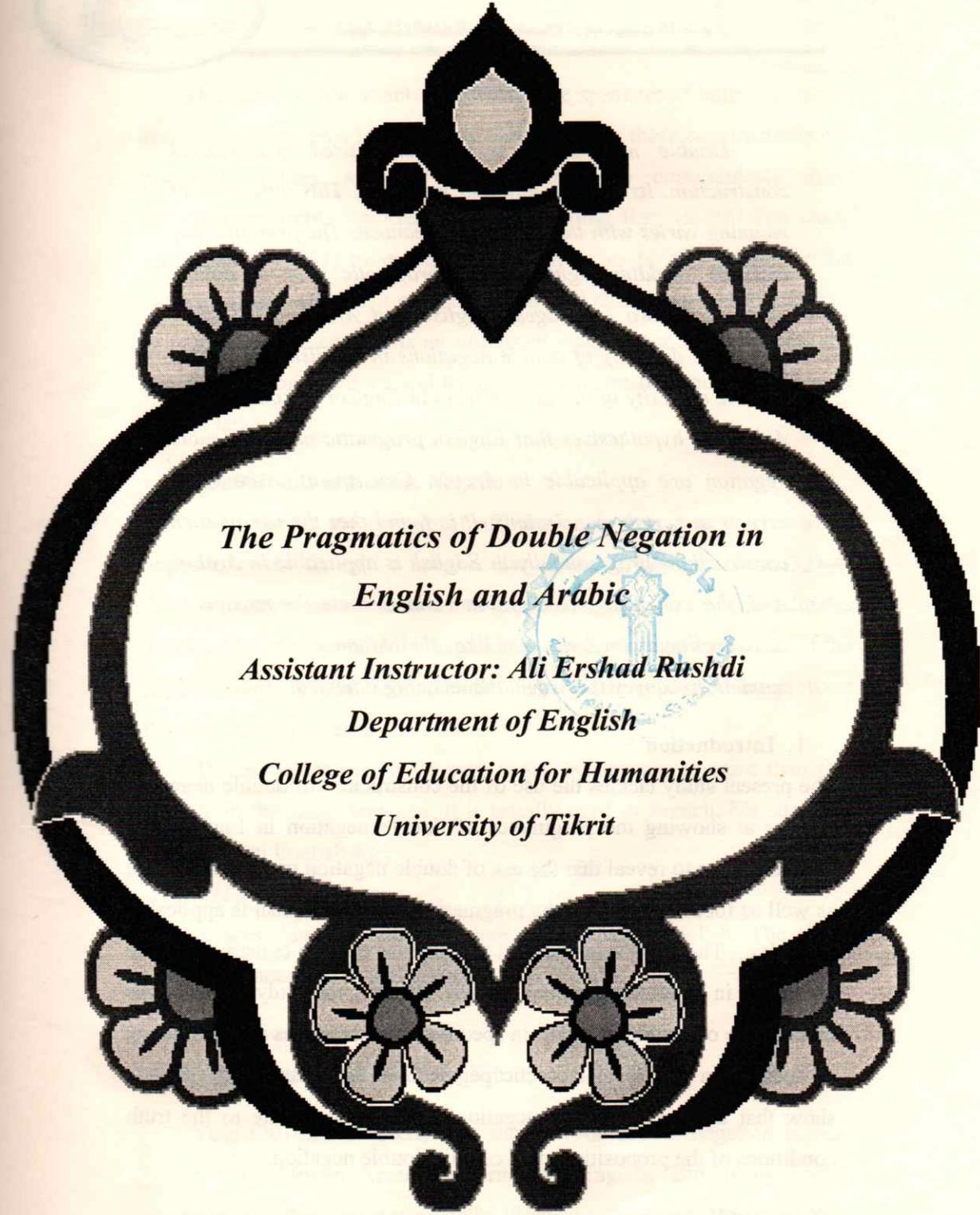


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*The Pragmatics of Double Negation in  
English and Arabic*

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### Abstract

*Double negation is a commonly used grammatical construction. Its use has different meanings. This difference of meaning varies with the variation of context. The present study aims at shedding lights on the pragmatic uses of double negation in two languages: English and Arabic. The paper shows the diversity of double negations in English and Arabic and the diversity of the uses of them in English as compared to Arabic. It hypothesizes that English pragmatic uses of double negation are applicable in Arabic. Consequently, the study arrives at certain conclusions. It is found that the use of such constructions pragmatically in English is applicable in Arabic. And, the use of double negation violates some the maxims of conversational implicature: like the Manner and Quality maxims, to convey the pragmatic meaning intended.*

#### 1. Introduction

The present study tackles the use of the construction of double negation. It aims at showing the pragmatics of double negation in English and Arabic. It tries to reveal that the use of double negation pragmatically and as well as focusing whether the pragmatic model in English is applicable to Arabic. The study hypothesizes that the use of such constructions are applicable in both languages under study. Besides, the study hypothesizes that the use of double negation in specific contexts makes it as a strategy of hedging in politeness-theoretic perspective. And, they study tries to show that the use of double negation does not contribute to the truth conditions of the propositions that contain double negation.



This study is important to the language speakers of both languages. Its significance stems from the fact that the use of these constructions has pragmatic values; speakers and hearers who communicate these constructions imply pragmatically the meaning they intend. The study takes Horn's (1991) pragmatic division labor to be the model for the analysis to see whether it can be applied to Arabic language. It attempts to reveal that the context is an important element for understanding the use of these constructions and the use of such constructions is applicable in both languages.

### 1.1 Definitions of Double Negation

Negation is the reverse of affirmation in grammar; it shows the opposite of the thought a speaker has in mind. Crystal (2008: 323-4) defines negation as a semantic and grammatical process which indicates ambivalence. Grammatically, negation is usually formed by the use of the negative particle 'not'. Semantically, negation is expressed by prefixes like (in-, im-, un-...etc).

Double negation, for Crystal, is the occurrence of more than one particle in the same sentence. It is usually used in French, but such use also exists in English e.g.:

(1) *I am not unhappy.*

Crystal sees that such use is common in dialectal English. The above sentence is accepted as stylistically marked, and:

(2) *I have not done nothing.*

which is accepted in standard English.

Yule (2014:264) asserts that such use of double negation is very common in African American vernacular English. But, using double negation in such a way appears to be illogical or "sloppy". However, Yule



points out that the use of such construction is a sociolinguistic one, because of the dialectal and variational uses of these languages which differ from one region to another.

### 1.2 The Scope of Double Negation

As known, negation in English has a specific scope. Quirk and Greenbaum (1973: 187) assure the importance of the scope of negation in English sentences. They assert that a negative form may govern the non-assertive only if the non-assertive is within the scope of negation. Besides, it may extend to negate the whole phrase or sentence.

Horn (1991: 82) states that there are two different environments whereby negations are directly associated with the previously negated grammatical constituents:

(3) a: *He's not an unhappy man.*

b: *He's a not unhappy man.*

(4) a: *It's not an impossible task.*

B: *It's a not impossible task.*

In (3a) and (4a) the negation lies outside the predicate which has a sentential scope and the sentences hereby form 'predicate denial'. In (4b) and (4b), which are prenominal positions, both negatives function as term or constituent negation.

### 1.3 Kinds of Double Negation

About the kinds of double negation, there appears to have certain kinds of it. The following are the main ones:

1. Negative Concord: van der Wouden (1997: 182) defines the term negative concord as the form of any negation whenever it extends



to more than one negation. He gives two subclasses of negative concord: negative spread and negative doubling.

(5) *Nobody said **nothing** to **no** one.*

2. Affixal Negation: it the kind of negation which is formed by the use of a negative particle and the prefix on the following adjective, e.g.:

(6) *This is **not uncommon**.*

Horn (2001: 298).

3. Resumptive negation: is a kind of double negative. It is made when a negative sentence has been completed and after that a negative form is added; as in:

(7) *He **cannot sleep, not even** after taking an opiate.*

(Horn, 2010: 116)

4. Paratactic Negation: this kind of negation is the one which is located in a clause which is dependent on the verb of negative form like deny, forbid, hinder, doubt, etc. as in:

(8) *First he **denied** you had in him **no** right.* (ibid: 121).

5. Pleonastic negation: it is a kind of negation which is formed by the repetition of the negative words over and over. It has some expletive markers which raise the force of negation and it is the same with paratactic negation; as in:

(9) *I will **never go to any party, even in my life, not even if the world ends.***

#### 1.4 Double Negation and Rhetoric (Litotes): The Pragmatics of Double Negation

'Litotes' along with 'hyperbole' is a pragmatic strategy. They are used in rhetoric. It is the use of a negative to express an affirmative.



Leech (1983:145-9) names it as (understatement). Litotes contributes to the violation of the conversational maxims. They violate the maxims to give more meaning.

Double negation expresses rhetoric. van der Wouden (1997: 180) shows how this phenomenon is a rhetorically oriented.

(10) *His new book is not bad.*

The meaning of the double negation formed by the negative particle and the negative adjective (bad) means that; neither the 'book' is bad nor good. But it seems as if it is in-between. This form of double negation which expresses rhetoric is 'litotes'. Litotes is a figure of rhetoric in which an affirmative is made by negative.

van der Wouden (1997: 215) stresses that fact that the use of this phenomenon would express by its negative use a more positive and affirmative expression. That is, it gives more implications than its simple positive form.

Horn (1991: 85) puts a pragmatic division of the use of double negation in that there is a special intention for the speaker. It dictates the following:

*The use of a longer, marked expression in lieu of a shorter expression involving less effort on the part of the speaker tends to signal that the speaker was not in a position to employ the simpler version felicitously*

By so doing, the cooperative speaker flouts the maxim of manner (be brief) of conversation, to give be informative. On his part, the cooperative hearer who is obeying the maxim of relevance would understand this long



version as there is something special viz. certain context, which makes the speaker choose the long path, i.e., the use of double negation.

### 1.5 Double Negation and Conversational Implicature

One of the important theories in the field of pragmatics is conversational implicature theory. The theory is first coined by the philosopher Herbert Paul Grice through lectures delivered at Harvard University. Grice finds out that speakers and hearers cooperate between each other to cope with conversations. He concludes that communicants when they speak they mean more than what they say. Utterances that belong to what is said Grice calls 'conventional implicature' viz., those that belong to what is said. But, when the communicants intend to mean more than what they say, he names this a 'conversational implicature'.

Grice (1989: 22-7) shows that normal conversations with their speakers and hearers follow the cooperative principle he proposes. This cooperative principle has a super maxim and other maxims. Cooperative principle is defined as "make your conversational contribution such as is required, at the stage at which it occurs by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged. One might label this the Cooperative Principle". He follows them with other maxims and their sub-maxims. These are:

#### " 1. Quantity:

A: make your contribution as informative as is required (for the current purpose of the exchange).

B: do not make your contribution more informative than is required.

#### 2. Quality: Try to make your contribution one that is true.



A: do not say what you believe to be false.

B: do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence.

3. Relevance: be relevant

4. Manner:

A: avoid obscurity of expression.

B: avoid ambiguity.

C: Be Brief (avoid unnecessary prolixity).

D: Be orderly."

Grice (ibid) does not impose these rules of conversations to make speakers follow them literally. He asserts that these maxims and sub-maxims can be flouted or violated. In doing so, the conversational implicature is again of two other kinds: particularized (requiring specific and particular context) and generalized conversational implicatures. These super-maxim, maxims, and sub-maxims do not contribute to the truth value of the propositions expressed by them.

Double negation, as for Grice (1989:74) can be used pragmatically. Horn (1991: 82) shows that the use of double negation is a complete violation of the certain maxims of Grice's maxims. Saying 'he is not unaware or it is not without seat belt' violates the maxims of quantity, quantity, and manner for the purpose of further communication. So, the use of double negation is a kind of implicature; especially, with flouting and violating the maxims.

### 1.6 Double Negation and Politeness

Politeness theory is a sociolinguistic theory which has a great connection to the matters of differences in one society to another. English



society has its own norms and conventions; and, Arabic has its own too. However, politeness is defined through the self-image that any speaker has and needs to keep in any speaking community. 'Face' is the self-image. There are two kinds of 'face': negative and positive face. One's 'Face' can be saved or threatened viz. it can be maintained, lost or enhanced there are ways of saving the two kinds of 'face'. One of these ways or strategies is 'hedging' (Brown and Levinson: 1987: 61).

A 'hedge' is a one strategy of politeness. It is found in illocutionary force in speech act theory and Grice's theory of implicature. Brown and Levinson define the term 'hedge' as:

*a particle, word, or phrase that modifies the degree of membership of a predicate or noun phrase in a set; it says of that membership that is partial, or true only in certain respects, or that is more true and complete than perhaps might be expected.*

(Brown and Levinson: 1987:145)

Sometimes, hedges are considered performatives because they modify the performative speech acts as in:

*guess*

(11) I {suppose} that Henry is coming.

*think*

Brown and Levinson believe that communicative intentions are principled and put in speech acts and when this happens, the possibilities of getting the faces threatened are large. For example, to ask somebody to do a favor or to do something means that they are able to do it but still



they have not done it yet; or, to promise to do something is to admit that one has not done this till now. Hedges are the most important linguistic elements that satisfy the speaker's want. That is, in politeness a speaker must not assume that his hearer is able or is willing to do what the speaker asks. Yule (1996: 38) defines hedges as those words that are uttered and expressed cautiously about how an expression or an utterance is to be taken. For example, 'as far as I know', it is used when someone tries to give some items of information.

Concerning the politeness of double negation, Horn (1991:91) pinpoints the use of this form viz. double negation politely. He dictates that the politeness of it works as the speaker knows and strongly believes what the addressee holds, but is too polite, modest, or wants to mention it directly. In using double negatives, one might use it as a loophole in certain special contexts. Besides, Leech (1983:145-9) admits that the use of litotes is for politeness purposes, knowing that double negation has a form of litotes. Horn (1991: 92) shows that the use of it carries the effect on 'face'. For examples, if someone tries to defend his best friend who does not know or unaware of the answer of an important question and he is not right there in the conversation. His friend says:

(12) *He is not unaware.*

Then, he uses the loopholistic double negation. In so doing, the speaker is in search to get rid of the direct expression of face-threaten act. Thus, using double negation works a one element of the strategy of politeness, namely: 'hedging' (Horn, 1991: 91).

### 1.7 The Pragmatics of Double Negation in Expressing Denial



Double negation can be used pragmatically to express 'denial'. It is used to express an implicature which implicates 'denial' (Davis, 2016: 120). In this regard, double negation pragmatically reflects 'denial':

(13) *Every Cat is not Black.*

(a) *Every cat is black. (root)*

(b) *It is not the case that not every cat is black. (implicature of root)*

(c) *Not every cat is black. (this is a denial of root implicature in (b))*

In certain context, it is double negation which implicates that not every cat is necessarily black. That is, speakers do not commonly use sentences of the form 'Every S is P' with such a double-negative implicature. By this, it is concluded that double negation is far from expressing the denial semantically; but rather, it is pragmatically implicates the denial via its implication to the sentence given. Carston (2002:304-5) explains how double negation works out denial. She asserts that the denial of the presupposed negation has nothing to do with its proposition said.

(14) *She loves him; she doesn't love him* (p; q)

(a) *If she loves him, she doesn't love him. (if p then not q)*

(b) *If she **doesn't** love him, she **doesn't** love him, (if q then not p)*

By this contradiction found in (13b), the meaning is pragmatically figured out which obviously contradicts the proposition. It is a pragmatic narrowing. This pragmatic narrowing adheres to the sentence like the one above making it pragmatically strengthen the negation. In relevance-theoretic pragmatics, it gives rise to the cognitive effects preserving the presupposition of denial (Carston, 2002: 307).



### 1.8 Context and Double Negation

The context is an important element in the study of linguistics in general, and in pragmatics in particular. Mey (2001: 39) defines the concept context and stresses its importance. He asserts that context is a dynamic not a static concept. It can be seen as the changing surroundings which make the speakers and hearers able in the communication process to interact.

Yule (2014: 127-8) classifies two kinds of context. The first kind is context or linguistic context which means the strings of words built together in one sentence. The second kind is the physical context which concerns the real physical environment which indicates a location where speakers and hearers see and observe the words in. For example, the homonymous word 'bank' which is known to have two different meanings (financial institution and riverside), in this regard, these problematic words cause some ambiguity. The context whether physical or linguistic context, is capable of disambiguate the meaning of them:

(15) *She has to get to the bank to withdraw some cash.*

Here, the meaning of the word bank is obvious because of the linguistic context which makes it clear that it is the building (financial institution) not, of course, the riverside.

The pragmatics of double negation works hand in hand with the concept of context. Horn (1991: 84), Horn (2001: 303), and Horn (2010:116-7) focus on the importance of context in the light of the use of double negation. In this vain, Horn, stipulating the pragmatic labor of double negation, asserts that there are certain contexts in which the meaning of double negation differs. The pragmatics of double negation



exists and lives in the context. For example, in certain contexts, the use of double negation by some speakers who tend and intentionally intend to violate the conversational implicature maxim of Quality when one speaker utters:

(16) *He is not unwise.*

Uttering this, the speaker, in his specific situation, is not sure of the described person's knowledge of certain domain and his wisdom in it. So, he conveys a meaning which is communicated more than what is really being said in (16) above (See also: Israel, 2005: 702).

## 2. The Model Adopted

The use of two negatives strengthens each other (van der Wouden, 1997: 243). Horn (1991: 92) has done a pragmatic division that the use of longer expressions instead of the shorter one carries a pragmatic meaning. He sets forward the following categories:

- A. Quality: the speaker is not sure what the addressee holds or is sure it does no; like: *He might not come in here no more.*
- B. Politeness: the speaker knows what the hearer holds, but his is too polite; as in: *he is not without moral.* Here, the speaker uses the double negation in litotes to show mitigation and to give the other speaker who is not in the exchange a loophole.
- C. Irony: the speaker acts as if s/he is hesitant, unsure, and modest even when these propositional attitudes are put on for the situation; as in: *I am not disenjoying it.* Relying on the familiar assumptions of the speakers and hearers, a large number of uses of double negation can be meant to carry ironical utterances.



- D. Weight or impressiveness of style: the speaker violates brevity precisely to avoid brevity. This happens when the speaker follows a longer path and leaves the shorter one this also calls metaphorically the style used; *it is not unblack dog.*
- E. Absence of corresponding positive: double negation sometimes is used because the speaker thinks that all other sentences are not suitable except the use of double negation or it is not appropriate to use that utterance in the current context.
- F. Parallelism of structure: not - A is in juxtaposition with earlier un B as in the construction B-negation {if/but} B', where B' is more naturally realized as a double negation; like: if he denies that he is not unhappy, then he really means it. Here, the double negative form is more principally more natural than the affirmative; like: *Unexpected but not unwelcome.*
- G. Minimization of processing: in contexts of direct rebuttal or contradiction: the speaker's assertion X is not un- A that is triggered by the earlier assertion to the effect that the speaker's assertion is un-A; like: *It is not impossible.*

The above categories will be referred to according to the order letters given to each. The data to be analyzed according to the above criteria (the model) are chosen from different English references.

### 3. English Data Analysis

Armed with the categories above in mind, the following English utterances are going to be analyzed according to them. Thence, the analysis goes as follows:

**Text (12):**



*He is not unaware.*

- A. -
- B. Here, the speaker tries to show, by hedging, to make a loophole for him to save his face.
- C. -
- D. It is a must that the speaker violate the maxim of manner in order to show some pragmatic values.
- E. There is no competitive sentence and expressive sentence other than this in this context.
- F. -
- G. The speaker minimizes the effort for him and for his hearer, for the necessity of politeness.

**Text (16):**

*He is not unwise.*

- A. The Speaker does not know or is not quite sure whether the subject of the sentence (16) is wise or not.
- B. - Concerning the politeness of the text (16), it shows that the speaker tries to maintain his 'face'.
- C. -
- D. Here, the speaker knows that he violates the maxim of manner; namely the sub-maxim of 'Be Brief' because of the necessity of the conversation and the context.
- E. Here the speaker does not find any other explanation than the one given in the form of double negation.
- F. -
- G. It usually does minimize the effort of both speakers and hearers.



Pragmatically, the polite use of the double negation in (16), is a loophole and as if its use is a cowardly hesitated one. Here, the speaker searches to dodge the direct expression of a face-threatening act using this construction (double negation) as a 'hedge' to avoid threatening the face. Again, double negation in litotes can be used. Horn (1991: 90) says that the use of double negation is used as understatement i.e. litotes; as in text (17):

**Text (17):**

*The eyes [of the 7-eleven cashier] focus on me more sharply. "Honey, you don't need the personals. I mean you're **not uncute**"*

*I slid behind the wheel. "Did you realize I'm **not uncute**?"*

*"You're not what?"*

*"uncute. According to the cashier" (Horn, 1991:92)*

This use of double negation is ironical. Nash (cited in Horn, 1991:92) shows that the use of double negation in British is ironical and reveals understatement. This happens because the speakers depend on their common knowledge. Thus, they conclude, when ironical double negation is intended, that this is an ironical utterance.

A. -

B. Positive face act since the speaker uses an ironical utterance

C. Here the speaker uses the utterance ironically and he knows that the hearer of his utterance knows that it is ironical. Here, the use of double negation does not contribute to the truth-conditions of the utterance. Rather, it implies an ironical meaning which conveys an implicature.



D. – E- F- G-

**Text (18):**

"If you're from Washington Heights you probably think of Inwood as just a section of the neighborhood', said Sgt. Robert Parente of the 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct, which takes in the entire area north of 155<sup>th</sup> Street. "But if you're from Inwood you're more likely to think of it as separate. That's mainly because people don't want to be associated with Washington Heights' reputation as the crack capital of the world. "But he added that the image is *not undeserved*. On several blocks south of 18<sup>th</sup> Street and east of Broadway a multi-million dollar drug market has long flourished"

N. Y. Times, 8/20/1989 cited in Horn (1991:93)

A. The (18) the speaker knows and is sure of the contrary of the implied meaning he gives and he deliberately violates the maxim of manner and quantity.

B\_ C

D- the writer intentionally violates the maxim of Manner (be Brief) for the sake of creating an impressive style or expressive style and because there is on other way equivalent than to follow the longer path of double negation.

E- Here, the most prominent implicature given is that the absence of the best positive form. The hearer understands the implicature as the best of the speaker at this context.

F- no juxtaposition is expressed.

G- The writer drives facilitates to the reader the text. He tries to reduce the amount of effort on the part of the hearer.



#### 4. Double Negation in Arabic

##### 4.1 Negation in Arabic

Negation in Arabic is little wider than in English. Because of the diversity of the particles that are used to achieve negation. The meaning of negation in general is different according to the particles that are used. Aziz (1989:239) mentions that the negation in Arabic is achieved by certain particles such as LAN, LAIS, LA ...etc. Each particle has its own grammatical function. For example:

(18) *They will not understand what you say.*      لن يفهموا كلامك

(19) *I don't know the answer.*      لا اعرف الجواب

(ibid)

Again, negation has its own scope and focus in Arabic the way it has in English (See Aziz, 1989).

##### 4.2 Double Negation in Arabic

Alssamurai (2000: 229) says that the structure of double negation in Arabic language has its own characteristics. It is often done by the doubling of the Arabic negative particle or by the use of two different particles (See Hassan, 1990:20); like:

(20) *Muhammad is not not standing right.*      ما ما محمد قائم

(21) *I did not not go*      لا لم اذهب

It is also done by the use of the negative particle with the combination of a word that carries the meaning of negation.



(22) *I don't mind that he is not coming.* لا امانع ان لا يحضر (22)

قال يا ابليسُ مَا مَنَعَكَ اَنْ تَسْجُدَ لِمَا خَلَقْتُ بِيَدَي (23) (ibid)

'Almighty Allah said: O Iblis (Satan)! What prevents you from prostrating yourself to one whom I created with Both My Hands' (Alhilali and Khan, 1983:616).

Here, the translators hide the grammatical structure of double negation in Arabic for the sake of the meaning of the translating the Holy Ayah. But its structure in Arabic has the form of double negation. In this regard, Alssamurai (2000: 230) explains the grammatical and the semantic structure of the Glorious Ayah saying that the double negation in this Glorious Ayah has the meaning of double negation since that the Satan refuses to obey Almighty Allah's order that he, in reality did not knee.

#### 4.3 The Scope of Negation And Double Negation in Arabic

Arabic language scope of negation is similar to that of English. Aziz (1989: 242) says that the scope of negation is perceived by stress and intonation. The scope starts with the negative particle and extends to the end of the clause. Together with the accompanied adverbials that express negation which may occupy the position at the end. Or, such adverbials may not occur at all in the scope of negation, as in:

(24) *I have never seen him* (لم اراه قط)

(25) *I'll never go there* (لن اذهب الى هناك ابدا)

Here, the use of the non-assertive forms قط and ابدا shows that they are included within the scope. In double negation, the scope of negation



would either negate the whole sentence, or the word or action followed by the particle.

#### 4.4 The Meaning of Double Negation in Arabic

Arabic double negation has some similarity despite the diversity of Arabic negative particles. Alssamurai (2000: 229) has two different explanations to the meaning this construction. The first is the view which says that negating a negative word or sentence results in forming a positive; like example (20) repeated below:

(20) *Muhammad is not not standing.* (ما ما محمد قائم)

which means that Muhammad is standing. This is the negation of a negation as in the case when someone says:

(27) *Muhammad is not standing* (ما محمد قائم)

and the hearer of this replies as (28) above.

The second view, on the other hand, is that which makes emphasis. It stresses that the use of double negation has an emphatic use; like:

(28) *No I didn't go.* (لا لم اذهب)

This means that the speaker affirms and emphasizes that he did not go not to negate the negation.

#### 5. Arabic Pragmatic Analysis

According to the pragmatic model given above, Arabic language in certain contexts and especially when double negation is used, it has pragmatic meaning. Abdul-Raof (2006:101) asserts that pragmatic effects can be driven from word order and that is especially done by negation.



Abdul-Raof also asserts that doubling a negation holds an affirmative like:

(29) لا لا احب الظلم *No, I don't like injustice.*

He adds that Arabic rhetoric concerns the way that sentences are formed to convey stylistic and aesthetic mode.

To take a sample from the examples above and to apply the English pragmatic models given by Horn (1991) and Horn (2010), the meaning of Arabic double negation is going to be different according to the context:

#### Text (20)

ما ما محمد قائم

- A. The Speaker does not know or is not quite sure of Muhammad's state. So he violates the maxim of quality; that is he says what he lacks evidence for.
- B. – C
- D. Here, the speaker knows that he violates the maxim of manner; namely the sub-maxim of 'Be Brief' because of the necessity of the conversation and the context.
- E. Here the speaker does not find any other explanation than the one given in the form of double negation.
- F. Here, the speaker minimizes the effort for him and implicating the meaning to the hearer of him, giving.

In another context, the analysis differs. If a speaker tries to make a loophole for him and for another person not specifically his interlocutor, and says the following:



**Text (30):**

ليس لا يغيب عن الدرس *Not that he is not present on the class*

- A. –
- B. He tries a loophole by hedging to save his face. So, by the use of double negation and hedging, he expresses politeness. This happens if the speaker intends this utterance to a high level class for example his teacher.
- C. It could have the speaker meant that he is ironic if it was meant and said by the speaker at the same grade for example a student to student.
- D. Here, the speaker knows that he violates the maxim of manner; namely the sub-maxim of 'Be Brief' because of the necessity of the conversation and the context, for the sake of expressing politeness and irony.
- E. Here the speaker does not find any other explanation than the one given in the form of double negation.
- F. –
- G. Here, the speaker tries the path of least effort for himself and leaves the door open for the hearer to interpret the utterance.

Arabic language can also express pragmatic use of double negation in forming polite expressions by the use of double negation, as asked by the speaker who is accusing someone about being immoral, as in text (31):

**Text (31):**

هو ليس بلا ضمير *He is not without consciousness.*

- A. –



- B. He tries a loophole by hedging to save his face. So, by the use of double negation and hedging, he expresses politeness.
- C. – D\_
- E. Here the speaker does not find any other explanation than the one given in the form of double negation.
- F. The speaker of the double negation in this text tries to minimize the hearer's processing effort.
- G. –

**Text (32):**

لم يقل لن يغير طباعه He did not say he will not change his behavior.

In text (32) above, the context is that the speaker tries to stand with and defend the person who is there in the conversation. He tries a loophole for himself and his third person who is not there. The analysis hereby goes as follows:

- A. The speaker is sure of the reverse of the thing mentioned, i.e., he will not change his behavior. So, he implies his assurance of that the reverse is more probably the truth.
- B. Politely, the speaker tries a hedging as a loophole. By doing so, he attempts to save both the speaker's and the person's face.
- C. Ironically, the speaker tries to be modest forming an utterance that he is shows a rebuttal of the second speaker's utterance.
- D. The speaker violates the maxim of manner. He does this for the sake of impressiveness of his style. That is, when the speaker violates the maxim of manner (be brief)n he then tries to imply certain messages like that he defends his friend politely, that he is sort of sure of his behavior will change and the like.
- E. – F- G



So, through this analysis, the use of double negation in Arabic can be achieved. By the use of Horn', it is found out that Arabic double negation and its use are applicable. And it has showed that the meaning of double negation in Arabic differs with the difference of the context in which these double negations are used.

#### 6. Concluding Remarks

After acquainting to the uses of double negation in English and Arabic, the following conclusions are drawn:

1. Both English and Arabic have pragmatic uses in their constructions of double negation.
2. Context in English and Arabic is an essential element in the comprehension of the use of such double negation.
3. One pragmatic aspect is that the infringing of the maxim of Quality in English and Arabic in specific contexts i.e., when the speaker is not sure of what he says.
4. Both English and Arabic language in respect to double negation share the use of politeness. That is, Arabic speakers can express politeness by the use of double.
5. The use of double negation breeches the maxim of manner. In this regard, whether in English and Arabic, speakers of both languages have special intention to give the most prolonged sentences than the simple ordered or brief viz. obeying Grice's Maxims of conversational implicature; as is seen in Horn's pragmatic division of double negation.
6. Given that in (5) above, the use of double negation does not belong to the truth value. They are non-truth conditional. They carry pragmatic meaning since they communicate more



meaning than is said as in the case of the ironical use of double negation.

7. The use of double negation has a face of universality. Its use can be applied in two or more than three languages. (See van der Wouden (2007).
8. It is preferable that its use be in spoken language.

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