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# The Use of Novel in Learning and Teaching Arabic Language to Non-Native Speakers: Problems and Strategies

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### **Abstract**

Arabic novels are one of the resources that can be utilised in the process of teaching and learning the Arabic language. However, they are rarely featured as teaching aids to improve the proficiency of non-native students, except those who choose to specialise in the study of Arabic literature. Hence, this article presents a study on the challenges faced by nonArab students in using novels to learn Arabic. The study also identified the strategies employed by students when using novels in learning Arabic. This is a qualitative study involving interviews with ten (10) students who were studying Arabic Prose Texts at the International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM). The data were subjected to thematic analysis, and the studys' findings indicated that the integration of Arabic novels was hindered by several factors: insufficient motivation, limited interest, lack of exposure to Arabic literature, and the advanced level of language employed in the novels. However, the implementation of various strategies successfully heightened students'awareness of the significance and benefits of Arabic novels in learning the Arabic language. Some students utilised dictionaries, read bilingual novels (English-Arabic), participated in group discussions, and sought guidance from teachers and Arabic-speaking peers. The article subsequently suggested various methodologies to improve the incorporation of novels in the Arabic language. A variety of strategies can be employed to integrate literature and linguistics, thereby making the learning of Arabic more studentfocused and effective through an innovative pedagogical approach.

# **Keywords**

Author Keywords: Arabic language learning; novels; literature;

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