5.3 Appendix 3: Old (North) Arabic (ara)

Examples

(ara 1)   (Macdonald 2008:216)

w = ʔn	*N₁*	*bn*	*N₂*
and = 1SG	N₁	son	N₂

"and I am N₁, the son of N₂"

Questionnaire

1	28	/t k q tˤ ʔ b d g f θ s ɬ ʃ ç(j) χ ħ h θˤ sˤ v(w) ð z ɣ ðˤ m n l r/
2	3	/i u a/ (but maybe 5, see section **3**)
3	2	/ai au/ (maybe monophthongized to eː/oː)
4	yes	/q χ/
5	yes	/ɬ l/
6	no	
7	no [ŋ]	
8	yes	/l/ *lh* "for him"
		/r/ *rġmt* "humbled.f"
9	very likely CVC only	
10	no	
11	yes	all consonants can occur geminated in intervocalic position
12	10	verbs are inflected for subject agreement (prefix and suffix, in some TAM forms only suffix), TAM (suffix), voice (different vowel pattern), CAUS (prefix/reduplication?), INTENS (infix).
12a	10-11	nouns are inflected for noun class (suffix), number (sometimes stem inflection, sometimes suffix), case (likely) (suffix, together with number), state (marked by lack of case suffix, maybe also a direct marker), definiteness (prefix), possession (suffix)
13	overt case (although not written, but there is some evidence), only S/A agreement	
13a	construct state (likely, but not visible in the script), overt GEN case	

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case affixes on N:	sfx	0-2
pronominal subject affixes on V:	pfx/sfx	0.5-1.5[112]
tense-aspect affixes on V:	(indirect)	0-0[113]

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[112] Agreement is prefixal and suffixal in some forms, but purely suffixal in others.

[113] Tense/Aspect is formed by ablaut and use of different agreement patterns.