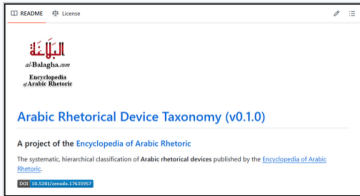
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📄 README

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Arabic Rhetorical Device Taxonomy (v0.1.0)

A project of the Encyclopedia of Arabic Rhetoric

The systematic, hierarchical classification of Arabic rhetorical devices published by the Encyclopedia of Arabic Rhetoric

[PDF](#) [HTML](#) [Machine-readable](#)

Screenshot of the Arabic Rhetorical Device Taxonomy v0.1.0

Version 0.1.1 (20 November 2025)

Version 0.1.1 of the **ARDT** introduces full machine-readable exports of the Arabic Rhetorical Device Taxonomy to support digital humanities research, linked-data workflows, and reproducible computational analysis. It is available on [GitHub](#) and [Zenodo](#).

Added in this release:

- A new [machine-readable/](#) directory containing:
 - [JSON](#)
 - [JSON-LD](#)
 - [RDF/XML](#)
 - [TTL](#)
- Each file corresponds to a single rhetorical device (Q-item) from [BalaghaBase.org](#), the project's custom Wikibase instance.
- Formats are aligned with semantic web standards and suitable for ingestion into digital humanities tools, corpus annotation systems, and knowledge graphs.

This marks the first structured data release of the taxonomy, expanding its use beyond human-readable PDF/HTML formats into machine-actionable forms.

Version 0.1.0 (17 November 2025)

Version 0.1.0 is the first public, versioned release of the **Arabic Rhetorical Device Taxonomy**, making three years of iterative development openly available on [GitHub](#) and [Zenodo](#).

Included in this release:

- [Complete taxonomy](#) of 95 rhetorical devices across *ʿilm al-maʿānī*, *ʿilm al-bayān* and *ʿilm al-badīʿ*.
- Full [Table of Contents](#) with PDF, HTML and live external links.
- [PDF](#) and [HTML](#) snapshot exports from the [Encyclopedia of Arabic Rhetoric](#).
- [A combined PDF of all devices for offline use](#).
- CITATION.cff, [README](#), and LICENSE.
- Stable structure suitable for long-term citation and archiving.

First pre-release draft version (6 September 2022)

The first draft of the taxonomy was created and submitted as part of a [Master's dissertation](#) at the University of Exeter. The taxonomy was created to assist in accurately identifying Arabic rhetorical devices in texts, as part of a [research project](#) to

taxonomy was created to assist in accurately identifying Arabic rhetorical devices in texts, as part of a [research project](#) to measure the [rhetorical density](#) of texts.

- Rhetorical density is a novel quantitative linguistics metric, based on the relative frequency analysis of rhetorical devices. It enables comparative measurement of rhetoricity across texts and genres. It is [defined](#) as the number of rhetorical devices per 100 orthographic words or word units.

This early version of the taxonomy formed the conceptual foundation for identifying Arabic rhetorical devices consistently, and for building a stable ontology for rhetorical analysis.

Page History

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