Early Standard Arabic: Texts and Commentary.

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ABSTRACT

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This thesis is a study of Early Standard Arabic inscriptions. It consists of four chapters: The introductory one discusses the various reasons for the term Early Standard Arabic, the provenience of those inscriptions and their designations. This chapter also describes the different theories of ancient Arabian scholars about the origin of the Arabic system of writing. Finally it describes the methodology of this thesis.

Chapter two consists of the corpus of Early Standard Arabic inscriptions, and details the most important information concerning each text: Bibliography, discovery, writing and language.

Chapter three is a comparative study of Early Standard Arabic and Classical Arabic. It investigates the relations between them, and shows the linguistic similarities and constraints between them.

Chapter four is a conclusion that presents an evaluation of the information mentioned in the previous chapters, also it contains the history of this corpus, and a summary of the most important studies by Arabian scholars and foreigners.

Included are lists of illustrations, maps, figures, and charts.