THE FORM AND FUCTION OF NEGATION
IN ENGLISH AND CAIRENE COLLOQUIAL ARABIC

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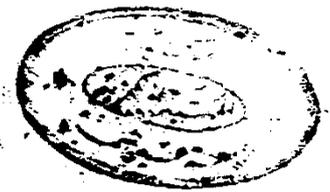Safinaz Mohammed Radwan Hamed

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

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Introduction

This study is intended to be a contribution to
the field of contrastive analysis,the contrastive analysis
of negative forms and functions in English and Cairene
Colloquial Arabic.More specifically it seeks to compare
certain English and CCA. negative structures from the
structural and communicative points of view.

On the level of structure,two languages may differ
in the ordering of elements within a sentence,in the patt-
erns of constructs within a sentence and in the patterns
of relatedness between sentences.On the level of meaning
two languages may differ in the ways they mark and distri-
bute the different variables in a sentence,in the factors
of context which determine which of several forms a sentence
takes.On the level of function,two languages may differ
too in the uses of certain structures for certain given
communicative ends.

The thesis attempts a description of negative
structures in E. and CCA. as a matter of form that corre-
lates with meaning to convey a function.

Any structure or pattern is assumed to consist of
a form and a meaning.'Meaning' here is not the semantic
meaning but the working of a language in society.The
primary function of any linguistic study is to explain
the link between the form of a speaker's utterances and
the messages they convey.To contrast the form of two
langu. es without reference to what functions they serve

is to deal with only half of these languages;it is to
ignore the fact that a linguistic form without its ass-
ociated message is empty.

In the course of the intense debate on the value
of contrastive analysis hypothesis in the last twelve
years,two clearly differentiated points of view have
emerged.In essence a contrastive analysis takes two
languages and analyzes them systematically in such a way
as to predict the difficulties encountered by the speakers
of one language learning the other.Predictive contrastive
analysis is supposed to be a point by point analysis of
the phonological, morphological,and syntactic systems of
the two languages to predict points of difficulty for a
speaker of a foreign language.Explanatory contrastive ana-
lysis assumes that the prediction of areas of difficulty
would not account for all the problems that occur in
language learning.It has often been claimed that predictive
contrastive analysis has foreseen difficulties that do not
exist in the actual process of language acquisition.As a
result subsequent attempts evolved to rectify what was
considered a purely theoretical approach to language
learning,and the result is the error analysis approach to
language learning,studying what the learner actually does
instead of what the learner would do in the process of
learning.

Contrastive studies are needed especially in the
field of grammar and usage.While the results of error analysis
are of great importance to CA,the most hopeful basis for

insightful CA is theoretical.It is unfortunate that the
word'theoretical' itself is negatively valued by most
language teachers.They talk of'theory' versus 'application'
as if the two are completely divorced.There is no reason
to assume that one approach only could provide us with
all the answers to questions about foreign language
acquisition.It is more reasonable to suppose that by a
combination of different approaches full information is
obtained.

Many linguists,especially over the last three
decades used contrastive linguistics to draw conclusions
about language acquisition.Nowadays,modern theoretical
linguistics has the crucial goal of establishing a set of
linguistic universals.CA is to predict errors,to explain
them when they occur,to predict what is universal in
languages,what is shared and what is unique in two langua-
ges,i.e. gives insights into how how human languages
generally work.Briefly defined,"Universal grammar" comprises
all the essential characteristics of human languages,while
"particular grammar"covers the unique ways in which each
language interprets these essentials.Advocates of language
universals believe that human languages share many proper-
ties beyond the superficial differences of race.Every
society has its own language that varies in detail due to
enviromental factors and historical change,while the needs
for communication,let us say the functions of language
are the same.Man has to name things,describe states and

actions,express acceptance or refusal,ask questions,
discuss causes and effects,express his feelings regar-
dless of where he may live and how.These communicative
needs do not produce the same forms in all languages.

There is a continuous development in the theory
of grammar in the present era;quite a number of gramma-
tical theories have appeared.The contrastive method
used in this thesis proceeds through four steps:
description,selection,contrast and prediction.The
subsequent step would be to prove by error analysis
that these predictions do really occur in the acquisi-
tion of negative forms and functions.The grammatical
approach used here is mainly stuctural.A formal gramm-
atical analysis is attempted first,followed by error
analysis later.Linguistic forms of the two languages
are described,selected,and copared according to the
criteria of form and function.A prediction of diffic-
ulties comes as a result of the comparison.An analysis
of English is attempted first as a point of reference.

The curious thing about the problem of negation
is that little is written about it.One can find articles
perhaps a chapter in a book,but to the best of my know-
ledge very few length treatments of the problem exist,
and none that I know of dealing with a contastive study
of English negative forms and CCA negative structures.

It is noticed that affirmation and negation are
frequently studied by linguists,logicians,phychologists

and philosophers as two polar and conjugate categories.
It is most probable that all human languages have some
device to comment on the existence of something,the
validity of a hypothesis,to express personal likes and
dislikes,to refuse and accept.All these matters involve
affirmation and negation;hence they are necessary for
the conducting of human affairs.

A cursory investigation of negation in several
languages shows that it affects the syntactic arrange-
ments (form),and the semantic projection (function) of
different structures in the language.So form and funct-
ion go together,neither one could be considered the
essence of language.

The main sources of the material for the analysis
of English are:

(1)   Reference books of English morphology and syntax.

(2)   Samples of negative structures from magazines and
        newspapers.

(3)   Examples of negative sentences and utterances
        from plays and short stories written by English
        and American writers.A list of these works is
        given in (Appendix A)

(4)   A four hour recording of natural conversation.
        The main source of material for the analysis of
Cairene Colloquial Arabic is self-introspection supple-
mented by:

(1)   Samples of negative sentences and utterances
        said by different people in real every day

situations,collected and categorized.

(2)   An eight hour recording of natural conversation
        in CCA. Samples of this recording and their Eng-
        lish translation appear in (Appendix B).

(3)   Samples of negative constructions collected from
        twenty contemporary works,written by Egyptian
        authors containing dialogues in CCA.A list of
        these works is given in (Appendix C).

The thesis is divided into five chapters.Chapter
One deals with syntactic preliminaries.It's a brief desc-
ription of the different types of sentences in English
and CCA.Sentences are classified into simple,compound
and complex according to their structure;into declarative
interrogative and imperative according to their function
word order,the different grammatical devices used in form-
ing them,and according to the intonational possibilities
associated with each of them.Different ways of manipulat-
ing these structures are referred to.A structural descrip-
tion of each type is attempted.Negative forms are listed
and analysed in both English and CCA.At the end of the
chapter the main structural differences between the
negative structures of the two languages are pointed out.

Chapter Two represents a recent and extensive review
of the different negative forms in English and CCA.The
chapter attempts a definition of negation,and it's differ-
ent __ronents in the two languages.It deals also with
different kinds of negation.Conclusions are drawn as a
result of comparing the similar and different forms of

the two languages.

Chapter three is completely devoted to "affixal negation" in English, since it constitutes one of the major difficulties for Egyptian learners learning E. negative forms. A definition of the nature of affixation is attempted. A separate treatment of each of the negative prefixes and suffixes is dealt with in this chapter too, showing different word classes the different negative affixes could be attached to, their negating function, their productivity in the language, and the lexical clashes between them.

Chapter four deals with the _functions_ of the negative forms in English and CCA. This chapter illustrates different views on the relation between form and meaning. It illustrates also the relation between language situations and social factors as indicated by socio-linguists reaching the conclusion that language is not only a carrier of content, but also a referent, an indicator of social statuses and personal relationships, a marker of situations and topics. Out of various classifications of language functions, the thesis adopts the view of classifying language functions into "the expressive, interpersonal, directive, referential, and imaginative" functions. A structural description of the distinctive features of these different forms is attempted. The chapter deals also with the common forms correlating with each function.

Chapter five deals with contrastive implications. It points out the problems involved in the _acquisition of_ negation in English by Egyptian learners.

It is hoped that the present research would fill
one of the gaps in the linguistic study of English,
and Cairene Colloquial Arabic, namely the study of
negation.

Reading Conventions For Transcribed Arabic Forms

The following conventions for reading transcribed Arabic forms are employed in the thesis:

A. Consonants:

b,   voiced bilabial plosive : /baab/ (door)

d,   voiced denti-alveolar plosive, non-emphatic: /daab/ (it becomes old)

f,   voiceless labio-dental fricative: /faar/ (rat)

g,   voiced velar plosive: /gaab/ (he brought)

h,   glottal fricative: /haanim/ (lady)

H,   voiceless pharyngeal fricative: /Harb/ (war)

l,   voiced denti-alveolar lateral :/lamuun/ (lemon)

K,   voiceless velar plosive: /kaatib/ (writer)

m,   voiced bilabial nasal: /massix/ (not sweet)

n,   voiced denti-alveolar nasal:/naam/ (he slept/

q,   Voiceless uvular plosive:/qur?aan/ (koran)

rr,   voiced alveolar trill: /marr/ (passed by)

r,   voiced alveolar flap : /raagil/ (man)

s,   voiceless denti-alveolar fricative, non-emphatic : /saalem/(safe)

ʃ,   voiceless palato-alveolar fricative: /ʃaariɛ/ (street)

t,   voiceless denti-alveolar plosive, non-emphatic :/taab/ (he repented)

w,   labio-velar semi-vowel: /waaled/ (father)

x,   voiceless uvular fricative:/xaayif/(he's afraid)

y,   voiced palatal semi-vowel:/yistanna/(he waits)

z,   voiced denti-alveolar sulcal fricative, non-emphatic: /zaayer/ (visitor)

?   glottal plosive: /?Hlaam/ (dreams)

ع   voiced pharyngeal fricative: /ςaawiz/ (he wants)

v   voiced uvular fricative: /γabi/(foolish)

Emphatic Consonants:

D,S,T,Z,are 'emphatic' consonants corresponding to 'non-emphatic' d,s,t,z,respectively.

Vowels:

i,   half-close to close front spread vowel,close when long or final: /min/(from) ,/miin/ (who,whom)

u,   half close back to central rounded vowel,close when long or final: /xud/(take),/maZbuut/ (exact)

e,   mid to half-close front spread vowel,short and long: /betna/ (our house),/beet/(house)

o,   mid to half-close back rounded vowel,short and long: /ooDa/(room) ,/bo?/(mouth)

a,   front open vowel,short and long:/naam/(he slept) /naςam/(yes)

a   back open vowel,usually associated with the 'emphatic' consonants,the trill consonant 'r',and the voiceless uvular plosive 'q',short and long:/barra/ (outside) /Zaabit/ (officer)

Long vowels are indicated by double letters.

Geminated consonants are pronounced longer and are indicated by doubling the consonant letter.

List of Symbols

CA	Contrastive Analysis
E.	English
Am.	American English
BE.	British English
CCA	Cairene Colloquial Arabic
EL	Egyptian Learners
Sent.	Sentence
Int.	Interrogative
NP	Noun Phrase
VP	Verb Phrase
Vb	Verb base
MV	Main Verb
M.	Modal
V	Verb
O	Object
Pn.	Pronoun
Compl.	Complement
Com.	Comment
N.	Noun
Aux.	Auxiliary
Q.	Question