



Linking Verbs in Modern Standard English and
Their Counterparts in Modern Standard Arabic: A
Contrastive Analysis

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❖ Abstract ❖

The present research tries to discuss and analyze the topic of linking verbs in English Modern Standard English (henceforth MSE) and Modern Standard Arabic (henceforth MSA). The present investigation aims at identifying, analyzing and contrasting linking verbs in MSE and their counterparts in MSA to find out the aspects of similarity and dissimilarity in both languages. It is hypothesized that the differences are more than similarities in the field of discussion between the two languages. The present study tries to answer the following questions: (i) What are linking verbs in English? (ii) What are the words that mean or imply the meaning of linking verbs in Arabic? To what range both languages are similar or different? The study comprises introduction and four sections. Section one identifies linking verbs in English. Section two explains the nearly counterparts of linking verbs in Arabic. Section three is contrastive analysis of linking verbs in English and Arabic. Finally, section four concludes the results the researcher arrives at.



❖ ملخص البحث ❖

الدراسة الحالية هي عبارة عن تحليل مقارنة بين اللغتين الانكليزية الفصحى والحديثة واللغة العربية الفصحى الحديثة فيما يتعلق بافعال الربط الانكليزية وما يقابلها من الافعال التي لها نفس الدلالة والتركيب في العربية. تتطرق الدراسة الى حصر الافعال التي تدل على معنى الربط في كلتا اللغتين لتتم مقارنتهما حسب طريقة (كارل جيمز) المستخدمة للتليل المقارن لمعرفة أوجه التشابه والاختلاف في هذا الجانب من اللغة

The present research tries to discuss and analyze the topic of linking verbs in English Modern Standard English (henceforth MSE) and Modern Standard Arabic (henceforth MSA). The present investigation aims at identifying, analyzing and contrasting linking verbs in MSE and their counterparts in MSA to find out the aspects of similarity and dissimilarity in both languages. It is hypothesized that the differences are more than similarities in the field of discussion between the two languages. The present study tries to answer the following questions: (i) What are linking verbs in English? (ii) What are the words that mean or imply the meaning of linking verbs in Arabic? To what range both languages are similar or different? The study comprises introduction and four sections. Section one identifies linking verbs in English. Section two explains the nearly counterparts of linking verbs in Arabic. Section three is contrastive analysis of linking verbs in English and Arabic. Finally, section four concludes the results the researcher arrives at.

Introduction

According to Quirk et al.(1985:54), the term ‘copular’ refers to the verb ‘BE’, and copular verbs are those

verbs(including BE and BE(AmE) which are functionally equivalent to the copular. They are variously called ‘copulative’, ‘equivalent’, ‘intensive’ or ‘linking verbs’.

Linking verbs known as ‘copular’ and (joining verbs), have several definitions: Linking verbs are verbs that express a static condition or state of being (no action). They serve the purpose of coming between, or coupling, two substantives or a substantive and an adjective (Shaw, 1985:104-5). Copular verbs are verbs used to associate some attribute expressed by the subject predicative following the verb with the clause (Longman, 2003: 435).

Frank (1993:45) says that a linking verb is a verb of incomplete predication. It merely announces that the real predicate follows.

While Greenbaum (1991:343), states that a linking verb is the verb that has copular complementation when it is followed by a subject complement or a predication adjunct, and when this element cannot be dropped without changing the meaning of the verb. Linking verbs like appear, seem, look, sound, feel, smell and taste are items used to join the subject with its complement. Such verbs are also called verbs of sensation (Gucker,

1966: 24; Saloan, 1994, 120 and Rozakis, 2003: 12-3).

The present study intends to identify, describe, and analyze the meanings of linking verbs in Modern Standard English and their counterparts in Modern Standard Arabic to be compared in order to find out the aspects of similarity as well as of difference.

The researcher will use one term representing the verbs under discussion (i.e. linking verbs) in

this investigation. The process of contrastive analysis[i.e. the process by which two or more than two languages are compared to reveal the aspects of similarity and difference (James,1980:3)] will be used to compare the features of linking verbs in English and their counterparts in Arabic. Also, there will be necessary examples in English and Arabic to show the meanings and the use of both linking verbs in MSE and their counterparts in MSA.

The Arabic Consonant and Vowel Sounds in the Present Study

Sounds	Examples	English meaning
'	'mîr	prince
b	bâb	door
t	tamr	dates
th	tha' lab	fox
j (researcher changed di to j)	jadîd	new
ḥ	ḥadîd	iron
d	dâr	house
dh	dhayl	tail
r	rajul	man
z	zîr	jar
s	safara	travelled
sh	sham'a	candle
ṣ	ṣalât	prayer
ḍ	marîḍ	patient
ṭ	ṭayr	bird
'	' ayn	eye
gh	ghubâr	dust

f	fawâkih	fruit
k	kalb	dog
q	qalam	pencil
l	layl	night
m	miftâh	key
n	nâr	fire
h	hâmish	margin
w	warda	flower
y	yarâ	see
z	zulm	injustice
a	walad	boy
u	dub	bear
I	miftâh	key
â	bâb	door
û	sûra	picture
î	fîl	elephant

This phonological system was adopted from "Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia"

Section One

1. Linking Verbs in MSE

The verbs in this section can be classified into two groups: (i) verbs to be and (ii) other verbs.

1.1 Verbs to be

According to Shaw (1986:105) the most common linking verb is 'verb to be' in its various forms of number, person, tense, and mood, for instance:

- Jones is my roommate.
- That play was good.
- The director will be famous tomorrow.

1.2 Other English verbs rather than verbs to be functioning as linking verbs (listed alphabetically):

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1) appear: | The plan appears successful.(Leech et al., 1989: 348) |
| 2) become: | She became a nurse.(Quirk et al., 1989: |
| 3) blow: | The door blew open. (Hornby, 2010:152). |
| 4) blush: | He blushed scarlet at the thought. (Hornby, 2010:155). |
| 5) break: | The door broke loose.(Hornby, 1974: 101) |
| 6) come: | The handle came loose. (Hornby, 2010:293). |
| 7) continue: | Donald continued my friend, despite our differences.(Stagberg, 1981: 204) |
| 8) end up: | If he carries on driving like that, he'll end up dead. (Hornby, 2010: 501) |
| 9) fall: | Jim fell sick during the night.(Stagberg, 1981: 203) |
| 10) feel: | I feel so self-conscious in high heels. (Greenbaum, 1996:67) |
| 11) freeze: | The clothes froze solid on the washing-line. (Hornby, 2010: 1741) |
| 12) get: | Don't get your dress dirty. (Hornby, 2010: 649) |
| 14) go: | His face went pale.(Stagberg, 1981: 203) |
| 15) grow: | The physicist grew sleepy.(Stagberg, 1981: 202) |

- 16) keep: He keeps his car clean.(Quirk et al., 1989:510)
- 17) lay: The cloth should be lied flat.(Hornby, 2010: 872)
- 18) lie: The book lay open on his desk.(Hornby, 2010: 888)
- 19) look: You looks better today.(Salon, 1994: 120)
- 20) loom: The prospect of war loomed large. (Hornby, 2010: 912)
- 21) make: She made him happy.(Quirk et al., 1989: 510)
- 22) plead: The accused pleaded guilty.
- 23) prove: He proved true to his cause.(Stagberg, 1981: 203)
- 24) remain: The milk remained sweet for a week.(Stagberg, 1981: 202)
- 25) rest: The affair rests a mystery.(Hornby,1980:722)
- 26) run: The well runs dry.(Stagberg, 1981: 203)
- 27) seem: John seems unhappy.(Leech et al., 1989: 348)
- 28) smell: The dog smells bad. (Salon, 1994: 120)
- 29) sound: His voice sounded thin.(Leech et al., 1989: 348)
- 30) stand: James stood loyal to his firm.(Stagberg, 1981: 203)
- 34) slam: She slammed the lid shut. (Hornby, 2010: 1445)
- 35) spring: She turned the key and the lid sprang open. (Hornby, 2010: 1494)
- 31) stand up: You'll look taller if you stand up straight. (Hornby, 2010: 1504)
- 32) stay: They stayed roommates for three years.
- 29) taste: The milk tastes sour.(Keirzek and Gibson, 1960: 67)
- 33) turn: She turned pale.(Thomson and Martinet, 1988:34)
- 34) turn out: Everything turn out well.(Hornby,1980:932)
- 35) wind up: If take risks like that you'll wind up dead. (Hornby, 2010: 1765)
- 36) wax: He waxed lyrical on the food at the restaurant. (Hornby, 2010: 1741)

When these verbs are followed by nouns or pronouns as direct objects, they are not linking verbs, but imply or express action:

- The sky looks cloudy this morning.(linking)
- Bill looks at Mark as though he hates him.(action)

(Shaw, 1986:105)

Section Two

2.1 The complement of the linking verb

According to Quirk et al. (1989:1150) complementation is defined as part of a phrase or clause that follows a word to complete the specification of a meaning relationship implied in that word.

The complement of a linking verb, i.e., what follows a linking verb is called a subject complements or subject predicative. It can be one of three structures: an adjectival phrase (e.g. The girl seems very restless.), nominal phrase (e.g. William is my friend.), or an adverbial phrase (e.g. The kitchen is downstairs.)

In the above three sentences, very restless is the adjectival complement of the subject 'the girl' or (subject predicative), my friend is the nominal complement of the subject 'William' or(subject predicative) and downstairs is the adverbial complement of the subject 'the kitchen' or(subject predicative). The linking verbs (seems and be) link the attribute of the person specified by the subject to the subject itself (Quirk and Greenbaum, 1973: 365).

2.1.1 Adjectival phrase as subject complement

A verb is said to have 'copular' complementation when it is followed by a subject complement (Cs) or a predication adjunct, and this element cannot be dropped without changing the meaning of the verb. The verb in such a clause is a 'copular' or 'linking' verb, and is equivalent in function to the principal copula, the verb 'be' (Shepherd et al, 1984:157; Quirk et al., 1985:1171 and Greenbaum and Quirk, 1990:343):

- He is friendly.
- The girl seems very restless.
- The girl became very restless.

2.1.2 Noun phrase as subject complement

Again, the verb (be) is the principal copula used in this pattern:

- William is my friend.
- Oslo seems a pleasant city.

Such verbs as (be, appear, look, seem, sound, remain, stay, become, come, end up, turn, turn out, play, stand) are used in this pattern together with typical adjectival complements.

With the noun phrase complement (feel) has the meaning 'have the sensation of being..... ; but with an adjective complement, it has not only this meaning as in (She felt ill), but also the meaning of 'cause a sensation' as in (The table felt rough).

The noun phrase following (act as, count as, pose as, pass for) and similar combinations is in a copular relation with the subject, and the combinations may be reasonably described as 'copular prepositional verbs' on the analogy of intransitive and transitive prepositional verbs. Corresponding to these constructions with current meaning are resulting copular prepositional verbs such as (change into, grew into, and turn into) with the general meaning of 'become'. Note the near-synonymy of 'He turned traitor' and 'He turned into traitor'. Some verbs occur more marginally in the above pattern; e.g.: (stay) in 'They stayed good friends.' (Turn) as in 'turn traitor' is formulaic, and is more or less restricted to a small number of combinations. One or two verbs such as (make and part) can appear with a noun phrase complement:

- They parted the best of friends.
- They make a charming couple.

In a sentence like (They parted friendly) once more would be not a complement, but a verbless clause (Quirk et al., 1980:1173).

2.1.3 Adverbial phrases as subject complement

- He seemed in a great shape. (in a great shape = very well)
- The boy was out of breath. (out of breath = breathless)
- Is your father in good health? (in good health=healthy)

In the abovementioned examples, every prepositional phrase is an adjective equivalent, making it an attribute linked to the subject by a linking verb.

(Biber et al., 1999: 437)

2.2 The classification of linking verbs

According to whether the subject complement has the role of a current attribute

or a resulting attribute, linking verbs fall into two main categories (Quirk and Greenbaum, 1973: 365):

- (i) current linking verbs
- (ii) resulting linking verbs

2.2.1 Current linking verbs

Current linking verbs like (be, keep, seem, remain) identify attributes that are in a continuing state of existence. In other words, they identify a current state (Leech and Svartvik, 1994: 389). For example:

- He always is a teacher.
- You must keep awake.
- Your father seemed tired.
- Sam remained confident.

Current linking verbs are mainly in the existence domain, except for a special sub-class that can be labeled sensory linking verbs because they report sensory perception. These verbs are (feel, look, smell, sound, and taste), e.g.:

- I do not feel comfortable in my new job.
- From a plane everything looks tiny.
- The food smells good.
- She sounded rather surprised.
- The soup tastes nice.

2.2.2 Resulting linking verbs

Resulting linking verbs like (become, end up, get, fell, and turn) identify attributes that happen as a result of some process of change. They indicate that the role of the subject complement is the result of the event or the process described in the verb (Leech and Svartvik, 1994: 389) as in:

- The situation became unbearable.
- Why did they get so angry?
- She said she'd seen her dog turn nasty just once.
- Quite unexpectedly, her father fell sick and died.

Comparison between current linking verbs and resulting linking verbs

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1- (a) He is a teacher. | (b) He became a teacher. |
| 2- (a) Henry seems very tired. | (b) They grew tired. |
| 3- (a) They are completely broken. | (b) They spent all their money and |

wound up completely broke.

2.3 Semantic notes on copular verbs

The main verb (be) is the most central copular verb, and the most neutral in meaning. It is also overwhelmingly the most common. Although it generally has current and stative meaning, notice should be taken of its use also in reference to events and activities:

- There was a roar as the ball bounced off the goalpost.
- You're being very helpful.

In some cases, (be) is close in meaning to (become):

- Ann will be qualified nurse next year.
- Cora was angry when she heard about the accident.

As the lists (of copular current/resulting) show, copular verbs apart from (be) fall into three classes. First, there is the division between current and resulting verbs; then the current verbs divide further into (i) 'verbs of seeming' (including seem and appear), and (ii) 'the perception verbs' (look, sound, etc.), and (iii) 'verbs of remaining' such as (remain, stay, and keep). Finally, the resulting verbs are in the main 'verbs of becoming', but their meanings differ in detail, as we shall

2.4 Linking verbs and complex transitive structure

Another correspondence often obtains between an SVOC clause and a clause with an infinitive or that-clause.

- I considered her beautiful. ~ I considered her to be beautiful. / I considered that she was beautiful.

This correspondence indicates that the O and C of an SVOC clause are in the same relation to one another as the S and C of an SVC clause: She was beautiful. This relation is expressed, wherever it is made explicit at all, by a copular verb, and we may therefore call it, for further reference, a COPULAR relationship. Copular relationships are important in other aspects of grammar apart from clause structure. They correspond, for example, to relation of apposition and many relations of modification.

Further, we may extend the concept 'copular relationship' to the relation between subject and adverbial in SVA clauses and the relation between object and adverbial in SVOA clauses.

2.5 Linking verbs as transitive/ intransitive verbs

Most linking verbs can function as intransitive/ transitive verbs when the following noun phrase does not function as a subject complement, but as an adverb or an object (Biber et al., 1999: 382).

However, these verbs are always intransitive. They are linking, not action verbs. Linking verbs are never transitive. Leech (2006) explains that linking verb is also called copulative verb or copular verb. It is a main verb in any given sentences which, like the verb “be”, links a subject to a subject complement. “Be” is by far the most common copular verb and is called the copula (Fiktorius, 2013).

It is known that the verb that requires a following noun phrase to function as its object is a transitive verb, whereas the verb that does not require a following noun phrase to function as its object is an intransitive verb (Biber et al., 1999: 382).

Linking verbs vs. intransitive verbs

1-(a) He looked calm. (adjective) =He had a calm expression. (looked = is a linking verb)

1-(b) He looked calmly (adverb) at the angry crowd. (looked = is a deliberate action)

2-(a) She turned pale. (adjective) = She became pale.(turned = is a linking verb)

2-(b) He turned angrily (adverb) to the man behind him. (turned = is a deliberate action)

3-(a) The well ran dry. (adjective) = The well became dry. (ran = is a linking verb)

3-(b) The kids ran happily. (adverb) (ran = is a deliberate action)

Linking verbs vs transitive verbs

1-(a) Ahmed got very mad. = He became very mad. (got = is a linking verb)

1-(b) Ahmed got a car. (got = is a deliberate action)

2-(a) The soup tasted horrible (adjective). =It had a horrible taste. (tasted= is a linking verb)

2-(b) She tasted the soup suspiciously. (tasted = is deliberate action)

3-(a) She could have made an excellent teacher. = She could have been an

excellent teacher. (made =is a linking verb)

3-(b) She could have made a mistake. (made = is a deliberate action)

Section Three

3. The meaning of the most common linking verbs

Appear:

The linking verb (appear) is much less common than (seem), but it has similar uses, being used to mark 'likelihood' (or sometimes 'ability'):

- He appears a perfectly normal person.
- Having failed to solve their problems, the ghost of war appeared very likely.
- The courts have appeared willing to go beyond the rules of natural justice.

Remain/ keep/ stay:

The three linking verbs (remain, keep and stay) are all used to mark 'the contribution of pre-existing state'. Of these three verbs, remain is the most common, especially in academic prose and news reportage. The verb is associated with static adjectives, simply reporting the 'absence of change, i.e., the continued existence of a static condition.'

In most cases, this state of affairs does not involve humans. Adjectives typically used with remain are (unchanged, constant, intact, motionless, immobile, low, high, open, closed, controversial, uncertain, obscure, unknown), e.g.:

- The market remains complex and uncertain.
- The date of the final remains unchanged.
- The body was paralyzed, but her brain remained intact.
- The valve is allowed to remain open.
- Although he seems very pleasant, the fact remains that I don't trust him.

The verb keep implies 'a sense of agency, with the meaning that someone is maintaining something in its current state'. Typical adjectives used with keep are alive, awake, quiet, silent, secret, busy, fit, and warm:

- It's funny how he manages to keep awake.
- He was trying to keep warm.
- I kept busy and tried not to think about it.

- The prime minister kept quiet and didn't say anything.

Stay is by far the least common of these three verbs marking continuation. Like remain, the verb stay reports 'the continued existence of a static condition'; but stay is similar to keep in that it usually reports situations that involve humans. Adjectives occurring with stay include (awake, dry, sober, alive, clear, loyal, and healthy):

- You can get your job back if you stay sober.
- She stayed awake long into the night.

Sensory linking verbs

Following (Biber et al., 1999: 442-3 and Swan, 2003: 308) the sensory linking verbs (feel, look, smell, sound, taste) report positive or negative evaluations associated with sense perception. The linking verb itself identifies the sense like (sight, hearing, etc), while the adjective occurring as subject predicative reports the evaluation. These linking verbs are less distinguished by their associated sets of predicative adjectives than the other current linking verbs. In fact, the general evaluating adjectives (nice, good and bad) commonly occur as subject predicative to all five sensory linking verbs.

Note

Verbs of senses cannot be used in the continuous tense. Instead, we often use can as in the following examples:

- I can smell smoke.
- Can you see him?
- I can't feel anything.

Feel

The linking verb feel reports 'an assessment of physical or mental state of being', combining especially with the adjectives (ashamed, bad, cold, good, guilty, sick, sure, tired, uncomfortable, and uneasy):

a) Physical state of being:

- I'll make you feel cold.
- My hands feel cold.

b) Mental state of being:

- I always feel guilty when I pass his house.
- She no longer feels ashamed of her shabby cotton dress.

- He felt uneasy.

Look

The linking verb look reports 'the evaluation of physical appearance'. In conversation the adjective nice is notably common as subject predicative to look. The combination 'look good' is also relatively common in conversation:

- Do I look nice?
- It looks nice, doesn't it?

Other adjectives that repeatedly occur as subject predicative to look are (awful, different, happy, lovely, pale, puzzled, sad, surprised, small, tired, well, and young):

- He does look sad, doesn't he?
- Quite frankly she looked terrible.

This combination is commonly used 'to evaluate the physical appearance of the addressee':

- You look tired.
- You look awful.
- You look happy.

Smell

Smell is generally rare, but it is used occasionally in conversation and fiction. Not surprisingly, this verb reports 'the smells perceive by the speaker, using adjectives such as (awful, bad, funny, musty, odd, rotten, terrible, delicious, fresh, good, lovely, and nice):

- The food smelled good to her.
- It smells funny in there.

Sound

Literally meaning, sound reports 'what speaker has heard'. However, because of the association of hearing with speech, sound has come to be used to report 'reaction to some previous idea or suggestion'. This use is common in conversation.

The adjectives (awful, angry, sad, and strange) occur with sound to report 'actual hearing perception', while (good, nice, silly, stupid and interesting) are used in reaction to previous utterance:

- a) Hearing perception:

- She doesn't sound angry anymore.

b) Reaction to ideas:

- That sounds good to me.
- I know it sounds stupid, but I believe him.

Taste

The verb taste is quite rare. Its use is 'restricted to occasions of in conversation and fiction that report taste perceptions', using adjectives like (awful, horrible, nice, and wonderful):

- That boiled fruit tastes nice.
- The taste of them is dreadful. They just taste awful.

Section Four

4. The counterparts of the English linking verbs in MSA

The Arabic verbs under this heading are of two categories and they are as follows:

4.1 Arabic verbs meaning linking verbs

4.1.1 بدا (= badâ)

This verb has nearly the same meaning of such verbs as (look, seem, sound, appear) (Mustafaa et al., 1989). For example:

(Qur'an, Yusuf: 35) ثُمَّ بَدَا لَهُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا رَأَوُا آيَاتِ

Thumma badâ lehum mba'di maa ra'awialâyâti.

Next seems to them after they see the verses.*

Then it occurred to them after they had seen the signs. (Shakir, 2003: 218)

4.1.2 ظهر (= zahara)

According to (Mustafaa et al., 1989), if we say 'zahara ashshai'u zuhuran = the thing appeared', it appears and emerges after disappearance, as in the following example:

(Qur'an, Rome: 41) ظَهَرَ الْفَسَادُ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ.

zahara alfasâdu filbbarri walbahri.

appeared oppression in the land and the sea.*

Corruption has appeared in the land and the sea. (Shakir, 2003: 396)

4.1.3 تحوّل (= taḥawwal)

It has the sense of changing from case to another or from situation to another (Mustafaa et al., 1989):

تحوّل الماء ثلجاً.

taḥawwala almâ'u thaljan.

Become the water ice.*

The water became ice.

4.1.4 باقى (= baqiya)

The Arabic word (baqiya) refers to the remaining and continuing fixing of the thing (Mustafaa et al., 1989):

ويبقى وجه ربك ذو الجلال والإكرام. (Qur'an, The Beneficient: 27)

wa yabqa wajhu rabbika duljalâli walikrâm.

And remain face of your God who has greatness and kindness.*

And there will endure for ever the person of your Lord. (Shakir, 2003: 534)

4.1.5 جعل (= ja'ala)

Mutafaa et al. (1989) mentions that if the Lord جعل (= ja'ala) the thing, He creates and makes it:

فجعلناها نكالا لما بين يديها. (Qur'an, The Cow: 66)

.faja'alnâhâ nakâlan limâ beina yadeihâ

And we made it hurt among its hands.*

So we made them an example to those who witnessed it.

(Shakir, 2003: 9)

4.1.6 شعر (= sha'ara)

This verb means to feel of the thing ((Mustafaa et al., 1989):

ألا انهم هم المفسدون ولكن لا يشعرون. (Qur'an, The Cow: 12)

'alâ innahum humulmufsidûna wa lâkin lâ wash'urûn.

But they who corrupt yet not feel.*

Now surely they themselves are the mischief makers, but they do not perceive. (Shakir, 2003: 3)

We know the word (perceive) is different from the word (feel) in the form, but it has the same meaning.

4.2 Verbs to be

In Arabic, the sense of 'verbs to be' can be found in what is called 'kâna wa

akhawâtuhâ' as well as it is shown in nominal sentences, especially when it is genitive (= prepositional phrase) or adverb (Ibn-Akeel, 1980: 201). There are nearly thirteen particles of wa 'kâna akhawâtuhâ' such as: kâna, zalla, bâta, adhâ, asbaha, sâra, leisa, mâzâla, mâbariha, mâfati'a, manfakka, and mādâma. Arabic grammarians call them (af'alunnakisa = incomplete verbs) since their meanings remain imperfect in the sentences until we mention their predicate and such verbs can refer to existence (Al-Makhzumi, 1964: 176, 180 and Al-Sammarrai, 2003:190). In addition, they abrogate the rule of subject and predicate, i.e., they change the final /u/ (the nominal case) of their predicate into accusative (i.e. pronouncing the final consonant /a/) (Cowan, 1980: 349, 968). These verbs are listed as follows:

kâna = كَانَ 4.2.1

It means 'şâra = to become': (Al-Sammarrai, 203:197).

جمد الماء فكان ثلجاً.

Jamada almâ'u fakâna thaljan.

The water froze and was ice*.

When water froze it would become ice. (The researcher's translation)

aşbaha = أصبح 4.2.2

It has the same meaning as 'şâra' (= to become): (Hassan, 1974: 554)

أصبح الطالب طبيباً.

aşbaha aţţâlibu ţabîban.

The pupil became doctor*.

(The student became a doctor. (The researcher's translation)

amsâ = أمسى 4.2.3

It also means 'şâra' (= to become): (Hassan, 1974: 555 and Al-Turfi, 1986: 145)

أمسى النهارُ بارداً.

amsâ annahâru bâridan .

The day evening cold*.

The evening became cold. (The researcher's translation)

zalla = ظلَّ 4.2.4

It means 'sâra': (Al-Sammarrai, 2003: 215)

إذا فقد الإنسان عزيزاً ظلَّ حزيناً.

idhâ fakada alinsanu 'azîzan ẓalla hazînan.

If the man lost precious stayed unhappy*.

If the man lost his beloved he became unhappy. (The researcher's translation)

Section Five

5. Contrastive Analysis of the study

5.1 Similarities

5.1.1 Verbs to be

This area of investigation is found in both English and Arabic. That is, in English, (be) and its forms (= is, are, am, was, were, been, and being) are the main current kind of linking verbs. In Arabic, we have what is called 'kâna wa akhawâtuhâ' which imply the meaning of these verbs. For example:

Arabic:

(.English translation = The evening became cold) - أمسى النهارُ بارداً.

English:

- You look tired.

5.1.2 Sensory verbs

The so called sensory verbs in English (=feel, look, smell, sound, taste) have nearly the same reference with such Arabic verbs as [(بدا (= badaa), ظهر (= ẓahara), شعر (= sha'ara)]:

Arabic:

English translation = Corruption has appeared in the) ظهر الفسادُ في البرِّ والبحرِ.
.land and the sea

English:

-It looks nice, doesn't it?

5.1.3 Current linking verbs

In relation to the meaning of this group of English verbs like (be, keep, seem, and remain), we can find their meaning in Arabic in such verbs as [(كان = kâna, بقي (= baqiya), and بدا (= badâ)]:

Arabic :

English translation = And there will endure for) ويبقى وجه ربك ذو الجلال والاکرام.
ever the person of your Lord.)

English:

-The prime minister kept quiet and didn't say anything.

5.1.4 Resulting linking verbs

This kind of linking verbs such as (= become, end up, get, fell, and turn) do the process of change in English. There are some indications in Arabic referred to by such verbs as [تحوّل (= taḥawwal), جعل (= ja'ala), كان (= kâna), أصبح (= aṣbaha), أمسى (= amsâ), and ظلّ (= ẓalla)]:

Arabic :

جمد الماء فكان ثلجاً. - English translation = When water froze it would)

(become ice. (The researcher's translation

أصبح الطالب طبيباً. - (English translation = The student became a doctor)

أمسى النهار بارداً. - (English translation = The evening became cold)

إذا فقد الإنسان عزيزاً ظلّ حزينا. - English translation = f the man lost his)

(.beloved he became unhappy

English:

- The situation became unbearable.

- Why did they get so angry?

- She said she'd seen her dog turn nasty just once.

5.1.5 Adjectival phrase as subject complement

English and Arabic dissimilar in the structure that relate to such a topic of investigation (= linking verbs). That is, English has [N (subj.) + be + Aj. / N (subj.)/ Av., N (subj.) + LV+Aj. / N] (Stagberg, 1981: 200-3). In Arabic we have [verbs to be ('kâna wa akhawâtuhâ')/ other verbs meaning English linking verbs) + N (subj.) + Nominal, Adjectival, or Adverbial Complement] (Al-Makhzumi, 1964: 176, 180 and Al-Sammarrai, 2003:190).

But both English and Arabic share some verbs in this sense which are modified by adjectives. These English linking verbs used here are both current and resulting verbs (be, seem, remain, keep, become turn, and get). In Arabic, we also have some verbs representing this structure, but nouns come after the verbs which are modified by adjectives like [(باقي (= baqiya), أصبح (= aṣbaha), أمسى (= amsâ), and ظلّ (= ẓalla)]:

Arabic:

Qur'an, The food : 53) [English translation =...so)

فأصبحوا خاسرين. -

[.they shall become losers

(.English translation = The water kept/ remained cold) - بَقِيَ الْمَاءُ بَارِدًا .

Qur'an, The Bee: 58) [English translation] - ظَلَّ وَجْهُهُ مَسْوَدًّا وَهُوَ كَظِيمٌ .

his face becomes black and he is full of... =

(wrath.) (Shakir, 2003: 251

(.English translation = The evening became cold) - أَمْسَى النَّهَارُ بَارِدًا .

English:

- He is friendly.
- The girl seems very restless.

5.1.6 Noun phrase as subject complement

This complement structure is shared by the two languages. In English, the verbs that show this are (be, appear, look, feel, seem, sound, remain, stay, become, come, end up, turn, turn out, play, and stand). The Arabic counterpart verbs of them are [ظَلَّ (= ṣalla), كَانَ (= kāna), أَصْبَحَ (= aṣbaha), أَمْسَى (= amsâ), بَدَأَ (= badâ), تَحَوَّلَ (= taḥawwal), بَقِيَ (= baqiya), ظَهَرَ (= ṣahara), جَعَلَ (= ja'ala), شَعَرَ (= sha'ara)]. According to (Stagberg, 1981: 200-3), the structure of this point in English is [N (subj.) + be + Aj. / N (subj.)/ Av., N(subj.) + LV+Aj./ N], whereas in Arabic it is [verbs to be ('kāna wa akhawâtuhâ')/ other verbs meaning English linking verbs) + N (subj.) + Nominal/ Adjectival/ or Adverbial Complement], for example:

Arabic:

Qur'an, The Narrative: 10) [English] وَأَصْبَحَ فُؤَادُ أُمِّ مُوسَى فَارِغًا . -

translation = And the heart of Musa's

[.(mother was free (from anxiety

(Shakir, 2003: 374)

Qur'an, The Cow: 125) [And when We made the] وَأَدْ جَعَلْنَا الْبَيْتَ مَثَابَةً . -

(House a pilgrimage for men.) (Shakir, 2003: 17

Qur'an, The Bee: 58) [English translation] - ظَلَّ وَجْهُهُ مَسْوَدًّا وَهُوَ كَظِيمٌ .

his face becomes black and he is full of... =

(wrath.) (Shakir, 2003: 251

Qur'an, Repentance: 48) [...and Allah's commandment] وَظَهَرَ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ . -

(prevailed.) (Shakir, 2003: 175

=) .English translation = I stayed alone at home)) - بَقِيتُ وَحِيدًا فِي الْبَيْتِ .

(V+ N1 (subj.) + N2 (subj.)) (The researcher's translation

English translation = The water froze and becomes) - جَمَدَ الْمَاءُ فَكَانَ ثَلْجًا.

(ice.) (The researcher's translation

English:

- William is my friend. [N1(subj.) + be + N2(subj.)]
- Oslo seems a pleasant city. [N1 (subj.) + LV + Aj (Adjectival complement)]
- She felt ill. [N (subj.) + LV+Aj]

5.1.7 Adverbial phrases as subject complement

Here, both English and Arabic refer to this structure of linking verbs, i.e., in English: [N (subj.) + be + Av]. In Arabic, we have [verbs to be ('kâna wa akhawâtuhâ') and other verbs meaning English linking verbs) + N (subj.) + Adverbial Complement]. The English linking verbs in this structure are (be, seem, turn out). As for Arabic, the following are the verbs used to show such a sense and structure [أَصْبَحَ (= aşbaha), كَانَ (= kâna), بَدَا (= badâ), شَعَرَ (= sha'ara), جَعَلَ (= ja'ala), بَقِيَ (= baqiya)]. For example:

Arabic:

Qur'an, The Cave: 19) [English translation] وَلَا يُشْعِرَنَّ بِكُمْ أَحَدًا. -
= ...and by no means make your case known to anyone.] (Shakir, 2003: 274)

= Qur'an, Yusuf: 35) [English translation] ثُمَّ بَدَا لَهُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا رَأَوْا. -

Then it occurred to them after had seen..] (Shakir, 2003: 218)

Qur'an, The Food: 31) [English translation = ...So] فَأَصْبَحَ مِنَ النَّادِمِينَ. -

(he became of those who regret.] (Shakir, 2003: 100

Qur'an, The Israelites: 46) [English translation] وَجَعَلْنَا عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ أَكِنَّةً. -

[.= And we have placed coverings on their hearts

(Shakir, 2003: 264)

Qur'an, The Cow: 278) [English translation] وَذَرُوا مَا بَقِيَ مِنَ الرِّبَا. -

and relinquish what remains (due) from... =

usuary.] (Shakir, 2003: 41)

English:

- The boy was out of breath.
- Is your father in good health?

5.1.8 The relation with transitive/ intransitive verbs

Both languages deal with transitivity and intransitivity structure concerning linking verbs. For example:

Arabic:

transitive) [English translation = And when We) وأذ جعلنا البيتَ مثابة. -
made the House a pilgrimage for men.]

intransitive) [...and Allah's commandment) وظَهَرَ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ. -
prevailed.]

English:

- She could have made an excellent teacher. (transitive)

- She looked pale. (intransitive)

5.2 Differences

5.2.1 Number of the verbs of linking verbs

Nearly, there are (44= 36 common linking verbs + 8 verbs to be) linking verbs in English, but only (10 = 4 verbs to be + 6 other verbs implied the reference of linking verbs). (See 1.1 and 1.2 for English verbs; 4.1 and 4.2).

5.2.2 The classification of linking verbs

Linking verbs can be classified into two categories: (i) current linking verbs which identify current state or continuing state of existence (be, keep, seem, remain) and (ii) resulting linking verbs that show some process change (become, end up, get, fell, and turn). On the other hand, Arabic has not such categories (See 2.2.1 and 2.2.2).

5.2.3 Existence of the subject of the sentence

Only Arabic, sometimes, has no subject of the sentence, i.e., it is implied in some grammatical cases. English has the subject in the form of noun or pronoun as in the following examples:

Arabic:

English translation = ...So he became of those who] فأَصْبَحَ مِنَ النَّدَمِيِّينَ. -
regret.

The subject in this sentence is hidden [implied as هو (he) = anaphoric reference)] to avoid repetition.

English:

- The situation became unbearable.

Rather, in English the subject (situation) is existed.

5.2.4 Order of the elements

The English structure relating to linking verbs is [S (subj.) + (LV/ BE) C (complement = Aj/ N/ Av)]. The case in Arabic is different, the order is [V + S(subj.) + C (complement = Aj/ N/ Av) as in:

Arabic:

(English translation = The water kept/ remained cold) - بَقِيَ الْمَاءُ بَارِدًا .

Here, (V) refers to (بَقِيَ = kept), S (الماء = water), and C (Ad: باردا = cold).

English:

- William is my friend. [N1 (subj.) + be + N2(subj.)]
- She felt ill. [N (subj.) + LV+ C (Aj)]

5.2.5 The term linking verbs

This term (linking verbs) is limited to English not Arabic. Such a structure and meaning are implied in Arabic as counterparts of them.

5.2.6 The meaning of linking verbs

a) Appear refers to 'likelihood' or 'ability', whereas the Arabic similar verb ظَهَرَ (= zahara) means 'it appears and emerges after disappearance':

Arabic:

English translation = Corruption has appeared in the (ظَهَرَ الفسادُ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ. land and the sea.)

English:

- He appears a perfectly normal person.

b) Remain/ keep/ stay:

These three linking verbs have similar meaning in English (= the remaining and continuing existence), but we have one verb in Arabic referring to this meaning بَقِيَ (= baqiya).

Each of the three linking verbs (remain, keep and stay) is used with certain adjectives. Remain, not used with humans, comes with such adjectives as (unchanged, constant, intact, motionless, immobile, low, high, open, closed, controversial, uncertain, obscure, unknown), e.g.:

- The market remains complex and uncertain.
- The date of the final remains unchanged.

The verb keep comes with the adjectives (alive, awake, quiet, silent, secret, busy, fit, and warm):

- It's funny how he manages to keep awake.
- He was trying to keep warm.

Stay is similar to keep in that it usually reports situations that involve humans. Adjectives occurring with stay include (awake, dry, sober, alive, clear, loyal, and healthy):

- You can get your job back if you stay sober.
- She stayed awake long into the night.

The Arabic word بَقِيَ (= baqiya) is not used with certain adjectives:

(English translation = The water kept/ remained cold) بَقِيَ الماءُ بارداً . -

c) Sensory verbs

In English, five linking verbs are found in this sense (= feel, look, smell, sound, taste). The adjectives occurred as subject predicative to all five sensory linking verbs are (nice, good and bad). Arabic vocabulary distinguishes only two verbs in this sense [بَدَا (= badâ), and شَعَرَ (= sha'ara)]. In addition, all the five English sensory verbs are accompanied with some certain adjectives. Rather, there are no certain adjectives as in the following:

Arabic:

English translation = Then it occurred to] ثُمَّ بَدَا لَهُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا رَأَوْا . -

[..them after had seen

English translation = Now surely] أَلَا أَنَّهُمْ هُمُ الْمَفْسُودُونَ وَلَكِنْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ . -

they themselves are the mischief

[.makers, but they do not perceive

English:

Feel (= ashamed, bad, cold, good, guilty, sick, sure, tired, uncomfortable, and uneasy):

- I'll make you feel cold.
- I always feel guilty when I pass his house.

Look (nice awful, different, happy, lovely, pale, puzzled, sad, surprised, small, tired, good, well, and young):

- Do I look nice?
- Quite frankly she looked terrible.



Smell (awful, bad, funny, musty, odd, rotten, terrible, delicious, fresh, good, lovely, and nice):

- The food smelled good to her.
- It smells funny in there.

Sound (awful, angry, sad, and strange good, nice, silly, stupid and interesting):

- She doesn't sound angry anymore.
- That sounds good to me.

Taste (awful, horrible, nice, and wonderful):

- That boiled fruit tastes nice.
- The taste of them is dreadful. They just taste awful.

Conclusions

It has been concluded that there are some similarities as well as differences between MSE and MSA and as follows:

(i) Similarities

English and Arabic, regarding linking verbs, are similar in the following:

1. The notion of verbs to be or what is called 'copula'.
2. The same reference of the Arabic verbs [(بدا (= badaa), ظَهَرَ (= zahara), شَعَرَ (= sha'ara)] and the sensory verbs in English (=feel, look, smell, sound, taste).
3. The same indication of the English current linking verbs (be, keep, seem, and remain) with the three Arabic verbs [(كَانَ = kâna, بَقِيَ (= baqiya), and بدا (= badâ)].
4. The English resulting linking verbs (= become, end up, get, fell, and turn) and the Arabic verbs [تحوَّلَ (= taḥawwal), جعلَ (= ja'ala), كَانَ (= kâna), أصبحَ (= aṣbaha), أمسى (= amsâ), and ظلَّ (= ḥalla)].
5. Modification by adjectives as subject complement in both English (be, seem, remain, keep, become turn, and get) and Arabic [(بَقِيَ (= baqiya), أصبحَ (= aṣbaha), أمسى (= amsâ), and ظلَّ (= ḥalla)].
6. Noun phrase as subject complement in English (be, appear, look, feel, seem, sound, remain, stay, become, come, end up, turn, turn out, play, and stand) and Arabic [(ظلَّ (= ḥalla), (كَانَ = kâna), أصبحَ (= aṣbaha), أمسى (= amsâ), (بدا (= badâ), (تحوَّلَ (= taḥawwal), (بَقِيَ (= baqiya), (ظَهَرَ (= zahara), جعلَ (= ja'ala), شَعَرَ

.(sha'ara =)

7. The structure [N (subj.) + be + Av] as subject complement in both English linking verbs (be, seem, turn out) and Arabic [verbs to be ('kâna wa akhawâtuhâ') and other verbs meaning linking verbs) + N (Subj.) + Adverbial Complement].

8. Transitivity and intransitivity structure concerning linking verbs.

(ii) Differences:

In relation to linking verbs, the two languages differ in the following points:

1.

2. Number of the verbs of linking verbs, i.e., English (44 = 36 common linking verbs + 8 verbs to be), Arabic (10 = 4 verbs to be + 6 other verbs implied the reference of linking verbs).

3. Only English Linking verbs are (current and resulting linking verbs).

4. Only Arabic, sometimes, has no subject of the sentence, i.e., it is implied in some grammatical cases.

5. Order of the elements, i.e., English structure [S (subj.) + (LV/ BE) C (complement = Aj/ N/ Av)]; Arabic is different [V + S (subj.) + C (complement = Aj/ N/ Av)].

6. The existence of such a term, i.e., linking verbs separately. As a separate grammatical, it is found in English only. The difference in meaning of the groups of linking verbs in English and the ones indicating their meaning in Arabic, i.e., English (Appear, Remain/ keep/ stay, and Sensory verbs) and Arabic (ظهر (= zahara), بقي (= baqiya), and بدا (= badâ)/ شعر (= sha'ara)].



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