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A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF LINGUISTIC TERMS IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC

Kodirova Kamola Salixovna¹

Uzbekistan State World Languages University

Head of the Department of Theory and Practice of Arabic Translation,

Azimova Anisa Abroriddinovna²

Master of Linguistics at Uzbek State World Languages University.

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ABSTRACT

The third and fifth most spoken languages in the world respectively are Arabic and English. About 700 million people speak English as a second language, along with 379 million native speakers. Arabs make for around 319 million people worldwide. Due to their very diverse linguistic ancestries—the Arabic language descended from Semitic languages, whereas the English language came from the Indo-European family—both languages share some parallels and contrasts. The article is meant to draw attention to the similarities and differences between the two languages.

The verb part has been researched over time and from various perspectives. The verb tenses in Arabic [Modern Standard Arabic & Classical Arabic] and English are discussed in the paper. There are conflicting opinions on the existence of tense in Arabic; some studies disagree, while others claim that the verb in Arabic denotes relative tense rather than absolute tense. The main goal is to examine the verb tenses and forms used in English and Arabic. No language exists that does not have its own set of guidelines and conventions. Although several languages may share some traits, not all languages use verb tenses and forms in the same way. [Jafer, 2013]

The term "verb" has its roots in the Latin word "verbum," which meaning "word." A verb is sometimes defined as a word or a murakkab [combination] of words that expresses the state of an action. A verb is required in almost every sentence, whether it be the main verb, an auxiliary verb, or both. According to lexical rules, the verb signifies an occurrence, an action, or a state of action [Oxford Advanced American Dictionary, 2011]. According to one eminent grammarian [Abdul Hameed, 1994], a verb can point to any precise period, whether it be in the past, present, or future. According to Brookliman [Alhudithy, 2001], some grammarians do not mention the verb to time. The verb in English contains three tenses: past, present, and imperative, just as it does in Arabic (Seebaway, 1988).

Methodology:

The contrastive-analytical method is the one that best suits the nature of the inquiry. To demonstrate how verb and sentence structure are used in both languages, the author contrasts the verb formation in two languages that come from distinct and distant families, using samples of Arabic sentences and their English equivalents.



Differences between Arabic and English tenses and verbs

Arabic	English
1. According to the two schools' grammarians, [Basari & Kufi] Arabic verb has two tenses, past and present tense.	1. Old English has three tenses past, present, and future. Some grammarians like Eckersley [1960] argued for future tense. According to them, there are only two tenses in English, past and present.
2. The verb has three forms: past [<i>Al-Madi</i>], present [<i>Al-Mudar'</i>], and imperative verb [<i>Al-Amr</i>]. [Ali Jazim and Mustafa Ameen, 1983]	2. According to Quirk [1972], the forms of verb are: base, -s, past, -ing and -ed.
3. The future tense is either taken from the present or by adding some prefixes to the present tense like <i>syn</i> [س] or <i>sawfa</i> [سوف]. Similarly, Wightwich, Jane and Gaafar (2008) and Ryding (2015) agreed that the future in Arabic is indicated by adding some prefix to the present tense.	4. The future tense is used by applying the auxiliary verb such as "will," "shall." [Eckersley, 1960]
4. Usually, there is a Vrb + Subject + Object or complement in verbal sentences.[Ali Jazim and Mustafa Ameen, 1983]	4. In English, the word order/sequence in both nominal and verbal sentences is the same, Subject + Verb + Object (V + O = Predicate). [Eckersley, 1960]

Compatibilities of Arabic and English Verb

According to Linda Thomas [1993], English has two tenses, past and present as future tense doesn't exist as a tense, but it is denoted by auxiliaries; Arabic has the same two tenses but does not need any other verb forms to show aspectual variation.

The above sentences express future tense but don't use a specific future verb form as

The students will attend the class.	سيحضر الطلاب في الفصل
The office will open at 10.00 am	سيفتح المكتب في الساعة العاشرة صباحا

there are no future verbs in English and Arabic [Quirk, 1972]

Modern Standard Arabic has perfective tense that parallels the English perfective by adding *قد* as a prefix to the verb and *كان* for past and *يكون* for future to indicate the perfective tense.

The student [feminine] has written the article.	قد كتبت الطالبة المقالة
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Progressive Future

If the main verb in a sentence or clause requires an object, the sentence or clause is considered transitive; otherwise, it is considered intransitive. In terms of Arabic morphology, it is comparable to both Mt'dy (the verb that requires an object to finish the sentence) and Lazm (the verb that does not require an object). There is a subcategory of active and passive



voice in English that corresponds to the Arabic words M'rwf (Active) and Mghwl (Passive) in grammar. Similar rules apply in Arabic, although the recipient of the action is specifically referred to as Vice Subject/Naibul in the active voice while the object or receiver of the action is the subject in the passive voice.

A scholar wrote a book

کتاب باحث کتابا

Verb borrowings between Arabic and English and vice versa.

Every language in the world has words that have been borrowed [Jespersen, 1922]. As described by Graddol (2004: "The world's linguistic system is undergoing rapid change due to demographic trends, new technology, and international communication. The world is undergoing various changes as a result of innovative technologies and globalization. Both verbal and written communication will be impacted by these modifications. Therefore, word borrowing is inevitable in all languages; in fact, it is the primary and crucial source of new terms in all languages [Franklin: 2003].

There are many more loanwords in English descended from Arabic other than the above-quoted words. All the mentioned words are used as nouns but there are various borrowed verbs in English as well as in Arabic; some of them are as below:

- Cover: Kawwara: {*borrowed by English from Arabic*}
- Control: Kunturu:l {*borrowed by Arabic from English*}
- Cut: Qata' {*borrowed by English from Arabic*}
- Pick-up: bi:kam {*borrowed by Modern Standard Arabic [MCA] from English*}
- Ready: Ridi {*borrowed by MCA from English*}
- Brushed: barash {*borrowed by MCA from English*}
- Cancel: kansal {*borrowed by MCA from English*}
- Punctured: banshar {*borrowed by MCA from English*}
- Doubled: dabbal {*borrowed by MCA from English*}
- Check as verb/ cheque as noun: shayak {*borrowed by MCA from English*}
- Shoot: Shawat {*borrowed by MCA from English*}
- Finished: Fannash {*borrowed by MCA from English*}
- Fall: Afala {*borrowed by English from Arabic*}
- Smell: Sham {*borrowed by English from Arabic*}
- Tell: Tala {*borrowed by English from Arabic*}

These are the mere handful borrowed verbs that the researcher has identified from a big bag of different borrowed words in both languages. If we survey Modern Standard Arabic and Modern English, we can collect more of them.

Conclusion:

In this essay, the researcher attempted to compare and contrast the verb tenses and dialects of Arabic and English. It reveals that both languages have important distinctions and affinities, particularly in terms of morphology and syntax. The following conclusions have been reached by the researcher after analyzing and comparing both languages:

Both languages share many commonalities as well as significant variances. The lexicon of English has greatly benefited from Arabic, and vice versa. There are several structural and grammatical parallels and differences between Arabic and English verb tenses.



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