

A Syntactic-Semantic Study of Objects in Arabic

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I. Problem and Aims

It is apparent that different clausal functions are assigned to the so-called 'Almafa'eel' (objects) in Arabic. This study is an attempt at exploring the syntactic and semantic properties of objects in Arabic, providing certain verification features which can characterise elements functioning as object. In addition, two relevant concepts are considered here, namely transitivity and passivisation.



II. Hypotheses

It is hypothesised that most of the so-called objects in Arabic function as adverbials, and that nothing brings them to common ground, but their morphological ending. This is why they are subsumed under the heading 'objects'.




III. Model

The study makes the best use of functional grammar in conducting a qualitative analysis of the syntactic and semantic properties of objects in Arabic.



IV. Procedure

The study involves a brief description of objects as proposed by the traditional and modern Arab grammarians. Furthermore, a number of significant arguments and assumptions vital for understanding the nature of objects are presented here.




Moreover, the different clausal functions of Arabic object are verified by certain syntactic and semantic features with the aim of unfolding the grammatical philosophy and the logic adopted in the grammar of Arabic.



VI. Conclusions

The most prominent conclusion arrived is that most of the so-called objects in Arabic have different adverbials functions, but all of them have in common their ending in the same case marker, hence their grouping under the term 'objects'. These two points validate the hypotheses of the study.



VII. The Structure of the Study

Abstract

1. An Overview of the Arabic Verb

1.1 The Concept of Transitivity in Arabic

1.1.1 Intransitive Verbs

1.1.2 Transitive Verbs

1.1.2.1 Types of Transitive Verbs

1.1.2.1.1 Monotransitive Verbs

1.1.2.1.2 Ditransitive Verbs

1.1.2.1.3 Tritransitive Verbs

1.1.2.2 Identification of Transitive Verbs



2. Objects in Arabic

3. Direct-Indirect Objects

4. Types of Objects

4.1 Almaf'oolu Bih (The Real Object)

4.1.1 Almaf'oolu Alsareeh (The Direct Object)

4.1.1.1 The Direct Object Syntactically Defined

4.1.1.2 The Linguistic Functions of the Direct Object

4.1.1.3 The Direct Object Semantically Considered

1. Affected:

2. Locative:

3. Effected:

4. Recipient:



4.1.1.4 The Direct Object Location

4.1.1.5 The Direct Object Deletion

4.1.2 Almaf'oolu Alghairu Sareeh (The Indirect Object)

4.1.2.1 The Indirect Object Syntactically Defined

4.1.2.2 The Indirect Object Semantically Considered

1. Recipient:

2. Affected:

3. Attribute of the Direct Object:

4.2 Almaf'oolu Almutlaq (The Absolute/Cognate Object)

4.2.1 The Absolute Object Syntactically Defined

4.2.2 The Semantic Classes of the Absolute Object



1. Emphasiser:

2. Amplifier (denoting a high degree):

4.2.3. The Linguistic Function of the Absolute Object

4.3 Almaf'oolu Feeh (The Object of Setting)

4.3.1 Almaf'oolu Feehi Darfu Almakan (The Object of Place)

4.3.1.1 The Object of Place Syntactically Defined

4.3.2. Almaf'oolu Feehi Darfu Alzaman (The Object of Time)

4.3.2.1 The Object of Time Syntactically Defined

4.4 Almaf'oolu Li'ajlih' (The Object of Cause and Purpose)

4.4.1 The Object of Cause/Purpose Syntactically Defined



4.5 Almaf'oolu Ma'ah (The Object of Accompaniment)

4.5.1 The Object of Accompaniment Syntactically Defined

5. Passivisation in Arabic

5.1 Some Constraints on Passivisation

6. Conclusions

Notes

References

I. Arabic Sources

II. English Sources