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All correspondence to be addressed in the name of the Editor-in-Chief

College of Arts – University of Mosul – Republic of Iraq

E-mail: adabarafidayn@gmail.com

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A Study of Nominal Clauses in English and their Equivalents in Arabic

Asst. Lect. Zahra' M. S. Ahmad*

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1. Introduction

Among the types of English nominal clauses are wh- and yes/no interrogative and alternative clauses. It is generally accepted that nominal clauses are subordinate [(1)]clauses which function like noun phrases. This means that nominal clauses may be subject, object, subject complement, adjectival complement, prepositional complement or appositive (Quirk et al. 1985: 1047; Leech and Svartvik, 1994: 311; Steer and Carlisi, 1998: 118f among others), e.g., in the sentence:

Our latest prediction ***that Norway would win the match*** *was totally disbelieved*, the subordinate clause (*that Norway would win the match*) functions as an appositive in the main clause. However, the privilege of occurrence of nominal clauses is more limited than that of noun phrases because semantically the clauses are normally abstract; i.e. they refer to such abstractions as events, facts, dates, and ideas rather than to perceptible objects. The one exception to this generalization is the nominal relative clause which may refer to objects, including persons (Quirk et al. 1985: 1047), e.g. in the sentence: *Whoever did that should admit it frankly*, the word (*whoever*) means the person who.

* Dept. of English/ College of Basic Education / University of Mosul.

(١) Subordinate, dependent, embedded, included, constituent and "syntactically bound" clauses, all refer to a unit or a constituent which functions as an element of a complex sentence (Quirk et al., 1985: 987). In other words, the two clauses in the complex sentence clause are the subordinate and the superordinate, of which the subordinate clause is a constituent, the superordinate clause is therefore the main clause (Quirk et al., 1985: 988), e.g. in the sentence:

I do not know whether John is at home, the whole sentence is a superordinete clause, and (*whether John is at home*) is the subordinate clause.

2. Aims of the Study

This study is intended to:

1. Identify and clarify what is meant by wh- interrogative, yes/ no interrogative and alternative clauses in English and what is meant by nominal and nominal interrogative clauses in Arabic.
2. Investigates the features of the translated sentences, especially as regards form and function. This is done by analyzing the English nominal clauses and their Arabic translations.
3. Prove that English nominal clauses can be rendered into different types of clauses , or even into phrases, when translated into Arabic.

3. Hypotheses of the Study

The present study hypothesized that:

1. Not all English wh-interrogative, yes/ no interrogative and alternative nominal clauses are translated as nominal clauses into Arabic. Sometimes, they are translated as noun or prepositional phrases.
2. When English nominal clauses are translated into Arabic, the Arabic renderings do not necessarily have the same function in the main clause as they do in English.
3. English nominal clauses are mostly translated semantically into Arabic.
4. In translation, some non alternative clauses are rendered into alternative clauses into Arabic, but not the opposite.

4. Limits of the Study

In English, nominal clauses are classified into: finite, non- finite, and verbless clauses. Non- finite nominal clauses include: to-infinitive and ing- clauses. Verbless clauses are: bare infinitive and verbless clauses. Finite nominal clauses include: that- clauses, subordinate interrogative clauses which include: wh- and yes/no interrogative and alternative clauses, subordinate exclamative clauses and nominal relative clauses. This study is limited to study of wh- and yes/no interrogative and alternative clauses. It clarifies what is meant by nominal and nominal interrogative clauses in Arabic. It focuses on translating samples from English wh- and yes/no interrogative and alternative clauses into Arabic, and analyzing the Arabic resulting constructions to show the differences

and similarities between English nominal clauses and the Arabic renderings of the translated sentences concerning form and function. Reference to semantics is shown when necessary.

5. Procedures and Data Collection

In the present work, ten sentences containing wh- and yes/no interrogative and alternative clauses were selected from books of English grammar. These sentences are introduced by different wh-words or "if" and "whether" or they are alternative clauses. The clauses have different functions, and some contain more than one wh-word linked by coordinators like (or) and (and). These sentences were translated by 5 participants. The participants are lecturers in the English Department/ College of Basic Education/ University of Mosul. Each participant was asked to translate the whole sentences. The analysis depends only on the correct translations of the English sentences.

6. English Wh- and Yes/no Interrogative and Alternative Clauses

Both wh- interrogative and yes/no interrogative and even alternative clauses are interrogative in character. The first one includes a wh- word as a subordinator which has the effect of making it into a kind of question (Burton-Roberts, 1997: 219) and the second ones have the subordinator "whether" or "if" which indicates that the subordinate clause is interrogative (Winter: 1982: 66 and Steer and Carlisi: 1998: 127f). Wh- and yes/no have traditionally been described as indirect questions [(2)], i.e. they are not questions but questions converted to nominal structures (Winter: 1982: 70), e.g. the direct questions: *she said, "Where she is going?"* and *she said, "Can you swim?"* are turned into indirect speech by saying: *she asked where she was going* and *she asked me if I could swim* (Thomas and Martinet, 1986: 277, 285). In the first type, wh-words are used[(3)] but in the second one if/whether are used as the

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(٢) Of course to turn direct into indirect questions (to report speech) requires necessary changes apply to the whole sentences (verbs, adverbs, pronouns, etc.), to be acquainted with all of these changes see Thomas and Martinet, 1986: 269f, 277-80.

(٣) Sometimes, requests begin with wh- words are reported into noun clauses introduced by if, e.g. *"Why do not you take me to a nice restaurant?" the woman asked the man* (request). *The woman asked the man if he would take her to a nice restaurant*; see Steer and Carlisi, 1998:136).

connecting words (to indicate that the subordinate clause is interrogative) (Steer and Carlisi, 1998: 127). In alternative clauses (whether/if …or) are used, e.g. the direct question: *"Shall I wait for them or go on" he wondered* is turned into indirect speech by saying: *he wondered whether he should wait for them or go on* (Thomas and Martinet, 1986: 278).

Semantically, wh- interrogative clauses resemble wh- questions in that they leave a gap of an unknown information represented by the wh- element (Quirk et al., 1985: 1051). There is in fact a contrast in the known information expressed in the that- clause with the unknown information in the wh- clause.

For example: *I know* ***(that) Caroline will be there****.*
Do you know ***who will be there?***
I am sure ***that Ted has paid****.*
I am not sure ***who has paid****.* (Quirk et al., 1985: 1051)

There are also grammatical similarities to independent wh-questions in that:

The wh- element is placed first in its clause, if the wh- element is a prepositional phrase, as with the wh- questions, we have the same choice between initial and final preposition where the prepositional complement is the wh- element.

e.g. *He could not remember* ***on which shelf he kept it*** (formal).
which shelf he kept it on*.*

Wh- interrogative clauses are introduced by the subordinating wh- words: when, where, why, how, who, whom, what, which, and whose (Azar, 1985: 269 and Quirk et al., 1985: 1006).When there is no question word, as in yes/no questions, "if" or "whether" are used as the connecting words (Thomson and Martinet, 1986: 278 and Steer and Carlisi, 1998: 127), e.g. (*Do you have your passport with you?* the receptionist asked John) will be (*The receptionist asked John* ***if/ whether he had the passport with him?*****).**

Yes/no interrogative clauses are introduced by the subordinators "if" or "whether". The alternative clauses[(4)] are formed with the

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(٤) In alternative interrogative clauses, the correlative or coordinates are two subordinate clauses, the or- clause is optional, e.g. *They did not tell us* ***whether I should write to the manager (or whether I should see him personally)****,* i.e. the second subordinate clause can be omitted (Quirk et al., 1985: 1000).

correlatives (whether…or) or (if….or) (Quirk et al., 1985: 1033 and Leech and Svartvik, 1994: 313), e.g. *I cannot find out* ***whether/ if the flight has been delayed or whether/ if it has been cancelled***. In this sentence, the second clause is a full sentence, it can be used as an abbreviated form as in the following sentences:

They did not say ***whether it will rain <u>or be sunny</u>***.

I asked them ***if they wanted meat <u>or fish</u>***.

"Whether" or "if" can be used for more than two choices, despite a tradition of binary association, e.g. *I do not care* ***whether you do your homework or play outside or go to bed*** (Quirk et al., 1985: 1054).

Both, "if" and "whether" have the same meaning when they are used to introduce yes/ no and alternative clauses (Azar, 1985: 275). These subordinators cannot be deleted (Steer and Carlisi, 1998: 118). However, there are some differences, as we will see later, "if" cannot introduce a to- infinitive clause, for example:

I do not know ***whether to see my doctor today***.

I do not know* ***if to see my doctor today* (Quirk et al., 1985: 1054).

Furthermore, "if" cannot be followed directly by (or…not) as with "whether" (Azar, 1985: 274f and Leech and Svartvik, 1994: 313). for example:

I do not know ***whether or not Sarah is at home***.

* *I do not know* ***if or not Sarah is at home***.

But (or…not) can be postponed as in:

I do not know ***if Sarah is at home or not***.

Semantically speaking, clauses introduced by if/whether may be:

1. Speculations:

e.g.*"**Shall I ever see them again?**"* he wondered.

He wondered ***if he would ever see them again***.

2. Requests or invitations.

e.g. He said *"Will you be there tomorrow?"* (ordinary question)

He asked ***if she would be there the next day***.

"Would you like to live in New York?" David asked.

David asked ***if I would like to live in New York***. (Thomas and Martinet, 1986: 279f)

3. These subordinators can also be used to express uncertainty. In this case, a future tense can be used after them, e.g. *I wonder* ***if he'll***

come. (Abdulla, 2003: 24). (or.. not) can be used with "if" or "whether", e.g. *I do not care* ***if/whether it rains or not*** (Quirk et al., 1985: 1053).

6.1. Functions of Wh- and Yes/no Interrogative and Alternative Clauses

Wh- interrogative clauses have one of the following functions in the main clause:

1. Subject:

e.g. ***How the book will sell*** *largely depends on its author.*

Why the library was closed for months *was not explained.*

Sometimes the nominal clause whether finite or non finite is said to be extraposed, i.e. placed after the complement or object. The initial subject position is filled, obligatory, by the pronoun "it" (usually called anticipatory it), acting as a kind of substitute for the postponed subject (Downing and Locke, 2003: 35). Hence, the alternative structures of the above sentence would be:

It largely depends on its author ***how the book will sell***.

It was not explained ***why the library was closed for months***.

2. Direct object[(5)]:

e.g. *Martha was enquiring* ***why he wrote it on his foot***.

No one knows ***where he lives*** (Burton-Roberts, 1997: 226 and Downing and Locke, 2003: 44).

3. Subject complement:

e.g. *The immediate problem is* ***where they could hide the fritters***.

The question is ***what caused the accident*** (Burton-Roberts, 1997: 226).

4. Prepositional object (complement) [(6)]:

e.g. *None of us were consulted about* ***who should have the job.***

---

(٥) Wh- and also yes/no and alternative clauses cannot function as indirect objects of ditransitive verbs for the simple reason that indirect objects must be able to refer to animate entities, whereas these clauses cannot. They do not refer even to concrete entities but denote propositions . Propositions are abstract and hence not animate (Burton-Roberts, 1997: 200).

(٦) Not all prepositions can govern noun clauses. But, about, as to, over, upon, on, except, save, not withstanding and at (Downing and Locke, 2003: 534) are commonly used with noun clauses as their objects (House and Harman, 1950: 376).

The little matter of ***who is going to pay for all this*** *has yet to be resolved.*

When the wh- element is a prepositional complement, the preposition can be in either initial position (formal) or final position (informal).

e.g. He could not remember on ***which shelf he kept the book****.* (formal)

He could not remember ***which shelf he kept the book*** *on.* (informal) (Leech and Svartvik, 1994: 312).

5. Appositive:

e.g. *The question (of)* ***how much we should spend on our holidays*** *has not been answered.*

The problem (of) ***who we have to vote*** *has been resolved.*

Clauses introduced by wh- words qualify only certain nouns such as *question, problem, doubt, discussion and decision*. The latter are only abstract nouns (Burton-Roberts, 1997: 204). The clauses function as appositives to the noun and in both restrictive and non-restrictive sense. The preposition (of) or (about), is usually felt to be necessary for restrictive qualifications. However, if the preposition is used in the above sentences, the wh- clause functions as prepositional object (Downing and Locke, 2003: 464).

6. Adjectival complement:

e.g. *I was not certain* ***whose house we were in****.*

Marcel is not quite clear ***what you mean*** (Leech and Svartvic, 1994:312).

Adjectives commonly followed by such clauses are *certain, afraid, confident, sure, positive, aware, doubtful,* and other adjectives having meaning similar to these (House and Harman, 1950: 380).

Yes/no and alternative interrogative clauses occur in the following range of functions: (Quirk et al., 1985: 1053f ; Leech and Svartvik, 1994: 312; Burton-Roberts, 1997: 195 and 226f; and Downing and Locke, 2003: 34f, 43f, 48f, 52, 464 and 532):

1. Subject:

For example: ***Whether John should be promoted or fired*** *was worrying them.*

Whether it rains or not *does not concern me.*

As with wh- interrogative clauses, yes/no and alternative interrogative clausal subjects can be extraposed, i.e. placed after the complement or object and the initial subject- position is filled by "it" (Downing and Locke, 2003: 35 and Burton-Roberts, 1997: 197). Hence, the extraposed versions of the above sentences are:

It was worrying them ***whether John should be promoted or fired****.*

It does not concern me ***whether it rains or not.***

2. Direct object:

For example: *Peter did not know* ***if his disguise was successful****.*

He wondered ***whether he should wait for them or go on*** (Burton-Roberts, 1997: 195).

3. Subject complement:

For example: *The question is* ***whether he should have accepted that offer.***

My main problem right now is ***whether I should ask for another loan***

(Quirk et al., 1985: 1053).

4. Prepositional complement:

For example: *Sarah's concerns about* ***whether anyone had enough time*** *were ignored.*

Sergeant Gourmet was worrying about ***whether the rations would arrive***

(Burton-Roberts: 1997: 206).

5. Appositive:

For example: *The question* ***whether they should establish a website*** *was raised.*

I have strong doubts ***whether I ought to sign a contract****.*

As it has been seen with wh- interrogative clauses, clauses introduced by whether qualify only certain nouns such as *question, problem, doubt, discussion and decision* (Burton- Roberts, 1997: 204 and Downing and Locke, 2003: 464).

6. Adjectival complement:

For example: *It is irrelevant* ***whether she is under sixteen.***

I do not care ***if they join or not.***

Normally we can use either "if" or "whether". However, "if" is more restricted syntactically than whether in such a way that it only

occurs as direct object, adjectival complement and extraposed subject.

6. 2. To- infinitive and Verbless Clauses

Wh- words and "whether" can also be used to introduce to-infinitive clauses if both clauses refer to the same subject (Burton-Roberts, 1997: 255f and Downing and Locke, 2003: 464 and 532). Examples are:

The problem (of) ***who to vote*** *has been resolved.*
Many people are doubtful ***how to vote****.*
I do not understand ***what to do.***
He asked ***whether to lock the car.***
I wonder ***whether to write or phone.***

An- infinitive wh- clause can be formed with all wh- words, though instances with why are rare (Quirk et al., 1985: 1052), as in:

I am wondering ***why to go at all****. (why I should go at all)*

In all these examples, the modals are omitted (Steer and Carlisi, 1998: 139).

"Whether" can also be used to introduce verbless clauses (They are subjectless clauses) and it is often possible to postulate the missing form of the verb "be" and to recover the subject. For example: ***Whether right or wrong****, he always comes worst in argument. (Whether he is right or wrong)* (see Quirk et al., 1985: 996).

6.3. Coordination and Deletion with Wh-, Yes/No and alternative Clauses

Nominal wh- and yes/no interrogative clauses can be linked by the (and) and (or). For example:

I must learn ***when they are leaving, where they are going and how long they will be away****.*
I wonder ***whether they will go and see him or (whether) it is better to write to him****.*

As it is shown in the second example above, if the initial subordinating word is common to both clauses, it may be omitted in the second clause.

Only wh-interrogative clauses can be linked by the use of "but" (Quirk et al., 1972: 556). For example:

She did not see ***who met the ambassador, but who took him away****.*

Noun clauses can be deleted[7] and only the wh- word remains in place of the whole clause and having anaphoric reference to a preceding clause. For example:

*He has gone and I know **why**. (why he has gone)*

*Somebody has hidden my notebook, but I do not know **who/ why/ where**.*

There may be more than wh- element in the clause. For example:

*I do not know **who wants what*** (Quirk et al., 1985: 1052).

There is also a reduced negative wh- question, but this occurs only with why and with wh- infinitive clauses. For example:

*Why not? I do not know **why not**.*

*I do not want to accept, but I do not know **how not to*** (Quirk et al., 1985: 870).

7. Nominal Clauses in Arabic

As in English, nominal clauses in Arabic can be subordinated to the main clause (see As Samirra'i, 2009:169). They also function as noun phrases in the main clause (Aziz, 1989: 223). Nominal clauses are very frequently introduced by the particles "أنْ" and "أنّ". "أنْ"is used to indicate a subordinate clause beginning with a noun, while "أنّ" is used to indicate a subordinate clause beginning with a verb, e.g. قصدت **أنْ أذهب معه**. (I wanted to go with him)

أدرك **أنّ نجاحه مستحيلا**. (He realized that his success is impossible) (Mohammed, 1984: 74).

Nominal clauses in Arabic can also be indirect questions, e.g. the direct questions: سألني صديقي: "هل قرأت هذه الرواية؟" (My friend asked me "Have you read this novel?), is turned into indirect question[8] by saying:

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[7] However, with if/ whether, only part of the clause can be deleted (or an abbreviated form can be used in alternative clauses. For example:

*They did not say **whether it will rain or be sunny**.*

*I do not care **if they join us or not**.* (see Quirk et al., 1985: 1053)

[٨] In Arabic, indirect questions show no structural change apart from that involving pronouns and adverbs (Aziz, 1989: 223).

سألني صيقي **هل قرات تلك الرواية**. (My friend asked me if I had read that novel) (Aziz, 1989: 278)

Also, the direct question: سأله :"أين تأكل؟" (He asked him: "where do you eat?") is turned into indirect question by saying: سأله **أين يأكل**. (He asked him where he ate)
(Mohammed: 1984: 75).

These indirect questions are considered as nominal clauses in Arabic. They are introduced by the same words used in direct questions. These are:

The particles: هل and "أ"

The nouns: من ذا/ من (who/ whom), ما (what), ماذا [9] (what), أي(which), كم (how many/ how much), كيف (how), and أنى (how)

The adverbs: متى (when), أيان (when), أنى (from where) (Al Ghalayeni, 1994: 12 and 139-144) and

The question words: لم/ لماذا (preposition with noun) (why) (Aziz, 1989: 285 and Al Ansari,2006: 328)

Examples are: علمت **أي لون يحب**. (I knew which color he likes)

سألني **ماذا فعلت**(He asked me what I did)

لا أعرف **أين وضع زيد الحقيبة**. (I do not know where Zaid had put the bag)

يتساءل جميع الطلاب **متى سيكون موعد الامتحان**. (All the students are asking when the exam will be)

In alternative clauses, the particles هل and "أ" are used with أم/ أو, as in: ما يدري **أيغادر أم يبقى**. (Without knowing whether to leave or stay)

لم أعلم **هل حضر الزوار أم لا**. (I did not know whether the visitors came or not)

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[9] For more detailed description of (ماذا)، see text 6.

In modern writings, the conditional particles "ان" and "اذا" are used instead of "هل" and "أ" to indicate a simple or a correlative (alternative) indirect question, e.g. قل لي ان هذا صحيح أم لا. (Tell me whether/ if this is true) (Mohammed, 1984: 75f).

As regards function and as far as we know, there is no work in print that deals with the function of interrogative nominal clauses in Arabic, so the function of nominal clauses in general is reviewed below.

Nominal clauses may have one of the following functions in the main clause:

1. Nominal subject (المبتدأ):

e.g. سواء علي **أفعلت أم لم تفعل**. (It is the same for me if you did it or not)

(أفعلت أم لم تفعل) is an extraposed nominal subject (As Samirra'i, 2009: 201).

2. Predicate (الخبر):

e.g. زيد **أبوه قائم**. (Zaid is the one whose father is standing)

The nominal clause can also functions as predicate for "ان" and its set, as in:

ان الفضيلة **تحب**. (Grace is liked), and also as predicate for "كان" and its set as in:

كان محمد **يخرج أخوه**. (Mohammed's brother was going out) (Al Ghalayeni, 1994: 285 and Abul Makarim, 2007: 188f).

3. Subject (الفاعل):

e.g. ظهر لي **أقام زيد أم عمرو**. (It seemed to me whether Zaid or Amro had stood)

The nominal clause can also functions as subject in passive constructions (نائب الفاعل) , as in:

علم **أقام بكر أم خالد**. (It was known whether Baker or Khalid had stood) (As Samirra'i, 2009: 200).

4. Object (المفعول به):

e.g. عرفت **من أبوك**. (I knew who is your father) (As Samirra'i, 2009: 199).

The nominal clause can also functions as the two objects of the verb, as in:

"وسيعلم الذين ظلموا أي منقلب ينقلبون" (Shuaraa:227) (And soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take) (Ali, 1987: 185) (Al Ansari, 2006: 479).

5. Circumstantial Adverbial (الحال):

e.g. جئت **وقد نام الناس**. (When I came, people had slept) (As Samirra'i, 2009: 200).

6. Genitive (المضاف اليه):

e.g. وأجبت قائل **كيف أنت بصالح** حتى مللت وملني عوادي (I answered the one who said how are you righteous until I was bored and my visitors also bored) (Al Ansari, 2006: 485).

7. Appositive (البدل):

e.g. عرفت عليا **أبو من هو**. (I knew Ali was the father of whom) (Abul Makarim, 2007: 189).

8. A nominal clause when it coordinated with another clause functions as a nominal clause (المعطوف على شبه جملة اسمية):

e.g. كانت الشمس تبدو و**تختفي**. (The sun appeared and was hidden)

(تبدو) is a nominal clause functions as predicate for (كان),(و) is a coordinator, and (تختفي) is coordinated with (تبدو) (Al Ghalayeni, 1994: 286).

8. Data Analysis

The present work makes use of English ten sentences. The English sentence is given followed by the Arabic translations. A brief explanation is provided for each of them. In other words, the English and the Arabic translations are briefly analyzed syntactically to see the similarities and differences in form and function between English wh- and yes/no interrogative and alternative clauses and their equivalents, when translated into the

Arabic. The analysis of the Arabic renderings is based on reliable sources on Arabic grammar which are those of Al Ghalayeni (1994), Abdullatif (2003), Al Ansari (2006), Abul Makarim (2007) and As Samirra'i (2009) and on works of translation and contrastive studies of Muhammad (1984), Aziz (1989), and Abdulla (2003). Mistranslations are referred to and the failed translations are excluded from the analysis and the explanation.

Text 1:

How the book will sell largely depends on its author (Quirk et al., 1972: 735).

The Arabic translations are:

١. تعتمد مبيعات الكتاب بشكل كبير على كاتبه.

٢. تعتمد مبيعات الكتاب بشكل كبيرعلى اسم مؤلفه.

٣. يعتمد رواج الكتاب بشكل كبير على اسم مؤلفه.

٤. تعتمد شهرة الكتاب بشكل كبير على اسم مؤلفه.

٥. كم عدد من نسخ الكتاب سوف يتم بيعه بشكل كبير اعتمادا على مؤلفه.

Participants (1, 2 and 3) succeed in translating the sentence into Arabic. Participants (4 and 5) fail in rendering the sentence into Arabic. In the 4th translation, the participant renders the nominal clause (How the book will sell) into (شهرة) which means (fame) and this is not an appropriate. The 5th translation is considered as unacceptable because it is too long and the modifier (بشكل كبير) is used to modify the verb phrase (سوف يتم بيعه) instead of the noun phrase (اعتمادا) which is the rendering of the English verb (depends). The wh- interrogative clause (how the book will sell) is translated into a noun phrase by participants (1, 2 and 3).The noun phrases (مبيعات الكتاب، رواج الكتاب) are analyzed as a genitive after a noun in Arabic. The English nominal clause (How the book will sell) functions as subject and the Arabic nouns (مبيعات، رواج) also function as subjects in the Arabic equivalents and these are followed by a genitive; viz. (الكتاب).

Text 2:

The immediate problem is where they could hide the fritters.(Burton-Roberts, 1997:226).

The Arabic translations are:

١. ان المشكلة الرئيسية هي اين يمكن اخفاء هذه الفطائر.

٢. المشكلة في الوقت الحالي هي اين يمكن ان يخبئوا هذه الفطائر.

٣. كانت المشكلة الرئيسية كيف سيملؤون الوقت الفائض.

٤. المشكلة الرئيسية كانت كيف سيملؤون الوقت الفائض.

٥. المشكلة الحالية اين يمكن ان يخفوا هذه الفطائر.

The wh- word (where) is used for places and the word (fritters) means: فطائر in Arabic. All the participants succeed in rendering (where) into (أين) , and in using the Arabic word (فطائر) for (fritters) except (3) and (4) who translate (where they could hide the fritters) into (كيف سيملؤون الوقت الفائض: how to spend the spare time) which is unacceptable. However, participant (1) fails in rendering the word (immediate) into Arabic and does not use an acceptable equivalent, viz. (الرئيسية: main). According to function, the English nominal clause functions as subject complement in English. In the 2nd translated sentence, (اين يمكن ان يخبئوا هذه الفطائر) function as predicate for (هي); the nominal subject (المبتدأ) of the nominal sentence:(هي اين يمكن ان يخبئوا هذه الفطائر). The latter functions as predicate for (المشكلة). In the 5th translated sentences: اين يمكن ان يخفوا (هذه الفطائر) functions also as predicate for (المشكلة). In the two translations, the English nominal clause is rendered into a nominal clause begins with the question word (اين).

Text 3:

None of us were consulted about who should have the job (Leech and Svartvic, 1994: 312).

The Arabic translations are:

١. لم يتم استشارة أي احد منا حول من سيأخذ العمل.

٢. لم يقم احد باستشارتنا حول من هو الذي سيحصل على العمل.

٣. لم يستشرنا احد حول من يجب ان ينجز العمل.

٤. لا احد استشارنا حول من يجب عليه ان ينجز العمل.

٥. لا احد من عندنا تم استشارته حول الذي يجب عليه ان يكون لديه العمل.

Participants (1) and (3) succeed in translating the sentence into Arabic. Participants (2), (4) and (5) fail in translating the sentence into Arabic. The 2nd and 5th translations are too long and there is no need to use some of the words like (يقم: do; perform) in the 2nd translation and (عليه: for him) in the 5th translation. In the 4th and 5th translations, the participants use the particle (لا: none; do not) which is used to express negation in the present and future for the past and this is not acceptable. In the 1st and 3rd translations, the question word (who) is rendered into (من) by the two participants. The nominal clause (who should have the job) which functions as the object of the preposition (about) is rendered into a nominal clause in Arabic: (من) which is preceded by the adverbial of place (ظرف مجازي) viz. (حول). The clause begins with a question word, viz. (من) which functions as a nominal subject (مبتدأ) and it is followed by the clause: (سيأخذ العمل) which functions as its predicate (خبر). In the 3rd translated sentence, the nominal clause (من يجب ان ينجز العمل) is also preceded by the adverbial (حول) and the nominal subject (من) is also followed by a verb and its object which function also as its predicate. The clauses:(حول من سيأخذ العمل) and (من يجب ان ينجز العمل) have no single grammatical function in the main clauses.

Text 4:

Peter did not know if his disguise was successful (Burton-Roberts, 1997: 195).

The Arabic translations are:

١. لا يعرف بيتر هل ان هذا الشخص ناجح.

٢. لم يكن بيتر يعلم فيما اذا كان تتكره ناجحا ام لا .

٣. لم يعرف بيتر ما اذا كان تتكره ناجحا ام لا .

٤. لم يعلم بيتر اذا كان تتكره ناجحا ام لا .

٥. كان لا يعرف بيتر فيما اذا هذا التتكر كان ناجحا ام لا.

Participants (2), (3), and (4) succeed in translating the sentence into Arabic. Participants (1) and (5) fail in their translation. The first one translates the word (disguise) into (الشخص: the person) and this is not an appropriate equivalent. The 5th translation is too long and has many grammatical mistakes. For instance, he uses the particle (لا: do not) which is used to express negation in the present or future with (كان: to be(was)) which denotes that the tense is past and must be followed by a noun. The suitable translation of the subordinator (if) is (اذا) or(أ...أم....). The Arabic clause in (2) can be (ما اذا كان تتكره ناجحا ام لا) and in (4):

(أكان تتكره ناجحا ام لا). (أ...أم...) are considered as correlative subordinators in Arabic. The conditional particle (اذا) is used in modern writings instead of (هل) and (أ) to indicate a correlative indirect question. (اذا) is an adverbial to express futurity, normally used in conditional sentences and it is used here to express a question. The clause (if his disguise was successful) functions as object in the main clause. In (2) and (4) the whole clauses (فيما اذا كان تتكره ناجحا ام لا) and (اذا كان تتكره ناجحا ام لا) function as the object of the verb (يعلم). In other words, the English nominal clause is rendered into a nominal clause when translated into Arabic. In (3), the nominal particle (ما) is used as an adjectival indefinite noun means (شئ: something). It functions as an object and it is followed by (اذا) which is followed by the clause (كان تتكره ناجحا ام لا) which functions as a genitive.

(ماذا كان تتكره ناجحا ام لا) has no single grammatical function in the main clause. In these translations, the non alternative clause is rendered into an alternative clause in Arabic.

Text 5:

Whether John should be promoted or fired was worrying them (Burton-Roberts, 1997: 195).

The Arabic translations are:

١. ان ما كان يقلقهم هو فيما اذا كان جون سيرقى او سيطرد.

٢. انا كنت قلقة فيما يخص جون هل ستتم ترقيته او فصله من العمل.

٣. كانوا يتداولون في مسألة ترقية جون أو طرده.

٤. كانت مسألتهم تدور في ترقية جون أو طرده.

٥. سواء ترقية أو طرد جون كان يقلقهم.

All the participants except (1) fail in translating the sentence into Arabic. Participant (2) render the English pronoun (them) into (انا: I) and the meaning of the sentence becomes different. Participants (3) and (4) fail in translating the verb (worry: يقلق) into Arabic. They render the phrase (was worrying them) into (كانوا يتداولون في مسألة: were discussing the issue) in (3)and into كانت: (مسألتهم تدورفي their issue was about) in (4) and the meaning of the sentence also becomes different. Participant (5) succeeds in translating the sentence into Arabic but, the sentence has one grammatical mistake, where the noun (جون) should be used before the coordinator (أو) and the phrase must be: (سواء ترقية جون أو طرده). The nominal clause (whether John should be promoted or fired) is rendered into: (فيما اذا كان جون سيرقى او سيطرد).The clause: (فيما اذا كان جون سيرقى أو سيطرد) begins with the preposition (في) which is followed by the particle (ما). The latter is considered as an extra particle (أداة زائدة). (اذا) is an adverbial to express futurity, normally used in conditional sentences and it is used here to express a question. The wh-clause (whether John should be promoted or

fired) functions as subject in the main clause while (فيما اذا كان جون سيرقى او سيطرد) functions as predicate for the nominal subject (المبتدأ): (هو). Thus, the English nominal clause is rendered into a nominal clause in Arabic, too.

Text 6:

I do not understand what to do (Steer and Carlisi, 1998: 139).

The Arabic translations are:

١.لا أفهم ماذا سأفعل.

٢. لا أعلم ما يجب أن أفعل.

٣. لا أعرف ما العمل.

٤. لا أعرف ما العمل.

٥. لم أفهم ماذا يجب عليه عمله.

Participant (1) succeeds in translating the verb (understand) into (أفهم). Participants (2), (3) and (4) fail in their translations and do not use the appropriate Arabic word. Participant (5) fails in using the words (عليه عمله: for him what to do) to refer to a person other than the speaker and this contrasts with what is found in the original sentence. The participant uses the particle (لم: did not) to express negation in the past instead of (لا: do not) which is used to express negation in the present and future. The nominal wh- clause functions as object in the main clause. It is rendered into a nominal clause in Arabic, viz. (ماذا سأفعل) . (what) is rendered into (ماذا) which consists of a question word (ما) and a relative noun, viz. (ذا). They both function as a nominal subject and its predicate. (ماذا) is followed by the verbal phrase, viz. (سأفعل). The whole clause: (سأفعل ماذا)functions as object of the verb (أفهم). The to- infinitive clause is rendered into a verbal phrase.

Text 7:

I must learn when they are leaving, where they are going and how long they will be away (Harman, 1950: 381).

The Arabic translations are:

١.يجب أن أتعلم متى سيغادرون، أين سيذهبون، وكم من الوقت سيغيبون.

٢. يجب أن أعلم متى سيغادرون، الى أين سيغادرون، وكم سيبقون هناك.

٣. يجب أن أعرف وقت مغادرتهم ووجهتهم وكم ستطول غيبتهم.

٤. يجب أن أعرف متى سيغادرون ومكان وجهتهم وكم ستطول غيبتهم.

٥. يجب أن أعلم متى يغادرون، أين يذهبون، وكم سوف يكونون غائبين.

Participants (3) and (4) only succeed in translating the sentence into Arabic. Participant (1) translates the verb (learn) into (أتعلم) and in this context, (أتعلم) is not an appropriate equivalent. Participant (2) fails in rendering the word (away) into (هناك: there). Participant (5) fails in using the simple present tense to express futurity. A particle like (س or سوف) has to be used in all the clauses to express futurity indicated by the present continuous in the English sentence. Participant (3) renders the wh- interrogative clause (when they are leaving) into a noun phrase, viz. (وقت مغادرتهم) while participant (4) render it into a nominal clause introduced by the question word (متى)in (متى سيغادرون). Participants (3) and (4) render the wh- interrogative clause (where they are going) into noun phrases (وجهتهم) and (مكان وجهتهم) in (3) and (4), respectively. They render the wh- interrogative clause (how long they will be away) into a nominal clause introduced by the question word (كم) in (وكم ستطول غيبتهم).

As regards function, the wh- interrogative clauses (when they are leaving, where they are going and how long they will be away) function as the object of the verb (learn). In the 3rd translation, the noun (وقت) functions as the object of the verb (أعرف) and the former is followed by its genitive, viz. (مغادرتهم). In the 4th translation, the nominal clause: (متى سيغادرون) functions as the object of the verb

(أعرف). The following noun phrases and clauses in (3) and (4), viz. (وجهتهم) and

(وكم ستطول غيبتهم) in the 3rd translation and (مكان وجهتهم) and وكم (ستطول غيبتهم) in the 4th translation are considered as additional phrases and clauses linked with their previous noun phrases and nominal clauses, viz. (وقت مغادرتهم) in (3) and (متى سيغادرون) in (4) by the use of the coordinator (و).

Text 8:

The old man did not tell us who he was or where he was going (Harman, 1950: 383).

The Arabic translations are:

١.لم يقل لنا الرجل العجوز من هو أو أين كان ذاهبا.

٢. ذلك الرجل الكبير لم يخبرنا من هو ولا الى أين هو ذاهب.

٣. لم يخبرنا الرجل المسن عن هويته ولا الى أين هو ذاهب.

٤. لم يطلعنا الرجل العجوز على هويته أو الى أي مكان هو ذاهب.

٥. لم يخبرنا الرجل العجوز من هو أو أين كان يذهب.

All the participants succeed in translating the sentence into Arabic. (who) is rendered into (من) by participants (1), (2) and (5). (who he was) is rendered into a nominal clause, viz. (من هو). The nominal clause (who he was or where he was going) functions as direct object of the verb (tell). In the Arabic translations, the question word (من) functions as a nominal subject (مبتدأ) and it is followed by its predicate (هو). (من هو) functions as the object of the verbs (يقل) and (يخبرنا) in sentences (1), (2) and (5), respectively. However, participants (3) and (4) render the nominal clause (who he was) into a prepositional phrase (عن هويته) in (3) and

(على هويته) in (4) which are genitives after prepositions. The coordinator (or) is rendered into (أو) by participants (1), (4) and (5) and into (و) with the particle (لا) to express negation by participants

(2) and (3). The wh-word (where) is rendered into (أين) by all the participants except (4). However, it is preceded by the preposition (الى: to) in (2) and (3). (where) is rendered into (الى أي مكان) by participant (4). The question word (أي: which) is used with a genitive noun, viz. (مكان: place) to ask about places. The nominal clause (where he was going) is rendered into a nominal clause introduced by (أين) in (1) and (5) and into a prepositional phrase in (2), (3) and (4). Both (أو) and (و) are used as coordinators to link the clauses (من هو), (عن هويته) and (على هويته) with the following clauses in all the Arabic sentences.

Text 9:

I see no reason why you should interfere in their quarrel (Thomas and Martinet: 1986: 210).

The Arabic translations are:

١.لا أرى أي سبب وراء تدخلك في صراعاتهم.

٢. ليس هناك أي سبب يجعلك تتدخل في علاقاتهم.

٣. لا أرى سببا لتورطك في صراعهم.

٤. لا أرى سببا في تورطك في صراعاتهم.

٥. لا أرى أي سبب يستوجب عليك التدخل في شجارهم.

The word (quarrel) means (شجار) in Arabic. All the participants except (5) fail in translating the sentence into Arabic. They use the word (صراع) which means (struggle) for (quarrel). In the 5th translation, the nominal clause (why you should interfere in their quarrel) is rendered into a verbal clause:

(يستوجب عليك التدخل في شجارهم). The verb (يستوجب) is followed by a preposition and its genitive. The word (التدخل) functions as the object of the verb. It is followed by a preposition and its genitive also. The clause (why you should interfere in their quarrel)

functions as apposition while the clause (يستوجب عليك التدخل في) شجارهم functions as adjectival (صفة) modifies the word (سبب).

Text 10:

I cannot find out if the flight has been delayed or it has been cancelled (Quirk et al., 1985: 1053).

The Arabic translations are:

١.لا أستطيع أن أجد فيما اذا كان القتال سيؤجل أو سيلغى.

٢. لا أستطيع معرفة فيما اذا كانت الرحلة قد أجلت أم ألغيت.

٣. لا أعرف ما اذا كانت الرحلة قد أجلت أم ألغيت.

٤. أنا لم أتمكن من معرفة فيما اذا كانت الرحلة قد أجلت أم تم الغاؤها.

٥. لا أستطيع التخيل فيما اذا تم تأجيل الرحلة أو تم الغاؤها.

Participants (2), (3) and (4) only succeed in translating the sentence into Arabic. Participant (1) translate the word (flight) into (القتال: fight) which is not its Arabic equivalent. Participant (5) translate the verb phrase (cannot find out) into (أستطيع التخيل) and it is well- known that (التخيل: imagination) is mainly concerned with unreal things and it may refer to belief or thinking instead of finding out. The clause (if the flight has been delayed or it has been cancelled) is rendered into: (فيما اذا كانت الرحلة قد أجلت أم ألغيت) and (فيما اذا كانت الرحلة قد أجلت أم تم الغاؤها) in (2) and (4), respectively. Both clauses begin with the preposition (في) which is followed by the particle (ما). The latter is considered as an extra particle (أداة زائدة). (اذا) is an adverbial to express futurity and it is used here to express a question. The English nominal clause (if the flight has been delayed or it has been cancelled) functions as an object in the main clause. It is rendered into a nominal clause in Arabic in (2) and (4). The clause (فيما اذا كانت الرحلة قد أجلت) functions as a genitive after the head noun (معرفة).In the 3rd translation, the clause is rendered into(ما اذا كانت الرحلة قد أجلت أم ألغيت) . The clause

begins with (ما) which is considered as an adjectival definite noun functions as the object of the verb (أعرف). (ما) is followed by the particle (اذا) which is followed by its genitive:

(ما اذا كانت الرحلة قد أجلت أم ألغيت) . The whole clause: (كانت الرحلة قد أجلت أم ألغيت) has no single grammatical function in the main clause. The English nominal clause is rendered into a non nominal clause in Arabic. In all the translations, the particle (أم) is used with (ما اذا) and it means (أ..أم..), i.e. (أ كانت الرحلة قد أجلت أم ألغيت؟). The particle (أم)functions as a coordinator, i.e. the verb phrases (ألغيت) and (تم الغاؤها) are linked with the previous clauses in (2), (3) and (4) by the use of (أم).

9. Conclusions

The following are the main conclusions of the present study:

1. English nominal clauses are not necessary rendered into nominal clauses in Arabic. The nominal clause may be rendered into a noun phrase, as in 1, prepositional phrase, as in the 3rd and 4th translations of 8, or a clause, as in the 2nd and 5th translations of 2, and 9.
2. The Arabic rendering, whether a phrase or a clause, have the same or different function of its equivalent in English. For example, in the 1st, 2nd and 5th translations of 8, both the English and Arabic clauses function as object. In 5, the English clause functions as subject while its Arabic rendering functions as predicate in the 1st translation. In 9, the English clause functions as appositive, while its Arabic rendering functions as adjectival. In addition, the sentence may have different renderings and each one has a different function. For example, in 4, the English nominal clause functions as object in the main clause. In its 2nd and 4th translations, the clauses also function as object in the main clause while in the 3rd translation, the Arabic rendering has no single grammatical function in the main clause. This depends on the form of the translated sentence. Furthermore, when the main clause in English

contains two or more clauses linked together, as in 7, the coordinated clauses have the same function. In the 3rd and 4th translations in Arabic , the following clauses after the coordinator are considered as coordinated with the previous ones (معطوفة على ما قبلها).

3. Since the unit of translation is not a word but a text, the clause may be translated differently by participants according to their understanding and the way of translation. All the translations are acceptable. The nominal clause may be rendered into a nominal or verbal clause in Arabic or even into a phrase without changing the meaning of the original sentence.
4. When the sentence is negative, the Arabic rendering may be either two negative clauses, or the negation applies to both, as in 8.
5. Some non alternative clauses in English are rendered into alternative clauses in Arabic, as in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of 4.
6. Since the essence of translation lies in the preservation in meaning, English nominal clauses are mostly translated semantically into Arabic. In other words, participants focus on the meaning more than the form of the sentence. Mistakes are attributed to the lack of acquaintance of the participants with the Arabic equivalent appropriate words. This is represented in the use of a word having different meaning or of different tense.

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دراسة أشباه الجمل الاسمية في اللغة الانكليزية وما يرادفها في اللغة العربية

م.م.زهراء محمد صالح أحمد

مستخلص

تختص هذه الدراسة بتعريف ووصف أشباه الجمل الاسمية الاستفهامية المبدوءة بأداة استفهام وأشباه الجمل الخيارية المجابة ب "نعم" أو "لا" والتخييرية. فهي تبحث في أشكال ووظائف هذا النوع من أشباه الجمل. تعتبر هذه الدراسة بأن هذا النوع من أشباه الجمل هي عبارة عن أسئلة غير مباشرة للنوع المبدوء بأداة استفهام والأخرى التي تكون اجابتها "نعم" أو "لا". من الممكن أن تكون هذه الجمل اعتيادية (محدودة) ومصدرية وجمل خالية من الفعل. وكذلك يمكن ربطها ببعضها أو تقليصها. وكذلك تم توضيح ما المقصود بأشباه الجمل الاسمية في اللغة العربية. وقد تم عرض أشكال ووظائف هذه الجمل في اللغة العربية. تفترض هذه الدراسة أنه ليس من الضروري أن تحتفظ أشباه الجمل الاسمية بأشكالها ووظائفها عند ترجمتها الى العربية. ولاختبار صحة هذه الفرضية استعنا بخمسة مدرسين من قسم اللغة الانكليزية في كلية التربية الاساسية لترجمة عشر جمل انكليزية محتوية على أشباه جمل اسمية مبدوءة بأداة استفهام وأخرى خيارية وتخييرية. وعندما قمنا بتحليل الجمل المترجمة الى العربية، اتضح أن المترجمين اعتمدوا على معاني الكلمات في الدرجة الأولى عند ترجمة هذه الجمل. وكنتيجة لذلك، تحولت أشباه الجمل الاسمية الى أشباه جمل اسمية أو فعلية أو الى عبارات أثناء ترجمتها. وبقيت وظائف أشباه الجمل هذه كما هي في بعض الجمل المترجمة وتبدلت في البعض الاخر.