



A Contrastive Study in the Derivation of Noun in English and Arabic

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Introduction

Morphology is the science that deals with morphemes. These morphemes can be divided into two types: free morphemes, can stand alone, and bound ones which attached to other morphemes. The latter can be named affixes that are classified into inflectional and derivational. (Sapir, 2005: 3) It is necessary to attend to morphological characteristics which distinguish one part of speech from another. Notably the occurrence of particular derivational affixes which mark a word as a member of a particular class, suffix-ness, for example, marks an item as a noun:

kind **kindness**
happy **happiness**

Nominalization, the creation of nouns from other categories, is the most common kind of derivational morphology in standard English. Nominalization is defined by Crystal (1991:260) as "the process of forming a noun from other word-class."

In standard Arabic, in order to form a noun, it should be a change in the internal structure or building of a word not by adding any addition or affix:

yaktub **katib**
yaqra **qari**

So, English is called as the affixing language:

man **manhood**
great **greatness** (Al-Dhalimi, 2003:82)

The term of nominalization can be applied to a noun phrase. Here, the head noun is normally related morphologically to a verb or to an adjective. (Hashim,2005: 6)

He refuses to help.

His refusal to help. (Quirk et al, 1985: 1288)

Her statement is true.

The truth of her statement. (ibid)

When you arrive at your hotel, please write to me.

On arrival at your hotel , please write to me. (Close, 1975:101)

The researchers divide this paper into four sections. The first section deals with derivation of a noun in standard English and the types of derived nouns in English, while the second section includes derivation of a noun in standard Arabic and the types of derived nouns in Arabic. The third section shows the results of this contrastive study which contain the most similarities and differences in both languages. The last section represents the conclusion of this paper.

Section One

1.1 Derivation of a Noun in Standard English

Derivation is the process by which a new word of different class can be formed. Derivation is considered as inner and non-final. (Hashim, 2005: 20)

There is arbitrariness in the nominal derivational affixes that are different according to the class of a word from which a noun can be derived. There are some features or properties which can recognize nouns from other parts of speech such as:



A-Formal or morphological properties:

i-Inflectional endings {-s} for plural and {'s} or {s'} for possession. (Frank, 1972:1).

ii-Derivation endings {-ment}, {-nce}, {-th}, {-ness}, etc.



B-Positional or distributional properties:

Nouns appear in similar position in the sentence, nouns can be preceded immediately by determiners.

his ability, such happiness, the agreement, my absence. (ibid)

C-Functional properties:

Nouns can fit into certain functional slots and they can be identified by their position and function in a sentence. So they can be subject, direct object and object of a preposition (Ackert, 1999:213) and (Broukal, 2003:134)

D-Semantic properties:

For grammatical and semantic reasons, nouns can be seen as falling into different sub-classes:

i-mass vs. count

ii-concrete vs. abstract

1.2 The Types of Derived Nouns in Standard English

Derivation of nouns depends on the sources from which they are formed:

1.2.1 Denominal Nouns : Abstract

Noun bases become largely noncount abstract, or aggregate nouns of status or activity by means of the following suffixes: 1- (-age), measure of, collection of **baggage frontage mileage usage** (Graham,1982:190)

2- (-dom), domain, condition. This suffix forms abstract, un-countable nouns from concrete, countable ones:

kingdom girldom dollardom (Bauer, 1983: 220)

3- (-ery), being:

slavery drudgery nursery bakery (Leech, 2001: 10)

4- (-ful), the amount contained in:

spoonful glassful mouthful

(Al-Hamash and Jamal,1979:100)

5- (-hood), status, being:

boyhood brotherhood childhood (Antworth, 1995:5)

6- {-ing}, non count concrete aggregates are fairly freely formed:

tubing, paneling, carpeting

7- {-ism}, doctrine of, practice of:

impressionism, racism, absenteeism, idealism, progressivism (ibid)

The items concerning **religion, politics, philosophy, and art** usually have a corresponding item in {-ist} to denote adherents or practitioners.

8- {-ocracy}, system of, government by:



democracy, aristocracy, meritocracy

They can be count and have corresponding personal nouns, democrat, etc.

9- {-ship}, usually denotes, being: **friendship, membership, relationship**

Most items with this limitedly productive suffix can also be count and some have an adjective base as in: **hardship**.

1.2.2 Denominal Nouns: Concrete

The following noun suffixes combine with noun bases to yield concrete and individualizing items over a rather wide semantic range. Only {er} is freely productive: (Quirk *et al*, 1985:1566)

1- {-eer}, skilled in, engaged in:

pamphleteer, profiteer, racketeer

2- {-er}, having as dominant characteristic, denizen of:

teenager, north-wester (of wind), Wheeler, villager, Londoner.

In tone, this resembles the familiarity markers:

cooker, roaster, boiler, [cooking apply, boiling fowl, etc], the base seems to be a verb.

3- {-ess}, gender:

waitress, lioness, manageress, stewardess

This prefix adds feminine marking to animate nouns, sometimes the vowel of the preceding unstressed agential suffix is elided **wait, waiter, waitress, astronautess** (Quirk *et al*, 1985:1548), (Bauer, 1983:221).

4- {-ette} , compact, fairly productive:

kitchenette, dinerette, dinette, towelette. (Stageberg, 1971:102)

imitation as in : **flannelette, leatherette** (ibid)

5- {-let}, small, unimportant:

booklet, leaflet, piglet, starlet, streamlet, ringlet, anklet (ibid)

6- {-ling}, minor, off spring of:

princeling duckling hireling

underling darling (ibid)

7- {-ster}, involved in:

trickster gangster gamester

1.2.3 Deverbal Nouns

It is possible to derive nouns from verbs by adding the suffixes:

(-al, -(a)tion to the verbal stem:

arrive ~ arrival

refuse ~ refusal (Shammas, 1998:181)





found ~ foundation

explore ~ exploration (Ackert, 1999:225)

Some deverbal nouns are derived by gerund:

open ~ opening

wait ~ waiting (Anthrow, 1992:8)

Another class of words having the same status of full productivity is that of **agential nouns** which refer to the persons who act the verbs from which such nouns are derived:

teach ~ teacher

play ~ player

sing ~ singer

drive ~ driver (Sapir, 2005:6)

Besides, there are suffixes combine with verb base to produce nouns : (-ant, -ee, -age, -ment, -ure):

habitat **contestant** (Bauer,1983:223)

testee **examinee**

coverage **breakage** (ibid)

arrangement **management** (Graham, 1982:190)

failure **pressure** (Bauer, 1983: 223)

1.2.4 De-Adjectival Nouns

There are two very common suffixes (-ity, -ness) by which abstract nouns can be formed from adjective bases:

rapid ~ **rapidity**

elastic ~ **elasticity**

big ~ **bigness**

kind ~ **kindness**

There are other suffixes (-ce, -cy) which form nouns particularly from adjective which ends with (-ant, -ent):

elegant ~ **elegance**

dependent ~ **dependence**

efficient ~ **efficiency**

sufficient ~ **sufficiency** (ibid)

1.2.5 Noun / Adjective Suffixes

There is a number of suffixes (-ese, -(i)an, -ist, -ite) which yield items that can be considered both as nouns and adjectives:

Chinese **Japanese** **Darwinian** **Elizabethan** **violinist** **Benthamite**

Chomskyite (Quirk et al,1985: 1552)

1.2.6 Nominal Conversion

Conversion is a derivational process that involves no overt affixation. Nominal conversion is defined by Crystal (1991:92) as " a term used in the study of word formation to refer to the derivational process whereby an item comes to belong to a new word-class without the addition of an affix: verb / noun: smell, taste, hit."

In some cases, nominal conversion is accompanied by certain non affixal changes affecting pronunciation or spelling or stress distribution:

a- Voicing of Final Consonants

The voiced fricative consonant /z, v, / in some verbs are unvoiced to /s, f, / respectively in the corresponding noun forms:

verb ~ **noun**
grieve /v/ ~ grief /f/



mouth / / ~ mouth / /

house /z/ ~ house /s/ (Quirk et al , 1985:1566)

b- Shift of Stress

When verbs of two syllables are converted into nouns, the stress is sometimes shifted from the second to the first syllable :

verb ~ noun

abs'tract ~ 'abstract

com'bine ~ 'combine (Katamba, 1993:54)

Section Two

2.1 Derivation of a Noun in Standard Arabic

In Standard Arabic, derivation of nouns underwent significant development in present Arabic and passed from meter to another. (Al-Azawi, 1990 : 99.

It is considered as a great and fascinating device for generating utterances, specifying meanings, word instance and connecting word with its group to which it belongs. Derivation is the relationship between the origin or root and branch. Arabic is analytic language, its structures change according to the change of meanings and its parts are connected by bonds which refer to their relationship. Arabic is one of the Semitic languages. (Al-Salih, 1973: 147)

There are three opinions for derivation of nouns from: root, verb, and infinitive. The most famous is from root. Nouns refer to meaning and stability that has no movement. (Al-Mutalibi,1986:43)

Derivation of a noun depends on the gender of the subject. There should be differentiation between female and male

mualima	mualim
talib	taliba
mudaris	mudarisa
la'aib	la'aiba (Al-A'amili, 1985: 23)
fal'ah	fal'aha

2.2 The Types of Derived Nouns in Standard Arabic

In standard Arabic, the derived nouns are classified according to their functions in the sentences in which they are found:

2.2.1 A Noun of the Subject

This type refers to the person who acts or does an action. In Arabic, this type is derived from triverb whose meter is (fa'il):

kataba ~	katib
nasara ~	nasir
najaha ~	najih
hafadha ~	hafidh

Besides, it is derived from other than triverb which is like its present form with substituting the present letter with the letter (m) and using certain (harakat) that mean (vowel sounds) in English as using /u/ with /m/and /i/ with a letter before the last one:

yukrim ~	mukrim
yantasir ~	muntasir
yunadhif ~	munadhif

(Shlash et al, 2003: 34)

2.2.2 Exaggeration Form

In order to emphasize and show the increase in an action. The noun of the subject can be changed into its exaggeration form:

wahib ~	waha'b
shakir ~	shakoor



raziq ~ raza'q

(shakoor) means the person who thanks very widely. This type functions as the same role of the subject noun.

2.2.3 A Noun of the Object

This type refers to the person whom are exposed to an action:

kataba ~ maktoob

sami'a ~ masmo'o'a (ibid)

It is formed from a passive voice form of a triverb:

mahfoodh mansoor maqtool maqbool

In addition, this kind can be derived from other than triverb with substituting its present letter for letter (m) after the vowel sound (haraka) /u/ is used and /e/ after the letter before the last one of a derived noun:

mukarem mustakhrej

munadhaf muratab

2.2.4 Adjective Likes the Subject Noun

This type refers to a noun that derived from an intransitive triverb to show that an adjective is fixed with a noun:

shareef shahm hasin

2.2.5 Preference Noun

This type is used to reflex a similarity between two persons or things in an adjective in which one of them increases more than another one:

akbar afdhal akram (ibid)

2.2.6 Time and Place Nouns

Time nouns is a noun which is derived from a verb to indicate the time or the place in which such verb occurs:

hadiqa madressa mazrea'a

(Al-A'amili, 1985: 5)

2.2.7 Instrument Noun

This type refers to a device or a tool by which a verb happens:

midraqa sayyara mil'aqa

muknassa ghassala

As well as there are nouns of instrument that can be original and head nouns: **sayf**

qalam bab (ibid)

Section Three

The Results of the Contrastive Study

This paper reflects the most common points for the derivation of a noun in Arabic and English. It also reflects in what both languages are similar or different. It is worthy to mention that there is no points in which both languages are similar or different exactly or completely.

In both languages, a noun refers to meaning and stability that has no movement.

In Arabic, the derived nouns can be produced by change in the internal structure or building not by adding any addition. So, English language is named as the affixing language. In English, the word **player** can refer to both female and male while in Arabic, production of noun depends on the gender of the subject. In Arabic, the derived nouns are classified according to their functions in the sentences where they found, whereas in English, their derivation is affected by the sources from which they are derived. This study shows the same points in which both languages share:

A Noun of the Subject 1-

katib qari'a nashir

writer reader publisher



2- A noun of the Object

maktoob mumtahn
testee examinee

3- Time and Place Nouns

madrasa saffra
meeting examination

4- Instrument Noun

mutraqa maknissa
hammer duster

5- Noun/Adjective Suffixes

seeni yapani
Chinese Japanese

Both languages may meet in noun conversion. In English, by putting stress on the second syllable of verbs, whereas stress is put on the first syllable of nouns which derived from such verbs without presence of any affixation. In Arabic, conversion can be seen when harakats are used to differentiate between verbs and nouns without using letters:

'carpet (noun) car'pet (verb)
kataba (verb) kutub (plural noun)

There are some points which can be seen only in Arabic language:

- 1- Exaggeration Form
- 2- Adjective likes the Subject Noun
- 3- Preference Nouns

Conclusion

Both languages are similar in some characteristics of nouns. In English, nouns have definite articles, such articles are of two types: (the) which used for known nouns and indefinite articles (a, an) for unknown ones. In Arabic, this article is represented by (al) for only known nouns:

altalib alzhra alrajul

Besides, both languages are similar in possession, but , of course each language has its own way .

Ali's car sayarat ali

Generally, in both languages, nouns can be preceded by prepositions:

to meeting ila alijtimaa
in house fi aldar (Al-A'amili, 1985: 4)

In English, pluralization of nouns must be one form for both female and male:

teacher teachers
doctor doctors

whereas in Arabic, pluralization has two forms:

mudarisoon mudarisat mudaris
mualim mualimoon mualimat

The difficulty of derivation nouns which makes difference between Arabic and English is that , in Arabic , derivation of noun depends on what such nouns function in the sentences in which they appear, whereas , in English the derivation of nouns depends on the sources from which they derived.

In English, the difficulty of derivation of nouns exists in arbitrariness of derivational affixes whereas, in Arabic, the derivation of nouns is wider than in English.

Finally , each language has its own system and there are points which represent similarity or difference among languages.



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