

Inversion In Modern Standard English And Modern Standard Arabic A contrastive study

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Section one

Introduction

In this paper, an attempt is made to investigate the inverted constructions in Modern Standard English and modern standard Arabic. inversion is defined by Crystal , (١٩٩٨ : ٢٠٣) as " the process or result of syntactic change in which a specific sequence of constituents is seen as the reverse of another " : In both of English and Arabic , inversion is illustrated respectively as follows :

Only if it rains will the picnic be cancelled (Azar , ١٩٨٦ : ٣٣٤)

فَأَمَّا الْيَتِيمَ فَلَا تَقْهَرْ (الضحى : ٩)

Therefore, treat not the orphan with oppression. (Ad-Duha : ٩)

Evidence shows that the comparison between inversion in both language has not been adequately don. Accordingly, it is hoped that such constructions will be thoroughly investigated in this study.

The present study aims at :

١. Investigating inversion in Modern Standard English as far as grammar is concerned.
٢. Investigating the inverted constructions in Modern Standard Arabic.
٣. Holding a comparison of such constructions in both languages.
٤. Formulating suggestions that may be of value in recognizing and employing such constructions and identifying related topics as further studies.

This study hypothesizes that inversion in Modern Standard English and Modern Standard Arabic is governed by specific grammatical rules, and that the employment of inversion in English syntactically differs from its employment in Arabic.

The study aims at providing an adequate account, as far as possible, of inversion in both languages depending on the literature available in both languages. It is divided into four sections.

The first section is an introduction whereas the second focuses on inversion in that inversion in Modern Standard English. The third section studies certain syntactic construction in Modern Standard Arabic in which inversion take place. Section four summarizes the main finding and suggestions of this study. Finally, it is hoped that inversion such constructions will be of due significance in the recognition and production of inverted constructions in both languages.

Section Two : Inversion in Modern Standard English.

English has strict rules whereby words are patterned to form grammatical sentences. In this sense Thakur (١٩٩٧ : ٨٨) states that " English relies heavily on word order and word – class membership as the markers of syntactic relationships between the word in a sentence ". Nevertheless, word order can be reversed depending on certain restrictions governed by rules to form a phenomenon known as " inversion " .

٢.١ Subject – Operator Inversion**٢.١.١ Inversion after negative adverbs**

Certain adverbs such as hardly , seldom , rarely , little , and never with a restrictive or negative sense can be placed initially, for emphasis in rhetoric and formal writing , and followed by subject – operator inversion. Consider the following examples :

١. Seldom have I come early.
٢. Never will he make that mistake again.
٣. Never before had I been asked to accept the bribe.
٤. Not till he got home did he realize that he had lost it.

(Alexander, ١٩٩٧: ١٤٣) and (Thomasin and Martinet, ١٩٨٦ : ٦٢-٦٣)

In the same respect Swan (٢٠٠٣ : ١٣٨) agrees with Quirk et al (١٩٨٥ : ٧٧٩) that the negative element may change its position to be initially placed in which case inversion is required :

٥. No longer are they staying with us.
٦. Under no circumstances will she return here.
٧. His father wouldn't give the money (and) neither would he.
٨. They don't like football. Neither / nor do I.

Moreover Quirk et al (ibid : ٧٨٠) state that " some speakers position no more initial with subject – operator inversion as response in discourse following a negative sentence " :

٩. A: I don't play tennis.
B: No more do I. (indeed, I don't either.)

The usual equivalent responses are: Neither do I or nor do I.

٢.١.٢ Inversion after expressions containing “Only”

Subject - operator inversion occurs when “only” is placed initially followed by time expressions or prepositional phrases as illustrated in the following instances :

١٠. Only then did I understand what he meant .
١١. Only after her death was I able to appreciate her.
١٢. Only by shouting was he able to make himself heard.

Not only is also followed by this type of inversion :

١٣. Not only did we lose our money , but we were also in danger of losing our lives

(Swan , ٢٠٠٣ : ١٣٨), (Alexander, ١٩٩٧: ١٤٣), (Swan , ١٩٩٥: ٢٨٩) and (Frank, ١٩٩٣: ١٥٣).

When an object phrase is fronted preceded by only , inversion usually takes place :

١٤. Only one more point will I make
- (Quirk et al , ١٩٨٥ : ١٣٨٢).

Foley and Diane (٢٠٠٣ : ٣٢٢) point out that inversion does not happen after only unless it is immediately followed by time expressions or prepositional phrases :

١٦. Only members can parck here
١٧. Not only can members parck here*

٢.١.٣ Inversion after not + object

Swan (١٩٩٥ : ٢٨٩) and foley and Diane (٢٠٠٣ : ٣٢٣) indicate

that subject — operator inversion can be mentioned when an object is fronted preceded by not as an initial element

١٨. Not a single word did he say.

The same thing can happen in passive voice :

١٩. Not a single stone was left unturned in the search.

٢-١-٤ Inversion after So.

Subject - operator inversion is possible when so -I- adjective is placed initially for emphasis as illustrated in the following instances:

٢٠. So sudden was the attack (that) we had no time to escape
This sentence is equivalent to the sentence of result

٢١. The attack was so sudden that we had no time to escape

٢٢. So rapidly has the population increased that the
government's housing programme needs drastic revision

(Alexander , ١٩٩٧ : ١٤٣) , (Swan , ١٩٩٥ : ٢٨٩)

(Frank, ١٩٩٣: ١٥٣) and(Cook et al, ١٩٧٧:١٦٤).

Leech and Svartvick (١٩٩٤ : ٢٠٤) agree with Quirk et al

(١٩٨٥ :٨٨٢) to point out that so is followed by operator +subject:

٢٣. You asked him to leave , and so did I . [I asked him to leave , too .]

In such a structure so gives the meaning of addition equivalent to too or also . Moreover , the structure after so indicates ellipsis and that the elliptical predication can be stated . Consider the following example :

٢٤. I have enjoyed the party , and so did my friend .

in which the missing predication is enjoyed the party .

Foley and Diane (٢٠٠٣ : ٣٢٣) affirm that “inversion can be used in certain fixed expressions with subjunctive .

٢٥. So be it.

٢-١-٥ Inversion after as

Swan (١٩٩٥ : ٢٨٩) and foley and Diane (٢٠٠٣ : ٣٢٣)

indicate that inversion happens after as in literary style

٢٦. She was very religious , as were most of her friends

٢٧. He believed, as did all his family, that the king was their supreme lord

It can be noted that as - clause in the last sentence functions as appositive.

٢-١-٦ Inversion after than :

Inversion is mentioned in than - clauses in formal English

٢٨. City dwellers have a higher death rate than do country people.

(Swan , ١٩٩٥:٢٨٩)and Foley and Diane (٢٠٠٣:٣٢٣)

Quirk *et.al* (١٩٨٥ ١٣٨٢) note that ‘there is subject— operator inversion in comparative clauses when the subject is not a personal pronoun .

٢٩. Oil costs less than would atomic energy.

It is clear that there is ellipsis in structures after than .

٢-١-٧ Inversion with may.

Swan (١٩٩٥ :٢٨٨) states that “ may can come before the subject in wishes :

٣٠. May all your wishes come true .

٣١. May he rot in hell

On the other hand , Quirk et al (١٩٨٥ : ٢٢٤) point out that may is rarely used with subject — operator inversion in volitional sentences which parallel the function of the formulaic subjunctive .

٣٢. May the best man win . [= The best man win .]

٣٣. May god bless you. [= God bless you.]

٢-١-٨ Inversion in conditional sentences :

Subject — Operator inversion is typical of a literary and elevated style of persuasion . The operators that permit the inversion are had , subjunctive were , could , might and putative should . In such cases if is omitted . Consider the following instances .

٣٤. Had I been less forthright , I would have acquired more support .

[= If I had been less forthright]

٣٥. Were she here , she would support the motion . [= If she were here] (Quirk et al, ١٩٨٥ : ١٠٠٦) and (Leech and Svartick, ١٩٩٤: ١٤٢)

Leech and Svartick (ibid) add that there is no contracted form in negative conditional clauses beginning with had, were and should , i.e . the full form is used

٣٦. If I hadn't known ,.....

٣٧. Had I not known ,.....

٢-١-٩ Inversion in questions .

Interrogatives are always formed by means of placing the operator initially before the subject :

٣٨. His brothers have arrived

٣٩. Have his brother arrived?

(Greenbaum and Quirk, ١٩٩٠ : ٣٤)

When the sentence has no operator, do is usually mentioned

٤٠. They went out yesterday.

٤١. Did they go out yesterday ?

Kayser and postal (١٩٧٦ : ٣٧٢) and Quirk et al (١٩٨٥: ٧٢٥٢٨) affirm that subject — operator inversion is required in questions except when the wh is a subject . This can be illustrated in the following instances

٤٢. What have you seen today?

Here what designates a direct object

٤٣. What has kept you so long?

In this sentence what is itself the subject . So there is no inversion.

Reported questions do not have inversion as indicated by Gramely and Patzold (١٩٩٢: ٧٤)

٤٤. They asked when she left.

In the same respect swan (١٩٩٥: ٢٨٨) states that inversion does not occur in spoken questions

٤٥. You're coming tomorrow?

٢-٢ Subject - Main Verb Inversion

٢-٢ Inversion after adverbials of direction or position.

Subject - main verb inversion takes place after an adverbial phrase of position or direction introduced by a preposition as illustrated in the following instances

٤٦. Into the house ran John.

٤٧. Near the church was an old ruined cottage

٤٨. Before them lay a vast expanse desert

(Murcia and Freeman , ١٩٩٩ : ٦١٩) , (Frank, ١٩٩٣ : ١٥٣) and

(Eckersley and Eckersley, ١٩٦٠ : ٢٦٣)

٢-٢-٢ Inversion after adverb particles

Adverb particles such as back , down , , off, etc . cause inversion when placed initially for special dramatic effect as stated by Alexander (١٩٩٣ : ٢١٥):

٤٩. Out came John

When the subject is a pronoun , it occurs before the verb preceded by the particle

٥٠. Back it came . Not Back came it .

(ibid)

٢-٢-٣ Inversion after adverbials of time

Adverbials of time such as then , next ,first ,now ,finally ,etc. are followed by subject — main verb inversion in which case the main verb is be . This pattern is mentioned to form a link with the information in the previous sentence as illustrated in the following examples

٥١. For the first hour the teams seemed evenly matched Then came the turning point in the game as Ed. Scored

٥٢. That was the final installment . Next is the news

(Foley and Diane , ٢٠٠٣ : ٣٢٣)

٢-٢-٤ Inversion after here and there

Swan (٢٠٠٣ : ١٣٨ —٩) points out that adverbs of place such as here and there are followed by inversion provided that the subject is a noun

٥٣. Here come the boys .

٥٤. There go the men .

٥٥. Here she comes . Not * Here comes she .

Swan (١٩٩٥ : ٢٨٩) adds that such structures are most common in literary and descriptive writing

Alexander (١٩٩٧ : ١٤٣) affirms that subject - main verb inversion is “common after be when offering things or identifying location” :

This can be seen in :

٥٦. Here's a cup of tea for you . (offer)

٥٧. There's John smith . (identif/ing location)

Inversion does not occur if the subject is a noun

٥٨. Here you are . (offer)

٥٩. There she is . (identifying location)

٢-٢-٥ Inversion after participles.

Thomasin and martinet (١٩٨٦ : ٥٥) indicate that subject - main verb inversion occurs after participles provided that the main verb is be :

٦٠. Hanging from the rafters were strings of onions :

In the same sense Murcia and Freeman (١٩٩٩ : ٦٢٠) point out that " thematic continuity is maintained through use of marked word order and inversion " .

٦١. Accompanying her were four nuns who will run the new mission.

In this example the present participle fronting and inversion serve to keep her as the initial noun phrase. Passive can be mentioned to investigate the same aim :

٦٢. She was accompanied four nuns who will run the new mission.

٢-٢-٦ Inversion in miscellaneous sentences.

Subject – main verb inversion occurs in a fixed type of structures in which " the optative subjective survives and it is mentioned to express wish " :

٦٣. Lang live the Republic.

٦٤. So help me God.

Such structures can also occur without inversion :

٦٥. God save the queen.

(Quirk et al , ١٩٥٨ : ٨٣٩)

There is a type of wh-questions in which the subject and the main verb are inverted :

٦٦. How goes it ? [a greeting : How are you doing ?]

٦٧. How came you to miss the train ? [How did you come to miss the train]

٦٨. What say you , peter ? [What is your opinion ?]

٦٩. Where stands the administration ?

(ibid : ١٢٤)

When the wh-element is the subject complement of sentence, subject - main verb inversion happens particularly if the subject is lengthy :

٧٠. She told us how strong was her motivation to engage in research .

(ibid : ١٠٥٢)

Swan (١٩٩٥ : ٢٨٨) states that inversion sometimes takes place "in a rather old - fashioned literary style in exclamations after how and what"

٧١. How beautiful are the flowers .

In such an instance the subject complement is fronted preceded by how and followed by subject - main verb inversion.

Quirk et al (١٩٨٥ : ١٣٨٠) point out that "there is inversion with a pronoun subject followed by post modification in archaic English .

٧٢. Happy is he who reconciled with his lot .

There is also inversion with verbless clauses :

٧٣. Unlucky the man who hates his work .

(ibid)

In this example the verbless clause is " Unlucky the man whose normal word order is "the man is unlucky Also, it is possible to place the main verb before the subject when such verbs follow the direct speech

٧٤. "I've just heard the news " , said torn

٧٥. " What do you mean? " asked John . (or John asked)

This example indicates that the normal word order can also be stated. II, the subject is a pronoun , it always comes before the verb :

٧٦. " What do you mean ? " he asked

(Alexander, ١٩٩٣: ١٩٤) and (Swan ٢٠٠٣ : ١٣٩).

٢-٢-٨ Limitations of subject — main verb inversion :

Leech and Svartvick (١٩٩٤ : ٢٠٢) affirm that subject than verb inversion requires the following limitations :

- a. The verb phrase consists of a single verb word in the past or present .
- b. The verb is an intransitive verb of position or verb of motion.

c. Topic element is an adverbial of place or direction.

Quirk et al (١٩٨٥ : ١٣٨٠) add another restriction in that this type of inversion occurs with simple present and past tense verbs:

٧٧. Here comes my brother.

٧٨. Not * Here is coming my brother.

٢-٣ Exclamations.

Exclamatives are statements whose initial phrases are introduced by what or who with normal word order of the subject and the verb.

(Quirk et al , ١٩٨٥ : ٨٠٣)

Consider the following exclamative statements with their patterns in which the fronted elements are direct object , subject complement and adverbial respectively :

٧٩. What a time we've had to day ! (Od SVA)

٨٠. How delightful her manners are ! (Cs SV)

٨١. How quickly you eat ! (ASV)

(ibid : ٨٣٣ – ٨٣٤)

Section Three : Inversion in Modern Standard Arabic

When considering the Modern Standard Arabic syntax , what seems noteworthy is the fact that Arabic has certain occasions in which certain grammatical elements are inverted owing to some syntactic restrictions (١٨٩ : ١٩٩٧ الصاحبي) . In Arabic , inversion is illustrated as follows :

٣,١ Subject – Predicate inversion .

In nominal sentences , the subject must precede the predicate :

١. القصة مسلية : The story is interesting

(١٩٧٩ : ١٤ – ٥) et . al . الواسطي .

However the predicate must be inverted to precede the subject according to the following conditions :

٣-١-١ When the predicate is an interrogative or predicative " كم "

Which must occur initial , as in :

١. (كم لآتيناهم من آية بيّنة) (البقرة من الآية ٢١١)

.... how many clear Ayat (proofs , evidences , verses , lessons , signs , revelations , etc) We gave them . (Al-Baqarah : ٢١١) .

٢. كيف حالهم ؟ How are they ?

٣. ما عندك ؟ What do you have ?

٤. أين صديقك ؟ Where is your friend ?

(٥٤٩ : ٢٠٢ الوراق) (٤٠٥ : ٢٠٠١ الزمخشري) (٤٢٠ : ٢٠٠١ التفنيزاني) (٢٠٢-٤ : ١٩٩٨ الاشموني) (٣ – ٣٣٢ : ١٩٩٨ السيوطي) (٩٢ : ١٩٨٦ ابن عصفور) (١٤ : ١٩٧٩ et.al. الواسطي) .

٣-١-٢ When the subject (المبتدأ) is an indefinite element having its predicate as an adverb (ظرفاً أو مجروراً) preceding :

٥. (في قلوبهم مرضٌ فزادهم الله مرضاً) (البقرة : من الآية ١٠)

In their hearts is a disease (of doubt and hypocrisy) and Allah has increased their disease . (Al-Baqarah : ١٠)

(٢٠٢ – ٤ : ١٩٩٨ الاشموني)

(٩٢ : ١٩٨٦ ابن عصفور)

(١٤ – ٥ : ١٩٧٩) et . al . الواسطي agree that the predicate (الخبر) must precede the subject (المبتدأ) in sentences (٥ and ٦) :

٦. في الغرفة رجلٌ .

٧. على الحائط كتابه .

They add that English translations of sentences (٥ and ٦) will be respectively :

There's a man in the room.

There's some writing on the wall.

It seems that the above corresponding sentences do not undertake predicate inversion. Rather , the use of “ there “ is employed to stand for predicate inversion. However , when the sentences are negated , the subject occurs normally before the predicate , as in :

٨. لا شك في ذلك There's no doubt that

في ذلك لا شك *

٩. لاحق لك في هذا You have no right in this

في هذا لاحق لك *

(ibid)

٣ - ١ - ٣ When the subject (المبتدأ) is (إن) and when the predicate is limited to the subject , as in :

١٠. (إِنَّمَا وَلِيُّكُمُ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا) (البقرة من الآية ٥٥)

Verily , your Wali (Protector or Helper) is none other than Allah , His Messenger , and believers.

(Al-Ma'idah : ٥٥)

(٣ - ٣٣٢ : ١٩٩٨ السيوطي)

٢ - ١ - ٤ : When the subject is attached to a pronoun referring to the predicate :

١١. (أَفَلَا يَتَذَكَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ أَمْ عَلَى قُلُوبٍ أَقْفَالُهَا) (محمد ٢٤)

Do they not than think deeply in the Quran , or are their hearts locked on (from understanding it) ? (Muhammed : ٢٤)

(٩٢ : ١٩٨٦ ابن عصفور)

(٢٠٢ : ١٩٩٨ الاشموني)

(٣ - ٣٣٢ : ١٩٩٨ السيوطي)

(٢٤٠ - ٣ : n.d . ابن عقيل)

٣ - ١ - ٥ . Furthermore السيوطي (٣٣٢ : ١٩٩) states that the predicate must precede the subject (المبتدأ) when the former functions as a demonstrative and adverb (غسم إشارة) , such as “ ثُمَّ ” (ظرف)

١٢. ثُمَّ زَيْدٌ .. Here's Zaid

١٣. عِنْدِي أَنْتَ فَاضِلٌ To me , you are honest.

أَنْتَ فَاضِلٌ عِنْدِي *

٣ - ٢ Subject – object inversion.

In Arabic , the object can be inverted to occur initially. Subject – object inversion occurs as follows :

٣ - ٢ - ١ : أَمَّا

When the verb occurs in the answer of “ أَمَّا ” which implies a condition , having no separator expect the object .

١٤. (فَأَمَّا الْيَتِيمَ فَلَا تَقْهَرْ * وَأَمَّا السَّائِلَ فَلَا تَنْهَرْ) (الضحى , ٩ , ١٠)

Therefore , treat not the orphan with oppression * And repulse not the beggar . (Ad – Duha : ٩ - ١٠)

(٦ - ٣٧٤ : ٢٠٠١ . التفنازاني)
(٢٣ : ١٩٩٨ . ابن الأثير)
(٥٠٨ : ١٩٧٤ . حسن)

٢ - ٢ - ٢ ; Inversion With “ الفاء “

When the verb is a command associated with “ الفاء “ , inversion occurs as :

١٥ . (يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُدَّثِّرُ * ١ * قُمْ فَأَنذِرْ * ٢ * وَرَبِّكَ فَكْبِّرْ * ٣ * وَثِيَابَكَ فَطَهِّرْ) (المدثر : ١٤)

O you (Muhammed) enveloped in garments ! Arise and warn ! And magnify your Lord (Allah) ! And purify your garments ! (Al – Muddaththir : ١ – ٤)

(٩٢ : ١٩٨٦ . ابن عصفور)

٢ - ٢ - ٣ . Inversion when the object occurs as a separate pronoun.

Subject – object inversion happens when a separate pronoun functions as object:

١٦ . (إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ) * ٥ * (الفاتحة : ٥)

You (Alone) we worship , and you (Alone) we ask for help (for each and everything) (Al – Fatiha : ٥)

(٦ - ٣٧٣ : ٢٠٠١ . التفنازاني)

(٢٣ : ١٩٩٨ . ابن الأثير)

٣ - ٢ - ٤

When the object occurs as an element that must be placed initial , inversion is obligatory. This can be seen in:

٣ - ٢ nouns of condition. (أسماء الشرط) :

١٧ . (فَمَنْ تَبِعَ هُدَايَ فَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ) (البقرة من الآية ٣٨)

..... and whoever follows My guidance , there shall be no fear on them (Al – Baqarah : ٣٨)

(٩٢ : ١٩٨٦ ابن عصفور)

٣ - ٣ Interrogative nouns (أسماء الاستفهام)

١٨ . أَبَشْرًا مِّنَّا وَاجِدًا نَّتَّبِعُهُ) (القمر من الآية ٢٤)

And they said : “ A man , a lone among us – shall we follow him ? “ (Al – Qamar : ٢٤)

١٩ . أَيِّ كِتَابٍ قَرَأْتَ ؟

٢٠ . مَن رَأَيْتَ ؟

Which book did you read ?

Whom did you see ?

c- Predicative (كم) , as in :

٢١ . (كَمْ لَاتِنَاهُمْ مِنْ آيَةٍ بَيِّنَةٍ) (البقرة من الآية ٢١١)

.... how many clear Ayat (proofs , evidences , verses , lessons , signs ,

revelations , etc) We gave them . (Al-Baqarah : ٢١١)

(٤٢٠ : ٢٠٠١ . التفنازاني)

٣-٣ Inversion in exclamatory constructions .

Certain exclamatory constructions occur with inversion. This can be seen in :

٢٢ . (قُلِّلَ الْإِنْسَانُ مَا أَكْفَرَهُ) (عبس : ١٧)

Be cursed (the disbelieving) man ! How ungrateful he is ! (Abasa : ١٧)

(٤٠٤ : ٢٠٠١ . الزمخشري)

In this sense , (١٢٤-٧ : ١٩٧٩) et . al (الواسطي) introduce the following illustrations :

٢٣ . يَا لَجَمَالِ هَذِهِ الزَّهْرَةِ !

٢٤ . مَا أَجْمَلَ هَذِهِ الزَّهْرَةَ !

٢٥ . يَا لَهَا مِنْ فَوْضَى تِلْكَ الَّتِي سَتَحْبِطُ بِهَا !

How lovely this rose is !

(What) a pretty mess we shall be in !

٢٦. يا لك من صديق مخلص !

(What) a fine friend you are) .

It is worth mentioning that in sentences (٢٥ and ٢٦) , " What " may be omitted. The sentence " a Pretty mess we shall be in ! " implies a " feeling of dissatisfaction or anger " , whereas " a fine friend you are ! " indicates that the speaker indirectly insulting the listener. (ibid)

Furthermore , certain constructions introduced by " نَعَمْ " and " بَشَسْ " can have underlying inversion :

نَعَمْ الصديقُ الكتاب. What a good friend a book is !

بَشَسْ القول شهادة الزور .

How wicked it is to commit perjury !

What a wicked thing it is to commit perjury ! (ibid : ١٥٣ – ٤)

Section Four A Contrastive Comparison of Inversion in MS English and NS Arabic

As far as the study of inversion in MS English is concerned , it is found that inversion occurs in three major kinds These are subject - operator inversion , subject - main verb inversion , and exclamations Subject - operator inversion is preconditioned by nine occurrences It occurs after : negative adverbs , expressions containing “only” not +object , so , as , and than Furthermore , it occurs with “may” , in conditional sentences ,and questions

The second kind is subject - main verb inversion This has six occurrences It occurs after adverbials of direction or position , adverb particles , adverbials of time , words as “here” and “there” , and participles .Finally , it occurs in miscellaneous sentences The third kind of inversion in MS English occurs in exclamations This is introduced by “what” and “how”

In MS Arabic, inversion , similar to MS English occurs in three major kinds , namely : subject predicate inversion , subject - object inversion , and inversion in exclamatory constructions Subject - predicate inversion has five occurrences It occurs in interrogative and predicative (كم) , when the subject “المبتدأ” is an indefinite element having its predicate as an adverb , ظرفاً او مجروراً , when the subject is “إن” and when the predicate is limited to the subject , when the subject is attached to a pronoun referring to the predicate Finally it occurs with demonstrative adverbs “اسم اشارة ظرف” as “ثم” .

Subject - object inversion occurs when the adverb functions as the answer of “اما” with “الفاء” , with separate pronoun objects , when the object occurs as an element that must be placed initially , as in :

A – nouns of condition.

B – interrogative nouns.

C – predicative " كم "

The third kind of inversion in MS Arabic occur in exclamatory constructions.

Section Five : Conclusions , Recommendations , and Suggestions.

In this paper , it is concluded that inversion in English occurs in three structures :

Subject – operator inversion , subject – main verb inversion, and exclamations. In Arabic, it occurs in three structures : Subject – Predicate inversion, subject – object

inversion, and in exclamatory constructions. Furthermore, it is found that there are syntactic difference of inverted construction between the tow language.

Accordingly, the study recommends that due attention must be given in the teaching of English as a foreign language focusing on such constructions, and the syntactic rules that govern their use.

Finally, the study suggests a subject for further research in which EFL Iraqi university students are tested in order to find whether or not they are able to adequately recognize and produce English inverted constructions.

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