

A summary of the doctoral thesis „Irrealität im Deutschen und Arabischen. Eine kontrastive Untersuchung“ („Counterfactuality in German and Arabic. A Contrastive Analysis.“) by Olaf Moritz

The analysis starts from the observation of the special difficulties of Arab learners of German as a foreign language in the acquisition of German *irrealer Konjunktiv* (*counterfactual* - or *hypothetical* - *subjunctive*). In its first part it analyses and compares the respective way of expressing counterfactuality in German and Arabic and shows that the two compared languages use for this purpose different structures whose partial incompatibility is the reason for the observed difficulties of Arab learners of German.

In its second part the treatise examines exemplary German texts and their translation into Arabic analysing the problems caused by the incompatibility of certain German linguistic structures expressing counterfactuality with the possible ways of expressing it in Arabic and strategies used by the translators for avoiding these problems. The results of this second part are thus available for future didactic exploitation in order to avoid the problems of learners described above.

The thesis supplies the linguistic basis for an adequate and effective way of treating these structures in teaching German as a foreign language.