Some Differences between Arabic and English Comparative Structures

In most Arabic teaching grammars, the comparative form is defined notionally as 'a noun of preference' (e.g. El-Jarem (1970) and Rida (1974)) which is derived on the pattern (?af9al) from a sub-class of verbs that permit exclamatory conversion, e.g. nafa9→/anfa9 'more useful', Hasan →/?aHsan 'better', kabur→akbar 'bigger', mahur→?amhar, etc.

It is pointed out that the comparative form is used when comparison is made between two or more persons, objects, or properties that are in some respects unequal (cf, El-Jarem 1970).