

Testen, David. 1997. The suppletive imperative of Arabic ‘come’. *Perspectives on Arabic Linguistics X: Papers from the Tenth Annual Symposium on Arabic Linguistics*, ed by Mushira Eid, and Robert R. Ratcliffe, 173-187. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

The article traces the development of the Arabic form *taṣaalay*, which is now used as a suppletive imperative of the verb ‘come’. It has generally been assumed that *taṣaalay* is the end product of a semantic development involving a shift from an original meaning of ‘uplift’ (motion upwards/towards the speaker). However, the expected imperative of the verb ‘uplift’ would be *ti-*. The article suggests another way of development – the one functionally parallel to the development of the suppletive stem *naʕ* (‘come!’) attested throughout the Semitic languages of Ethiopia. *Naʕ* is equated to Biblical Hebrew particle *-nâ*, often rendered as ‘please’ or ‘I pray’ in translation and associated with imperative contexts. Similarly, in Classical Arabic *taṣaalay-* is known as a frozen honorific formula.