

Comparative Analysis of Arabic and English Noun Usage in Gender Linguistics

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Annotation: The purpose of this article is to present the similarities and differences in gender and nouns between standard English and standard Arabic. As it is known that in learning English there are many mistakes which occur as a result of the interference of the mother tongue especially on grammar level. To overcome this problem contrastive analysis is used to show the similarities and differences. The method which the researcher used analyze the sentences structure. The main findings are that both languages have gender and number system.

Keywords: Nouns, number, gender, English, Arabic language.

Introduction

English has three kinds of genders: masculine, feminine, and neutral, while Arabic has two kinds: masculine and feminine. In number, Arabic has three kinds: singular, dual, and plural, whereas, English has two kinds: singular and plural. In the history of civilization different human races have created different languages to express their thoughts, ideas, feelings and emotions. With the passage of time the world has become a global village and at the moment, we should know different languages to understand each other easily.

It is well known that there are gender differences in English language use. For example, women's language style in English is more personal, and it tends to focus more on social dynamics than is the style of men, who are more concerned with objects. Gender differences have also been found in Arabic language use. For example, women use more formal language. Studies reveal that, translators often have difficulty understanding and ultimately translating opposite gender language. To cover gender and number, nouns in English and Arabic, furthermore, it tries to predict the areas that may cause problems (difficulties) for both learners (English learners of Arabic and Arabic learners of English). The current study follows the immediate constituent analysis in order to explain and show the similarities and differences within the two languages mainly in gender and number.

Firstly, both languages have a gender system. Lexically, English shows three kinds of gender; masculine, feminine, and neuter, while Arabic has only two kinds of gender, masculine and feminine. The masculine gender in both languages is unmarked, while the feminine gender in Arabic is marked by /a/, /æ/, /t/. In Arabic there is no neutral gender, so the absence of this kind may cause problem for Uzbek students who learn English. Secondly, both languages have a plural and singular form. English nouns have two number distinctions (singular and plural), singular which denotes one and plural which denotes two and more. Whereas, Arabic nouns have three number systems; singular form which denote one, a dual form which denotes two and a plural form which denotes more. The singular in English is unmarked, while in Arabic the feminine singular is marked by one of these markers /t/, /a/, /æ/. The duality in Arabic is marked by the suffix /-a:n/ in the nominative case and with /-ayn/ in the dative and accusative cases, whereas there is no dual

form in English. Here, this difference may cause a problem for English learners of Arabic. In English the regular plural form is marked by adding the suffix –s to the singular, while in Arabic the masculine sound plural is formed by adding the suffix / –u:n/ in the nominative case and / –i:n/ in the accusative and dative cases. The feminine sound plural is marked by adding the suffix / – a:t/ to the singular. The difference among the form of plural may cause a problem for Arabic learners of English as well as English learners of Arabic. When the dual suffix is added to a noun ending in ʾ taa' marbuta, the taa' marbuta is no longer the final letter in the word and it turns into regular eg. (talibatun) which means a female student, changes into: (talibatan) which means two female students.

Arabic has two kinds of plural forms: sound plural of masculine and feminine noun, and broken plural of masculine and feminine noun. The masculine sound plural is formed by adding the morphemes (-u:n) when in a nominative case and (-i:n) when in adaptive and accusative cases.

Noun is one of the most significant components of all languages. We cannot think the existence of a language without noun. In this article, a comparative analysis of noun of Arabic language and English language has been made which will discover the similarities between the gender languages.

Masculine gender for all words representing males like: boy, king, uncle, father, prince...etc. Feminine gender for all words representing females such as :girl, sister, queen, aunt, princess ...etc. Neuter gender for inanimate objects like: book, house, pencil, table ...etc.

In Arabic noun is divided into many sections of different consideration, namely:

1. Types of noun in terms of genders;
2. Types of noun in terms of Articles;
3. Types of noun in terms of numbers (singular and plural);
4. Types of noun in terms of structures.

Types of noun in terms of genders (i.e. analysis of *noun* in genders perspective):

Every noun inherently carries one value of the grammatical category called gender, the values present in a given language (of which there are usually two or three) are called the genders of English language. According to one definition: “Genders are classes of nouns reflected in the behavior of associated words.” With regard to gender (الجنس), Arabic nouns are divided into two categories: (1) Masculine (مذكر) (2) Feminine (مؤنث). It is essential to know the gender of all kinds of nouns as the verbs and adjectives have to agree in respect of the gender of their subjects and the nouns qualified. Whole words in Arabic language are either Masculine or feminine. There is no neuter or common gender.

Rules of Gender (الجنس) in Arabic language

1. Agreement of the verb with its subject; for example:

Hamid wrote (حامد كتب)

Fatima wrote (فاطمة كتبت)

In the above examples, for (حامد) the verb is (كتب) for (فاطمة) the verb is (كتبت). Though the verb in both the examples is same, in the first example it is masculine but in the second, it is feminine.

2. Agreement of the adjective with the noun; for example:

The intelligent boy (ذك الولد)

The intelligent girl (الذكية البنْتُ)

It is better to mark the ة taa'marbuta at the end of the feminine adjective. Arabic feminine refers to female qualities attributed specifically to women and girls or things considered feminine.

The complement to feminine is masculine. Feminine Genders are of two types. Here are some examples:

The natural or real feminine (حقيقي مؤنث). These are nouns denoting females. For example:

إمْرَأَة woman

أُخْت sister

م أ mother

The unreal or supposed feminine (غير حقيقي مؤنث) : These are *nouns* denoting unreal or supposed feminine. Such as:

أَرْض قمر مدينة

Feminine ending with ة : For example:

حبيبة beloved

نعمة blessing

قدرة power

ظلمة darkness

Here is a list of colors their use and the differences between feminine and masculine.

Feminine white- ابيض Masculine white- ابيض

Feminine black- اسود Masculine black- اسود

Feminine blue- ازرق Masculine blue- ازرق

Feminine yellow- اصفر Masculine yellow- اصفر

Feminine green- اخضر Masculine green- اخضر

As you can see, the concept of gender is very strong in Arabic language, meaning that everything, names, colors, days of the week, even verbs are pronounced and written differently. In conclusion, both languages have a gender system. English has a natural gender, while Arabic gender is grammatical. The masculine gender in both is unmarked, while the feminine gender in Arabic is marked. English shows a common or a dual gender for example nouns that are used for both sexes male or female, Arabic on the other hand distinguishes between these nouns as either masculine nouns or feminine nouns. Arabic and English share singular and plural in the system of number and Arabic has dual which does not exist in English. The plural in Arabic has types: sound masculine plural, sound feminine plural and broken plural. Gender is common in Arabic nouns and most the feminine nouns have gender suffix. There lies no denying the fact that in both English and Arabic the noun holds a place of singular importance as a part of speech. The area of noun in English is limited but in Arabic its area is vaster. Noun in English means the names of person, place or thing; but Arabic noun includes nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs and some interjections. In terms of categories, English noun differs; the morphological studies have revealed the facts that both the English and the Arabic, noun has some identical similarities which have brought the two languages close other linguistic research.

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