

### Interaction between Islamic and Greek civilizations

As each civilization is unique, it is reasonable to expect that each interaction of the Islamic with another civilization differed in form. However, it is probably true that similar forms were also used in interaction. O’Leary (1964), Sarton (1975), Nasr (1976), Ronan (1983) and Roziah (2009) explained that the process of interaction with the Greek civilization occurred in two forms, military conflict and socio-cultural cooperation.

The first form, military conflict, occurred through eastward territorial expansion by Greek annexation of Egypt, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century BCE. Alexander the Great led the Greek military to capture Egypt. The Greek military at that time consisted not only of military men but also scholars of various sciences, including philosophy and medicine. The mission of the military was to engage in warfare and conquer the territory, while the scholars disseminated knowledge and, at the same time, derived benefit from the civilizations of these newly conquered territories. When Muslim forces under the command of ‘Amru bin al-‘As later captured Egypt in the year 641 CE., the Islamic civilization indirectly interacted with the Greek civilization already in Egypt. According to Nasr’s (1968) records, at the time of Muslim conquest in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century CE, Greek theories on medicine still existed in the civilization of Ancient Egypt.

The second form of interaction, socio-cultural cooperation, occurred through translation of ancient Greek scientific works into Arabic language. The intensity of translation activity may be seen in translated works as displayed in Table 1 as follows:

No.	Title of work	Author	Translator	Title of work in Arabic language
1	<i>Megale Syntaxis Mathematike</i>	Ptolemy	Sahal ibn Rabban al-Tabari Hajjaj ibn Yusuf	<i>Kitab al-Majisti</i>
2	<i>Tetrabiblos</i> atau <i>Quadripartitum</i>	Ptolemy	Abu Yahya (Yuhanna) al-Batriq	<i>Kitab al-Arba’ Maqalat fi Sina’at Ahkam al-Nujum</i>
3	<i>Geographike Syntaxis/ Geographike Huphegesis/ Geographia</i>	Ptolemy	Thabit ibn Qurrah	<i>Kitab Jughrafiyya fi al-Ma’mur wa Sifat al-Ard</i>
4	<i>De Materia Medica</i>	Dioscorides	Istafan ibn Basil	<i>Kitab al-Hasha’ish fi Hayula al-Tib</i>