

imported new technical terms from these sources. It has been remarked not infrequently that the Prophet had a penchant for strange and mysterious sounding words,<sup>1</sup> and seemed to love to puzzle his audiences with these new terms,<sup>2</sup> though frequently he himself had not grasped correctly their meaning, as one sees in such cases as *سكينة* and *فرقان*.

Sometimes he seems even to have invented words, such as *غساق*, *سلسيل*, and *تسنيم*.<sup>3</sup>

The foreign elements in the Qur'anic vocabulary are of three distinct kinds :—

(i) Words which are entirely non-Arabic, such as *زنجيل*, *استبرق*, *نمارق*, *فردوس*, etc., which cannot by any linguistic juggling be reduced to developments from an Arabic root, or which though seemingly trilateral, e.g. *جبت*, have no verbal root in Arabic. These words were taken over as such from some non-Arabic source.

(ii) Words which are Semitic and whose trilateral root may be found in Arabic, but which nevertheless in the Qur'an are used not in the Arabic sense of the root, but in a sense which developed in one of the other languages. Such words as *فاطر*, *صوامع*, *درس*, *بارك* are illustrations. Words of this class when once naturalized in Arabic may and do develop nominal and verbal forms in a truly Arabic manner, and thus frequently disguise the fact that originally they were borrowings from outside.

(iii) Words which are genuinely Arabic and commonly used in the Arabic language, but which as used in the Qur'an have been coloured in their meaning by the use of the cognate languages. For instance, *نور* meaning *light* is a common enough Arabic word, but when

<sup>1</sup> Hirschfeld, op. cit., 5; Dvořák, *Fremdw*, 17, who says: "In solchen Fällen haben wir dann nichts anderes anzunehmen, als das Streben Muhammed's, durch die seinen Landsleuten mehr oder weniger unverständlichen Ausdrücke sich selbst den Schein der Gelehrsamkeit zu geben und zu imponiren, vielleicht auch die Absicht, mystisch und undeutlich zu sein"; Bell, *Origin*, 51.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Sūra, ci, 1, 2, 6, 7; lxxiv, 27; lxxxvi, 1, 2, etc.

<sup>3</sup> Nöldeke, *Sketches*, 38.