Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the following institutions and publications for granting me the permission, either in writing or by author privilege, to reproduce, revise and edit the earlier versions of some of my papers which they initially published in their journals or books:

Lingua: International Review of General Linguistics; Otto Harrassowitz Verlag (including Zeitschrift für arabische Linguistik, Mediterranean Language Review, Festschrift für Otto Jastrow and Linguistic and Oriental Studies in Honour of Fabrizio Pennacchietti); Eisenbrauns; Melammu; Journal of Assyrian Academic Studies; Proceedings of the Linguistics and Arabic Language Seminar, Tunis/ Tunisia, 1978; and Adaab Al-Rafidain: Journal of the University of Mosul, Mosul/Iraq.

I also would like to acknowledge the time and knowledge of my friend Professor Simo Parpola of Helsinki University/Finland for reviewing the contents of Chapter 2 prior to its first appearance in Mediterranean Language Review (2002) and making very constructive suggestions. Equally, I benefited from the knowledge and expertise of my friend Professor Rifaat Y. Ebied of the University of Sydney/Australia for the thorough review of the manuscript of Chapter 13 and the feedback that I received to improve my presentation of the theme of Sound Plurals and Duals in Arabic with a new linguistic perspective.

Sincere gratitude is due to my friend Mr. Youel Baaba, of California, for his excellent rendition into Aramaic the paper which forms the content of Chapter 1. The first appearance of the Aramaic version of this paper was in Journal of Assyrian Academic Studies, Vol. 17, 2003. Equal gratitude is extended to my other friend, Mr. Philimon Darmo, of Sydney/Australia, for the valuable time and effort he expended in translating into Aramaic the lengthy contents of Chapter 2. He did an excellent job. In turn, both Baaba and Darmo acknowledge the help they received from the Assyrian language editor, Journal of Assyrian Academic Studies (JAAS), Mr. Daniel D. Benjamin, due to the technical and academic nature of the texts they translated.

I very much appreciate the technical help that I have received from my son Captain Fred F. Odisho in the formatting and production of the final text.

It goes without saying that I owe my wife (Wardia Shamiran) sincere gratitude for her continuous support throughout my entire academic life.

Edward Odisho, Ph.D. Professor Emeritus Northeastern Illinois University Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.