Advisory Board

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The Clause as Exchange in English and Arabic
With Reference to Translation
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1.1 Introduction

In his analysis of the clause, Halliday (1985, 1994) takes meaning as a threshold toward a functional role designated to the clause as a discoursal unit. In other words, he sees the clause as a semantic tool to express meanings. In accordance with number of choices, that are both syntactic and semantic, under the umbrella of three metafunctions; the ideational, the interpersonal and the textual. He argues that the ideational metafunction introduces language as an instrument of thought with which we represent the world to ourselves. The interpersonal metafunction, which is the concern of this paper, introduces language as an instrument of transaction by which we present ourselves to the others. The textual metafunction introduces language as an instrument of communication (see Finch, 2005:88).

Furthermore, Halliday (1985, 1994) relates the above metafunctions to three central purposes that determine the forms of the clause; the clause as representation goes with ideational metafunction, the clause as exchange goes with the interpersonal metafunction, and the clause as message goes with textual metafunction. These three purposes are realized by the transitivity system[1], the mood[2], and the thematization[3] respectively.

1.2 The problem

The problem tackled in this paper is the ambiguity and the semantic deviation which are noticed in the translation of

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[1] Transitivity system resembles the syntactic relations among the elements of the clause.

[2] Mood is concerned with the speaker's attitude.

[3] Thematization is the distribution of the information.

English clauses into Arabic or vice versa especially when the translator is unaware of the interactive part of the clause.

1.3 Hypothesis

It is hypothesized that the semantic components of the clause as exchange in English and Arabic are realized by syntactic constructions which are different in form and distribution and identical in function.

1.4 Aims

The present paper seeks to achieve two aims:

- i. Providing an interactional analysis of the clause in English and Arabic.
- ii. Relating this analysis to translation as an interactional activity.

1.5 The Clause as Exchange

The interpersonal metafunction of the clause as a discoursal unit undergoes different types of interaction in any communicative exchange. The purposes that determine the grammar of this exchange and eventually controls the interaction are " giving" and " taking" or " demanding" and " been given" a commodity of some kind. A verbal interaction is expected when the speaker gives or demands information through language. This emerges when the speaker provides information to the hearer by a "statement" or asks for it in a "question" (Thompson, 1996:40) e.g.

	Statement	This university has a good academic reputation لهذه الجامعة سمعة اكاديمية جيدة
Information	Question	Does this university have a good academic reputation? هل لهذه الجامعة سمعة أكاديمية جيدة؟

Sometimes, however, the interaction is only successful when it accompanied by a non- verbal action on the part of the hearer when he obeys or refuses a command or provides an offer in which case another commodity is included.

Halliday (1994: 68) calls this commodity "goods and services" e.g.

Goods and Services	Command	Pass me the salt أعطني الملح
	Offer	I will give you money سأعطيك نقوداً

2.1.1. The English Clause as Exchange

Clauses in English are built up in accordance with different systems. These systems determine the purpose of the clause. They are meanings between which the grammar of the language is able to distinguish (Berry, 1975: 143). The system that determines the meaning of the clause as exchange is known in the literature of Functional Grammar as the "Mood System". The clause according to this system contains two parts; the Mood part which incorporates the Subject and finite element and the Residue which incorporates the rest of the clause (Thompson, 1996:50) e.g.

1.

Ali	has	given Muna a gift
Subject	Finite	
Mood		Residue

2.1.1.1 The Mood in the English Clause

A close look at example (1) shows that the Mood part of the clause contains two elements; the subject which is basically realized by a nominal group, and the finite element which is the "operator" in the verbal group (Halliday, 1985:72) and (Quirk.et. al, 1985:120). Halliday (1985:72) argues, in this respect, that the Mood part of the clause is the carrier of the attitudinal stand of the speaker/writer and is capable of reflecting the interactive features of the clause. The evidence of this argument is seen in the negation and interrogation of the indicative clause e.g.

2.

Ali hasn't	given Muna a gift	Negation
Mood	Residue	

3.

Hasn't Ali	given Muna a gift?	Polarity question
Mood	Residue	

4.	Ali has	given Muna a gift	hasn't he?	Tag question
	Mood	Residue	Mood	

The attachment of the negative particle to the finite element in example (2), and the shift in position between the subject and the finite element in the mood part in the polarity question of example (3) along with the shift of the whole mood part as a tag question in example (4) prove the interactional role of the Mood in the clause as exchange. In fact, what is happening in the three examples (1,2,3) above is that part of the speaker's message is being picked up and used again in order to keep the exchange going on.

In the imperative subjectless clause the fused finite element in the predicator represent the Mood part and the whole Mood can be recovered in attaching a tag question to the clause.

5.

Read	this book	would you?
Fused finite	Residue	Mood
Mood		

In English, the finite element of the Mood appears in three forms:

   i.   A finite element realized by the auxiliary verbs (be and have), and is usually known as "primary finite element". It tackles the moment of speaking as its reference. e.g.

4. Ali is reading a book.
5. Ali has given Muna a gift.

   ii.   A finite element realized by a modal auxiliary to express modality and/or modulation by reference to the judgment of the speaker e.g.

6. Ali can give Muna a gift. (possibility)
7. Ali must give Muna a gift. (obligation)

    iii.   A finite element realized by a fused element in the form of verbal element of the clause in the statement and can be, in turn, defused in negation and interrogation (Hallizday, 1985:76; Quirk et.al, 1985:129-135) e.g.

8. Your gesture means many things?
9. What does your gesture mean?

2.1.1.2. The Residue in the English Clause

    The residue is the rest of the clause. It contains three functional elements; the predicator, the complements, and the adjuncts (Thompson, 1996:4; Berry, 1975: 166; Matthiessen & Halliday, 1997):

(i)   The predicator is expressed by the verbal group minus the first auxiliary which is the finite element in the Mood part of the clause. The predicator itself, therefore, is non-finite and has no subject in the non-finite clauses. It is confined to express the process- the action, happening and state in which the clause is involved.

(ii)   The complements as they are used in Halliday's theory include the objects (direct and indirect) and the complements (subject complement and object complement) in the more traditional sense. They are, generally, realized by nominal groups, e.g.

10. Ali is <u>a nice man</u>.

Ali	is	a nice	man
Subject	finite	Complement	
Mood		Residue	

11. I met <u>Ali</u> in the market.

I	met	Ali	in the market
Subject	Predicator	Complement	
Mood		Residue	

12. They have nominated Ali <u>their coach</u>

They	have	nominated	Ali	their coach
Subject	Finite	Predicator	complement	
Mood			Residue	

13.They gave Ali a gift.

They	gave	Ali	A gift
Subject	Predicator	Complement	
Mood		Residue	

(iii)   The clause may also contain one or more adjunct. Adjuncts in English are typically realized by an adverbial group or a prepositional phrase. For the purpose of the analysis of the clause in this paper, one has to distinguish three types of adjunct. Two of them, namely the circumstantial and conjunctive, correspond to the ideational and textual meanings of the clause and accordingly lie outside the concern of this paper. Circumstantial adjuncts express some circumstance attendant on the process and conjunctive adjuncts are significant for textual organization of the clause. e.g.

14. I met Ali in the market yesterday (circumstantial)

15. The student, therefore, are not happy (conjunctive)

The third kind of adjunct is known as the "Model Adjunct". It clearly has an interpersonal function which is shown in the speaker's/ writer's attitude towards what he says "Modality" or "Modulation" (Thompson, 1996:4; Matthiessen & Halliday, 1997: 6) (see Halliday, 1970:322-26) e.g.

16. Luckily, I had enough time for the examination.

Modal adjuncts, in turn, fall into two groups. The first is "Comment Adjunct" and the second is "Mood Adjunct". The former comments on the clause as a whole rather than give circumstantial information about the event, and they are often separated off the rest of the clause by commas. (Thompson, 1996:54). This case is clearly noticed in "luckily" as an adjunct in example (18) above. The latter, on the other hand, may overlap with the circumstantial Adjuncts because most of them appear to be modifying the verb. They are in fact most closely related to the finite element as part of the mood and not to the predicator as part of the residue. They express meanings associated with tense, polarity and modality and for this reason they are called "Mood Adjunct" (Ibid) e.g.

17.

The case	is	seriously	taken into considerations
Subject	Finite	Mood Adjunct	
Mood			Residue

To sum up, the internal structure of the English clause as exchange can be diagrammatically presented in the following tree diagram.
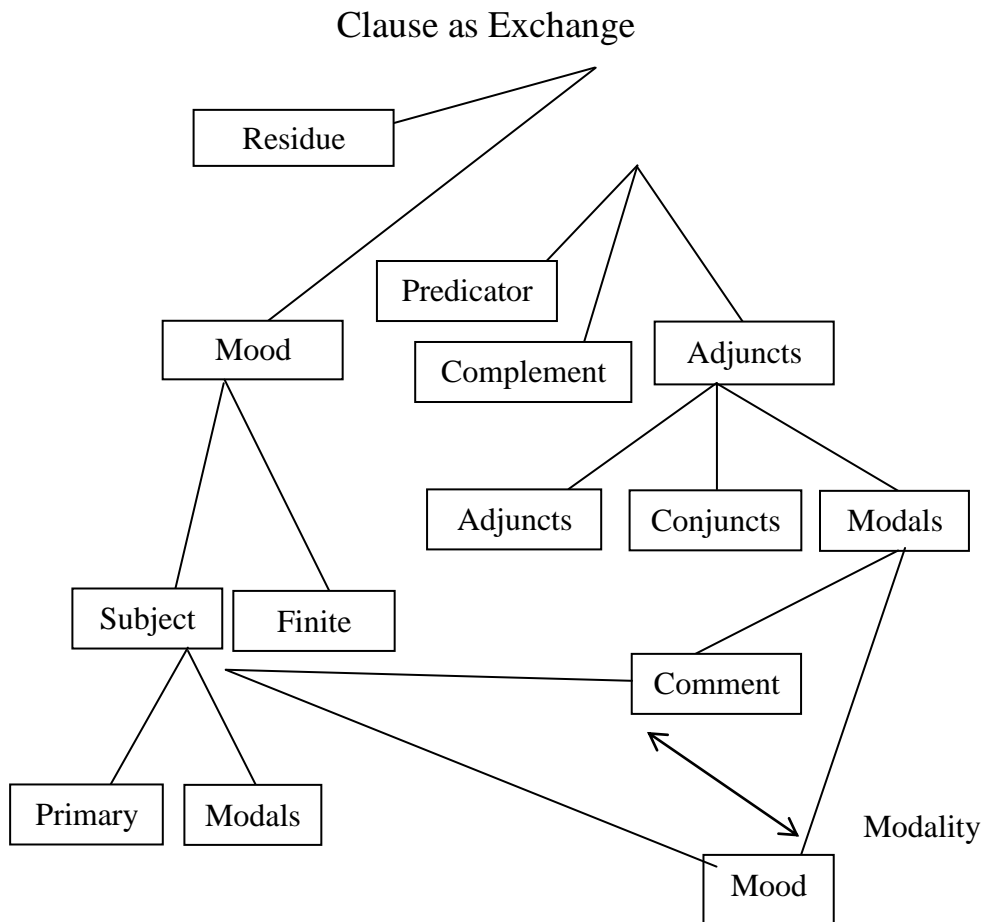
Clause as Exchange

2.1.2. The Arabic Clause as Exchange

The clause in Arabic has been traditionally presented as a binary structure with two basic elements "المسند" (the part to which something is attributed) and "المسند اليه" (the attribute) (Wright, 1971:30). Some other Arab grammarians, on the other hand, divide

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the clause into "العمدة" (the indispensable part) and "الفضلة" (the dispensable part). The indispensable part العمدة resembles the minimal obligatory structure of the clause (Al-Antaki, III, 1975:305;Hassan, 1995: 176).

Like the English clause, the present paper takes the Arabic clause as exchange with regard to Mood and Residue along with their semantic categories.

1.2.1. The Mood in the Arabic Clause

The Mood in Arabic is traditionally taken as property of the verb. It, accordingly, appears in the verbal clause "الجملة الفعلية" in five forms; the indicative, the subjunctive, the imperative, the jussive, and the emphatic (Aziz, 1989:79). The present paper, however, looks at the mood as property of the clause in its indicative form. Where it, again, contains the subject الفاعل and the finite element. What is peculiar to Arabic is the order of the subject and the finite element in the Mood part of the clause. The order is: [finite + subject] in an unmarked clause and it could be the opposite. (ibid) i.e.

[subject+ finite] in a marked clause

        S   F
18. يكتبُ أحمدٌ الشعرَ [unmarked]
     Writes Ahmed poetry.
     Ahmed writes poetry.

         F   S
19. أحمد يكتبُ الشعرَ [marked]
     Ahmed writes poetry.

   The finite elements of the Mood part in example (20, 21) are fused in the predicator يكتب in different orders; before the subject in (20), and after the subject in (21). The internal structure of the Arabic clause with a fused finite element of the Mood can be presented in the following diagrams.

Clause as Exchange

Example (20)

Clause as Exchange
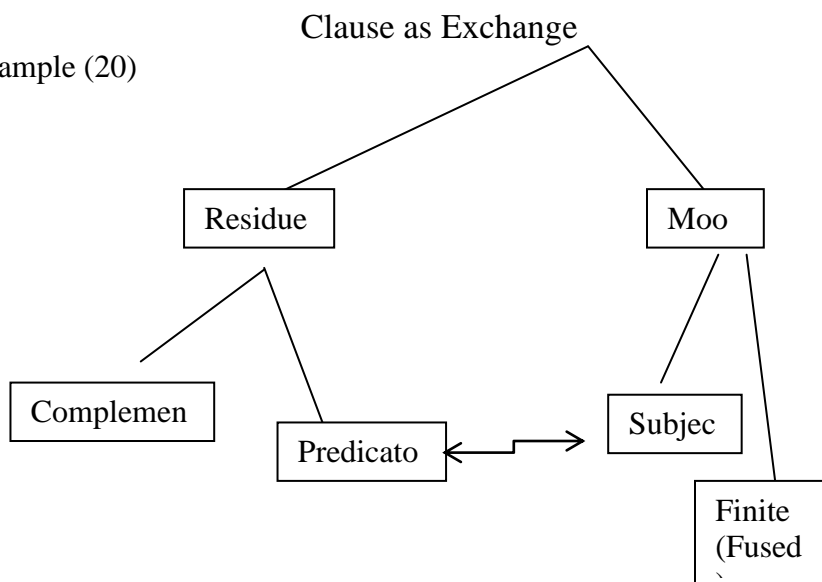
Example (21)
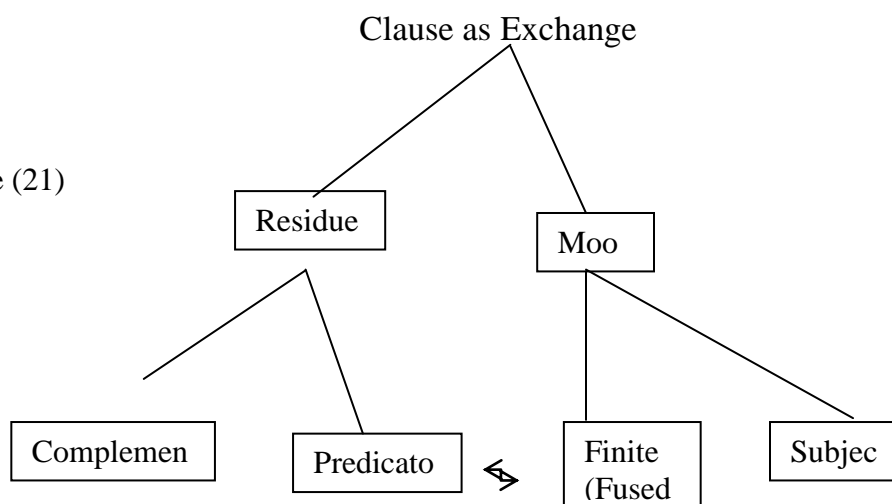
Besides the fused finite element in the predicator of the Arabic clause, finiteness can be realized by non-verbal items including particles such us أن ,كي ,لكي ,لن ....etc., adverbs such as. لاريب ,لاشك) no doubt), الارجح(probably)… etc., prepositional phrases such على بصراحة(frankly) … على الاغلب (most probably), العموم)(in general), etc. All these non-verbal items correspond to the meanings of

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modality (certainty, possibility, probability, ability, willingness, and permission… etc.) (Aziz, 1989:79).e.g.

20. لاريب ان علياً في الدار (Certainty)
No doubt Ali is at home.

21. أغلب الظن\ الارجح أن صديقي ناجح(probability)
Most probably my friend has succeeded.

22. لعل صديقي قادم (possibility)
My friend may come.

It is to be noticed that the meanings of modality are introduced through the lexical meaning of the verbs in addition to the fused finite element. e.g.

23. يجب ان يكون علي في الدار) certainty)
Ali must be at home.

24. زيدٌ يكتب الشعر (ability)
Zaid can write poetry.

25. زيدٌ يريد ان يسافر الى لندن (willingness)
Zaid wants to leave for London.

26. "فوجدا فيها جدارا يريد ان ينقض")(probability)
They found in it therein a wall about to collapse. (Al-Kahaf: 26)

2.1.2.2. The Residue in the Arabic Clause

The Residue in the Arabic clause also comprises the rest of the clause. It contains three functional elements that basically provide an experiential (clause as representation) and textual (clause as message) meanings and occasionally an interpersonal meaning (clause as exchange) when some of these elements show modality especially Adjuncts (Matthiessen & Halliday 1997:2). These elements are:

i) ***The predicator*** which is realized by a lexical verb in the verbal group. It is the carrier of the fused finite element of the mood. Because Arabic has no auxiliaries, it shows morphological changes which are in compliance with the fused finite element with regard to tense, person, number, and gender, يذهب , أذهب, نذهب, تذهب,يذهبون, تذهبون , يذهبن. …….etc.

In addition to its role as a carrier of the fused finite element, the predicator expresses the process, the action and the state, in which the clause is involved, e.g.

27.تكتبُ سهى الشعرَ

Suha writes poetry

28. نشربُ القهوة كل صباح

We drink coffee every morning.

ii)　**The complement** covers the objects (direct and indirect) and the object complement. Traditional Arab grammarians talk about up to three objects in the Arabic clause according to the type of the transitive verb used (Aziz,1989:199; Hassan, 1995:182). This paper, however, assumes that transitive verbs do not admit more than two objects; direct object and indirect object, and the other elements in the clause are either complements or adjuncts of different types.

29.ظن الطالب الامتحان سهلاً

The student thought the examination easy.

In the above example the word (الامتحان) is a real object while the word (سهلاً) is an object complement. The criteria for this argument is passivation where the real object can function as a grammatical subject of the verb in the passive clause, while this process is blocked with the complement.

iii)　**The adjunct** in the Arabic clause are realized by three forms; noun adverbs (i.e. nouns with adverbial function), prepositional phrases, and special constructions and/or particles such as دائماً,غالباً,عادةً ,لاشك, لا بد, لعل , قد, ربما, على etc. The Adjuncts that ..... العموم, الارجح, اغلب الظن, على الاغلب : indicate time and place in particular are circumstantial Adjunct and are realized by nouns and prepositional phrases. They eventually correspond to the ideational and the textual meanings of the clause. (Ibid: 186) e.g.

30. (time adjunct)حضَرَ الضيفُ مساءا

The guest arrived in the evening.

31. (place adjunct) جلستُ في الحديقة

I sat in the garden.

The adjuncts which are realized by the special constructions and particles show meanings of Modality. A case that put them semantically closer to the Mood part of the clause with an interpersonal sense of meaning. e.g.

32. (possibility) ربما أسافر الى المدينة.
     I may leave for the city.
33. (obligation) يجب أن اسافر الى المدينة.
     I must leave for the city.
34. (probability) من الارجح ان أسافر الى المدينة.
     I probably leave for the city.

3.1. Translating the Clause as Exchange

Translation is successful when it maintains transferring the full meaning of the clause in the source language into the target languages. This paper, therefore, traces the ways by which the two languages, English and Arabic, render the interactive features of the clause as exchange by examining the changes in the two parts of the clause; the Mood and the Residue.

The Residue elements in the clause as exchange do not show significant changes in their forms and distribution when translated from English into Arabic or vice versa. e.g.

35. Ali │gave Muna a gift yesterday. │

          Residu   ى هدية البارحة ع
ةح البار هدية ى _____ Residu ___ ع

In the Residu translation of example (35) no changes in meaning in the predicator, the complements and the adjunct can be noticed. The predicator, anyway, appears in the simple past tense in the two clauses along with the finite element fused in it.

The Mood, which is the essential part in the expression of the clause as exchange, witnesses some major changes in the process of translating English clauses into Arabic or vice versa. These changes are mainly noticed in the realizations of the finite element and the subject that make the Mood part of the clause as follows:

i)   Because Arabic has no primary auxiliaries which are the main overt carriers of finiteness in English, it almost always tends to fuse the finite element in the predicator of the declarative clause. A case that entails a careful watch when translating from English into Arabic e.g.

36. The train has arrived.

وصلَ القطار

The clause in (36) is translated into Arabic as وصل القطار where the simple past tense and the present perfect aspect overlap. This problem can be solved by reference to the context in which this clause is used.

In addition to this, a similar problem may arise in the translation of the English progressive aspect into Arabic as well, e.g.

37. Ali is reading a book

Clause (37) is translated into Arabic as يقرأ علي كتاباً where the finite English element "is" is fused in the predicator of the Arabic clause "يقرأ" to incorporate the present tense and the progressive aspect unless an appropriate specifier is added to the clause or a context reference is infered from the text.

ii)   Modal auxiliaries as finite elements of the Mood in the English clause are used to express Modality meanings viz. certainty, possibility, probability, ability permission, and obligation. These modality meanings are rendered into Arabic either as full verbs or as substitutes of the modals such as يحتمل ، يجب ، يستطيع، يمكن ....etc. or by using non-verbal contractions and particles such as: ربما، قد ، لعل، على ...الاغلب، من المحتمل، من الممكن. etc. as in the following examples:

38. The book may be on the shelf.

قد يكون الكتاب على الرف

يمكن ان يكون الكتاب على الرف

39. You can go home.

تستطيع ان تذهب الى البيت

بأمكانك ان تذهب الى البيت

40. You must go home

يجب ان تذهب الى البيت

عليك ان تذهب الى البيت

iii) English and Arabic are not on the same footing as regards expressing different degrees of Modality in the clause as exchange. The English modal "will", for instance usually expresses "probable" events while its past form "would" expresses "less probable" events. The same thing happens with "May" which expresses "possible" events and its past form "Might" which expresses "less possible" events. In Arabic, on the other hand, the degrees of Modality are expressed by using verbs, prepositional phrases and particles to express the same meanings but with different degrees of Modality.

41. The house will collapse. (probable)
42. The house would collapse. (less probable)

من الارجح\ الارجح ان يسقط البيت
قد يسقط البيت
(Probable)

43. The house may collapse (possible)
The house might collapse. (Less possible)

قد يسقط البيت
ربما يسقط البيت
(Possible)

4.1. Conclusions

To conclude this paper, the following remarks can be stated:

1. Both the English clause and the Arabic clause can be divided into two parts; the Mood and the Residue.

2. The Mood part in the two languages is responsible for expressing the attitudinal and interactive aspect of the clause as exchange.

3. The finite element of the Mood is realized differently in the two languages. In English it is realized basically by verbal items and is occasionally realized by non-verbal items, whereas in Arabic, the finite element is realized by special constructions and particles of different types.

4. The finite element in English is fused in the main verb when the clause contains no auxiliary especially with simple present tense and simple past tense.

5. Due to the non- existence of auxiliaries in Arabic, the finite element is widely fused in the main verb and requires greater awareness in reflecting the same meaning in translation.

6. The two languages are not identical in the expression of the degrees of Modality. English, for instance, shows three degrees of probability (less probable, probable, and more probable) whereas Arabic covers two degrees of the same meaning which are probable and more probable. A case that must be given its due attention in translation.

7. The meaning that is covered by the modals as finite elements in the English clause is usually covered by main verbs in the Arabic clause. To mention but some are verbs such as ‏يحتمل ،‏ ‏يجب، يمكن‏… etc. which correspond to the modals " can", " must" and "may" respectively.

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الجملة بوصفها صيغة تبادلية في اللغة الإنجليزية والعربية وعلاقتها بالترجمة

م.م.صبا جاسم محمد

المستخلص

تسعى دراسة الجملة كصيغة بينية الى تشخيص نظامها الداخلي على أسس وظيفية وتفاعلية. وأن مكونات الجملة بهذا الصدد هي الجزء المعني بمزاج مستخدم اللغة وفضلتها. ويتكون الجزء الذي يعكس مزاج المستخدم من عنصرين هما الفاعل ومحدد الصيغة الزمنية. بينما تحتوي فضلة الجملة على ما يتبقى منها. ويتحقق الفاعل بشكل عام من خلال المجموعة الأسمية في كل من اللغة الانكليزية واللغة العربية بينما تتحقق صيغة المحدد المزاجي والزمني لمستخدم اللغة بالمجموعة الفعلية والعناصر غير الفعلية في اللغتين. الا ان اللغة الانكليزية تستند كثيرا الى العناصر الفعلية في تحديد صيغة المزاج والزمان وتستخدم احيانا الظرفيات لتحديد هذه الصيغة. وتستخدم اللغة العربية، من جهة اخرى ، تراكيب غير فعلية وادوات لتحديد دور صيغة المزاج والزمن في الجزء المختص بذلك في الجملة وهذا الفرق الأخير بين اللغتين بعينه يستلزم معالجة متأنية اثناء ترجمة الجمل الانكليزية الى اللغة العربية والعكس صحيح.

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