
My Arabic Teacher Mualimi 5 1

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(a) Suffixed to verbs as direct object, e.g., /qna'ahu/ 'He read it'.

(b) Suffixed to nouns to indicate possession, e.g., /qalami/ 'My pen', /baytukuma/ 'Your house' (dual masculine and feminine), /kita:buhu/ 'his book', /kita:buhuma/ 'Their book'.

(c) Suffixed to prepositions, e.g., /lukum/ 'Yours, for you', /minhu/ 'from him', /minha/ 'from her', /lana/ 'for us, or ours', etc.

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

6. Findings and Conclusion

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

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

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

By means of morphological processes of adding suffixes, internal vowel modification, infinite number of nouns and verbs can be derived.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(9) English nouns have two numbers: singular and plural. Whereas, Arabic nouns have three numbers: singular, dual and plural. The plural is also of two kinds: sound plural (masculine & feminine) and broken plural.

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

(11) English nouns are inflected for genitive case. Whereas, in Arabic, nouns are inflected for three cases, namely, nominative, accusative, and genitive. These cases are distinguished by changing the vowel ling of the final consonant.

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

(13) Arabic has two types of personal pronouns, namely: dependent and independent. Arabic has twelve forms of independent pronouns, distinguished in number as: singular, dual, and plural. Whereas, English has eight personal pronouns distinguished in number as: singular and plural.

(14) There is no gender distinction between 2nd person singular and plural, whereas, Arabic gender distinction is made.

(15) Both English and Arabic have one form of the 1st person singular and plural.

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

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

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