

Introduction

The present study sheds light on nominal clauses in English and Arabic. Nominal clauses in English belong to the class of dependent or subordinate clauses. A subordinate clause characteristically functions as dependent within some larger construction. Sentences in English are either simple or multiple. A simple sentence consists of a single independent clause. A multiple sentence contains one or more clauses as its immediate constituents. It is either compound or complex. In a compound sentence the immediate constituents are two or more coordinate clauses therefore, the clauses of a compound sentence provide classic instances of a paratactic relationship that is they have equivalent function. In a complex sentence, one or more of its elements, such as direct object, adverbial and etc. are realized by a subordinate clause. A complex sentence is like a simple sentence in which it consists of only one main clause, but unlike a simple sentence, it has one or more subordinate clauses functioning as element of the sentence.

As mentioned above, nominal clauses belong to the class of dependent or subordinate clauses. A subordinate clause characteristically functions as dependent within some larger construction. This definition can be easily demonstrated on the following example:

She feels that she might be an imposition.

In the above example the subordinate nominal clause *that she might be an imposition* is dependent on the verb *feels* and functions as its direct object. This subordinate clause (nominal clause) is a constituent of the clause *She feels* which is called 'superordinate', 'main', 'principal' or 'head' clause. Subordination is an asymmetrical relation: the sentence and its subordinate

clauses are in a hypotactic relationship that is they form a hierarchy in which the subordinate clause is a consistent of the sentence as a whole on the basis of their potential functions, several major categories of subordinate clauses are distinguished: Nominal, Relative, Adverbial and Comparative.

Nominal clauses complete the message of the superordinate clause by expressing actual meaning of what is only generally indicated by the element on which they depend. They bear some resemblance to nouns and occur mostly in syntactic functions realized by noun phrases. They are clauses approximating in function noun phrases. In English they fall into six major categories: that –clauses, subordinate interrogative clauses, subordinate exclamative clauses, nominal relative clauses, , -ing clauses and to - infinitive clauses ,for example:

His books taught me *that poetry can be pure and profound, and at the same time popular.* (Declarative that-clause)

She had no way of knowing in advance *whether an opportunity for murder existed.* (interrogative *wh*-clause)

Didn't you see *how beautiful it was?*(exclamative clauses)

I'd meet *whoever he asked me to.* (Relative clause)

He says if you like *meeting people, if you like camping,* it's good. (-ing clauses)

The tendency *to judge people's worth by their appearance* was by no means new. (To infinitive)

Structurally, they do not have any special features and they most from all the distinguished subtypes of subordinate clauses resemble main clauses. The last statement is supported by the fact that the system of clause types (i.e. their further subclassification into declarative clauses, interrogative clauses etc...) applies to nominal clauses as well as to main clauses.

The examples of finite nominal clauses correspond to communicative types of main clauses and it possible to present their counterpart main clauses as fellows:

Declarative clause: *Poetry can be pure and profound, and at the same time popular.*

Interrogative clause: *Did an opportunity for murder exist?*

Exclamative clauses: *How beautiful it is!*

Arabic grammar distinguishes between two types of clauses, nominal and verbal. Nominal clauses in Arabic begin with a noun or a pronoun, while verbal sentences begin with a verb. Nominal clauses have two parts: a subject (مبتدأ) and a predicate (خبر). When the nominal sentence is about being, i.e. if the verb of the sentence is 'to be' in English, this verb is not given in Arabic. Instead, it is implied and understood from the context. This can be confusing to some learners who speak European languages and are used to having a verb in each sentence. Consider the first 3 examples below where verb to be is not given in the Arabic sentence. The subject of the nominal sentence is a noun or a pronoun, while the predicate can be a noun, adjective, preposition and noun, or verb. Consider the following examples:

هذه مقالة ممتازة.

"This is an excellent article."

والدها لبناني.

"Her father is Lebanese."

نحن من مصر.

"We are in Egypt."

الولد يلعب.

“The boy plays.”

This study aims to investigate nominal clauses in English and Arabic, and to draw a comparison in order to show the similarities and differences between them. Thus, it is divided into an introduction and three sections. The first section tackles the nominal clauses in English. The second deals with the nominal clauses in Arabic whereas the third section concentrates on the similarities and differences in both languages: English and Arabic. Finally, the study ends up with some conclusions.

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Nominal sentence in English language

1.1.2 The Function of Nominal elements in discourse

To examine the role of Nominal elements, it may be instructive to see what a text looks like with nominals only and with the nominals eliminated.

Leech & Svartvik (1975) state that nominal clauses function like noun Phrases just as noun Phrases may occur as subject, Object, Complement, apposition, and prepositional object So every nominal clause may occur in some or or all of these roles:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Subject | 1-Whether we need it is a different matter. |
| Object | 2-I don't know whether we need it. |
| Complement | 3-The problem is whether we need it. |
| Apposition | 3-That question whether we need it; has not yet been considered. |
| Prepositional Complement | 4-The decision must depend on whether we need it. |

1.2 Types of Nominal Clauses in English

There are six types of nominal clauses.

1. That Clauses.

Can occur as

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| -Subject | 5-That she`s still, alive in sheer luck. |
| -Direct object | 6-I told him that he was wrong. |
| -Subject Complement will improve. | 7-The assumption is that things |
| - Appositive | 8-your assumption, that things will improve, is not, well – founded |
| - Complement of an adjective. | 9-. I`m sure that things will improve. |

2. Wh- interrogative Sub-clauses

Interrogative Sub-clauses are introduced by wh- interrogative words and occur in the whole range of functions available to that- clauses. In addition, they can act as prepositional complement:

- Subject 10-How the book will sell largely depends on his author.
- Direct object 11-I can`t imagine what made him do a thing like that

Subject Complement 12-The point is not who will go, but who will stay.

Apposition 13-my original question, why he did it, at all, has not yet been answered.

Complement of an object

14-I was not certain
whose house we
were in.

Complement of a preposition

15-None of us were
consulted on who
should have the job

Noteworthy that wh- interrogative clauses are like wh- questions in that the wh- word is placed first. we have, in the wh- interrogative sub clause, the same choice between initial and final preposition where the preposition complement is the wh- element.

16-he couldn't remember
kept it(formal)

on which shelf, he

Which shelf he keptit

on (in formal)

wh- Clause Can be formed with all wh-words expect why:

17-He explained to me how to start the motor.

(how one should **start.....**)

18-On British trains, I never know where to put my over coat.

(where I`m supposed to put.....)

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Subject | What John really needs is a wife. |
| direct object | I want to see whoever deals with complaints. |
| in direct object | She gave whoever came to the door a winning smile. |
| - Subject Complement | Home is where your friends and family are. |
| Object Complement | You can call me what (ever) names you like. |
| Appositive. | Let us know your college address, that is, where you live during the term. |
| Complement of a preposition | You should vote for which (ever) candidate you like best. |

3- yes – No interrogative sub clauses

Yes- No interrogative sub clauses are formed with if or whether.

19-Do you know if / whether the shops are open Now?

The Alternative question has / if/

Whether Or

20-I don` t care if/ whether your car breaks down or not.

Only whether can be directly followed by or not:

21-I don` t care whether or not your car breaks down.7

4-Nominal relative clauses

These Clauses are introduced by a wh- pronoun or wh- determiner which combines the functions of the relative pronoun with that of the determiner and /or head of the whole noun phrase.

For example, the proverb.

22-Whoever laughs last, laughs longest, can be put in the form. Those who laugh last, laugh longest.

In which whoever is replaced by a demonstrative pronoun and relative pronoun. Who hardly occurs in contemporary English in this nominal relative function:

23-Who told you that was lying.

Other expressions are used:

24-Who ever Told you that was lying

As these examples show , a nominal relative clause can be introduced by a wh- word ending in – ever (whatever, whichever, ... etc.) .These words have general or inclusive meaning .Thus the pronoun whic ever means " anything"

5.Nominal to-infinitive Clauses

Nominal to-infinitive clauses can occur as:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Subject | For a bridge to collapse like that is unlikely. |
| Direct object | He likes everyone to be happy. |
| Subject Complement | His ambition is to be a pilot. |
| Appositive | An ambition to be pilot, was never fulfilled. |
| Complement adjective. | of I'm glad to be of help. |

The Subject of a to-infinitive is normally introduced by for. A pronoun Subject is here in the objective case compare:

25-The idea that. We should meet on Thursday

For us to meet on Thursday.

When the clause is a direct object, the for is omitted He wants us to meet on Thursday.

6. Nominal to – ing- clause

The nominal – ing participle Clause Can act as

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Subject | Telling lies is wrong. |
| direct object | No one enjoys being disturbed in the middle of the night. |
| Subject Complement | What she likes best is playing practical Jokes. |
| Object of preposition | I'm tired of being treated like a child. |
| Complement of An Adjective. | The children were busy building Sand castles. |

and (in formal) style objective case (for personal pronouns) or Common Case (for nouns) 26- I'm surprised at him / John making that mistake .

Nominal_sentence in Arabic_language

1.3 Types of Nominal sentences in Arabic language nominal sentence can be divided into two types.

1- Topic: The topic could have many forms. It could be a single word, a phrase or a sentence.

(a) The case of a single noun the topic can be a proper noun (name of person, a geographical name ..., etc.) or a common noun. Also, it can be a personal pronoun, a demonstrative pronoun or an interrogative pronoun. For example:

26-Mariam (is) beautiful. جميله مريم

27-The table (is)round. مستديره طاوله

28-You are beautiful. جميله انت

29-This is my friend. صديقي هذا

(b) The case of a nominal phrase the topic can be a phrase of annexation, (In Arabic, two nouns may be linked together in a relationship where the first noun determines the second and thus the two nouns function as one phrase. The English description of Arabic grammar, this unit is called the genitive construct, or annexation structure. In Arabic referred to as *Idaafa* (annexation addition) (Ryding ,2008:205)

___ an adjective phrase, a relative clause or a phrase of conjunction. Also, each of these phrases can be recursive or contain one of the other.

-30 The door of the garden is beautiful. جميل الحديقته باب

(30) presents a phrase of annexation which is composed of an idea noun (باب) and a definite noun (الحديقته)

2- The attribute: Is manifested in several forms. It can be a unique word, a phrase ,a verbal sentence.

The case of unique word the attribute can be a noun, a personal pronoun, an intransitive verb or an adjective, for example:

31- The boy laughing. يضحك الولد

32- Knowledge is the light. نور العلم

(b) The case of a phrase: generally, the attribute can be nominal phrase, prepositional phrase or relative phrase

33- Hoopoe is a beautiful. جميل الهدد

34- Boys are at school. مدرسه في الاولاد

35- Mohammed who passed the exam,For his perseverance

محمد الذي نجح في الامتحان لمثابرتة

(c) The case of a sentence. The attribute can be a verbal or nominal sentence

36-The director gives presents to distinguished students.

(this is verbal) . جوائز المتميزين تلاميذ تمتح المديره

37- Allah is the greatest. الاعظم النور هو الله (This is nominal) Moreover, In Arabic ,the nominal sentence can.be introduced by particles such as the ‘Inna’ or defective verbs such as ‘Kaana’. The insertion of defective verb or particle in a nominal sentence can change the joint of the topic and attribute (Hammoudd and Haddar ,2017: 72-37)

1.4 The structure of Nominal sentence in Arabic.

Nominal sentences are the class of Arabic sentences that contain no explicit verb. They are composed of a subject phrase and a predicate phrase.

$S \rightarrow NP \{AP \mid NP \mid PP\}$

An example of nominal sentence of an NP followed by an AP:

38- the-sun shining (The sun is shining)

An example of nominal sentence of an NP followed by an NP:

38-This a-man good (The is a good man)

An example of nominal sentence of an NP followed by a PP:

40-the-man in the-house (The man is in the house)

Moreover, the predicate phrase does not always have to follow the subject phrase. There are many (constrained) instances where the predicate phrase can be fronted, such as the following example. (Attia,2008:4-5)

41-the-house a-man (A man is in the house)

1.5 Nominal Sentences with inna (and sisters)

Inna and sister's particles can occur in nominal sentences. They include the particles (inna, anna, layta, laalla...) sisters are complementizers that assign an accusative case to their noun governess. Consider the following example:

42- (inna al-kitab-a mufid-un) “the book is useful”.

In Arabic, in the existence of inna and sisters particles at [C, CP], the NP at [Spec, IP] is assigned an ACC case from the complementizer particle. We assume that inna and sisters complementizers are stronger than tensed I/NFL and prevents it from assigning the nominative case to NP at [Spec, IP]. In (18) inna is a complementizer that assigns an ACC case to its governess “al-kitab-u” and the hidden verb (is) fails to assign an accusative case to “mufid-n”. Therefore, it is assigned the default NOM case. Consider the following example:

.43-inna al-walad-a ya’kul-u a-tufahat-a) “the boy is eating an apple”.

In this sentence, the complementizer inna assigns an ACC case to “alwalad-a”, and the verb “ya’kul-u” assigns an ACC case to its object “al-tufahat-a”. The same applies to all other inna sisters’ complementizer. (Bassan et al ,2004: 7-8)

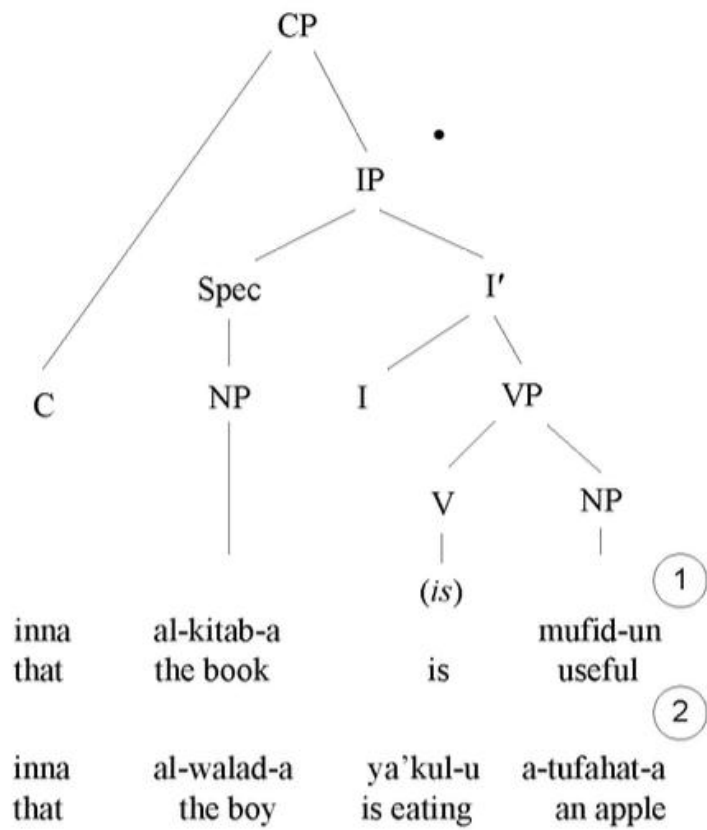


Fig. 5. Two nominal sentences (1) with *inna* and a hidden verb, (2) with *inna* and a verb

Figure:1

2.4 The Negation of Nominal sentence

Nominal sentences which contain a verb or a verbal sentence as the predicate الخبر are negated in the same way as any verbal sentence (the verbal sentence negated by the placement of the negation partial لا which means “do/does not” before the verb e.x (my friend does not study every day)). Other types of nominal sentence are mostly negated by the negation words ليس which means “is not” (placed before the subject and after it), which conjugates as any verb and must agree with the subject and predicate in gender, number and person as in:

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| لَسْنَ “they all F are not” | لَيْسُوا “they all M are not” | لَيْسَتَا “they both F are not” | لَيْسَا “they both M are not” | لَيْسَتْ “she is not” | لَيْسَ “he is not” |
| لَسْتُنَّ “you all F are not” | لَسْتُمْ “you all M are not” | لَسْتُمَا “you both are not” | | لَسْتِ “you SF are not” | لَسْتَ “you SM are not” |
| لَسْنَا “we are not” | | | | لَسْتُ “I am not” | |

Figure:2

44— ليس الطلاب أمريكيين. The students are not American—

45— ليسوا امريكين. They are not American

46— ليست طالبة. She is not a student

46— لست عربية. I am not Arab

47— ليس عبد الله طالبا. Abdullah is not a student

48— ليست استاذتي سورية. My teacher is not Syrian

49. This is not a Syrian teacher. لست هذه استاذة سوريه.

50- My book is not my friend. ليس كتابي صديقي.

Note with use of the negation word " ليس ". "Is not", the predicate takes the accusative منصوب case ending while the subject retains its nominative مرفوع case ending. This is also true when the order is reversed, where the second element (i.e the subject (مبتداء))

takes the nominative مرفوع case ending as in:

٥١. There is not a book on the table. ليس ع طاوله كتاب.

٥٢. For me there is not a friend/I don't have a friend. ليس لي صديق.

٥٣. There are not students in the class. ليس هناك طلاب في الصف.

Finally, sentence such as "A tall student (is) in the class" طالب طويل في صف
"A student of sciences (is) in the class طالب علوم في صف.

Are negated by the "genus negation" or "absolute negation" particle لا النافية
للجنس where the predicate takes the accusative منصوب case ending (without
nutation) and its adjective (is modified by an adjective) takes the same case
(without nutation) as in :(Alhawary,2011:95-96)

٥٤. There is no student in the class. لا طالب في الصف.

٥٥. There is no tall student in the class. لا طالب طويل في الصف.

٥٦. There is no student of sciences in the class. لا طالب علوم في الصف.

2..4.1The past tense of the Nominal sentence and its Negation

Nominal sentence containing a verb or verbal sentence as the predicate are expressed in the past tense, just like any verbal sentences. Other types of verbless nominal sentences are expressed in the past by the verb “to be” كان “was” (placed before and after the subject) which must agree with the subject and predicate in gender, number, and person as in:

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| كُنْ “they all F were” | كانوا “they all M were” | كائتا “they both F were” | كانا “they both M were” | كانت “she was” | كانَ “he was” |
| كُنْتُمْ “you all F were” | كُنْتُمْ “you all M were” | كُنْتُمَا “you both were” | | كُنْتِ “you SF were” | كُنْتَ “you SM were” |
| كُنَّا “we were” | | | | كُنْتُ “I was” | |

Figure:3

57. The students were American. كان الطلاب امريكين.
58. They were American. كانوا امريكين
59. she was Arab. كانت عربية.
60. I was a student. كنت طالبه.
61. Abdallah was a student. كان عبد الله طالبا.
62. My teacher was Syrian. كانت استاذتي سوريه.
63. My book was my friend. كان كتابي صديقي.

Note with the use of the verb to be " كان was" the predicate takes the accusative منصوب case ending while the subject retains its nominative مرفوع case ending.

As for negating, the past tense of nominal sentence, the rules of past tense negation are followed, that is by means of "لم did not" or "لم did not" placed before the verb to be "كان" was" as in (Alhawary, 2011:97-98)

64. The students were not American. لم يكن الطلاب امريكين
65. The students were not American. ماكان الطلاب امريكين
66. They were not American. لم يكونوا امريكين
67. They were not American. ماكانوا امريكين
68. She was not Arab. لم تكن عربيه
69. She was not Arab. ماكانت عربيه
70. I was not a student. لم اكن طالبا
71. I was not student. ماكانت طالبا
72. My book was not my friend. لم يكن الكتاب صديقي
73. My book was not my friend. ماكان كتابي صديقي

2.4.2 The future Tense of the Nominal sentence and its Negation

Nominal sentence is expressed in the future by means of the verb to be يكون "is" preceded by the future particles "سوف will" or "سوف will" both of which are placed before or after the subject. The verb to be "يكون" is" agree with the subject and predicate in gender, number and person. as in:

74. I will be a student. سوف اكون طالبا
75. I will be a student. ساكون طالبا
76. They will be student. سوف يكونون طلابا
77. They will be student. سيكونون طلابا
78. My book will be my friend. سوف يكون كتابي صديقي

79. My book will be my friend. سيكون كتابي صديقي

As for negating the future tense of nominal sentences, the rules of future tense negation are followed, that is, by dropping the future particles سوف or س, will and placing the negation particle "لن" before the verb "يكون" as in: (Alhawary, 2011:98-99).

80. I will not be a student. لن اكون طالبا

81. They will not be students. لن يكونوا طلاب

82. My book will not be my friend. لن يكون كتابي صديقي

2.5. The function of Nominal sentence in Arabic

Nominal sentence represents central issues in Arabic grammar theory. It discusses the harmony between nominal and verbal sentence. It shows initial origins and their function that are manifested in etymological formulas and lexical and contextual characteristics indicated by a declension. Nominal sentence is important part in language based on activation of functional elements that are the dominance of rules and the greatness of realization. (Mazzoze, 2014:21)

83. The weather is nice - الجو جميل

According to Arabic rhetoric, the lexical item (الجو-the weather) in the example has the rhetorical function of modified (mausuf) and (جميل/nice) performs the role of an adjective.

For Arabic grammar however, this example is a nominal sentence consisting of (الجو-the weather) (which has the grammatical function of an inchoative (denoting the beginning of an action merim webster /1828/)

(mubtada) and (جمیل-) which performs the grammatical role of a predicate
(khabar) which is also called al-nat (Abdel-Reof,2006:11)

Chapter Three

Comparison between Nominal sentence in Arabic and English Language

١- A nominal sentence in Arabic ,It consist of two nouns ,The first is called. Topic/subject and the second is called, comment/predict, Although English sentence start with a noun, this noun is called “subject” followed by the main verb of the sentence and object or complement(s+v+o/c). (Alhumaidi el al, 2015:٥)

٢- In Arabic ,Nominal sentence is independent it can stand alone as in :

٨٤-I enjoy sitting by the fireplace and reading. it can stand alone as a sentence contain subject and predicate.

In English Nominal sentence it is dependent clause. i-e can't stand alone unless it occurs with a main clause.

٣- Nominal clause in English may begin with interrogatives (who, why, that, whom.....etc.) as in

٨٥-She understand that her paper topic touched on some sensitive issue. (Gmabirll ,2014:1of 4-2of4) while in Arabic nominal sentence cannot begins with Interrogatives we cannot say, for example: *٨٦-That I enjoy sitting by the fireplace and reading

4- Unlike the English nominal sentence, an arabica nominal sentence does not take the verb “to be “when the sentence in present tense as in. (Haudar,2012:5)

٨٧-He is a teacher. هو استاذ

٨٩-You are teacher. انتم اساتذہ

List of abbreviation. Its meaning

1. IP - Inflectional Phrase: a phrase headed by I/INFL. I/INFL stands for inflection, and it consists of tense, number, and gender agreement (AGR)elements
2. CP-Complementizer Phrase: a phrase headed by a complementizer C. C takes an IP (INFL Phrase) as its complement and heads the maximal projection CP.
3. NP - Noun Phrase: a phrase headed by a noun (N).
4. VP – Verb Phrase: a phrase headed by a verb (V).

Acc.: accusative case which based on its position in a sentence

Nom: nominative case which based on its position in a sentence

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