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Volume 28 of *al-Karmil* opens with Kawthar Jābir's article "The Arabic Poetic Novel: A Definitional Approach to the Concept and Term." Modern Arabic literature has begun to break away from the "purity of genres" and cross borders by mixing various literary types and creating new hybrid genres. The type of the poetic novel (*al-riwāya al-ṣhi'riyya*), first appeared in the work of the Lebanese writer and poet Jubrān Khalīl Jubrān (1883-1931), is considered a dominant mixed genre in the Arab literary writing. There is no doubt that Arabic literary writing started to grow and adopt the style of trans-generic writing of the poetic novel, which is based on the presence of lyrical poetic sections or atmospheres in the texture of the novel, or on evoking the poetic aspects and metaphors in a consistent manner. The article presents the prominent features of this phenomenon, through referring to various examples of the Arabic poetic novel, and also indicating the most important modern critical studies on this subject.

In the next article, "Some Issues Concerning the Prosaic Craft in Old Arabic Heritage," 'Alī Ḥusayn deals with the nature of classical Arabic fiction and narration. Depending on papers included in *On Fiction and Adab in Medieval Arabic Literature* (edited by Philip F. Kennedy, Wiesbaden 2005), he makes some conclusions regarding the mythical aspects in the 4th/10th-century Arabic prose, fiction in the old Arabic narration and the parameters that medieval scholars took in consideration for composing prosaic narration, and also for choosing proper narratives while composing a certain book, and the development of literature and the function of the *adīb* in the 3rd/9th century.

In the third article, “The Art of Beginnings in Yūsuf Idrīs Fiction”, Muḥammad Ḥamad deals with the effects of historical and modernist elements which effected the stories of Yūsuf Idrīs, particularly in the section of "beginning", both in content and techniques. He also reveals new forms of beginnings in Idrīs fiction, like the popular, circular, misleading, defamiliarizational, cinematic, meta-textual, and meta-fictional. It contributes to confirm the poetics of beginnings and it's significant role in meaning and aesthetic aspects.

In “The Trustworthy Physician: ‘Ṭabīb ‘Adl’ and ‘Ṭabīb Thiqa’ in Islamic Medical Ethics,” Vardit Rispler-Chaim shows that the terms “Ṭabīb thiqa” and “Ṭabīb ‘adl” are often used in Islamic medical ethics to refer to the trustworthy physician. It is important to acknowledge the positive characteristics of the trustworthy physician, especially when the medical advice or the suggested treatment seem to clash with Shari‘a guidelines. The article aims to depict these characteristics, as well as the hierarchy drawn in Islamic medical ethics with regard to how to grade trustworthy physicians. The article also tries to explain why the terms “thiqa” and “‘adl” are the ones selected to describe the trustworthy physician, and the relationship between the physician and the jurist/witness to the court, who are bound together in the terms “Ṭabīb thiqa” and “Ṭabīb ‘adl”.

Ḥasīb Shihāda’s article, “Vanishing Languages,” deals with some issues concerning the disappearance of many languages in modern times. It is expected that during the current century about 90% of the languages in the world would vanish and the scholars are in race with time. The article deals also with the question whether the vanishing of any language means also the vanishing of its culture.

ʿUlā ʿUwayḍa’s article “The Dīwān of al-Sumaysir ʿAbd al-Qāsim Khalaf ibn Faraj al-Ilbīrī” shows that it is possible to divide the poetry of al-Sumaysir into two sections, each resembling part of his life. The first period was during his youth, where he started as an enthusiastic poet censuring kings, criticizing them, accusing Adam for the troubles of this life. As for the second period, his adulthood, he seemed to be the wise poet who offered advice for his brethren by using oratorical style. He wrote about asceticism and reason, telling the observer about the meaning of life in his viewpoint and according to his experience.