

Frequency of Clause Patterns in English and Arabic Texts

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تاريخ الاستلام 2025/5/1 تاريخ القبول: 2025/6/1 تاريخ النشر: 2025/6/15

Abstract:

The present study sheds light on clause patterns in English and Arabic texts in order to measure the frequencies of clauses in the two different languages. In English, there are nine basic patterns and a multitude of sub-pattern clauses. Anyone who speaks English, he/she will probably be based on one of them. On the other hand, Arabic clauses are of two main patterns namely, verbal and nominal. The study aims at investigating frequency of clauses in English and Arabic, and to draw a comparison between both languages. Arabic has two major sentence patterns, namely nominal sentence and verbal sentence. The data of the study are collected from different sources of English and Arabic references and analyzed them according to a quantitative method. The findings and conclusions are hoped to be useful for those who are interested in foreign languages

Keywords: Clause patterns, word order, subject, verb, object, complement

Introduction

Arabic and English are two unrelated languages. This means that when any syntactic phenomenon is studied in Arabic, there absolutely will be a different from English language.

Several studies are tackled the sentences structure of Arabic and English . However, there are fairly few broad analyses of frequency of clauses in both English and Arabic, in addition to little attention has been given to the relevance of using any particular set of occurrences in modeling human being language. I provide a complete set of clause frequencies for a multiplicity of written amounts, focusing on patterns that have played a critical role in organizing texts. Accordingly, one can notice that English and Arabic are vary in many aspects. One of these aspects is a clause pattern. This leads the researcher to identify this work to examine the most important

differences and similarities between English and Arabic clause patterns. When students of foreign languages start to write and perform any syntactic phenomenon in a text, they will face some difficulties. In his study (Hazem,2015:31) concludes that that students still have a long way to go in writing satisfactory essays in English. In a similar fashion, Hazem (2017:79 a) states that students make grammatical errors concerning quantifiers due to two main reasons: interlingual and intralingual; both affect the way they compose their essays. The word order in English and Arabic is different, for example the English word order is Subject, Verb, Object (SVO), whereas Arabic is VSO. Interestingly, modern standard Arabic word order is verb, subject and object (VSO) which needs full agreement between subject and the verb. (Hazem, 2017: 373 b). According to Hazem and Meteab, (2019:97), the processes of inflection is different in Arabic and English. Kamil and Hazem, (2019:340 a) point out that the structure of Arabic language is different from the English one. In their study about a syntactic phenomenon, Kamil and Hazem (2019 b) tackle with a linguistic phenomenon and how the students are translating alternative question from Arabic into English. Their study concludes with some recommendations to students, translators and learners to develop their competence of alternative questions. Another study was done Meteab et al, (2020) state that the suffix(-ing) is one of the characterization of nouns in English which is different from Arabic. Derived nouns ending in -ing have the characterization of mass nouns, because their profiled region lacks bounding within the scope of predication. (Meteab et al. 2020: 63). Kamil and Hazem (2020:14) argue that the students of English use and apply the target prepositions according to their native language. It is an important to understand that the comparison between English and Arabic clauses are interesting subject to investigate. Therefore, the writer interests to choose it. For the exploring need he has some problems that has formulated as follows:

1. Are there any similarities between English and Arabic

clauses?

2. Are there any differences between English and Arabic clauses?

The aim of the current paper is to show how patterns of clauses development differ in English and Arabic texts. It also aims to analyze, from a contrastive perspective, the structure function of Arabic lexical units that carry out an evidential role, focusing on their translation into English. It is stated that English and Arabic differ in oral and written. Hence, the clause patterns will be different. By doing this paper, the researcher hope that this study will be interested for students and the readers. Students who will get the information in using different clause patterns in the comparison of both languages. The reader can understand easier in comparing the clauses of the both of languages.

The objective of the study

The present study is undertaken with the objective of establishing what clause patterns actually occur. More in particular, the researcher tries to find answers to the following questions:

1. What patterns are most commonly used, and what is their distribution and the ratio of sentences and clauses in which we find versions of the basic clause patterns?
2. What are the differences and similarities between English and Arabic clause patterns ?

From the definition of the basic sentence types as observed in the grammatical explanation that was used in the analysis of the corpus material and which largely agrees with the clause type definitions given in Quirk *et al.* (1972).

The following clause patterns are the most obligatory patterns in written English texts:

1. Subject -Verb *(intransitive)* (SV)
Mary came.
2. Subject -Verb *(intensive)* (CS)

Chomsky is a linguist.

3. Subject -Verb (*monotransitive*) (O_d)

I have passed the exam.

4. Subject -Verb (*ditransitive*) (O_d- O_i)

My teacher gave us the results.

5. Subject -Verb (*complex transitive*) (O_d- C_o)

They elected Jack a representative of the class.

Passivization of English Clause patterns

As it was shown in previous section, the major seven clause patterns are used in English. In this section I am going to introduce the passive forms of these patterns in order to see the structure of each pattern after the process of personalization.

Table 2. The patterns of active and passive sentences

No.	Active Patterns	Passive Patterns
1	John laughed	0
2	John played tennis	Tennis was played
3	John is tall	0
4	John gave Jane a present	Jane was give a present / A present was given to Jane
5	John made Jane angry	Jane was made angry
6	John sat up	0
7	John put the bag down	The bag was put down

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8	Jane bought fruit.	Fruit was bought
9	Our previous teacher has been teaching grammar.	A grammar has been being taught

Unlike English, Arabic passive voice is not formed with passive auxiliary and participle. It is made by altering the vowel of the active verb. Thus, Arabic and English do not exhibit parallel structures for the passive forms. In other words, the two languages lack structural adjustments to achieve equivalence in meaning. Moreover, Arabic passive verb is assigned by means of 'affixation' in both perfective and imperfect tenses; English is determined by word order (Hemadidia,2016). The Arabic parallel to an intransitive that has not resulted by an object or a complement is intransitive:

1. *The boy went.* ذهب الولد
2. *She read.* قرأت
3. *The man is walking along the street* يمشي الرجل في الشارع
4. *They sat on the bench* جلسوا على المقعد
5. *She stood on the chair* لقد وقف على الكرسي
6. *I went to school.* ذهبت الى المدرسة

Classification of clause patterns in Arabic
the clauses in Arabic are classified into nominal and verbal. A nominal pattern does not have a verb whereas a verbal does. Consider the following examples:

1. was^ʕala (verbal) arrive 3rd sing. Sami. N. 'Sami arrived'. sami
2. Sami (nominal) Sami N. student N. t'alib

‘Sami is a student’.

3. ḥmad d min Libya
Ahmed N. from Libya N.
‘Ahmad is from Libya’

4. ar- risa:latu qas’i:ratun
the- letter short
‘ the letter is short’

5. ar-risalah ṣala l- maktabi
the-letter on the- desk
‘The letter is on the desk’.

The verbal sentence has three elements; the verb, the subject and the object. The verb can be transitive (has an object) as in:

6. rakala ḥmad al kurah
Kicked Ahmed the ball
‘ Ahmed kicked the ball’.

Or intransitive (doesn’t have an object) as in:

7. ḏahaba al radzul
Went the man
‘the man went’

The subject can be explicit noun or implied pronoun. Consider the following examples:

8. dzaʔa ʔamir (Explicit noun subject)
came Amir
‘Amir came’

9. wasʕala mutaʔaxiran
Arrived lately
‘He arrived lately’

The object in Arabic can be a noun as in :

10. ʔakala at tufaḥa

Ate the apple
'he ate the apple'

Or a pronoun as in:

11. is'tahabtuhu ila al madinati
Accompanied to the city
'I accompanied him to the city'

Wright (1955: 251) states that "[T]he difference between verbal and nominal sentences, to which the native grammarians attach no small importance, is properly thus, that the former relates an act or event, the latter gives a description of a person, or thing either absolutely or in the form of a clause descriptive of a state. This is the constant rule in good old Arabic, unless the desire to emphasize a part of the sentence be the cause of change in its position."

Parts of Speech

Arabic has three parts: nouns, verbs, and particles, (Musthafa al-Ghulayanie:1987: 11). Nouns are modified for *number, gender and case*. For example

radzul 'man', and *dzamal* 'camel' are masculine, while *um* 'mother' and *faras* 'mare' marked as feminine. Other examples, *muṣalim* 'teacher' (masculine) and *muṣalima* 'teacher' (feminine).

For inanimate nouns, feminine nouns generally have feminine suffix while masculine nouns are unmarked for example, *daar* 'house' (masculine) and /saṣa/ 'hour' (feminine).

Determination

Every noun is definite or indefinite. Identifying a noun with Definite Article (ال) is intended for specific purposes and indications: it is neither randomly nor arbitrarily, so this research is concerned to study main indications that Definite Article (ال) shows when inserted to the name, and rhetorical sides stems from that Definite Article (ال) insertion to a name especially the Predicate. Research reveals

importance of granting the name new characteristics which are not known before Definite Article (ال) is inserted into it.

Table 3. word context

No	Words Context	English	Kinds of Word
1	Al-Baabu	The door	Noun
2	Al-Kitaabu	The book	Noun
3	Kataba-Yaktubu-Uktub	Write	Verb
4	Qoola-Yaquulu-Qul	Speak	Verb
5	Min	From	Preposition
6	Ilaa	To	Particle

The verb in Arabic always changes and shows suitable with the time of event or by subject of it performer. Verb is a word that indicate the stand alone of meaning that is participated by the time .Example are shown in the following table:

Table 4. kinds of tenses

No	Arabic sentences	English sentences	Kinds of tenses
1	yaḏhabu al ustaḏu ila al madrasati kul yuum	The teacher goes to school every day	Present tense
2	ḏahaba Muḥammad ila al madrasati il bariha	Muhammad went to school yesterday	Past tense

Alotaibi,(2014)has summarized the tenses and aspects in Arabic as in the following table:

Table 5. Tense and aspects in Arabic

No.	Tense	Forms	Realization	Meaning English

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1	Past 1	qad + past form	qad sara	walked
2	Past 2	past	sara	walked
3	Past 3	Kana+ qad + past form	kana qad sara	Had walked
4	Past 4	Kana + past form	Kana sara	Had walked
5	Past progressive	Kana + IPFV (dynamic)	Kana yasiru	Was walking
6	Habitual past	Kana + IPFV (dynamic)	Kana yasiru	Used to walk
7	Habitual present	IPFV (dynamic)	yasiru	walk
8	Present progressive	IPFV (dynamic)	yasiru	Is walking
9	Present simple	IPFV (state)	yaaarifu	know
10	Future 1	Sa+IPFV	sayasiru	Will walk
11	Future 2	Sawfa+IPFV	sawfayasiru	Will walk
12	Future progressive	Sa/sawfa+yakunu+ IPFV (dynamic)	Sayakunu yasiru	Will be walking
13	Habitual future	sa/sawfa+IPFV (dynamic)	sayasiru	Will walk

Note: IPFV is abbreviated for 'Imperfective'

Number

Nouns in Arabic have three numbers:

1. Singular

The unmarked form is singular, for example:

bayt 'house'.

2. dual (two items)

Dual is marked by the suffix. /a:ni/ (nominative), for example:

bayta:ni 'two houses',
and plural (more than two items).

3. Plural

Plural number is implied in either of two styles:

- a. suffixation, /-u:n/ for plural nouns masculine and /-a:t/ for plural nouns feminine:

muṣallimu:n 'male teachers'

muʕallima:t ‘female teacher’s

This is known as the sound plural.

b. internal vowel change:

rajul ‘man’

safina ‘ship’

rijaal ‘men’

sufun ‘ships’

The above patterns are similar to English *tooth-teeth*, wife, wives, etc.

This kind of plural is called broken plural.

Case

Nouns are of three cases:

- i. nominative, ends with -u as in *kitab-u* ‘book’
- ii. accusative, ends with -a as in *kitab-a* ‘book’
- iii. Genitive, ends with -i as in *kitab-i* ‘book’

It is worth mentioning here that ,these cases are used with nouns according to their occurrences in the sentences. The following tables illustrates

Table 6. cases in Arabic

cases	examples	Inflection
nominative (NOM)	Kitab-u n-naḥwi Book- NOM the- grammar- GEN ‘the book the grammar’	-u
Accusative (ACC)	qarʔatu kitab-a n-naḥwi read 1 st sing past book- ACC the- grammar- GEN ‘I read the book of the grammar’	-a
genitive (GEN)	ḥaḏa kitab-i this book-GEN ‘this is my book’	-i

Data analysis and discussion

It has been shown from different English and Arabic clause patterns that the basic form of Arabic verb is taken from the past time and the

conjugation process of building of verb such as regular and irregular verb whereas , English has conjugation in the process of building of a verb namely regular and irregular verb. Regarding tenses, Arabic signifies a certain action, that is in the present and future time. Morphologically, the present of Arabic verb has a prefix or suffix that included in the verb as a pronoun and each pronoun has to own verb form. And each pronoun has its own morpheme. While in English has a process of change from the base form in the past tense and past participle. The process of irregular change only occurs for certain pronoun: as person, genus, and number. However, the verb of English has a basic form that is come from the stem or infinitive. A verb form that indicates the time. Form of the present tense is having kid by a certain morpheme s/es or lug in the present continuous. Moreover, Present verb in English language signifies a certain action happened in the present and habitual action. The pronoun is not influenced in the verb, because each pronoun has a form of the equal verb. Structurally , nominal sentence in Arabic is similar to English simple sentence (SVO). The absence of an equivalent to english verb 'to be' in Arabic nominal sentences in the present tense. Verbal sentence in Arabic begins with the verb and forms (VSO) pattern as in:

yaktubu al waladu d-darsa
write 3rd singular the boy the lesson
'the boy writes the lesson'

English has a (SVO) Pattern, i.e., it begins with a subject; thus, this will make a difference in the patterns in translating. In negative statements, Arabic has several substitutions for the particles 'not', yet, it employs no counterpart for the English different auxiliaries such as: Primary auxiliaries: be (is, am, are, was, were), have (have, has, had), do (do, does, did) and

Modal auxiliaries: can, could, shall, should, will, would, etc.

Some negative particles such as / lam, la:/ etc., are always placed before the verb in verbal sentences and before a noun in a nominal sentence. English negative word 'not' is placed after the auxiliary in SVO sentences. Regarding, imperative patterns, it seems that both

English and Arabic are similar structured. This is because the imperative sentence pattern starts with a verb in both languages.

In exclamatory clause pattern, the particle /ma/ ‘what’ followed by the superlative adjective /ifaal/ as in:

ma adzmal haðhi z-zahra

‘ what a beautiful follower it is!

Another particle is / ya laha/ followed by /min/ as in:

yalaha min sayaratin dzamila

What a beautiful car it is!

English exclamatory clause patterns has two words to start in expressing exclamation in formal language: ‘what’ and ‘How’ as in:

What a clever student he is!

How high those mountains are!

Conclusions

The study has arrived to a conclusion that there are different aspects with some similarities in both Arabic and English clause patterns, Concerning tenses, Arabic signifies a certain action, that is in the present and future time. Morphologically, the present of Arabic verb has a prefix or suffix that included in the verb as a pronoun and each pronoun has to own verb form. And each pronoun has its own morpheme. While in English has a process of change from the base form in the past tense and past participle. I have asserted that the distinction between English and Arabic is mostly structural. To boost my position, I have used data from English and Arabic. By analyzing a number of constructions, I have contended that there are a variety of patterns in English and Arabic in different texts. I have demonstrated that since English and Arabic display a different gender and different inflections. The analysis shows that Arabic tends to avoid ellipsis is said to be avoided in Arabic. Arabic uses a dual case meant to describe only two people. The most important aspect to remember

is that Arabic does not use a present “to be”. In writing and speaking the verb is obviously omitted. Regarding gender case, Arabic has overt gender markers whereas English doesn't assign gender to words. Finally, the semantic and pragmatic studies are very interesting are to be applied for other clause patterns in English and Arabic for the further studies.

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