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## REDUCED CLAUSES IN ENGLISH AND KURDISH

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### ABSTRACT

The present research focuses on reduction of clauses .Two types of clause(adjective and adverb clauses) are emphasized on for this purpose. Clause reduction means reducing clauses usually dependent clauses to phrases i.e to shorten clauses by removing some words in the clause to make phrases or shortened clauses.

The ways where the reduction is permitted are indicated .The purpose of the study is to mention the differences and similarities in the reduction of the clauses. This is the problem of the research as learners in general may not understand the comparison. The research is significant for those who want to understand English language sentences while some words are missing in the sentences. It is also important for the researchers who want to write researches about a topic of syntax which is *ellipsis*. The types of clause that can be reduced are mentioned. This is because both can be shortened and reduced to phrases . In this paper reduced clauses in Kurdish language are shed lights on . Attempts are made to deal with the ways where reduction is allowed in both English and Kurdish languages . This is made as a comparison and contrast of reduced clauses between the two languages . © 2020 JTUH, College of Education for Human Sciences, Tikrit University

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### تقليل الشبه جمله في اللغتين الانكليزية والكردية

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### الخلاصة

في هذا البحث ركزت الباحثة عن شبه جمله معتمده و إلى الطرق التي يسمح بها التقليل . حيث سلطت الضوء على أنواع التقليل و على أنواع الفقرة التي يمكن تقليلها. إذ يتم مراعاة الجملة إذا كانت صفة أو ظرف. هذا لأنه يمكن تقصير كل منهما وتقليصه إلى عبارات. في هذا البحث، هدف الرئيسي هو تركيز على مقارنة الحد بين اللغتين الإنجليزية و الكوردية. هذا هو موضوع البحث. ومن أهمية البحث ممكن أن تتفع الباحثين في هذا البحث في حاله كتابة بحثهم عن احد موضوعات النحو . وسيتم إلقاء الضوء على تقليص الجمل في اللغة الكوردية. لذا ، سيتم إجراء محاولات للتعامل مع الطرق التي يُسمح بها

## **1.1 Introduction**

Reduced clauses are shortened clauses. They do the same thing as a specific type of clause does .If the reduced clause is adverb clause, It is sometimes known as a participial phrase or a modifying participial phrase. Thus ,there exist two types of reduced clauses: reduced adverb and adjective clauses. Reduced adverb clause is sometimes called a participial phrase because it contains a present participle or an -ing verb in some clauses. So if adverb or adjective clauses and reduced adverb or adjective clauses do similar thing why should we even use reduced clauses?. One answer may be for a change of style. So using a modifying phrase rather than a clause may be quite important for a change of writing style. The other reason to use a reduced adverb or adjective clause is to simplify a sentence. Think about a very long, complicated sentence with an adjective or adverb clause. If this adjective or adverb clause can be reduced, try to reduce it. This will make your writing more concise ,clear cut and understandable. So when can an adjective or adverb clause be reduced ? This is a significant question to ask because if we take adverb clause, it can only be reduced if the subjects are the same in both clauses, meaning in the adverb clause and the major clause. For example, in the sentence,(Before Jack called the police ,he tried to recognize the thieves).Here both *Jack* and *he* refer to the same person so the two clauses can be reduced easily .But in case of different subjects the reduction may not happen like wise.

So along with this paper there will be more discussion about this and some other cases .

## **1.2 Clause and Its Types**

Clause is a term in grammar that refers to a sentence or a part of a sentence. Radford(2012:377)states that “clause is an expression that contains at least a subject and a predicate and which may contain other types of expression as well, one or more complements and/or adjuncts” .Usually when it refers to a sentence it is no doubt meaningful and thus refers to independent (main )clause .Such type of clause can be used alone and play the role of a sentence. On the other hand ,there is part of sentence .Here part of sentence means a clause which cannot be used alone but it should depend on another part to be used alone. This type of clause is meaningless so is called dependent, subordinate or minor clause. This is because dependent clauses can be classified into some clause types among them are adjective and adverb clauses.

## **1.3 Reduced clauses**

Reduced clauses refer to the shortening of a clause into a phrase or a verbless clause. Crystal(2003:390) puts forward that “the term reduction in grammar usually refers to a clause which lacks one or more of the elements required to enable to be used as a full independent construction” .Reduction here embraces both clause types adjective and adverb .But this is not done haphazardly .It should follow some rules .

### **1.3.1 Reduced Relative Clause in English**

Being much more like adjectives, relative clauses, also known as adjective clauses , modify nouns .In a sentence by Radford(2009:477) *He is someone {who you can trust}*here, the bracketed clause is said to be a relative clause because it relates, modifies and restricts the reference of the pronoun *someone*. Furthermore, relative clause is a kind of finite clause which usually have main verb and tense and which is dependent clause because it cannot be used alone. Consider the examples mentioned below:

1.That is the Cat which lives next door .(Alexander,1995:12)

2.He gave the book, which was written by Shakespeare, to Sara last lecture.

In the above examples, " which lives next door " modifies—or provides information about “the Cat" which is the subject complement of the sentence. In the second example, "which was written by Shakespeare " modifies the object

"the book." Using a reduced relative clause ,one may reduce the first sentence to:

That is the Cat living next door.

The second sentence example can also be reduced because the relative clause "which was written by Shakespeare " modifies the object of the main verb "the book " as in:

He gave the book written by Shakespeare to Sara.

## **1.4 Types of Reduced Relative Clauses**

In case relative clause modifies the subject of a sentence ,it is reduced to:

An adjective

An adjective phrase

A prepositional phrase

A past participle

A present participle

### **1.4.1 Reduced to an Adjective**

In this type ,the adjective alone will remain by following some conditions below:

Remove the relative pronoun.

Remove the verb (usually be and linking verbs like seem ,become... etc.).

Place the adjective used in its right place

Examples:

3. The lady who was happy studied until seven in the afternoon. This is reduced to:       The lady happy studied until seven in the afternoon.

Here ,*happy* is a simple adjective which remains alone in the clause after removing the relative pronoun *who* and the verb *was* .

### **1.4.2 Reduced to an Adjective Phrase**

In this type , an adjective phrase will remain by following some conditions below:

Remove the relative pronoun.

Remove the verb (usually be and linking verbs like seem ,become... etc.).

Put the adjective phrase after the modified noun.

Example:

4. The bag, which seemed expensive in the market ,was not so nowadays. This is reduced to: The bag, expensive in the market, was not so nowadays.

Here ,expensive in the market is an adjective phrase which remains alone in the clause after removing the relative pronoun which and the linking verb seemed .

### **1.4.3 Reduced to a Prepositional Phrase**

In this type , a prepositional phrase will remain by following some conditions below:

Remove the relative pronoun.

Remove the verb "be."

Put the prepositional phrase after the modified noun.

Examples:

5.The launderette, which was in the house, was made in Japan. This is reduced to: The launderette in the house was made in Japan.

Here , in the house is a prepositional phrase which remains alone in the clause after removing the relative pronoun which and the verb was .

### **1.4.4 Reduced to a Past Participle**

In this type , a past participle phrase will remain by following some conditions below:

Remove the relative pronoun.

Remove the verb "be."

Put the past participle before the modified noun.

An example is put forward by Frank(1983:203)

6.The pottery, which is made in this town ,is of very fine quality . This is reduced to: The pottery made in this town is of very fine quality.

Here ,the subject pronoun(which) and the be form of a verb are omitted.

### **1.4.5 Reduced to a Present Participle**

In this type , a present participle phrase will remain by following some conditions below:

Remove the relative pronoun.

Remove the verb "be."

Put the present participle phrase after the modified noun.

Examples:

7. Anyone who touches that wire will get a shock. This is reduced to: Anyone touching that wire will get a shock.

Here ,the subject pronoun(who) is omitted and the verb touch takes –ing .

Thus a participle as Swan(2005:484)states “is often used instead of a relative pronoun and a full verb”

On the other hand ,it is stated that if the adjective clause contains the be form of a verb ,omit the pronoun and the be form but if there is no be form of a verb it is sometimes possible to omit the subject pronoun and change the verb to its –ing form.This is for example {The man who is talking to Tom is from Korea}is reduced to { The man talking to Tom is from Korea }or in the other example {English has the alphabet that consists of 26 letters}it is reduced to { English has the alphabet consisting of 26 letters }.

(Azar, 2003:290)

The examples above are all about reduced relative clauses ,but Adverb clauses can also be reduced.

### **1.3.2 Reduced Adverb Clauses in English**

Adverb clause ,like adjective clause, is a type of finite and dependent or subordinate clause because of the same reason that they cannot be used alone and alone they cannot have meaning. Loberger and Shoup (2009:223)point out that “adverb clause as does a single-word adverb ,modifies a verb including the verb form in a verbal (that is ,a gerund ,an infinitive or a participle )an adjective or an adverb. Adverb clauses are introduced by subordinating conjunctions like even if ,as though, when ,although ,because ...” . Adverb clause is of some types:time,place,cause,opposition,purpose,condition,manner...Reduced adverb clauses refer to the reduction of an adverb clause to an adverbial phrase of reason, opposition, or time. This is done only when the subjects of both; the dependent and independent clause are similar. From now onwards ,there is detailed information that will tell the readers on how to reduce each type of adverb clause that has identical subject with that of the coordinate clause.

Below are some examples showing that how adverb clauses are reduced .

8. Because she respected many people, she was voted for by a large number of people . This is reduced to: Respecting many people, she was voted for by a large number of people .

In 8 ,the adverb clause(Because she respected many people) is reduced to an adverbial phrase(Respecting many people).This is so for the two subjects of the two clauses are identical.

There are several types of adverb clauses in English such as adverb clauses of time, reason, concession, condition, purpose ,manner, and place. Reduction does not include all types of adverb clause. Only adverb clauses of time, reason, and concession can be reduced. Here are some examples of the types of adverb clause that can be reduced:

9.Before he received the guests, he prepared every thing necessary .This is reduced to: Before receiving the guests, he prepared every thing necessary.

10.Though he was very busy , he could answer many questions of his friends. *This is reduced to:* Though very busy, he could answer many questions of his friends .

In 9 (Before receiving the guests) and in 10(Though very busy) are reduced adverb clauses of time and concession (or opposition sometimes) respectively.

But in 8 (Respecting many people) is a reduced adverb clause of reason. This may show the readers that only those types of adverb clause; time, concession and reason are reduced .

Azar(2003:374)states that if the adverb clause contains the be form of a verb ,omit the subject of the dependent clause and the be form of the verb but if there is no be form of a verb , omit the subject and change the verb to its –ing form. This is for example {While I was walking to class ,I ran into an old friend}is reduced to { While walking to class ,I ran into an old friend }or in the other example {Before I left for work ,I ate breakfast}it is reduced to { Before leaving for work ,I ate breakfast }

On the other hand, Frank(1983:205)points out in a reduced adverb clause the reduced verb may begin with being for passive action or having for action that is past in relation to the action of the main verb as in {After they had been robbed, they were much more careful about their money}can be reduced to {After having been robbed, they were much more careful about their money}.

## **1.5 Reduced Clauses in Kurdish Language**

Definition of clause and its types are all like English language in that there exist two types of clauses ;dependent and independent .The former includes the topic of the present research relative and adverb clauses which are finite and subordinate clauses that cannot be used alone and cannot have independent meaning of their own, while the latter is a main clause playing the role of a normal sentence. Concerning reduced clauses in Kurdish language ,there are ,like English language,relative and adverb reduced clauses. As concerned relative clause, it is stated that ka is a relative pronoun in Kurdish that connects relative clause with the main clause. (Ibrahim ,1980:54)

Further clarification is elucidated in the coming sections.

### **1.5.1 Relative Clause Reduction in Kurdish Language**

Fattah as cited in Khoshnaw and Qadir(2010)states that “a clause beginning with the relative pronoun ka may refer to the nominal phrase found in a clause or in any place in a clause.” Relative clauses and adverb clauses are in turn going to be shortened or reduced in Kurdish language as they are reduced in English language .But this does not mean that ,however ,they are almost alike in every aspect. There is a difference between these two languages concerning the way how the process of reduction is carried out. Relative pronoun in Kurdish ,as



mentioned, is (ka) instead of all the relative pronouns in English ;who ,that ,whom, whose ,where ,when ,how ,why and which. Consider the relative clause examples below and the way they are reduced :

11. Aw kurei ka khera bu la walamdanawei prsyarakan ba pala shwenakay je hesht (the boy who was quick in answering the questions left the place quickly)

This is reduced to:

Aw kurei khera bu la walamdanawei prsyarakan ba pala shwenakay je hesht

12. Har qutabyak ka sudmanda ba bcheta darawa(Any student who is beneficial should go outside )

This is reduced to:

Har qutabyak sudmanda ba bcheta darawa

13. Har mrovek ka la naw bakhaka danishtwa ba bet bo lam(Any person that sits in the forest should come to me)

This is reduced to:

Har mrovek la naw bakhaka danishtwa ba bet bo lam

14. Aw shuferay ka ba hewashy otomobil le dakhure salamata (The driver who drives slowly is safe)

This is reduced to:

Aw shuferay ba hewashy otomobil le dakhure salamata

15. Aw mamostayay ka padasht kra khalk zor basaryan halgut.(The teacher who was rewarded was praised much by people)

This is reduced to:

Aw mamostayay padasht kra khalk zor basaryan halgut.

In the above-mentioned examples, perhaps it becomes clear to the readers and learners that in Kurdish in almost every case it is only the relative pronoun which is going to be removed in the process of reduction. But in English sometimes the verb after removing the relative pronoun takes –ing or sometimes be will be removed and so on. Usually the reduction takes the shape of a phrase. Nury Ali Amin(1960:29)indicates that phrase is a group words that have

meaning with no verb but functions as one of a fractions of a sentence. But nowadays in some phrases there can be a verb and the phrase has no clear meaning .

In the examples of 11, 12 ,13,14 and 15 above, some similarities along with some differences are noticed between English and Kurdish languages while the process of reduction is carried out. In 11 the relative clause is reduced to an adjective phrase while in 12 the relative clause is shortened to adjective .In 13 the relative clause is shortened to prepositional phrase .But the relative clause is shortened to present participle in 14 .Example 15 above says that the relative clause is shortened to a past participle .In Kurdish language ,unlike English, the reduction only includes the relative pronoun and not verb to be or linking verb .

On the other hand of the scale, Mohammad(2009:256)mentions another example of relative clause in Kurdish language which follows main verb of a sentence that together with the antecedent becomes object of the whole sentence as in aw propagandayay ka sabarat ba gorany paray iraqya in { aw propagandayay ka sabarat ba gorany paray iraqya bistwta ?[ Have you heard the propaganda that is about the Iraqi currency change]} .But ka paray iraqy dagordret is a relative clause modifying aw propagandaya .So here ka is possible to be removed although someone may find it difficult to be removed and the reduced clause becomes aw propagandayay sabarat ba gorany paray iraqya bistwta ?

Ibrahim in another book(1986:116) states that in the example aw kasay rojnamay blaw dakrdawa ba xoyu ba rojnamakayawa gira meaning the person that distributes newspapers is captured with it and in another example by Sharaza(1976:59)bardek ka nazan bixata naw aw darnaya basad aqly banaw meaning a stone which an ignorant person throws it into the water cannot be taken out by hundreds who are smart only superficially. So in Ibrahim's example there is reduced relative clause rojnamay blaw dakrdawa only the relative pronoun is removed. The same thing is true with Sharaza's example that the relative dependent clause can be reduced to nazan bixata naw aw. The only difference is in the first clause the reduced relative pronoun is a subject while in the latter it is the object which is the reduced relative pronoun .This is as far as relative clause reduction in Kurdish is concerned. But in adverb clause ,the ways of reduction may vary depending on the specific type of adverb clause. From now on reduction of adverb clause in Kurdish language is taken into consideration.

### **1.5.2 Adverb Clause Reduction in Kurdish Language**

Similar to English language, the sort of reduction of adverb clause includes

concession , reason and adverb clause of time. Thus for shortening these clauses. Consider the following examples:

16. La katekda bakhakay aw dada ,yachek talafony bo krd (while he was watering the garden ,somebody called him)

17.Sararay away mandu bu ,aw twany beta qutabkhana(Although he was tired ,he could come to the school)

18.Chunka aw dawat nakrabu, raty krdawa bchet bo ahangaka(Because he was not invited ,he refused to go to the party)

In the examples of 16,17, and 18 above ,all the adverb clauses can be reduced .This is made for each according to the specific type of the adverb clause. For e.g in 16 above the adverb clause can be shortened to :

La katy awdany bakhakada ,yachek talafony bo krd

Here the type of adverb clause is time, the verb (awy dada)takes continuous shape as if it was taking –ing in English language so it becomes (awdan)

In the e.g 17 above, the type of adverb clause is opposition (or concession) .In the process of reduction ,the adverb clause should have nominal shape by removing the subject .Thus it becomes as below:

Sararay mandu buny ,aw twany beta qutabkhana

The last e.g which is 18 above is an adverb clause of reason. For reducing this type ,the subject (aw)is removed .Thus it results in below:

Chunka dawat nakrabu, raty krdawa bchet bo ahangaka

To sum up about the reduced clauses in Kurdish, it may be said that in reduced adjective clauses ,the reduction only occurs in the relative pronoun as seen in the examples of 11,12,13,14, and 15 above. But in the reduction of adverb clauses what happens is not removal of clause marker but it is the removal of subject .This is beside taking the shape of noun on the part of the verb .This may be straightforward in the examples of 16 ,17 and 18 above.

## **1.6 Conclusion**

To conclude ,one may find that the similarity is that in both languages ,the reduced relative clauses modify the antecedents .The reduced adverb clauses cannot come independently but they should come with the subordinate clause to

complete their meanings in both languages. It is also noticed that in reduced relative clauses in English ,sometimes only the relative pronoun is removed and sometimes it will be removed with verb to be but in Kurdish only the relative pronoun is removed.

As concerned reduced adverb clauses in English ,the same thing happens with Kurdish language according to some differences. So the clause marker is not removed in the two types of adverb clause like time and concession .In reduced adverb clause of reason the clause marker is removed and put verbs like having or being instead of it.This is also right with Kurdish language but it is not frequent and normal. In all types of adverb clause the subject is reduced. But in Kurdish language ,only the subject is removed in some types without removing the clause markers.

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