

**On the Syntactic and Semantic Structure of Relative clauses in English and Arabic:
A Contrastive Study.**

في تراكيب ودلالات شبه الجملة الموصولة في العربية والانجليزية :
دراسة تقابلية

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Dr. Walid M. Amer
Associate professor of linguistics
Islamic university of Gaza.
Dr.walidm@yahoo.com

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ملخص البحث

يدرس هذا البحث تراكيب شبه الجملة الموصولة بالعربية والانجليزية بطريقة وصفية . ولتحقيق الهدف فإن الدراسة ركزت على الخصائص التركيبية والدلالية لشبه الجملة الموصولة في اللغتين مبينةً أوجه التشابه والاختلاف في هذا المجال. وانتهت الدراسة بملخص يحتوي على أهم النتائج التي توصل إليها البحث. كما وضحت المواضيع الصعبة في فهم شبه الجملة الموصولة في الانجليزية مما يؤدي إلي ارتكاب المتعلمين أخطاء ناتجة عن صعوبة اللغة الانجليزية أونتيجة التداخل بين تراكيب اللغتين العربية والانجليزية .

Abstract

This paper studies relative clauses in English and Arabic comparatively. It aims at determining some essential properties of relative clause structure in both languages. To achieve this aim the study touches the syntactic and semantic functions of the relative clause structure in both languages. It then focuses on the main asymmetries and symmetries of these constructions in English and Arabic. The study ends with a summary of the main concluding remarks that highlight the main areas of difficulties in understanding relative clauses of English, These are expected to lead into committing serious interlingual and intralingual errors.

1. Introduction

This paper studies relative clauses in English and Arabic. It aims at determining some essential properties of relative clause structure in both languages. To achieve this aim the study touches the syntactic and semantic functions of the relative clause structure in both languages. It then focuses on the main asymmetries and symmetries of these constructions in English and Arabic. The study ends with a summary of the main concluding remarks that highlight the main areas of difficulties in understanding relative clauses of English, which lead into committing interlingual and intralingual errors. The study is distributed in various sections; Section 1 introduces relative clauses of English descriptively. Section 2 discussed the syntactic functions of the relative clause in English complex sentence section 3 focuses on the semantic function of English relative clauses. Section 4 covers relative clauses in Arabic. Section 5 and 6 discuss the syntactic and

semantic functions of relative clauses in Arabic successively. Section 7 is restricted to contrastive analysis, and section 8 is summary remarks.

1.1. Preliminary Description of Relative Clause.

1.1.1 Relative Clause in English

A relative clause is a subordinate clause that modifies a noun, Leech ,G. et.al.(1982), Eckersley, C.E. (1960), Thomas, L. (1993),and (Murphy, R. 1994). For example, the noun phrase " the man who was not there" contains the noun " man", which is modified by the relative clause "who was not there". In English, relative clauses are introduced by relative pronouns, such as: that, which, whichever, who, whoever, whom, whomever, whose. These are syntactically named complementizers. these are normally coindexed by an antecedent. The antecedent of the relative clause can be the subject of the main clause, or its object, or any other verb-phrase relationship (verb argument). Relative sentences are made up of two parts: The antecedent and the relative clause are joined with each other by a relative pronoun. For instance, this is the boy who studies biology. In this sentence, the boy is the antecedent and is also the subject of the sentence. On the other hand, " who studies biology" is the relative clause which identifies the antecedent "boy" .

As stated above, relative clauses are subordinate clauses that attach to nouns and because they add information to a noun, they are referred to as adjective clauses. In order to form a relative clause in English, a sentence needs to be constructed into a subordinate clause preceded by a noun. Consider the following example:

I read a book. The book explains the difference between idioms and proverbs.

I read a book that explains the difference between idioms and proverbs.

Here, the two sentences must share the same noun. These two sentences are related to each other by adding the appropriate relative pronoun " that/ which" that refers to non-human antecedent and at the same time is considered as the object of the sentence. Further, the relative pronoun, here, serves two functions; a subordinating conjunction and a part of the syntax of the clause.

Relative clauses in English are also classified semantically, depending on their relationship with the noun they modify, into restrictive relative and non-restrictive relative clause. In the restrictive relative clause, the relative pronoun identifies its noun ,e.g., the book that my sister recommended was quite useful. In this example, the relative clause points to a particular book and also means that there are books that my sister did not recommend.

On the other hand, a non-restrictive clause is used to give additional information about the head noun but does not identify it. Consider these examples:

1. The students who finished their exam early went to the party.
(restrictive/defining)

2. The teachers, who want to teach ESL/EFL, try to get a lot of classroom experience. (non-restrictive/non-defining)

There are two groups of students in sentence (1), those who finished their exams early and those who did not. However, in sentence (2), there is only one group, those who want to teach ESL/EFL.

In what follows, restrictiveness and non-restrictiveness of English relative clauses are going to be elaborately discussed.

1.1.2 Restrictive and non-restrictive relative clauses.

Restrictiveness is clearly marked in English where prosody in speaking and punctuation in writing serve this purpose, i.e. a non-restrictive relative clause is preceded by a pause in speech or a comma in writing, whereas a restrictive clause normally is not. Compare the following sentences:

3. The builder, who erects very fine houses, will make good profits.

4. The builder who erects very fine houses will make good profits.

At the syntactic level, these two sentences seem to have the same patterns, but semantically, they have two quite different meanings. Correspondingly, they have also two clearly distinguished intonation patterns, depending on whether the commas are inserted. Specifically, the first example uses a non-restrictive clause. It does not distinguish the builder from a builder who does not erect very fine houses. With the commas, and with three short intonation curves, the sentence refers to a specific builder and tells the hearer firstly about his houses, then about his profits. The second example uses a restrictive relative clause without the commas, and with a single intonation curve, the sentence states that any builder who builds such houses will make profits.

Restrictive clauses are also called defining relative clauses, or identifying relative clauses as they identify the antecedent. Similarly, non-restrictive relative clauses are called non-defining or non-identifying relative clauses as they do not identify the antecedent but give extra information about it.

1.1.3 Relative Pronouns.

The relative pronoun relates to another noun preceding it in the sentence. It connects a dependent clause to an antecedent (a noun that precedes the pronoun). Therefore, a relative pronoun acts as the subject or the object of the dependent clause.

In English, there is an alternation among three relative pronoun options: a wh-word, that, or zero, for example:

5a. This is the house which I told you about.

5b. This is the house that I told you about.

5c. This is the house \emptyset I told you about.

Choosing which relative pronoun to use is determined by what the antecedent is and whether the dependent clause is of essential information in relation to the independent clause. As a result, restrictive relative clauses can take any of these three relative pronoun variations but non-restrictive relative clauses seem to demand wh-relative pronouns.

For illustration, these three types of relative pronouns are classified below:

- The wh- relative is a relative expression either a relative pronoun such as who or which or a more complex expression such as for which or during whose, in which a relative pronoun is combined with other information. For example:

6. The person who I talked to is my friend.
7. The book which I was reading has very interesting style.
8. People revolted against the president during whose regime the country was occupied.

- The that-relative is a form in which the relative clause is introduced by that. When information is critical to the understanding of the main clause, the appropriate relative pronoun to be used is "that" and the information cannot be set off by commas. In other words, it is not acceptable to use "that" in a non-restrictive relative clause. For example:

9. The way in that he tricked them was indecent.

10. The conditions under that I will sign the contract are unfair.

- The bare relative (zero) is one in which neither a wh-relatives nor a that-relatives appear. For example:

11. Is there anything (0) I can do?

12. Jack built the house (0) I was born in.

In all cases, where a bare relative is possible, a corresponding "that" is also possible, though not vice versa. In other words, the bare relative is an alternative to "that" in a restrictive relative clause when it is in direct object position or object of a preposition. Relative clauses headed by bare relatives/zero are frequently called contact clauses. (McCawley, J., 1988: 427-428) (relative pronouns are to be discussed in more details later).

Voicing some concern on the use of prepositions with the relative pronouns, a relative pronoun that can appear with the preposition is traditionally, either "whom" or "which" for formal usage, but not "that". Consider:

13. Jack is the boy with whom Jenny quarreled.

14. Jack built the house in which I grew up.

English is distinguished of employing an innovative use of a flexible optional position of the preposition. In this perspective, there are two standing points; traditional grammarians and nowadays widespread use. Although traditional grammarians might insist upon the sentence, "Jack is the boy with whom Jenny quarreled", any of the following sentences might be heard instead:

15a. Jack is the boy whom Jenny quarreled with.

15b. Jack is the boy who Jenny quarreled with.

15c. Jack is the boy that Jenny quarreled with.

15d. Jack is the boy 0 Jenny quarreled with.

2. Syntactic Functions of the relative clause in English complex sentence.

The relative clause in English sentence has certain features that assign certain functions as indicated below:

- The relative clause has the same basic structure as the main clause with subject and tensed verb as a head of predicate.

- The relative clause must contain a NP (head noun/antecedent) that has the same reference as the head of the main clause.
- The relative pronoun is placed at the beginning of the clause and the co-referential NP is omitted.
- The relative pronoun is "which" if the co-referential NP is a non-human in subject or object function, or following a preposition .
- The relative pronoun is "who" if the co-referential NP is human in subject function.
- The relative pronoun is "whom" if the co-referential NP is human in object function or following a preposition.
- The relative pronoun is " whose " if the co-referential NP is human or non-human in possessive function, "where" if a locational, and "when" if a temporal element.

Examples :

16. I saw the dog which bit John.
17. I watched the man who hit John.
18. I observed the driver whom John hit.
19. I recognized the man whose house John destroyed.
20. I saw the place where you were born.

- The relative pronoun "that" is often used as an alternative for "whom", "who" and "which" because it can refer to people or things and can be used as the subject or object of a relative clause. Consider the following examples:
 21. The friend that I visited last night is going to get married.
 22. Is this the book that you are looking for?
 23. The man that lives next door keeps parking his car on our drive.
- The subject is often separated from its verb by information represented by the dependent clause. Sometimes, an adjective clause has no subject other than the relative pronoun that introduces the clause. In such a clause, the relative pronoun serves as the subject of the dependent clause and relates to some words or ideas in the independent clause. (Darling, C. ,1999).
- The case of a relative pronoun is generally marked in its form. This is applied in "who", which has a possessive case form "whose" and an object case form "whom". However, the form "whom" is in decline and often restricted to formal use.
- On the other hand, "which" and "that" have no possessive form, instead, "whose" is normally used for the possessive form of these two relatives, or long phrases (periphrasis) is sometimes used with these relatives. Consider the following examples below:
 - 24a. There is an old house in our street whose roof Jack fixed.
 - 24b. There is an old house in our street, the roof of which Jack fixed.
- As stated above, relative pronouns can sometimes be left out; they are understood but not given in the sentence.
For example:

- 25. I bought the book \emptyset my sister recommended.
- 26. The book \emptyset my sister recommended was quite useful.

- Omission of the relative pronoun "whom" is particularly common when the verb is linked to a preposition.

For example:

- The friend \emptyset I went out with last night bought a new car.
- Instead of: The friend with whom I went out last night bought a new car.

- On the other hand, "who" cannot be omitted if it is the subject of the relative clause, and if the relative clause is non-restrictive/ non-defining.

For example, it is acceptable to say:

- 27a. That is the man who used to live next door to us. Yet, it is not acceptable to say:
- 27b. *That is the man (?) used to live next door to us. (Murphy , R.1994: 182-190)

According to Eckersley,C.E et al (1960 : 327), the relative pronoun can be omitted or kept in defining and non-defining clauses under certain conditions as follows:

- When the relative pronoun in a defining/restrictive clause has an object case, it is optionally omitted, especially in the spoken English ,e.g.,
- 28. The man (that) you spoke to is my brother.
- 29. There is something (that) you do not know.

The relative pronoun can also be omitted in a defining clause introduced by (there is):

- 30. The 10.00 is the fastest train (that) there is to Oxford.

- In non-defining clauses, who(m) and (which) are never omitted, e.g.:

- 31. Her brother Alfred, who is eighteen years old, has bought a new bicycle.
- 32. His father, whom you met in Paris, is now in London.
- 33. This poem, which almost everybody knows, is written by Shakespeare.

3. Semantic functions of relative clauses in English.

The meaning of the sentence with a relative clause is shaped respectively by two factors; the choice of the relative pronoun, and the relation between the dependent and the independent clauses of the sentence. In this regard, Dik, S. et al(1997:25) identified the semantic function of relative clause stating that "a relative clause is a proposition embedded within a construction with a nominal head, which restricts the set of potential referents of that nominal head to a subset of which the proposition is also true ".

In the same vein, Guy, G. and Bayley, R. (1995) correlated between relative pronoun choice and the animacy of the antecedent, the channel of communication, the syntactic position of the relativised element in the embedded clause, and the adjacency of the antecedent and the

relativized element. This means that all these variants have significant effects on the choice of the relative pronoun, which in turn imposes constraints on the semantic framework of the sentence.

Existing alongside, some other typical semantic variables such as "agent" and "patient" have also their impact on the semantic features of the relativized sentence.

To consider the semantic functions of the relative clause in English, the following examples may shed light on five different variables:

34. Mary talked to the man who (agent) bought the house down the street .
35. She saw the boy whom (patient) the dog bit.
36. They called the man to whom (recipient) Bill sold the house .
37. Mary looked at the box in which (location) the jewelry was kept .
38. Mary looked at the box out of which (source) the jewelry had been taken .

Clearly, the above instances show that the different semantic roles are controlled by the head of the relative clause, ie, the relative pronoun can have any semantic role; it can function as agent , patient, recipient, location or source.

In the fullest sense of the term, the semantic features of complex sentences have been echoed by Diessel ,H. (2004:42-44) ,who stated that “complex sentences are often described in terms of foreground and background information which characterize the content and pragmatic function of clauses”. In correspondence, with the previous notions, there are three types of markers which in different combinations are used to characterize relative clauses:

39. That (invariable relativization marker) gives explicit information on the subordinate status of the relative clause, but they give no direct information on the nature of the relativized variable.
40. They have delivered a message that is difficult to ignore.

Personal pronouns, such as he/ his/ him/ ; such pronouns in the context of the relative clause, give information about the nature of the relativized variable, but they give no information about the relativized nature of the relative clause.

41. Fatma told me about her new job which she is enjoying very much.

Relative pronouns, such as who, whose , whom ; contain information both on the relativized status of the relative clause and on the relativized variable.

42. The chef who won the competition studied in Paris.

4. Relative clause in Arabic.

Relative clause is one of the subordinate adjective clauses underlying the complex sentence in Arabic . The relative clause (جملة الصلة) follows the relative noun (الاسم الموصول) in order to clarify the meaning of the relative noun and its antecedent.

The relative noun is a noun which has no meaning without the relative clause. It is essential to have a referent pronoun(العائد أو الرابط) that refers to the relative noun.

For example:

43 ra?aaytu attaliba allaDii qabaltu-hu ?ams
Saw-I the-student whom met-her yesterday
'I saw the student whom I met yesterday'

In this sentence, it is obvious that the attached clitic object pronoun "hu" in "qabaltu-hu" refers back to the relative noun allaDii.

There are two types of adjective clauses in Arabic, defining and non-defining. The defining clause needs a relative noun, such clause is syndetic (connected); while the non-defining does not need a relative noun, such clause is asyndetic (unconnected).

Both types are similar in that they require resumptive pronouns and do not exhibit island effects. Nevertheless, the researcher would account for three cases of relative clauses in which an island effect is exhibited in Arabic sentences, the oath, vocative, and the caseless sentence (الجملة الاعتراضية). Thus, this separation between the relative noun and its connective part can be matched with the non-restrictive/non-defining clause in English but only on the surface structure not in terms of the syntactic function. Consider the following examples :

44. Jaa?a alladii ,wallahi , ?akramtuhu.

Came who by God be generous-me
'By God, The man who I was generous to came'

45. Kafa?tu alldii, ?ayuha ?atulab, tafawaqa minkum.

Rewarded-I who oh students succeeded from you
'I rewarded the student who succeeded among you'

46. Jaa?a alladii -adamaka allah - nuqaderuh.

Came who protected-you God we-appreciate
'Oh God protect you! The man whom we appreciate came'

Unlike English, determination is the distinguishing mark between defining/syndetic and non-defining/asyndetic relative clauses in Arabic. As such, definite relatives are generated with a definite relative noun; whereas, indefinite relatives are generated with no relative nouns.

4.1. Relative Nouns in Arabic.

Before starting to demonstrate the relative nouns in Arabic, it is important to overview pronouns in general. The subcategories of pronouns in Arabic are of three types: personal, relative, demonstrative. The personal pronouns can be detached words such as "huwa" (independent 3rd person pronoun), or attached to a word in the form of a clitic such as "lahu", to him, "kitabuhu" his book, "yaqra?uh" read it. That is, the cliticised pronoun can be attached to a preposition to be assigned genitive case, or attached to nouns to indicate genitive possession, or to verbs to stand for direct object.

Here are some examples of these pronouns:

- Third person, singular, masculine, personal pronoun such as, huwa " he",
- Singular, feminine, demonstrative, pronoun such as, hadihi " this",
- Dual, feminine, specific, relative pronoun like allataan " who",

- Plural, masculine, specific, relative pronoun like alladiin " who ",
- Common, relative pronoun such as, man " who", ma " what" .

Concerning the relative noun, 'it is a noun used to refer to a specific entity by a sentence (clause) which is nominal, verbal, or sub-clause (شبه جملة) comes after the relative noun. The relative clause should have a resumptive pronoun which refers to the relative noun. Sometimes, this referent pronoun can be omitted if it is implicitly understood'. Fayyad,S.(1996: 33)

Relative nouns are of two types in Arabic; nominal relative (موصول اسمي) and particle relative (موصول حرفي) However, the particle relatives such as "?nn", "laww" if, and "Keyy" in order to, are not commonly used as relativizing elements. On the other hand, the nominal relatives are of two types; specific (muktas) مختص and common (mushtarak) مشترك. The specific relative nouns are used with the following elements:

. alladii (الذي) with singular masculine, e.g.:

47a. ?ahtarem alladii yutqen 9amalahu.

Respect-I who master job-he.

'I respect he who masters his job'.

allatii (التي) with singular feminine, e.g.:

47b. ?ahtarem allatii tutqen 9amalaha .

Respect-I who master job-she.

'I respect she who masters her job'

47. alladaan (الذان) with dual masculine, e.g. :

47c. ?htarem-u alladan ytqenaa 9amalhuma.

Respect-I who master job-their.

'I respect who masters their job'.

48. alltaan (اللتنان) with dual feminine, e.g.:

47d. ?ahtarem-u allatan tutqena 9amalhuma

Respect-I who master job-their.

'I respect who masters their job'.

49. alladiin (الذين) plural masculine

47e. ?ahtarem-u alladiin ytqenuun 9amalahum

Respect-I who master job-their.

'I respect who masters their job'.

50. alla?ii or allatii (اللاتي-اللائي) with plural feminine

47f. ?ahtaremu allatii ytqenna 9amalahun.

Respect-I who master job-their.

'I respect who masters their job'.

The common relative nouns are: /man/من, /ma/ما, ?ay, أي, ?al, أ, daa, ذا. These common relative nouns correspond to all nouns whether singular, plural, dual, feminine or masculine. It is also possible to construct relative clauses preceded by common relative nouns such as "maa" ما, "man", من, "?ay, أي, "?ayatu"; "maa" is used with "non-human" nouns and is translated as "what", "man" is used with human nouns and translated as "who", "?ay and ?ayatu are used with

both human and non-human nouns ,and "Daa" ذا for human and non-human and it is considered relative only if preceded by "man" or "ma" which conveys the meaning of "what" in English.

(http://www.drmosad.com/index14.htm#اللغة_العربية)

Examples :

48. Najaha man ?jtahaduu .

Succeeded-he who worked hard

Those who worked hard succeeded.

49. Sarranii ma qadamt-um men 9amal.

Pleased-me what introduced-you from work

I have been pleased with what you introduced / did.

50. " yas?aluunaka maada ?uhella lahum ? " (?alma?ida-4)

"They ask you as to what is allowed to them."

51. " man-daa alladii ya9semakum " (?al?ahzab- 17)

" Say: Who is he that can withhold you"

52. " ?ayuhum ?ahsanu 9amala" (alkahf-4)

"so that We may try them (as to) which of them is best in works."

All of the relative nouns do not take a case marker (مبني) except for "alladaan" and "allataan". They have the nominative dual case by "?alef" and accusative and genitive by " yaa?" . However, like English , the relative nouns have different case positions due to their syntactic functions in the sentence. The following examples may clarify the point:

53. ?aflah-a man etaqa . (subject)

Succeeded how pious

'The pious succeed'

54. Yuthab-u man ya9mal as-salihat . (proxy/ نائب فاعل)

Reworded who does the-good.

'He how does the good deeds is reworded'

55. Hadihi ja?ezat man faaz fii l-musabaqa. (construct state)

This prize who won in the-competition.

'This is the prize of he who won the competition'

56. "alladiin ?amanuu bi-?ayatina wa Kanuu Muslimiin " (topic/ مبتدأ) (chapter 43verse 69)

Who believed in verses-our and were Muslims

'Who have believed in Our signs and submitted'

57. "huwa alladi Yusawerukum fii- l- ?arhaam " (predicate / خبر) (chapter 3 verse 6)

He it is who shape-you in the wombs

'He it is who shapes you in the wombs'

58. " qaala alladii saafar ?la ghaza in ?nna l-HiSar Shadiid " (subject / فاعل)

Said who has travelled to Gaza that the-siege strict.

'The one who travelled to Gaza said that the siege is strict'

59. " fa?n kaana alladii ghab-a safiihan " (the noun of kannan/ اسم كان)

If was who absent stupid.

'If the one who was absent stupid....'

60. "?ara?yta alldii yukadebu bi-Khaber " (object / مفعول به)

Did see-you who belie with-the-news

'did you see who disbelieves the news?'

61. "?nna alladiina ?amanuu " (the noun of ?nna/ اسم أن)

Those who believed

'Those who believed..'

62. "k-allatii qara't d-darsa " (the noun of the preposition/ اسم مجرور)

'Like-who read the-lesson'

In addition, The above relative nouns agree with the antecedent in gender, number and case, and are used only if the antecedent is definite. If the antecedent is indefinite, no relative noun is used. The former is called jumlat sila (relative clause) while the latter is called jumlat sifa (adjective clause).

63. Alwaladu alladii ra?yituhu fii a-ssaffi ams gha?bun al-yaum -(relative pronoun present)

The-boy who saw-I in the-class yesterday absent the-day.

The boy whom I saw in the class yesterday is absent today

"The boy (whom) I saw in the class yesterday is absent today".

64. hada waladun ra?yituhu fii a-ssaffi amsi - (relative pronoun absent)

this boy saw-I in the-class yesterday

"This is a boy (whom) I saw in class yesterday".

It is possible to leave out the relative nouns in Arabic except for "?al" when it comes as a relative noun, e.g. : "allahu ya9lamu al-mufsed men al-mufleh".

"Allah knows the mischief-maker and the peace-maker ". (albaqara : 220)

In this holy verse "?al" is used as undeletable relative noun, thereby we cannot say "mufsed" or "mufleh" in this context without the relative noun "?al" .

(http://www.drmosad.com/index14.htm#اللغة_العربية)

All in all, relative nouns in Arabic are similar to pronouns in general in that both can substitute the overt mentioned nouns in a sentence. Furthermore, the relative noun can be assigned a grammatical category that depends on its position in a sentence like any other overt noun. So, these relative nouns can stand for subject, object, noun of a preposition, or a predicate. On the other hand, the relative clause in Arabic does not have a case position (لامحل لها من الإعراب) but a relative clause only (جمل صلة) which explains the relationship with the relative noun has case.

4.2. Resumptive pronouns in the Arabic relative clause

As stated above, the relativized sentences need a resumptive pronoun. It is the pronoun which refers to the relative noun and connects between the antecedent and the attributive relative clause. In addition , the resumptive pronoun is used as a part of the relative clause and is either overtly (independent & dependent) or covertly mentioned in the sentence (mustatir/implied). For example:

65. Jaa?a alladii huwa 9awnun lukum . (subject overt pronoun)

Came who he helper to-you.
'The one who is a helper to you came'

66. Surrertu men alladiin kafa?tahum (object clitic pronoun)

Pleased-I from who rewarded-you
'I was pleased of whom you rewarded'

67. ?stama9tu ?la alladiin ?stama9tu ?layhem . (prepositional clitic pronoun)

Listened-I to whom listened-I to-them
'I listened to whom I listened to'

68. Man hafida al-ash9aar allatii tahtawii 9la ma9na a-tadhya? (covert subject pronoun)

Who memorized the-poems which contain at meaning sacrifice
'Who memorized the poems which contain the meaning of sacrifice'

At the same time, it must be recognized that the resumptive pronoun can be omitted when there is no confusion of meaning. Yet, there are some other cases where the resumptive pronoun cannot be deleted, such as:

69. Jaa? alladii huwa ?axuuhu mutafaweq.

Came who he brother-his successful
The one whose brother was highly successful came'

70. Jaa?at allatii ?uxtuha tatafwaq.

Came who-she sister-her successful
'The one whose sister was highly successful came'

In these sentences, it is not acceptable to delete the resumptive pronoun because if it is omitted, what is left need to be connected.

Whereas, there are some instances where the resumptive pronoun can be deleted.

These cases are:

71. when the relative clause is nominal and the resumptive pronoun is the topic head ,i.e.,

"wa {huwa }alladii fi s-sama?i ?laahun .

He who in the sky God

'Allah who is the only God in the heavens'

72. When the predicate is singular and is preceded by "?ay". ex.,

?ayukum { huwa } ?ahsanu 9amala.

Who-you he more deed

'Who is among you has done the best deeds'

73. When it is accusative clitic pronoun which is attached to a perfective verb, ex.,

hadara alladii kafa?t{uh}.

This who rewarded-I

'this is the one whom I rewarded'

74. When the full adjectivity is not relativized to the relative noun "?al" which the resumptive pronoun refers to ex.,

75. "?ahada alladii ba9atha{hu} ?laahu rasuula".

Is-this who send-he Allah messenger

'Is this the one whom Allah sent as a prophet'

It is optional to delete the resumptive pronoun if a preposition is related to the relative noun and agree with it in meaning and utterance, ex.

76. wa yashrabu mma tashrabuuna { minhu },

And drink-he from what drink-you from

‘And he drinks from what you drink from’

If the resumptive pronoun is attached to a proxy (اسم فاعل) or a verbal noun (اسم مفعول) ,

ex.,

77. jaa? alladii ?naa shakeru{h}.

came who I thanked-him

‘the one whom I thanked came’

The resumptive pronoun that relates the relative noun with the relative clause is identical with the relative noun in number and gender, e.g. :

78. allqessata allatii qara?tuha ra?i9atun.

story which read-I magnificent.

‘The story which I read was magnificent’

The clitic pronoun "ha" in the verb "qara?tu" agrees with the relative noun "allatii" in number and gender .

(Abdel almutaleb, H.: 1998: 53-54)

5. The syntactic functions of the relative clause in Arabic:

The relative clause in Arabic qualifies definite nouns that are treated as adjuncts and thus termed "sila"= attachment . The feature which determines the syntactic behavior of the relative clause is determination (definiteness vs. indefiniteness) , which combines a/syndesis to produce connected relative clauses or unconnected ones. In other words, the relative clause is used throughout in preference to the "antecedent". In this respect, Gully, A. et al (2004: 490-489) characterized the relativization strategy in Arabic into the following classification:

Definite head plus syndetic clause = relative structure

Jalas -r-rajulu alldii yatahadathu.

Sat the-man who talk

‘The man who is talking sat’ .

Def. head plus asyndetic clause = circumstantial structure/hal

Jalasa r-rajulu yatahaddathu or mutahadithan

Sat the-man talk

‘The man sat talking’

Indefinite head NP plus asyndetic clause = adjectival clause.

Jalasa rajulun yatahadathu.

Sat man talk

‘A man sat talking’

Indefinite head plus syndetic clause is empty and there is no structure of this type in Arabic, like :

* Jalasa rajulun alladii yatahadath

A man , the one who talked, sat

This means that an agreement in case and definiteness is required between the head noun and the relative clause. Hence, a definite adjunct clause cannot modify an indefinite head.

On this ground, the relativization strategy in Arabic can be summed up as follows:

Relative clauses with indefinite heads are asyndetic (unconnected) and always adjectival, while those with definite heads are syndetic (connected) and always relative clauses. However, both types are internally the same, containing an anaphoric pronoun linking them to the head. Although semantically relative clauses in Arabic may be restrictive (defining) or non-restrictive (non-defining), this has no structural reflection, e.g.,

79. ?axii alladii ya9iishu fii London tabiibun. (non-restrictive).

Brother-my who live-he in London doctor.

‘My brother who lives in London is a doctor’.

80. Laa ?athequ bi-alladii yakdebu katheran. (restrictive).

Not I-trust in who belie much

‘I do not trust in the one who belies a lot’

In Arabic, this type of syntactical distinction is applied to differentiate between the syndetic and asyndetic relative clauses rather than restrictive or non-restrictive clauses.

6. The semantic functions of the relative clause in Arabic.

Generally, Arabic and English relative clauses have similar semantic functions since they shorten the sentence and connect its parts by using a connective markers to avoid redundancy which may result from the repetition of the head noun. Unlike English, movement of the antecedent in the defining relative clause/ syndetic does not affect the meaning since the Arabic sentence can start with either a verb or a subject. This is clearly shown in the following instance:

81. Tafawaq ataalib alldii darasa jayyedan.

Succeeded the-student who studied good

‘The student who studied adequately succeeded’

82. Ataalib alladii darasa jayyedan tafawaq.

The-student who studied good succeeded

‘The student who studied adequately succeeded’

Like English, this type of the relative clause has its pertinent impact on differentiating the meaning of the clause. In this respect, Arabic defining clause (syndetic) identifies the NP antecedent. On the other hand, the non-defining clause (asyndetic), which stands as an adjective of the sentence, describes the NP antecedent but does not define it. To figure out the meaning assigned by the two clauses, let us have a look at the following sentences:

83. Laa ?atheaq bi-tajirin yukther al-half.

Not trust in merchant increase swearing

‘I do not trust the merchant who swears a lot’

84. Laa ?athaeq bi-t-tajir alladii yukther al-half.

Not trust in merchant who increase swearing

‘I do not trust the merchant who swears a lot’

These two sentences have two different meanings due to their types. For instance, in the first sentence, the hearer does not know what 'merchant' means, as it could be any merchant. Meanwhile, in the second sentence, the speaker means a definite merchant who is known for swearing a lot. Incidentally, determination as a syntactic feature is considered to be the distinguishing marker of these two types of clauses that in turn, as indicated above, imposes this semantic difference in meaning. On contrary, punctuation (island effect) and the position of the relative clause are the two main factors that determine the two types of clauses in English.

7. Contrastive Analysis

Though the relativization process in English and Arabic has many points of similarities, they differ with respect to the relative pronouns, the agreement of the relative pronoun with its antecedent, and the appearance of the resumptive pronoun in Arabic sentence. Additionally, one of the problematic structures for most English language learners identified by both researchers and teachers is relative clauses. Schachter (1974) cited in (Ibraheem,Z., Kassabgy, N., Aydelott,s.,2000: pp50-51) discussed three main dimensions in comparing the relative clause in English with that in Arabic. The first dimension relates to the position of the relative clause with respect to the head noun. Relative clauses in English and Arabic follow the head noun, i.e., the syntactic pattern of word order of English and Arabic relative clauses is similar. The second dimension relates to how relative clauses are marked. English uses a relative pronoun that agrees with the noun it replaces, i.e., who for subject-case human, whom for object-case human, which for non-human, and whose for human and non-human possessive determiner. While standard Arabic (SA) uses relative nouns that need to agree with the head noun in case, gender, and number. However, case agreement is applied only with the dual relative nouns. i.e., nominative, genitive, or accusative.

For example:

/allataan/ vs. /allatayn/ (case: nominative, accusative, or genitive)
 /alladii/ vs. /allatii/ (gender: masculine, or feminine)
 /alladii/, alladaan/, /alladiin/ (number: singular, dual, or plural)

The third dimension identified by Schechter relates to the presence or absence of a pronominal reflex (resumptive pronoun). In this phase, English does not allow pronoun retention as an object pronoun or as object of a preposition. On contrary, Arabic retains the object noun in the relative clause in a pronominal form and allow for a pronominal reflex as object of a preposition, e.g:

85. Have you found the keys that /which you lost ()?

hal wajadta -l- mafatiih alltii faqadtu-ha ?

86. Do you know the woman (who /that) Tom is talking to()?

Hal ta9ref ?al-mar?a allatii yatahadath ?lay-ha/ ma9-ha Tom ?

87. This is the teacher whom you saw (her)yesterday.

hadihi hiya al-mudarrisa allatii ra?aytuha ?ams.

Clearly, English differs from Arabic in this dimension as exemplified above. Related to this dimension, the researcher argues that it is not only the presence or absence of a pronominal reflex to be the source of difficulty, but the ambiguity implied within these sentences. I.e. the

clitic personal pronouns "tu" ,"ha" suffixed to the verb "ra?a" in sentence (3) do not give rigid reference whether the speaker means himself or the second person . Thus, the sentence can be understood and translated in two ways; "this is the teacher whom you saw yesterday", or: "this is the teacher whom I saw yesterday". Another example, "?ayn-a l-ketab alladii wajadtuh?". Again in this instance, it would be unclear for both English and Arab learners whether "tu+ hu" refer to the first or the second personal pronoun. Thus, this ambiguity may lead to the misuse of personal connectors.

Hence, it can be literally translated as: where is the book that you found? or ,where is the book that I found?

This means that the relative clause in Arabic proceeds English in being highly confined by the context and the exophoric pronominal reference. Whereas, English relative pronouns have clear cut distinction as each relative pronoun is assigned its limited syntactic and semantic function.

Let us now focus attention on the syntactic form of relative nouns in Arabic. Sometimes these nouns appear in Arabic but not in English and vice versa. Viz, unlike English, the relative noun is normally kept in the object position but it is optionally used in English. //

Example:

89. li-Dalik nafham l-johuud ?llati baDalt-ha l-wazarah

We thus understand the efforts(0)being made by the ministry...

Second, unlike English, the indefinite head noun in Arabic does not require a relative pronoun, e.g. :

90. A-Siin ta9mal 9ala taTwiir Sawariix faDaa? Toqarribu-ha men Holmi-ha
China is working to develop space rockets that will bring it closer to its dream.

Further, unlike Arabic, determination (def.& indef.) is not a distinctive syntactic feature in the relativization system in English.

Third, unlike English, the relative noun in Arabic can be directly preceded by a personal subject pronoun. In this case, the relative noun is only used to confirm the meaning, and not as a conjunction link. Thereby, the relative noun and its subject pronoun could be removed from the Arabic sentence. However, the relative pronoun is not deleted in subject position in English.

For example:

91. Kama ?nn Hokomatu-hu (heya lati) ?amarat bi-?xlaa? ?jzaa? men Al-xaliil

It is also his government that ordered the evacuation of parts of Hebron.

Accordingly, in English it is not acceptable to insert a personal pronoun directly before the relative pronoun because the relative pronoun replaces the personal pronoun in subject position. Whereas, in Arabic this optional use of the relative noun with the personal pronoun is semantically controlled.

Like Arabic, relative nouns introduce relative clauses and refer to an antecedent noun modified by a relative clause. The relative pronouns in English are classified into three categories: wh-relatives, that- relatives, and zero- relatives. The wh- relative pronouns are: who, which, whom,

whose; some grammarians consider when, where, and why to be also relative pronouns. (Khaleel.A.,1999: 131)

While In Arabic, relative clauses are headed either by the relative noun "alladii", "allatii", (the one who),...etc, or the relative nouns "man" (who) and "ma" (that) ,(which). The relative noun "ma" in particular occurs in a number of other functions , e.g. temporal and in combination with other elements to form compound conjunctions,e.i., "9amma", "hiinama", "9ndama", "mimma", "kayfama" .

English relative pronouns like Arabic relative nouns are assigned different case positions For instance, they can be subjects, objects, or possessives. Consider the examples below:

92. This is the girl who gave me the book. (subject)

93. This is the woman whom I met yesterday. (object)

94. This is the author whose book is widely read. (possessive)

In Arabic:

95. Nashart al-majalla ma katabtuhu laha men qessa. (object)
published the-magazine what wrote-I to0it from story
'The magazine published what I wrote from a story'

96. Hadihi heya al-mar?a allatii sa9adatnii. (subject)

This she the-woman who helpt-me

'This is the woman who helpt me'

97. HaDa huwa al-bayt aladii hadiqatahu wase9a. (possessive)

This it the-house whose garden-its wide

'This is the house whose garden is wide'

Like Arabic, English uses "which" with non-human nouns and Arabic uses "ma" to address non-human. The other relativizers in both languages are used with human and non-human.

Syntactically, relative clause in English has no case position and no parsing system, similarly in Arabic the attributive relative clause does not have a parsing quality (caseless) (لامحل لها من (الإعراب)). In this context, the following underlined clauses can not be parsed or assigned a case position in Arabic:

98. Al-xayer fii alladii xtarahu allahu.

Goodness in which chose Allah

'Goodness is available in what Allah almighty chose'

99. itaqi shara man ?ahsanta ?layh .

avoid evil whom be benevolent-you to-him

'avoid the evil of he who you were benevolent to'

100. La yuqaas anajaha bi-meqdar ma jama9ahu al-insan men mal.

Not measured the-success with-scale what collected-he the-man from money

'Success can not be measured by what man collected of money'

(<http://www.drmosad.com/index61.htm>)

Contrary to English, if the definite noun in the antecedent part of the sentence is assigned an object accusative case in Arabic, a matching resumptive pronoun has to be added to the second verb; e.g:

101. ?shrab al9asiir alladi eshtaraytu-hu ?ams .

Drink the juice that I bought {it} yesterday.

So, this difference leads to the repetition of the object pronoun as a sign of negative transfer between the two languages.

Arabic and English differ in using relative clauses versus appositive clauses. In English, appositive clauses look like relative clauses, whereas in Arabic the meaning is conveyed by using the derived nominal particle ?ann (أن المصدرية). Consider:

I like the idea that students can become independent learners. (appositive clause)

102. Yasorron-I ?nn taquul a-sideq

'It pleased me that you say the truth'

Such clauses introduced by "that " in English are introduced by the complementizer "?nn" in Arabic. In this regard, some Arab grammarians consider the complementizer "?nn", a derived nominal particle or a relative particle which is usually mingled with its following element to form a covert derived nominal. For example:

103. ?atamanna ?ann ta9uud-a zaynab ghada-an .

I hope that Zaynab will come tomorrow.

In this context, it is noteworthy that the relative pronoun "that " in English is identical to the relative Arabic particle "?nn" because both of them are used in various contexts and convey multiple functions.

Yet, Like verbs and prepositions, the complementizer "?nn" may carry a suffixed pronoun.

104. "liya9lamuun ?nna-hu al-haq men rabihem " (al-baqara: 144)

" most surely knows that it is the truth from their lord "

?adun ?nna-hu fii l-bayt .

I think (that) he is at home .

Generally, while "that" can be dropped in English, "?ann" should always be retained in Arabic.

A relative clause which relates to a clause antecedent may begin with "مما". This relative noun in Arabic is usually translated as "which" and is often separated from its antecedent by comma in both languages .Besides, it conveys a purpose relationship between the two clauses of the sentence. Consider the following example:

105. Tawaqa9-a d-daresuun-a ?nn yataDa9f 9adad sokkan l-9alam biHolool 9am 2020 liyoSbeH 7000,000000 mema yuhaded binfijaar ma yusamma bi-l-qombolah n-nawaweiya

Researchers expected that the world's population to double by the beginning of the year 2020 to be 7,000,000,000 , which will threaten of an explosion of the so-called human time bomb .

Concerning the number agreement, Dickins, j. and Watson, j. (1998: 235-237) state that in modern Arabic when a number from the number classes 11-99 , 100s or 1,000s precedes a relative clause, the overt or the covert relative noun takes plural and not singular agreement. In other words, unlike English, the verb reflects logical agreement as opposed to grammatical agreement. For example:

106. The-80,000 ?alaDiina ya9iishuun-a bayn 108 falaSTiini
The 80,000 who live among 108 million Palestinians....

107. Qad waSal-a 9adad l-?aTfaal l-9aameliin ?aqal men 12 sana 1.14% melyoon Tefel
yumaθeluun ?jmaali qwat l-9amal.

The number of children working under the age of twelve years has reached 1.14 million which makes up 7% of the total work place.

This shows a difference between English and Arabic in terms of the number agreement of the connective marker and its antecedent.

Nonetheless, when the antecedent noun in Arabic is modified by an AP, the generated sentences hold two possibilities; syndetic relative clause or asyndetic adjective clause. Whereas, a restrictive /defining clause is used in English. To illustrate, consider the examples below:

108. ?9ref-u r-rajul s-saken honaak (syndetic relative clause)
I know the man who is living there.

109. ?9ref-u rajul-an saken-an honaak (asyndetic adjective clause)
I know a man who is living there.

Clearly, the difference between English and Arabic sentences here refers to the fact that Arabic adjective follows its modified noun in definiteness and indefiniteness. Therefore, the relative noun "?al" is used only when the antecedent is definite resulting in having these two different types of relativized clauses in Arabic.

Unlike English, retention of the resumptive pronoun in the direct object position is optional in Arabic.

For example :

110 Hadara alladii kafa?tu-h
Attended who rewarded-I-him
The one whom I rewarded attended

In this sentence, the object dependent pronoun can be deleted. Thus, we can say:

111. Hadara alladii kafa?t .
Attended who rewarded-I
The one whom I rewarded attended

Whereas in English ,the resumptive pronoun of the object is left out:

Have you found the keys that you lost()?

Instead of : *Have you found the keys that you lost (them)?

In a related direction, McCawley, J., (1988 : 443) indicated that resumptive pronouns in English appear always to correspond to a relative pronoun, not to a larger relative expression containing the relativized noun, e.g.:

The student who Tom wondered whether her father is rich .

But not: The student whose father Tom wondered whether he is rich .

In the second example , there is no correspondence between the resumptive pronoun "he" with the relative pronoun "whose" and it does not convey the intended meaning .

To this point, the researcher finds that unlike English, Arabic resumptive pronoun can correspond to a larger relative expression or external textual coherence which imposes ambiguity at the semantic level. Admittedly, this ambiguity is not available in English as it is in Arabic. The following examples may clarify this claim:

112a. Oheb-bu l-ketaab-a ?alDi shtaraytu-hu

I like the book that you bought.

While in Arabic, the meaning of this sentence holds two possibilities:

112b. Oheb-bu l-ketaab-a ?alDi shtaraytu-hu

I like the book that I bought.

112c. Oheb-bu l-ketaab-a ?alDi shtaraytu-hu

I like the book that you bought.

In these sentences, the clitic subject and object pronouns with the verb "?shtara" cause an ambiguous reference of the subject pronoun respectively .

This means that a relative noun corresponds to an underlying personal pronoun , which is difficult to retain; especially when it introduces a new personal pronoun other than the one underlying the relative noun.

Like personal pronouns, relative pronouns can sometimes be left out; they are understood but not given in the sentence.

For example:

113. I bought the book(0)/(that) my sister recommended.

114. The book (that) my sister recommended was quite useful.

115. The woman who(m) I wanted to see was away .

Or : The woman I wanted to see was away.

On contrary , in Arabic , the relative nouns in object position are obligatory used,

e.g.,:

116. shtaryt-u l-kitabab allti ?wSat bi-hi oxti

bought-I the-book which recommended with-it sister-my

‘I bought the book that my sister recommended’

117. ?a-sayda allati ?arat-u ro?yataha / ?n /araha lam takon honaak
The-lady whom wanted-I seeing / that see-her not was there.
'The lady whom I wanted to see was not there'

Again, dissimilar to Arabic, non-restrictiveness of relative clauses in English are marked by an island effect. For example:

118. My brother, who lives in London, studies engineering.
?axii alladii ya9iish fii London yadrus-u al-handasah.
Bother-my who live in London study the-engineering
Though the two sentences with the non-restrictive clauses carry the same meaning and the main clauses can stand alone in both sentences; syntactically, the first English non-restrictive clause is shut in two commas, while the Arabic one is not.

Unlike Arabic, relative clause headed by zero relative pronoun is frequently called contact clause; while in Arabic, it is asyndetic (unconnected) clause.

Dissimilar to Arabic, omission of the relative pronoun "whom" is particularly common when the verb is linked to a preposition. For example:

119. The friend I went out with last night bought a new car.
Instead of: The friend with whom I went out last night bought a new car.
Unlike English, Arabic resumptive pronoun in genitive case position (after a preposition) is optionally deleted, e.g.,

120a. salamtu 9la alladii salamt .
greeted-I at whom greeted-you
'I greeted whom you greeted'

Or:

121b. salamtu 9la alladii salamtu (9layhi).
greeted-I at whom greeted-you (him)
'I greeted whom you greeted (him)'

Besides, prepositions in English are normally used with who, whom, which, but not with that. On the contrary, in Arabic, there is no restriction on using the prepositions with any relative noun.

On the other hand, like Arabic the relative pronoun cannot be omitted if it is the subject of the relative clause. For example, it is acceptable to say:

That is the man who used to live next door to us; but it is not acceptable to say:

122a. * That is the man used to live next door.

122b. Hada huwa ar-rajul alladii ya9iish fi l-jewar.

This he the-man who live in nearby
'This is the man who lives in the nearby neighborhood'

But not:

123. hada huwa ar-rajul ya9iish fi-l-jewar.

This he the-man who live in nearby
* 'This is the man lives in the nearby neighborhood'

Nevertheless, Arabic and English intersect in some other points. This can be clarified along the following lines:

Both of the relative clauses in the two languages are adjectival clauses modifying the antecedent. Besides, the role of the relative pronoun in English and the relative noun in Arabic are used to join the relative clause with its antecedent. Additionally, the referent pronoun (العائد) refers back to the antecedent of the relative clause and it must agree with the antecedent in number and gender.

The following examples show these similarities:

124. Hadar-a attaleb alladii najaha fii-l ?mtihaan.

The student, who succeeded in the exam, came.

125. Hada howa attaleb-u allaDii ?axuu-hu sadiiqii.

This is the student whose brother is my friend.

Pedagogically, Kharma and hajjaj (1997: 124-129) echoed the difficulties of acquiring relative clause structure by Arab learners of English. Through investigating Arabic speakers' problems in the acquisition of English relative clauses. They identified five categories of errors. These are: (repetition, omission, substitution, agreement, misuse). These categories led to committing 13 types of errors:

- § repetition of the subject of the relative clause
- § repetition of the object of the relative clause
- § use of the personal instead of the relative pronoun
- § wrong number agreement
- § mistaken use of whose
- § wrong use of personal connector
- § confusion of who and whom
- § use of coordination instead of subordination
- § use of all what instead of all that
- § omission of the relative antecedent
- § wrong sentence structure
- § wrong placement of the relative clause

As a result, they concluded that most of the errors can be attributed to negative interference from Arabic and some others are not. That these interlingual errors may be attributed to a developmental reasons, faulty teaching, and the confused use of the form in English. Another point implied by kharma and Hajjaj was that all the errors were errors of form rather than use and did not affect communication.

8. Summary remarks:

This study discussed relative clauses in English and Arabic syntactically and semantically and highlighted the symmetries and asymmetries between these clauses in both languages. It clarified that relative clauses in English and Arabic follow the head noun, i.e., the syntactic pattern of word order of English and Arabic relative clauses is similar. Then English uses a relative pronoun that agrees with the noun it replaces, i.e., who for subject-case human, whom for object-case human, which for non-human, and whose for human and non-human possessive determiner. While standard Arabic (SA) uses relative nouns that need to agree with the head noun in case,

gender, and number. However, case agreement is applied only with the dual relative nouns. i.e., nominative, genitive, or accusative. This study also showed that English does not allow pronoun retention as an object pronoun or as object of a preposition. On the contrary, Arabic retains the object noun in the relative clause in a pronominal form and allows for a pronominal reflex as object of a preposition.

Additionally, the relative clause in Arabic proceeds English in being highly confined by the context and the exophoric pronominal reference. Whereas, English relative pronouns have clear cut distinction as each relative pronoun is assigned its limited syntactic and semantic function. Unlike English, the relative noun is normally kept in Arabic object position but it is optionally used in English. It appeared also that the indefinite head noun in Arabic does not require a relative pronoun, but in English it does.

Further, unlike Arabic, determination (def. & indef.) is not a distinctive syntactic feature in the relativization system of English.

Furthermore, unlike English, the relative noun in Arabic can be directly preceded by a personal subject pronoun. In this case, the relative noun is only used to confirm the meaning, and not as a conjunction link. Thereby, the relative noun and its subject pronoun could be removed from the Arabic sentence. However, the relative pronoun is not deleted in subject position in English.

Accordingly, in English it is not acceptable to insert a personal pronoun directly before the relative pronoun because the relative pronoun replaces the personal pronoun in subject position. Whereas, in Arabic this optional use of the relative noun with the personal pronoun is semantically controlled.

Like Arabic, relative nouns introduce relative clauses and refer to an antecedent noun modified by a relative clause.

English relative pronouns like Arabic relative nouns are assigned different case positions. For instance, they can be subjects, objects, or possessives.

Syntactically, relative clause in English has no case position and no parsing system, similarly in Arabic the attributive relative clause does not have a parsing quality.

Contrary to English, if the definite noun in the antecedent part of the sentence is assigned an object accusative case in Arabic, a matching resumptive pronoun has to be added to the second verb. So, this difference leads to the repetition of the object pronoun as a sign of negative transfer between the two languages.

Arabic and English differ in using relative clauses versus appositive clauses. In English, appositive clauses look like relative clauses, whereas in Arabic the meaning is conveyed by using the derived nominal particle (أن المصدرية) 'ann', which is identical to the relative pronoun 'that' in English. One difference spotted here is that "that" can be dropped in English, while "ann" should always be retained in Arabic.

A relative clause which relates to a clause antecedent may begin with "مما". This relative noun in Arabic is usually translated as "which" and is often separated from its antecedent by comma in both languages. Besides, it conveys a purpose relationship between the two clauses of the sentence.

Concerning the number agreement, Dickins, J. and Watson, J. (1998: 235-237) state that in modern Arabic when a number from the number classes 11-99, 100s or 1,000s precedes a relative clause, the overt or the covert relative noun takes plural and not singular agreement. In other words, unlike English, the verb reflects logical agreement as opposed to grammatical agreement.

Further, when the antecedent noun in Arabic is modified by an AP, the generated sentences hold two possibilities; syndetic relative clause or asyndetic adjective clause. Whereas, a restrictive defining clause is used in English.

The paper also found that unlike English, Arabic resumptive pronoun can correspond to a larger relative expression or external textual coherence which imposes ambiguity at the semantic level. However, this ambiguity is not available in English.

Again, dissimilar to Arabic, non-restrictiveness of relative clauses in English are marked by an island effect, i.e. non-restrictive clauses carry the same meaning and the main clauses can stand alone in both sentences; syntactically, the first English non-restrictive clause is shut in two commas, while the Arabic one is not.

Unlike Arabic, relative clause headed by zero relative pronoun is frequently called contact clause; while in Arabic, it is asyndetic (unconnected) clause.

Dissimilar to Arabic, omission of the relative pronoun "whom" is particularly common when the verb is linked to a preposition.

Besides, prepositions in English are normally used with who, whom, which, but not with that. On the contrary, in Arabic, there is no restriction on using the prepositions with any relative noun.

On the other hand, like Arabic the relative pronoun cannot be omitted if it is the subject of the relative clause.

Nevertheless, Arabic and English intersect in some other points. Both of the relative clauses in the two languages are adjectival clauses modifying the antecedent. Besides, the role of the relative pronoun in English and the relative noun in Arabic are used to join the relative clause with its antecedent. Additionally, the referent pronoun (العائد) refers back to the antecedent of the relative clause and it must agree with the antecedent in number and gender.

Such asymmetries between the two languages in the qualities of relative clauses are expected to cause interlingual and intralingual errors by Arab users of English either learners or translators unless qualified.

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