



Morphological Structure of Nouns in
English and Arabic
A Contrastive Study

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This paper deals mainly with the morphology of nouns in both languages (English and Arabic) as a contrastive study. The aim of this study is to present a comprehensive description of morphology of nouns in both languages (English and Arabic). The findings of the present study are hoped to have two values: a theoretical value, which provides information about the structure of nouns in both languages to pave the way for further investigation on this topic, and a pedagogical value to teachers as well as students in that it can present more information about the topic since it is a contrastive study. It can reflect the most similarities and differences in the morphology of nouns between the two languages and such similarities and differences are hoped to be useful in understanding the topic accurately.

In both languages, the term noun refers to meaning and stability, i.e, (has no movement). In Arabic, a noun can be derived by making a change in the internal structure of a word from which a noun derived not by adding any affix as in English. Both languages accept that a noun can be preceded by an article, besides it has a possessive form but the possessive form of nouns in Arabic is affected by a gender whereas, in English, it is not. This paper consists of four sections . The first section shows the objectives and the scope of this study. The second section is a theoretical survey of the morphology of nouns in English, whereas, the third section includes the structure of nouns in Arabic. The fourth section includes the most important findings of this study.

ملخص البحث

تتناول هذه الورقة البحثية موضوع صياغة الأسماء باللغتين العربية والإنكليزية, والهدف العام فيها هو تقديم وصف مورفولوجي شامل لتكوين اسماء اللغتين, وتأمل هذه الدراسة ان تتمكن من احراز قيمتين اساسيتين احدهما نظرية والاخرى تربوية عملية ينتفع بها كل من معلمين وتلاميذ على حد سواء, وهاتان قيمتان مستمدتان من طبيعة المنهج التقابلي التي تقوم عليه تفاصيل هذه الدراسة تشترك كل من اللغتين العربية والإنكليزية في ان الاسم فيهما يمتاز بخاصتي ثبوت الاستقرار (انتفاء الحركة), وفي حين يكون اشتقاق الاسم العربية اشتقاقا بينا يكون اشتقاق في الانكليزية معتمدا على طريقتي اللاحق والالصاق وكل من اللغتين يشتركان في ان الاسم فيهما يأتي عادة مسبقا بأداة تعريف كما أن كل منهما يحتوي على صيغة تملك تنقسم هذه الدراسة الى اربعة اقسام: القسم الأول يتضمن سردا لموضوعاتها الرئيسية والمدى الذي تدرج فيه هذه الموضوعات والثاني يمثل مسحا نظريا لصيانة الاسماء الإنكليزية في حين يتضمن القسم الثالث دراسة تركيب الاسماء في اللغة العربية, أما القسم الرابع فيشتمل على اهم النتائج المستفادة من هذه الدراسة.

Section One

1.1. Introduction

This paper deals mainly with the morphology of nouns in both languages (English and Arabic) as a contrastive study. The main cause behind this study is that the morphology of nouns has a great importance in both languages. Since a noun is the most important part of speech, it needs more studies to comprehend and master it.

1.2. Objectives of the Research

This research aims at solving the linguistic problems of the Arabic speakers learning English by making the contrastive study about the structure of nouns in both languages, English and Arabic,. In other words, through this comparison, the teacher will be more acquainted with the structures of the two languages in question and the areas of difficulties at the morphological level. Besides, this research aims at presenting a comprehensive description of the morphological structure of nouns in both languages.

1.3. Scope of the Research

In this respect, contrastive analysis will be useful. It will help discover the differences and similarities between the two languages concerned and

predict the difficulties the learners will have to overcome. Teaching will be directed at those points where there are structural differences. This, in turn, determines to a great extent what the learner has to learn and what the teacher has to teach.

The focus of the present study is confined to noun morphology in both languages. This paper will be of practical value for teachers and learners of English and Arabic as a foreign language. It will also be helpful in the preparation of the textbooks to solve the problems of the learners at the level of morphology, and to solve the problem of the mother tongue interference.

Section Two

Morphological Structure of English Nouns

2.1. Introduction

A noun is a word used to refer to people, animals, objects, substances, states, events and feelings. Nouns can be a subject or an object of a verb, can be modified by an adjective and can take an article or determiner. 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".

2.2. Properties of Nouns

There are some features or properties which can recognize nouns from other parts of speech: (Sapir, 2005:3))

2.2.1. Formal or morphological properties

I- Inflectional endings {-s} for plural and {s'} for possession.

(Frank, 1972:23)

II- Derivation endings {-ment}, {-nce}, {-th}, {-ness}, etc. (ibid)

2.2.2. 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))

2.2.3. 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.

2.2.4. Semantic properties

For grammatical and semantic reasons, nouns can be seen as falling into different subclass:

i- Mass vs. count

ii- concrete vs. abstract

(Ackert, 1999:213) and (Broukal, 2003:134)

2.3. Types of Nouns

There are two main types of nouns, abstract nouns and concrete nouns.

1- Abstract nouns are always uncountable nouns and they refer to quality, state, feeling or action:

Jealousy sufficiency sadness education movement happiness wisdom bravery cleverness peace determination (Al-Wahab, 1985:22)

2- Concrete nouns used for naming persons and things:

Girl teacher doctor school hospital (ibid)

A concrete noun may be one of the following three types:

i- Proper nouns refer to particular person, organizations or places, thing...ect, only proper nouns are capitalized:

Iraq Paris the Nile The Queen Mary Jim Nada... etc .

ii- Common nouns refer to persons and things of a kind:

Dog car chair book pen pencil nurse wife husband etc.

iii- Collective nouns refer to a group of people or things or animals:

a crowd (a number of people) a flock (a number of sheep)

a herd (a number of cattle) a forest (a number of trees)

2.4. Morphological Structure of English Nouns

English nouns can be studied under the following headings:

- 1- Stem Structure
- 2- Morphological processes
- 3- Derivation
- 4- Inflection

2.4.1. Stem Structure

A Stem is any construction to which an affix can be added. Roots always contain a single morpheme, but a stem may contain a root plus an affix. In "impossible", 'possible' is the root to which /im -/ is prefixed. In 'black-birds', 'black' and 'bird' are roots and 'blackbird' is a stem to which the suffix/-s/ is attached". (Liebert. 1971: 104)

In English, there are two basic processes of stem formation, i.e., the addition of derivational affixes to roots or stems, and the combination of two or more stems, to stem compounds. (Hocket. 1971: 240-241)

The following are the structural classification of stems in English:

I. Simple stems: consisting of a single morpheme:

Boy girl woman pen book
car bag

II. Derived stems or derivatives, consisting of more than one morpheme:

1- Secondary derivatives have only one stem and a derivational affix
movement composition singer
actress performance

2- Stem compounds, they have two stems:

Aircraft fingerprint textbook
friendship handwriting (ibid)

2.4.2. Morphological Processes

The devices by which the constituent words of a paradigm are differentiated from one another are known as morphological processes". (Block and Trager. 1972: 56)

Five kinds of morphological processes may be distinguished as follows:

2.4.2.1. Affixation

Affixes are the recurrent formative morphemes of words other than roots. Affixes are of three types, which are as follows:

(i) Prefixes: Prefixed to the root:
incomplete illegal dishonest

(ii) Suffixes: suffixed to the root:
houses treatment darkness

(iii) Infixes: Inserted within the root:
tooth-teeth man-men(ibid)

2.4.2.2. Internal Change (conversion)

Two or more words related in form and meaning may differ from each other in some phoneme or phonemes of the base itself. One base is then described as being derived



or inflected from another in the same paradigm by internal change. 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".

The noun 'house' and the verb 'house' show consonantal change. Similar paradigm of consonantal change can be shown by: 'advice and advise' .

Internal change may also change or affect the accent of the base or the whole word, with or without vocalic and consonantal change:

import' (n) - 'import' (v')

2.4.2.3. Compounding

Two or more stems combined to form one stem is called compounding:

Blackboard post office blackbird
icebox typewriter (ibid)

2.3.2.4. Suppletion

Suppletion may be regarded as an extreme kind of internal change, in which the entire base- not merely a part of it- is replaced by another form.

In English, there are suppletive affixes as well as suppletive bases. The suffixes /-s, -z, -iz/ forms the plural of most nouns in English, but

the plural of 'ox' is formed with the suffix /-en/, and the plural of 'child' with /-ren/, (accompanied by internal change of the base). The suffixes /-en and -ren/ are suppletive to the regular suffix /-s, -z, -iz/.

2.4.2.5. Zero-Modification

It is always useful to speak of zero-modification, (zero-suffix, zero-change, etc.), in describing the morphology of a language. As it is known that the overwhelming majority of English nouns form their plural by adding /- s/ suffix to the base, but sometimes a few words form their plural by the addition of a zero suffix symbolized as /0/: deer sheep fish

2.4.2.6. Derivation

The most common word-formation process to be found in the production of new English words. This process is called derivation and it is accompanied by means of a large number of small 'bits' of the English language which are not usually given separate listing in dictionaries. These small 'bits' are generally described as affixes" (Yule. 2006: 57).

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:

arrange-arrangement fail-failure
write-writing (ibid:33)

2.5. The Types of Derived English Nouns

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

1- Denominal Nouns: Abstract

Nouns 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 girlhood 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

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
(ibid)

They can be count and have corresponding personal nouns:

9- {-ship}, usually denotes, being:
Friendship membership relationship
(Hashim, 2005:28)

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

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, 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 (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

3- 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 (Sobin, 2011:18)

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)

4- 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 (Anthworth, 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:

player teacher singer driver (Sapir, 2005:6)

baker cleaner dancer actor (Kosur, 2012: 1)

Besides, there are suffixes combine with verb base to produce nouns: {-ant,

-ee, -age, -ment, -ure}:

habitant contestant testee
examinee employee

Coverage breakage marriage
(Bauer, 1983:223)

 arrangement management
movement

Failure pressure enclosure
(Graham, 1982: 190)

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 Chomskyite
Benthamite (Quirk et al, 1985: 1552)

2.6. Inflectional Categories

English nouns are inflected for the following categories:

1. Gender 2. Number
3. Case

2.6.1. Gender

English makes very few gender distinctions. Where they are made, the connection between the biological category 'sex' and the grammatical category 'gender' is very close, insofar as natural sex distinctions determine English gender distinction. (Quirk & Greenbaum, 1973: 89)

In English, there is no grammatical gender but "natural gender" or "the

expression of sex". The gender of a noun in English only affects its pronoun and possessive adjective.

There are four genders:

Masculine: male sex (human beings and animals:)

a-
man boy dog lion husband
father son nephew horse

Feminine: female sex (human beings and animals:)

b-
Woman girl bitch lioness wife
mother daughter niece mare

c- Common: either sex (human beings and animals:

teacher baby child doctor driver
animal bird

d- Neutral: neither sex (inanimate things):

stone book chair test reading
examination pen classroom

:The feminine gender of nouns is formed in the following ways

I- By supplying an entirely different base:

king – queen lord – lady uncle –
aunt cook – hen

II- By adding the suffix /-ess/:

host – hostess waiter – waitress
tiger – tigress prince – princess

III- By placing a word before or after:
stepbrother - stepsister stepson

- stepdaughter grandmother-
grandfather

IV- By other endings:



hero – heroine sultan – sultana
executive - executrix fox – vixen

2.6. 2. Number

In English, there are two numbers, singular and plural. The plural of nouns is generally formed by adding "s/es" to the singular, they are regular form of English plural:

Book-books bus-buses day-days
story-stories leaf-leaves

Foreign plurals often occur along with regular plurals. They are commoner in technical usage, whereas the –s plural is more natural in everyday language; thus formulas (general) ~ formulae (in mathematics), antennas (general and in electronics) ~ antennae (in biology),

stimulus - stimuli curriculum – curricula index – indices
(basis – bases criterion – criteria
ibid: 87)

Some nouns of Greek and Latin origin retained their original plural forms:

Analysis-analyses formula-formulae
phenomenon-phenomena

Some irregular plural forms are characterized by the change of the internal vowel of the singular form. They are called "Mutation Plural".

Man-men mouse-mice tooth-teeth
goose-geese louse-lice

:Some nouns have the same form for the singular as for the plural

Deer sheep series means
species swine

:Some nouns singular in form, are used only in a plural sense

People poultry mankind cattle

In compound nouns, the plural sign is generally added to the principal component:

Maid-servant-maid-servants mother-in-law-mothers-in-law

Sometimes both components are pluralized, especially where "man" or "woman" is the first element of the compound:

Man-servant-men-servants woman-journalist-women-journalists

2.6.3. Case

Case is the relation in which a noun or a noun equivalent stands to another word in the sentence. English nouns have no case endings except in the possessive case. However, they may be nominative, accusative, genitive, (possessive), dative or vocative according to their function in the sentence. Possession is expressed in two different ways, by using case endings (the Saxon Genitive), or by using the preposition of (the Norman Genitive).

If the noun is singular or an irregular plural, (i.e., not ending in

–s) the (-'s) is added to the end of the noun:

A woman's bag men's wear the boy's bicycle

If the noun is a regular plural (ending in –s), a simple apostrophe is added to the end of the noun:

Boys' room girls' school dogs' food students' centre

Classical names ending in –s and also some less common English names add only the apostrophe:

Keats' Poetry Socrates' philosophy Moses' laws

The last component of the compound takes the possessive case ending:

My brother-in-law's car the door-keeper's key

Possession with "of" is more commonly used for denoting non-living things:

the leg of the table the front of the bus the top of the mountain

Section Three

Morphological Structure of Arabic Nouns

3.1. Introduction

In Standard Arabic, morphology of nouns underwent significant development in present Arabic and passed from meter to another. 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-kitab yaqra- qari (Al-Dhalimi, 2003: 82)

3.2. Morphological Structure of Nouns in Standard Arabic

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. (Al-Azawi, 1990:99)

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-Salih, 1973:147)

Arabic morphology structure can be dealt with on bases of form, function or both. The structure of nouns in Arabic can be described in the following terms:

1. Stem-root Structure

2- Morphological processes of stem formation. (Al-Mutalibi, 1986:4)

3.2.1. Stem-Root Structure

The root system in Arabic gives the basic morphological characteristics of nouns, verbs and particles. The great majority of nouns and verbs have a stem consisting of three consonantal roots. A great number of word patterns can be made by modifying the root by means of affixation, both inflectional and derivational.

For example, from the root /k-t-b/ various words can be derived:

/kataba/ 'he wrote', /kita:bun/ 'a book'
/maktabun/ 'an office', /ka:tibun/ 'a writer'

3.2.2. Morphological Processes:
The various morphological processes of stem formation are as follows

1. Affixation 2. Derivation 3. Inflection

1- Affixation

The most frequent morphological process is affixation, which is of three types: prefixes, infixes and suffixes. Affixes are also of two types: inflectional and derivational, preceded or followed by parts of the root:

/yadrusu / 'to study' /darasa/ 'he studied' , /darasat/ 'she studied'
/daraṣtu/ 'I studied' , /madrasatun/ 'school', etc

2. Derivation

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

Mualim	Mualima
Talib	Taliba
Mudaris	Mudarisa
La'aib	la'aiba
Fal'ah	fal'aha

3.3. 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:

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 tri-verb 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:

Muntasir	~	yantasil
Yunadhif	~	munadhif

(Shlash et al, 2003:34)

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

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

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 maqtoob
maqbool

In addition, this type 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

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

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)

6- Time and Place Nouns

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

Hadiqa madrassa mazrea'a
(Al-A'amili, 1985:5)

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)

3.4. Inflectional Categories

Arabic nouns are inflected for number, gender, case, and person:

1- Number

"Arabic has three numbers categories: singular, dual, and plural. Whereas singular and plural are familiar to most western learners, the dual is less familiar." (Karin , 2005: 53-54)

A peculiar feature of the Arabic language is that its nouns, verbs



and adjectives have three numbers: singular , dual and plural. The singular words are unmarked.

A. The Dual

The dual is formed by adding the suffix /-a:n / to the singular of the noun (feminine and masculine) after the removal of the case ending: /malik / 'a king', /malika:n / 'two kings'

Furthermore, if the singular ends in /a:/, the /a:/ becomes /w/ in the dual: /'asa:/ 'a stick' - /'aswa:n / 'two sticks'

If the feminine singular ends in /a /, the hamza becomes /w/ in the dual: /sahra/ desert - /sahrawa:n/ two deserts.

In addition to word forms, appropriate to the singular and to the plural, which imply more than two entities, Arabic also uses dual when the reference is to two individual entities of category. (Beeston, 1987:109)

B. The Plural

There are two kinds of plural in Arabic. Firstly, Arabic language has the 'sound plural' confined at least in the masculine to participle and the nouns indicating the profession or habitual actions. Secondly, there is the so called 'broken plural' which is made according to a pattern by altering the vowel within or outside the framework of the radical consonant.

(Cowan , 1986 : 18)

The sound plural is of two kinds: sound masculine plural and the sound (جمع المؤنث السالم) . (جمع المذكر السالم) feminine plural

The sound masculine of nouns and adjectives is formed by adding the suffix /-u:n/ for nominative: /mudarisu:n / 'male teachers'/ najaru:n/ 'carpenters' and /-i:n / for the other cases after the case ending of the nominative singular has been dropped:

/najari:n/ 'carpenters' /mu'alimi:n / 'teachers'

The sound feminine plural is formed by changing the suffix /-atun/, of the singular into /-a:tun/ for the nominative:

/mudarisa:tun/ female teachers / muslima:tun/ 'muslim women' and /-a:t / for the other cases:

/mudarisa:t / 'female teachers', / muslima:tin/ 'muslim women'

Some feminine nouns take a masculine sound plural:

/sanat / 'a year', /sinu:n/ 'years' and some masculine nouns take a feminine sound plural:

/hayawa:n/ an animal - /hayawana:t/ animals

/naba:t/ plant - /nabata:t/ plants

As for the broken plural جمع تكسير , it is necessary to know the importance

of word forms, or patterns in Arabic:
/ q a l a m u n / 'a p e n' - / a q l
a : m u n / 'p e n s'

/ m a l i k u n / 'a k i n g' - /
m u l u : k u n / 'k i n g s'

2- Gender

Arabic exhibits two genders: masculine and feminine. Each noun in Arabic is either masculine or feminine as there is no neuter gender. Gender is a grammatical category in Arabic. Generally, the feminine gender is formed from the masculine (participle or noun indicating profession) by adding the suffix {-at}:

/ka:tib /'male writer', /katibatun /
'female writer'

ibn/ 'son', /ibnatun/ 'a daughter'
(Shafi, 1986: 13)

The gender category into which a noun falls is semantically arbitrary, except where nouns refer to human beings or other living creatures. Gender is marked on adjectives, pronouns, and verbs, as well, but not inherent, as it is in nouns. (Karin, 2005: 53)

Generally, all common and proper nouns that denote females, proper names of countries and towns, names of the body and collective nouns are feminine. (Frayha, 1958: 220)

3- Case

Arabic has three cases, and they are simply distinguished by changing the vowel ling of the final consonant (except in the dual and sound masculine plural endings).

These cases are as follows:

a) N o m i n a t i v e) ر ف ع

b) A c c u s a t i v e) ن ص ب

c) G e n i t i v e) ج ر

These cases are expressed by

:{the suffixes {-un, -an, -in
s a : r i q u n , s a : r i q a n , s a
: r i q i n' 'a t h i e f'

4- Person

Personal pronoun are of two types:

ضمير منفصل I- Independent (free or
unattached)

ضمير متصل II- Dependant
(bound)

They are suffixed to nouns, verbs or prepositions:

a- Suffixed to verbs as direct
object:

/ q r a ' a h u / 'H e r e a d i t'

b- Suffixed to nouns to indicate
possession:

/ ' q a l a m i : / ' M y p e n ' / k i t a
: b u h u / ' h i s b o o k

baytukuma 'Your house' (dual
masculine and feminine)

kita:buhuma: 'Their book'

(c) Suffixed to prepositions:

/lukum/ 'Yours, for you' /minhu/
'from him'
/minha:/ 'from her' /lana:/ 'for
us, or ours'

In addition to personal pronouns, Arabic has demonstrative, relative, and interrogative pronouns.

Section Four

Conclusions, Recommendations and Further Reserch

Conclusions

This section sums up the main conclusions arrived at throughout this study. In addition, these conclusions are meant to serve as a basis for the pedagogical recommendations and suggestions for further study in the morphological structure of other parts of speech.

The contrastive analysis of the noun morphology in English and Arabic, carried out in this research, reveals the following facts:

1- Both English and Arabic share some features in their derivational structure. Both suffixes may be added to form nouns, verbs and adjectives.

2- In Arabic, the root system represents the basic morphological characteristics in the structure of nouns and verbs. Every word in Arabic may be referred to a significant root consisting of three consonants.

3- The derivational suffixes in both languages determine the distribution and function of words within the sentence.

4- Both English and Arabic almost use the same morphological processes.

5- In Arabic, several nouns and verbs are derived with the help of affixes and vowel modifications within the root.

6- Arabic derivational system, in comparison to English, is very complex which may cause a few difficulties for the second language learners.

7- Both English and Arabic have the same number of word classes.

8- Both English and Arabic nouns are inflected for the categories of number, gender, case, and person.

9- English nouns have two numbers: singular and plural. Whereas, Arabic nouns have three numbers: singular, dual and plural.

10- English has three genders: masculine, feminine, and neuter. Gender is solely confined to personal pronouns. Whereas Arabic has only two genders: masculine and feminine.

11- English nouns are inflected for genitive case. Whereas, in Arabic, nouns are inflected for three cases,

namely, nominative, accusative, and genitive. These cases are distinguished by changing the vowel and the final consonant.

12- Personal pronouns in English system are not as complicated as in Arabic. It is rather simple with regard to number, gender and case distinction. In Arabic, there is a full set of distinction for number, gender, and case.

13- In English, there is no gender distinction between 2nd person singular and plural, whereas, Arabic gender distinction is made.

14- English does not make any gender distinction of demonstrative pronouns. It does distinguish between near and far objects in number. Arabic makes distinction of gender as well as of number.

Recommendations

Thus, it has been observed that both languages share some common features as well as several differences. In the light of such findings, the linguistic problems of the Arabic speakers learning English may be solved. In other words, through this comparison and contrast, the teacher will be aware of the structure of the two languages and the areas of difficulties of the learners at the morphological level. It is also hoped that the analysis and results of this study would be useful both to teachers and textbooks writers of English and Arabic as foreign languages.

Suggestions for Further Work

In the light of the results of the present study, it is recommended that a contrastive study of the morphological structure of other parts of speech can be conducted



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