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The Influence of Translation on the Arabic Sentence Structure: Electronic Journalism as a Model

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This study investigates the influence of translation from English on the Arabic language. Specifically, it attempts to study how the translation of English auxiliary verbs influences the syntactic structure of the Arabic sentence and how the English predicating structure affects that of Arabic. This study is qualitative in nature. The data of this study were based on the language of electronic journalism in Jordan as a model. A sample from two popular news agencies in the Jordanian electronic media was chosen. The study reveals that the translation of English auxiliary verbs has influenced the syntactic structure of the Arabic sentence. Particularly, the study indicates that the influence of the English auxiliary verb on Arabic caused the passive form to die out from the actual use of the Arabic language. The study also reveals a change in the predicating structure of the Arabic sentence. Moreover, the study shows a change in the deictic indication of some of the demonstratives used in Arabic sentence structures.

Keywords: translation, English, auxiliary verbs, Arabic sentence, electronic media

Introduction

This study investigates how translation from English influences the Arabic language. The influence of translation from English on Arabic is a significant current issue of discussion (Abdallah, 2018). The present research is related to the field of translation studies and translation of the media, in particular.

The Arabic language has been influenced by translation from other languages, particularly English, which has influenced the Arabic phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic levels. A number of Arabic syntactic structures have changed and new syntactic patterns have emerged due to the influence of translation, such as new auxiliary patterns, new predicating structures, and new passive structures. All of these structures were not formerly recognized in Standard Arabic (SA). However, scholars have not paid enough attention to this particular topic. It is believed that the influence of translation is only limited to the morphological and phonological levels, such as the influence of English on names of shops, foods, and languages of computer-mediated communication.

This study takes the Jordanian electronic journalism as a model. A number of scholars claim that the language of media is an under researched field, and most studies ignore the role of translation in the media (Brook, 2012). Darwish (2005) also points out that very little research has been conducted on the influence of translation from other languages on Arabic. Other scholars claim that new changes and development in Arabic may be attributed to the influence of the media (Abu-Ssaydeh, 2004). English was chosen because it is the first

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media language in the world, and the Arabic media has been greatly influenced by it.

This study aims to investigate the influence of translation from English on the syntactic structure of Arabic. Specifically, it attempts to study the effect of translating the English auxiliary verbs on the Arabic sentence structure and to investigate whether the predicating structure of English influences that of Arabic.

The study attempts to answer the following questions: (1) How does the translation of English auxiliary verbs affect the structure of the Arabic sentence? (2) Does the English predicating structure influence that of Arabic?

Background of the Study

Human languages are divided into two main categories in terms of freedom and restriction. Firstly, free languages whose linguistic levels may be subject to drastic changes, such as English, European languages, and many other human languages. Secondly, constrained languages that resist change over time because of a sacred boundary such as Arabic, which was constrained and stabilized by the descent of The Holy Quran at a certain level of its use. This level does not allow linguistic development rules to work freely due to the existence of a principle that monitors any interference resulting from these rules. Another example is Hebrew, in which the scriptures of Torah or the so-called Old Testament were written. Even though these scriptures are not so restrictive, they are regarded as one of the factors that prevented the change of the Hebrew dialect (Abd Al-Tawaab, 1985).

There are four main levels of linguistic structure: phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic. The phonological level is concerned with studying the sounds of language both physically and functionally. The second level is the morphological level; it studies the structure of the word and is linked to another sub-level, which is the lexicon level. The syntactic level governs the overall structure of the sentence. This particular level is concerned with forming new syntactic rules in language and monitoring linguistic changes. The final level is the semantic level which focuses on studying the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences, and it facilitates communication among speakers of a single language.

Phonological changes exist in all human languages. However, these changes are of limited value due to the similarities between natural human languages (Ababneh & Zoubi, 2008). However, these changes do not cause a shift in the linguistic level, which lead to the distortion of the language system. On the other hand, the morphological level in some languages such as Arabic does not undergo serious changes for many reasons, the most important of which is the cultural factor. For example, when Arabic came into contact with the languages of neighboring countries, a change occurred in a number of semantic fields, such as food, industrious products, perfumes, etc. However, this change did not seriously disrupt the morphological system of Arabic. The semantic level is also subject to great changes; however, the language does not give up its structures, as these semantic changes quickly become a semantic heritage studied within the historical semantic development.

In fact, the syntactic level is the most significant of all. A change in the syntactic structure level will result in new structures that move the language from constraint to freedom. When the difference between the new (modern) level and the standard level expands, the new level wins over the standard level that protects the cultural heritage product achieved by Arabs over the centuries.

Auxiliary Words in Arabic

Traditional Arab grammarians did not pay attention to auxiliary words in Arabic. They only concentrated on

the limits and surface structures of the Arabic sentence. They divided speech into three parts: nouns, verbs, and particles. Every word that belongs to the category of nouns or verbs occupies an essential position in the parsing system, and it cannot be an auxiliary word whose function is similar to that of *verbs to be* in English or other such languages. In English, if the subject is a noun and the predicate is also a noun, there should be an auxiliary verb occupying the middle position (Gelderen, 2010). This structure does not exist in Arabic or any other Semitic language (Ababneh, 2018).

Noteworthy is that traditional Arab grammarians had knowledge about the auxiliary words, but this knowledge did not lead to grammatization. They defined, for example, the function of علا (o') used with a male and علا (o') used with a female in the vocative structure of a definite noun phrase (e.g., المجاد ?ayyuha arajalu (O' man), and المجاد ?ayyuha almar?ah (O' woman), as an auxiliary word. However, they looked at the structure in which these helping words were used a far cry from this topic because they were classified as names. For them, these words must occupy a parsing position because they are not auxiliary words from a syntactic perspective, but they are so from a phonological and a semantic perspective (Al-Suyuuti, 1977). Syntactically, they occupy a vocative position, according to the Arabic predicating relations. Here, we point out these auxiliary words are non-pivotal functional terms in semantics, and that Arabic structural system may or may not permit their existence.

The notion of auxiliary verbs was first introduced at the conference of the former Arabic Language Academy, claiming that *verbs to be* in Arabic are auxiliary verbs. In contrast, this study claims that *verbs to be* in Arabic are not auxiliary verbs at all because they serve a temporal function. For example, one poet said:

الا كانوا كرام (What if I pass by a home of people who were our neighbors and were noble and dignified) (Al-Zujaji, 1984, p. 49). In this example, the word كانوا لاهنان المعادية المع

However, the modern standard level of Arabic has been influenced by the English language system. This suggests that the syntactic level of Arabic has begun to deviate from the original norm of Standard Arabic. This study presents some examples used by Arabic writers and specialists.

Auxiliary Verbs in English

In general, verbs in English are divided into two main types: lexical verbs and auxiliary verbs. Lexical verbs are the basic full verbs, and they carry their own meaning. They denote an action taking place in a sentence, and they provide the main semantic content of the clause. Auxiliary verbs or helping verbs, on the other hand, add more functional or grammatical meaning to the clauses in which they are used. They help another verb in the sentence, but they do not contribute greatly to the meaning of the clause. Auxiliary verbs are used to show the tense, voice, aspect, emphasis, or mood (Quirk, 1973). They have different types and functions, and they are basically two types: primary verbs including: *be*, *have*, and *do*, and modal verbs including: *will*, *would*, *can*, *could*, *shall*, *should*, *may*, *might*, *must*, *had to*. Some of these modals are called marginal auxiliary verbs, such as need, dare *used to*, *and ought to* (Quirk, 1973). *Tend to* and *had better*, which are called semi-auxiliaries, serve the same syntactic function as the modals in English, which are nonexistent in Arabic.

Moreover, auxiliary verbs such as *have*, *be*, and *do* in English can be used as lexical (main) verbs or auxiliaries (Gelderen, 2010). In (1a), have is a lexical verb; it means "to possess" and occurs alone without another verb. In (1b), however, *have* does not mean "to possess" or "to hold", but contributes to the grammatical meaning of the sentence, namely past tense with present relevance. Therefore, it is used as an auxiliary to the lexical verb lived. Similarly, in (2a), the auxiliary verb *be* is the only verb used in the sentence, and therefore, it is lexical. On the other hand, *be* is used in (2b) as an auxiliary that contributes to the grammatical meaning to emphasize the progressive nature of the action. The same is true for the verb *do* as given in (3a) and (3b).

- (1) a. I have a car.
 - b. I have lived here for 10 years.
- (2) a. That man is a teacher.
 - b. That man is working too hard.
- (3) a. He did his homework.
 - b. She did not go to work last night.

Auxiliaries cannot occur alone, except when they are main verbs (Gelderen, 2010), as in (1a), (2a), and (3a) because they help other verbs. Thus, (4) below is ungrammatical:

(4) *I can English.

The auxiliary be can distinguish from all other auxiliary verbs in that it comes with the conjugated verb having the enclitic (-ing) as in (5) below:

(5) They are eating their lunch.

Review of Literature

Traditional Arab scholars paid attention to the danger of transformations on the syntactic level of Arabic, and therefore, tried very hard to save it from change. Therefore, a number of them studied such transformations in a collection of research papers which they called the "Books of Grammatical Errors by the Public". These studies began at an early stage in the life of Arabic authorship, such as Al-Kisaa'i (189 Hijra Year), Al-Sagli (501 Hijra Year), Ibn Al-Jawzi (597 Hijra Year), and Al-Safadi (501 Hejra Year) (source). The focus of these studies was mainly on aspects of variation between the Standard Arabic and the Arabic dialects. Particularly, they studied the morphological aspect of Arabic and rarely paid attention to structural transformations. In fact, these past studies represent a departure from the structural norm after they were in conformity with it.

Similarly, modern studies have not been different from the old ones in their interest in the morphological aspect; only few of them have dealt with some forms of structural change. For example, Al-Zoubi (2006) investigated the forms of syntactic transformation in the language of short stories in Jordan in the 1970s and 1980s. Al-Jabaali (2004) also discussed the impact of globalization on the linguistic structures of the language of short stories in Jordan after the age of globalization. Moreover, there was a report published by Majma3 ?al-lughah ?al-3arabyiah (2014) (The Academy of Arabic) on the image of the Arabic language in the media. It was a detailed report focusing on spelling, morphological and structural errors, and weak language editing in the media. This report was primarily concerned with linguistic editing and language mistakes and paid limited attention to the new structures of Standard Arabic. However, it produced many useful recommendations.

Abdalla (2018) studied the influence of translation from English on Arabic with a focus on the translation. The influence of media language was confirmed in his study. Abdallah indicated that journalists should be careful not to distort the structure of the Arabic sentence when translating idioms from English. It is important to mention

that these studies were not interested in the elements of predication except in terms of the existence of the standard errors. Therefore, the present study concerns itself with the emergence of a new syntactic level of Arabic that did not exist in Standard Arabic, the auxiliary verbs, which resulted from the influence of translation from English.

Research Data

The data of this study were based on the language of electronic journalism in Jordan as a model, in which the patterns affected by the translation from English were especially investigated. A random sample was selected from two popular news sites in the Jordanian electronic press, which are primarily concerned with news publishing and news analysis, namely: "Saraya News Agency" and "Ammon News Agency", between 01/04/2018 and 01/10/2018. These two news agencies receive their material from the Jordanian News Agency. They were also among the news agencies whose editing problems were investigated by the Media Monitoring Committee formed by the Jordanian Academy for Arabic Language 2011.

Discussion

Translating auxiliary verbs from English into Arabic has influenced the structure of the Arabic sentence in many ways, the most important of which are the following: (1) change in the predicating structure; (2) the loss of deictic indication of demonstratives; and (3) the emergence of auxiliary verbs.

Change in the Predicating Structure

The predicating structure is one of the most important structures of the Arabic syntactic system. Arabic defines two types of predication in its sentential system, namely: Nominal Predication and Verbal Predication.

In the first type, the predicating relationship occurs between a subject (noun) and a predicate (noun) that do not accept a verb as a basic element in its structure, whereas the predicating structure in the second type is based on the relationship between a subject (noun) and a predicate (verb) (Ababneh, 2017). Based on this, Arab syntacticians categorize the Arabic sentence into two types: Nominal Sentence and Verbal Sentence. The subject *musnad ?ilaih* in both types must be a noun. However, the predicate *musnad* is different in both types. Whereas the predicate is a noun in the case of a nominal sentence as in (6), it must be a verb in the case of a verbal sentence as in (7).

- (6) الجو بارد.? aljawu ba:ridun (The weather is cold).
- (7) علا التفاحة. (Rala lwaladu tufaHata (The boy ate the apple).

Unlike Arabic sentences, all English sentences are verbal even though every sentence is made up of a subject and a predicate. Subjects and predicates are the main components of the English sentence. They contain the most essential information of every sentence. In example (8) below, the word *dogs* is the subject of the sentence, whereas the phrase *are animals* is the predicate.

(8) Dogs are animals.

The second main element of the English sentence is the verb, which is either lexical or auxiliary as mentioned before.

We can say that the effect of translation finds its way into the structures of the Arabic sentences, which are incompatible with their counterparts in English, by effecting the "subject" *?almusnad ?ilaih* in the Arabic sentence. Therefore, a translator, who is not competent in both systems, subconsciously begins the Arabic sentence with a noun not a verb when translating from English to Arabic. This greatly contributes to the loss of some uses of the verbal sentence in favor of the nominal sentence in Arabic. For example,

- (9) الرجل فتح الشباك. (arajulu fataHa shubba:ka (The man opened the window).
- (10) الوك ركل الكرة. (10) alwaladu rakala lkurata(The boy kicked the ball).

Even though the nominal structures in (9) and (10) are grammatical in Arabic, it is preferable to use the verbal structure as in (11) and (12), the structure that begins with the verb (predicate), for two reasons. The first one is that the verbal sentence is a dynamic structure that suggests movement and interaction. Secondly, if the nominal structure persists, the verbal sentence will be neglected in favor of the nominal sentence.

- (11) فتح الرجل الشباك. fataHa arajulushubba:ka (The man opened the window).
- (12) rakala lwaladu lkurata (The boy kicked the ball).

The researchers do not claim that the nominal structure is always unfavorable, but we say that, nowadays, it is remarkably used in Arabic to a degree it became the dominant form of modern sentence structures. This is indeed attributed to the influence of translation from English into Arabic.

The Loss of Deictic Indication of Demonstratives in Arabic

The Emergence of Auxiliary Verbs in Arabic

The Verb خُناه (Be Completed)

The verb tamma is not a newly derived verb in the Arabic language. It is a full lexical action verb associated with the time it is used to indicate, whether past tamma, present time, or future time. Ibn Mandhour (1955) defines it as perfect, the opposite of imperfect. Presently, it is used as an auxiliary in the language of the media, the language of academic writing, and even in the writings of Arabic specialists. The basic features of this verb were eliminated in MSA. It was completely stripped off from its action and temporal signification and used only as an auxiliary verb, especially when associated with a verbal noun. Consider examples (13) and (14) below.

- (13) الكتاب <u>tamma isti3ma:lu lkita:ba</u> (The book was used).
- (14) الكتاب أو للكتاب أو للكتاب أو الكتاب أو

Although the two previous examples seem similar, it is not quite the case. They will be discussed in the following paragraphs.

It is already mentioned that Arabic in its standard form accepted some auxiliary patterns that are not originally considered auxiliary verbs. This study calls them auxiliary words in order not to mix them with the term "auxiliary verb" used in English. In fact, Arabic syntacticians refused to conceive them as auxiliary words. Instead, they insisted that they must be treated as full lexical verbs although they are free from lexical and derivational content, such as the vocative particle وإوروبي and عبر المعارفة عبر المعارفة والمعارفة والمعا

Now, the differences between (13) and (14) will be discussed to reveal the effect of translation on the predicating relations.

In example (13) above, the verb خند considered a complete action verb from an educational point of view. In this structure, it does not represent any action value, from which an event or an action can be understood to have happened or attributed to any subject musnad ?ilaih. It is, in fact, an auxiliary element, which means nothing more than what the genitive, استعمال ?isti3ma:l (use) means. As for its function, it is a verb that does not have a subject; in other words, it is a predicate musnad having no subject musnad ?ilaih because the verbal noun listi3mal is not capable of performing any action. The reason for the tendency of this structure is to get rid of the passive formula استعمال !istu3mila (was used). The original Standard Arabic structure for this example is استغمال !istu3mila lkita:bu, in the passive form. We believe that there is no need to use the auxiliary verb *itamma*, which lacks the essential characteristics of a full lexical verb. Now, we will discuss structure (14).

The syntactic predication of Arabic does not treat the auxiliary verb استعمال itamma ?isti3ma:lu (was used) as a passive form as in (13) although it is identical with the passive form استُعْمِلُ. Therefore, the verb must be considered an active form, so we say: استعمال الطالب الكتاب ?isti3ma:lu ?aTaalibu lkitaaba because the genitive in the structure "isti3ma:lu aTa:libu" (the student's use) is the subject (i.e., the doer of the action), and this requires a distinction between the two structures in the process of reverse translation, where the first is a passive structure and the second is an active one.

The Verb (قام) qa:ma

In Arabic lexicons, the verb قامِ المعاهقة has more than one lexical meaning carrying action and time significations, the most important of which is "standing", the opposite of "sitting" (Ibn Mandhour, 1955, p. 496). Another meaning is "determination" as in the Quranic verse وانه لما قام عبدالله يدعوه (Quran, 72:19) (And when the servant of Allah stood up to invoke him). It also has the meaning of "protection and reform" as in the following Quranic verse الرجال قوامون على النساء بما فضل الله بعضهم عن بعض (Quran, 4:34) (Men are the protectors and maintainers of women because Allah has given the one more strength than the other) and in the verse "إلا ما دمت عليه قائماً" (Quran, 3:75) (unless you constantly stand demanding).

On the other hand, Al Zamakhshari (1982) indicates that the verb قام also has a metaphorical meaning that does not affect its structural function. For example, when we say: بكم قام عليك المتاع bikam qa:ma 3alaika lmata:3 (How much did the belongings cost you), قام علي بالعمل qa:ma 3alyun bil3amali (Ali did the work), قام بعيرك مائة دينار (Your camel is worth 100 Dinars), and so on.

The verb عام الله ain the above examples is a full verb that carries both core intrinsic denotations: time and action. However, it was stripped off from these two denotations in the modern use. Thus, the verb and its present form and its present form come in the second place among the actual auxiliary patterns, a use that strips it off from action and time signification. For example,

(15) بئراً خاصاً <u>qa:mat iSultaltu bisti?ja:ri 26 bi?ran xa:San</u> (The authority rented 26 special wells).

This is the modern use of the verb qa:ma; it is used as an auxiliary verb. This sentence means exactly the same as.

- (16) بئرا خاصا **?ista?jarat ?aSulTatu 26 bi?ran Xa:san** (The authority rented 26 special wells). It is the standard form of the sentence.
- (17) ان يقوم بردً كافة القوانين المؤقتة?an yaqu:ma biraddi ka:fati lqawa:ni:ni lmu?qatati (To reject all provisional laws). It means the same as in (18).
 - (18) أن يردَّ كافة القوانين الموقته. (To reject all provisional laws). The former sentence is the modern use, whereas the latter is the standard use.

The verb عام is similar to the verb خرا are used as auxiliaries, where both become empty of action and time indications, so there is no difference between the past form and the present form with regards to time significance. The structures in (15), (16) and (17), (18) have become interchangeable without affecting the action and time since the verb عام is used as an auxiliary, and thus, unnecessary.

The Verb (جرى) Jara

According to Arabic lexicons like *lisa:n ?al/arab*, the verb جرى is derived from the state of *jarayan* (Ibn Mandhour, 1955, V. 14, pp. 140-141), meaning "running" (e.g., running water/running ship), "moving" (e.g., moving ship), or "flowing" (e.g., flowing river). It was borrowed to express the case endings of uninflected and inflected speech and the case ending of the rhyming sounds in prosody. It was also borrowed to express sustainability and permanence of the action. For example, جرى له ذلك الشيء jara lahu dha:lika šai?, meaning "lasted" (Ibn Mandhour, 1955, V. 14, pp. 140-141). However, to assign the verb إمارة ألم المعارفة ال

- (19) الأمور المتعلّقة بالأوضاع الراهنة (19 إلا المتعلّقة بالأوضاع الراهنة (19 إلا المتعلّقة بالأوضاع الراهنة (19 ra:hinati (All issues related to the current situation were discussed), meaning that,
- (20) الأمور المتعلّقة بالأوضاع الراهنة. buHithat ka:fati l?umu:ri lmuta3aliqati bil?awDa:3i rahinati, which translates to the same thing as the former sentence.
- (21) عليهما (Where القبض على المشتكى عليهما *Haiθu jara ?ilqa:?u lqaDi 3ala lmushtaka 3alaihima* (Where both defendants were arrested), means the same as:
 - (22) القيالقبض على المشتكى عليهما? وulqiya lqabDu 3ala lmushtaka 3alaihima.

It is worth noting that although the structures in (19) and (22) are in the active voice, where the verb in them both do not denote any time or event, and the structures in (20) and (22) are in the passive voice and do not contain the verb igara, and they both have the same exact meaning. The verb in the abovementioned examples was mainly used to eliminate the passive structure of Standard Arabic.

The Verb غنا(?axadha) (Be Started)

This verb **i?axadha* is one of the verbs of "beginning" (Khalil, 2010). However, in the following examples, it is used as an auxiliary verb that does not denote time or action. This verb is the least frequently used auxiliary compared to the previously discussed ones. Consider the following examples taken from the data.

- (28) خالت الاعتداء الخنت بالزيادة xa:Satan ?anna Ha:lati l?i3tida:? ?axadhat bilzia:dati (Especially that assault cases increased), meaning the same as the standard structure:
 - (29) خاصه ان حالات الاعتداء زادت xa:Satan ?anna Ha:lati l?i3tida:? za:dat.

The effect of this verb in eliminating the active verb form is clear, especially from its indication of time and action.

Conclusion

The Arabic syntactic rules are largely fixed based on the criterion of linguistic constraint. That is why Arabic is one of the constrained languages that are not free to maneuver in their structural level. Therefore, Arabic has stood its ground and maintained that there is no justification for the existence of auxiliary verbs, such as those found in English, for example. However, in the modern era, Arabic has begun to develop auxiliary verbs such as found in English, for example. However, in the modern era, Arabic has begun to develop auxiliary verbs such as tamma, على المعاقبة araama, and arabic lexical form, but their use as auxiliary verbs is a recent one, resulting from the effect of translation. This significant linguistic development has led to noticeable changes in the syntactic system of the Arabic sentence, such as the following:

- -Change in the deictic indication of some of the demonstratives which were used in the predicating relations, as they do not point to anything and do not carry a deictic indication.
 - -The loss of some actual verbal sentence patterns, such as:
- يوجد فرق yu:judu farq (There is a difference), which was replaced by the newer structure هناك فرق huna:ka farq (There is a difference), which has exactly the same proposition, as a result of translation.
- -The influence of the English auxiliary verb on the Arabic language system caused the passive form of the verb verb aila to die out from the actual use of the Arabic language.
- -In addition to the loss in the passive form of the verb rhyming with *fu3ila*, a large number of active forms have also disappeared, a loss that will seriously affect the Arabic sentence structure.

Finally, this study provides an insight about a new movement in Modern Arabic to form a new structure that did not originally exist in Standard Arabic, the formation of auxiliary verbs that do not denote the time and/or the action of the verb. This, in turn, contributes to the creation of a new structural level in the Arabic syntax that can be avoided if the normative standard form of Arabic is taken into account.

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