

AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY
WOMEN'S COLLEGE
THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

**Postnominal Clauses in English and Modern
Standard Arabic: A Comparative Study**

presented by

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Submitted to

**THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
WOMEN'S COLLEGE
AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY**

In partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of
Master of Arts

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the internal structure of selected types of postnominal clauses (PNCs) in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and compares them with their counterparts in English. It particularly focuses on those PNCs which follow the head noun within an NP structure. This work addresses three types of PNCs in English: Restrictive Relative Clauses, Participial Relative Clauses and Complement Clauses. With regard to PNCs in MSA, four types of PNCs are addressed in this work. These are: (i) *jumlat ?al-na9t* ‘The adjectival Clause’, (ii) *jumlat ?al-ḥāl* ‘The Circumstantial Clause’, (iii) *jumlat ?al-muḌāf ?ilayhi* ‘the ‘annexed to’ clause’ and (iv) the relative clause which is preceded by *?al ?al-mawṢūla* ‘The Participial Relative Clause’. This study explores the main syntactic characteristics of each type of these clauses in both English and MSA.

A central topic in this work is the syntactic relation between the head noun and the following clause. It is demonstrated that PNCs in both English and MSA exhibit the same structure of the format [NP + Clause]. However, they expose different types of syntactic relations. English PNCs exhibit two types of syntactic relations: the modification relation and the complementation relation. In addition to the modification and the complementation relations, PNCs in MSA exhibit a third type of syntactic relation, namely the predication relation.

The present work is conducted within the framework of Principles and Parameters (P&P)/ Government and Binding (G&B) theory, as set out by Chomsky (1981, 1982, 1986). P&P is one of the most influential developments in the syntactic theories. This study particularly focuses on the role played by X-bar theory, theta theory, Control theory, Government theory and Case theory, in determining the internal structure of PNCs in MSA.

The present study consists of three chapters. Chapter one is introductory. It mainly highlights the aim and scope of the study as well as the language it investigates. Furthermore, it offers an overview of the theoretical framework of the study, (P&P)/(G&B) theory. This overview tackles the motivation for choosing this framework through exposing some of the major drawbacks of its predecessors: Standard theory and Extended Standard theory. Chapter two provides a literature review of the various types of PNCs, addressed in this work. This chapter is divided into two parts. The first part is concerned with exposing the various types

of the selected PNCs. This part is further subdivided into two other main sections. Section one is devoted to the main syntactic characteristics of PNCs as proposed in Traditional Arabic Grammar. Section two highlights English PNCs that correspond to the Arabic PNCs presented in the first section. The second part of this chapter overviews the main syntactic analyses of both Arabic and English PNCs proposed within the generative literature. Chapter three provides the proposed analysis for the various types of PNCs addressed in this work. The data examined in this chapter highlights the role played by X-bar theory, theta-theory, Control theory, Case theory as well as Government theory in explaining various key issues about PNCs in MSA.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to Allah who gave me health and strength to produce this work. I would like also to express my sincere thanks to my supervisors, Professor Wafaa Batran and Dr. Heba Ibrahim, for their guidance, patience and valuable remarks through the progress of this work.

Special thanks are also due to the members of my committee, Professor Laila Abdel Razeq and Professor Faisal Hussein, for devoting their time to read and discuss this work.

I am deeply grateful to my parents for their love, support, confidence in me, encouragement and prayers. Moreover, I would like to express my deepest thanks to my husband for being so helpful and understanding during the years of my work. I would like also to thank my only child for enduring endless hours of work. I have to admit that without the help of my family, this work would not have come into completion.

I am also indebted to my professors and colleagues at Women's faculty of Arts, Ain Shams University. Last but not least, I give special tribute to my professors in the Department of English, notably Dr. Aisha El-shafie and Assistant Professor Mona Wahsh for their advice, suggestions and encouragement.

LIST OF PHONETIC SYMBOLS

The Arabic data and terms throughout the present thesis have been represented by the following phonetic symbols:

A. The Consonants	Phonological Description	Examples
/ʔ/	voiceless glottal stop	ʔasad (lion)
/b/	voiced bilabial stop	bāb (door)
/t/	voiceless alveolar stop	tufāh (apples)
/θ/	voiceless inter-dental fricative	θawb (dress)
/j/	voiced palatal affricate	jamīl (beautiful)
/ħ/	voiceless pharyngeal fricative	ħuSā (horse)
/x/	voiceless uvular fricative	xubz (bread)
/d/	voiced alveolar stop	dub (bear)
/ð/	voiced inter-dental fricative	ðiʔb (fox)
/r/	voiced alveolar flap	rajul (man)
/z/	voiced alveolar fricative	zuhūr (flowers)
/s/	voiceless alveolar fricative	samāʔ (sky)
/š/	voiceless alveolo-palatal fricative	šams (sun)
/S/	voiceless apico-alveolar emphatic fricative	Sadīq (friend)
/D/	voiced apico-dental emphatic stop	Dābit (officer)
/T/	voiceless apico-dental emphatic stop	Tāʔira (plane)
/Ḍ/	voiced inter-dental emphatic fricative	Ḍarf (envelop)
/ʕ/	voiced pharyngeal fricative	ʕayn (eye)
/ġ/	voiced uvular fricative	ġarīb (strange)
/f/	voiceless labio-dental fricative	faʔr (mouse)
/q/	voiceless uvular stop	qamar (moon)
/k/	voiceless velar stop	kitāb (book)
/l/	voiced alveolar lateral	lawn (colour)
/m/	voiced bilabial nasal	maktab (office)
/n/	voiced alveolar nasal	nagm (star)
/h/	voiceless glottal fricative	hadaya (present)
/w/	voiced bilabial semi-vowel	walad (boy)
/y/	voiced palatal semi-vowel	yad (hand)

B. Vowels:

I- Short Vowels:

/a/ short central unrounded vowel

/i/ short high front unrounded vowel

/u/ short high back rounded vowel

II- Long Vowels:

/ā/ long central unrounded vowel

/ī/ long high front unrounded vowel

/ū/ long high back rounded vowel

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Below is a list of the abbreviations and symbols used throughout this thesis.

Agr	Agreement
acc	accusative
AC	Adjectival Clause
CLA	Classical Arabic
COMP	Complementizer
CC	Complement Clause
CP	Complementizer phrase
CS	Construct State Structure
DP	Determiner phrase
def.	Definite
ECP	Empty Category Principle
EPP	Extended Projection Principle
EST	Extended Standard Theory
gen	genitive
GB	Government and Binding theory
indef.	indefinite
LF	Logical Form
MH	Modern Hebrew
MSA	Modern Standard Arabic
nom	nominative
NRRC	Non-Restrictive Relative Clause
PF	Phonetic form
P&P	Principles and Parameters
PNCs	Postnominal Clauses
PRC	Participial Relative Clause
PSRs	Phrase Structure Rules
RC	Relative Clause
RRC	Restrictive Relative Clause
RP	Resumptive Pronoun
SC	Small Clause

Spec	Specifier
ST	Standard Theory
TAG	Traditional Arabic Grammar
TGG	Transformational Generative Grammar
UG	Universal Grammar
1,2,3	First, second, third persons
s	Singular
d	Dual
p	Plural
m	Masculine
md	masculine dual
mp	masculine Plural
ms	masculine singular
f	Feminine
fd	feminine dual
fp	feminine Plural
fs	feminine singular

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Chapter One

Introduction

1.0 The Purpose and Scope of the study:

The main aim of this study is to investigate the internal structure of some types of postnominal clauses (PNCs) in Modern Standard Arabic and to compare them with their counterparts in English. This study focuses on Restrictive Relative Clauses, Participial Relative Clauses and Complement Clauses in English as well as four types of PNCs in MSA. These clause types include: (i) *jumlat ?al-na9t* ‘the Adjectival Clause’, (ii) *jumlat ?al-hāl* ‘the Circumstantial Clause’, (iii) *jumlat ?al-muDāf ?ilayhi* ‘the ‘annexed to’ clause’ and (iv) the relative clause that is preceded by *?al ?al-mawSūla* ‘the relative ‘the’’ (the Participial Relative Clause). This work is particularly focusing on the syntactic relation between the head noun and the following clause in both English and MSA. Furthermore, this study explores the crucial role played by (in)definiteness as a basic distinction between PNCs in MSA and their counterparts in English. This topic is tackled within the Principles and Parameters (P&P) framework. Some modules, i.e., sub-theories of this framework, particularly X-bar theory, theta theory, Control theory, Case theory and Government theory, will prove to be able to explain many key issues about PNCs in both English and MSA.

1.1 Postnominal Clauses:

PNCs, addressed in this work, are those clauses which follow the head noun within the noun phrase construction. They can be described in three different ways:

- (I) In terms of the traditional classification of clauses.
- (II) In terms of function, i.e., the syntactic function performed by the clause within the NP structure.
- (III) In terms of (non)finiteness.

Jacobs (1995) defines clauses as constructions with two phrase constituents, the first is a noun phrase which functions as the subject of the clause and the second is a verb phrase constituent which functions as the predicate. Traditionally, clauses are divided into two main

types: main (or superordinate) clauses, and subordinate (or dependent) clauses. Main clauses, i.e. independent clauses, can stand alone as sentences, as illustrated by the following example:

(1) John arrived.

Dependent clauses, on the other hand, do not stand on their own as sentences.

(2) I heard [that John arrived].

In (2), the bracketed clause *that John arrived* is a dependent clause. It is incorporated or embedded into another clause *I heard*. Therefore it is called an embedded clause and the clause in which it is embedded is called a matrix or a main clause. Having introduced the traditional classification of clauses, it is worth noting that PNCs, addressed in this work, are embedded clauses.

In terms of function, PNCs can perform various syntactic functions. With regard to PNCs in English, they can function as modifying clauses or as complement clauses. As for PNCs in Modern Standard Arabic, they can function as modifying clauses, complement clauses and predicate clauses.

In terms of (non)finiteness, PNCs can be further divided into two types: finite and non-finite clauses. Finite clauses are those which contain a finite verb, i.e., a tensed verb, or an auxiliary verb, as illustrated by the following examples:

- (3) a. The news [that Bill heard] pleased him. (Finite Relative Clause)
b. The news [that their team had won] pleased them. (Finite Complement Clause)

In (3a), the bracketed clause *that Bill heard* is a postnominal, finite Relative Clause modifies the preceding head noun *the news*. In contrast, the bracketed clause *that their team had won* in (3b) is a postnominal Complement Clause which serves as a noun complement.