

On Arabic verbs accepting overt and modified derived nominal and their equivalents in English: A semantic study

Walid Mohammad Amer (Ph.D. in theoretical linguistics)

The Islamic university of Gaza

wamer@mail.iugaza.edu

Abstract: Lots of studies have been done on the semantic structure of gerund and infinitive in English. However no analytical or contrastive study has been conducted on their counterparts in Arabic (overt and modified derived nominal) yet. Thus, this paper reviews the latest studies done on infinitive and gerund in English then it attempts to apply the outcomes reached in English on Arabic overt and modified derived nominal to spot points of differences. This study tackles the point semantically for the purpose of highlighting the semantic entry of Arabic verbs which accept either of these constructions or both. Here I will argue that there are certain explicable semantic features that motivate the Arabic native speaker in choosing one form over the other and that the semantics of verb behavior plays a major role in this overt and modified derived nominal dichotomy. The proposal clarifies that verbs associated with these constructions can be classified into four basic working categories according to their lexical meanings and their behaviors: emotive verbs, aspectual verbs, reactive verbs, and forward-oriented or commitment verbs.

فى الافعال التى تقبل المصدر الصريح والمصدر المؤل فى العربية:

وما يقابلها بالانجليزية - دراسة دلالية

ملخص: يوجد كثير من الدراسات فى المعنى الدلالي للمصدر بنوعيه فى الانجليزية ، ولكن يبدو أنه لا يوجد أى دراسة تحليلية تامة للمصدر الصريح والمصدر المؤل فى العربية بعد. لذلك فإن هذه الدراسة تتناول أقسام المصدر الصريح و المصدر المؤل دلاليًا بغرض توضيح المدخل الدلالي للافعال التى تقبل أى من هذه التركيب و لتسهيل هذا العمل فإنني قدمت مقترحاً يثبت أن هناك مميزات دلالية معينة تدفع المتحدث لإختيار احد التركيبين (المصدر الصريح و المصدر المؤل) وإن دلالة الفعل السلوكية تلعب دوراً كبيراً فى اختيار اقسام المصدر الصريح أو المصدر المؤل عندما تقع كمفعول به. و الخطة المقترحة تقسم الأفعال التى تقبل المصدر الصريح أو المصدر المؤل الى اربعة أقسام حسب معناها و سلوكها اللغوي فى الجملة و هذه الأفعال هى أفعال الشعور وأفعال صيغة الحال و الأفعال الرد فعلية و أفعال المبادرة أو الالتزام.

1. Introduction

This paper is on the semantic properties of Arabic verb types of derived nominal. It widely focuses on the distinction between the nonfinite verbs.

On Arabic verbs accepting overt and modified derived

Then it highlights the asymmetries between Arabic verbs that accept either modified or overt derived nominal compared to English verbs which accept infinitive or gerund or both. This aims at clarifying the main points of differences between these constructions in both languages.

The study begins with describing the syntactic function of infinitive and gerund of English. This is done by reviewing some of the existing studies done on infinitive and gerund (Section 1.). (Section 2.) semantically introduces a distinction between overt and modified derived nominal in Arabic. In this study, I argue that there are certain explicable semantic features that motivate the native speaker in choosing one form over another, and that the semantics of verb behavior plays a major role in this overt and modified derived nominal dichotomy. (Section three) will be restricted to clarifying differences between English and Arabic verbs which accept either one of the above named constructions or both. (Section 4) is a conclusion and recommendations.

2. Syntactic function of infinitive:

The infinitive construction in English is one of the nonfinite verb forms. It comprises two word unit 'to plus the verb stem'. It syntactically serves as a subject, object or a complement, but can never be the main verb of the sentence although it involves certain verbal qualities¹. Consider:

- 1a. To sign a truce now seems very difficult
- b. It seems very difficult to sign a truce now

The infinitive in (1) serves as the subject of the verb *seem*.

2. He wants to travel.

The infinitive here is the direct object of the main verb.

- 3 Our hope is to make reconciliation between the Palestinian presidency and government.

The infinitive here functions as subject complement

4. They elected him to be the president.

The infinitive in (4) is object complement.

Shifting to Arabic, the subject cannot be a modified derived nominal but can be overt derived nominal. For convenience, consider the following example:

- 5a. Tawqee9 hodna 'al'aan yabdu Sa9ban jedan
Singing truce now seems difficult very
'Singing a truce now seems very difficult'

- b.* 'an towaqe9 hodna yabdu Sa9ban jedan to sign truce now difficult very

¹ It syntactically assigns case to its most adjacent NP. (cf. Siloni, T. (1994) Fassi Fehri (1993) among others.)

'to sign a truce now seems very difficult'

As seen (5a) is grammatical while (5b) is not because the former begins with overt derived nominal and the latter starts with modified derived nominal, therefore the sentence in (5b) is illegitimate.

Like English, The modified derived nominal can function as a direct object, subject complement, or object complement. Consider the examples below:

6. yureed Ali-un 'an yusafer

Want Ali to travel-3PS

'Ali wants to travel'

7. 'amlonaa 'an yakuun honaak twaafiq bayna Ali wa Ahmed.

Hope-our to be there compromise between Ali and Ahmed.

'our hope is to have compromise between Ali and Ahmed'

8. rashshaHooh-u 'an yakuun-a ra'ees-an.

Elected-they-him to be president.

'they elected him to be president'

Sensation verbs in English only accept bare infinitive but not 'to infinitive' in active clauses, but not in passives. These are like: See, hear, smell look, notice.

9a. I heard them talk about the plan.

b.*I heard them to talk about the plan.

10a. I saw Ali stand at the gate.

b.* I saw Ali to stand at the gate.

11a. I noticed her pick a flower.

b.* I noticed her to pick a flower.

The structure of sensation verbs of English differs slightly from Arabic since the verb following the sensation verb in Arabic is always inflected with present tense; it appears in an imperfect indicative form. Consider:

12. same9-tu-hu yatakallam 9an l-xoTTah

Heard-I-him speak(3rd person) about the-plan

'I heard him speaking about the plan'

13. ra'aytu Mohammad-an yaqef 9end l-bawaabah

Saw-I mohammad-acc stand(3rd person) at the gate

'I saw Mohammad standing at the gate'

14. laHthtuhaa taqTefu warda-an.

Noticed=I-her pick up rose

'I noticed here picking up a rose'

On Arabic verbs accepting overt and modified derived

The verb *da9* 'let' has the same capacity as the sensation verbs since it only accepts the imperfect present indicative verb form. However, the English verb *let* along with *help* and *make* accepts both bare and 'to infinitive'. Consider:

- 15a. *da9 ali yal9ab*
Let Ali play
*b*da9 ali an yal9ab*
Let Ali to play

- 16a. They helped him solve the problem.
b. They helped him to solve the problem.

This doesn't correspond to the Arabic verb *sa9ad-a* (help) since it neither accepts any type of derived nominal. For convenience consider the following examples:

- 17a. * *sa9t-tuhu Hall l-moshkelah*
Helped I him solve the problem
b. * *sa9ttuhu ?an yaHul l-moshkelah*
helped-I-him to solve the problem

Turning to the gerund construction, it comprises the verb root plus the bound morpheme 'ing'. Consider:

- 18a. I like playing tennis.
b. She enjoys reading the article.

The focus of this paper is specifically laid on showing the asymmetries in the usage of infinitive and gerund in English versus the modified and overt derived nominal in Arabic.

In dealing with the usage of these two non-finite verb forms, the English grammar textbooks classify it into three usages. For example, Quirk (1985), Celce-Murcia and Larsen-Freeman (1999:648) among others classified the verbs taking either an infinitive or gerund into three constructions:

- a. with many verbs, the two (infinitive and gerund) cannot be interchanged, such as: *Deny*, *enjoy*, and *finish* which, take the gerund but not the infinitive.
- b. some verbs, like *need*, *promise*, and *want*, accept only the infinitive; they cannot take the gerund; and

- c. some verbs will take both the gerund and the infinitive, as begin, continue, and like.

This classification is based on what is called "The Bolinger Principle", in which the choice of infinitives correlates, in some degree, with events that are of "hypothetical, future, unfulfilled" and gerunds with those that are "real, vivid, fulfilled."

As seen, Celce-Murcia and Larsen-Freeman's treatment focuses on the semantic distinction between the two forms. However, some verbs indicating the overlap as start, continue, eat do not always relate to the Bolinger principle, i.e. they have the same meaning using either form. For instance:

- 19a. It starts to rain.
b. It starts raining.

- 20a. Richard continued to work.
b. Richard continued •working.

- 21a. I prefer to eat sandwiches.
b. I prefer eating sandwiches.

To solve this problem Amer (2004) maintains that the semantics of verb behavior plays a major role in this infinitive-gerund dichotomy as objects. Therefore, he divides English verbs into four semantic categories:

1. Emotive Verbs

Emotive verbs (Quirk 1985; Chalker and Weiner 1994; Amer 2004) indicate the mood and attitude of agents or participants. These verbs are not associated with an explicit time reference in meaning as aspectual and other verbs are. Some of the typical emotive verbs are: dread, hate, like, love, loathe, prefer, and rejoice. For example:

- 22a. He hated to meet the boss.
b. he hated meeting the boss.
- 23a. Would you like to see my dad?
b. Would you like seeing my dad?
- 24a. ?Ali loathed to participate in the debate.
b. Ali loathed participating in the debate.
- 25a. Do you prefer to read the daily or to watch the T.V. news?
b. Do you prefer reading the daily or watching the T.V.news?
- 26a. They all rejoiced to hear of his success.

On Arabic verbs accepting overt and modified derived

b. They all rejoiced hearing of his success.

All the examples above include emotive verbs, which are followed by both gerund and infinitive as objects. Such verbs express the attitude or mood of the agent or participant rather than a time sequence of any kind.

Shifting to Arabic, the language includes emotive verbs like *yuHeb* 'love', *yakrah* 'hate', *yabghaD* 'dislike', *yufaDel* 'prefer', *yaxaaf* 'fear', *yaxsha* 'fear', *yu9jeb* 'admire' *ya9shaq* 'adore'. These verbs accept both *masder sareeH* 'overt derived nominal' and *masder Moa'wwal* 'modified derived nominal'. The former is nominal which is directly derived from the verb; e.g. *katab-a kitabah*. Whereas the latter consists of the complementizer 'anna and the present imperfect indicative form of the verb for example:

'An *yaktub*. Consider the following examples:

27a. *yuHeb-u zayd-un qeraa'ta l-qur'aan*

Like Zayd-nom reading the-Quran

'Zayd likes reading the Quran'

b. *yuHib-u zayd-un 'an yaqra'a l-qura'an*

like Zayd-nom that read the-Quran

'Zayd likes to read the Quran'

28a. *yakrah l-walad-u l-la9eba fi -sh-Share9*

Dislike the boy-nom the-playing at the-street

'the boy dislikes playing at street'

b. *yakruh l-walad-u ;an ya9ab-a fi sh-share9.*

Dislike the boy-nom that play at the-street

'the boy dislikes to play at street'

29a. *yufaDel zayd-un Shorb-a Sh-Shay.*

Prefer Zayd-nom drinking the-tea

'Zayd prefers drinking tea'

b. *yufaDel zayd-un 'an yashrab-a sh-shay.*

Prefer Zayd-nom that drink the-tea

'Zayd prefers to drink tea'

30a. *yaxaaf l-mo'men irtikaab l-kabaa'r.*

Fear the-believer committing the-big sins

'the believer fears committing big sins'

b. *Yaxaaf l-mo'men 'an yartakeb-a l-kabaa'r*

Fear the-believer that commit the-big sins

'the believer fears to commit big sins'

The emotive verbs included in the above examples, like the emotive verbs of English, indicate the mood and attitude of agents or participants. These Arabic emotive verbs are also not associated with an explicit time reference

in meaning. Consequently, these verbs are syntactically symmetrical to their counterparts in English

2. Aspectual Verbs

Following Quirk, (1985); Yule, (1998), Amer (2004) maintains that "aspectual verbs are used to indicate a variety of time aspects of initiation, continuation, repetition, or termination of an activity. They include: begin, resume, remain, commence, finish, continue, discontinue, end up, cease, repeat, complete. give up, postpone, proceed, quit, keep (on), start, stay, and stop".

31a. He began to answer the questions.

b. He began answering the questions.

32a. Ahmed continued to work on his farm.

b. Ahmed continued working on his farm.

33a. Having said that he would be frank, we all commenced to listen to him.

b. Having said that he would be frank, we all commenced listening to him.

34a. Ahmed ceased to smoke while in hospital.

b. Ahmed ceased smoking while in hospital.

35a. He started to drink tea.

b. He started drinking tea.

In commenting on the aspectual verbs (Yule, 1998:223) states that "verbs such as start, begin, commence, cease, and continue take both an infinitive or a gerund without much distinction in meaning because in these readings, they "do not denote separate actions; their occurrence with complement verbs cannot be interpreted as two actions in sequence" But when the lexical meaning of the verbs is perceived as possessing the meaning of "duration in time" or with two time sequences, a gerund is strongly preferred. For example:

36. John finished doing his homework at midnight.

37. He quit smoking cigarettes.

38. The committee postponed making a decision on the matter.

39. We'll stop for an hour and resume working at three o'clock.

40. The children keep pestering their parents to take them to the fair.

The lexical meanings of finish, quit, postpone, resume, and keep in the examples above all contain activities or processes that imply the meaning of duration in time".

Thus. It appears clearly that aspectual verbs expressing the meaning of "point in time," "single act," or "state" tend to take infinitives while those

On Arabic verbs accepting overt and modified derived

expressing the meaning of "period of time," "on-going event," or "activity and process" take gerunds. (cf. Amer 2004 for detail).

Turning to Arabic, it involves a lot of aspectual verbs. Examples are like; yabda' or yabtade' 'start', yunhy 'finish', yuwaSel 'continue', yastamr 'continue', yuqef 'stop', yasta'nef 'resume', yu'ajel 'postpone', yu9eed 'return', yatrak 'quit'. These verbs are only followed by overt derived nominal which parallels gerund in English. Consider the following examples:

- 41a. yabtade' l-mo9allem monaqashat T-Tollaab
Start the teacher asking the students
'the teacher starts asking the students'
B* yabtade' l-mo9allem 'an yunaqesh T-Tollaab
Start the teacher that ask the students
'The teacher starts to ask the students'
- 42a. yunhi Ali kitaabat d-dars-a
Finish Ali writing the lesson
'Ali finishes writing the lesson'
b.* yunhi Ali 'an yaktub d-dars-a
finish Ali that write the lesson
'Ali finishes to write the lesson'
- 43a. yuuqef l-qanoon ghadra l-xaa;en
Stop the law deceit the collaborator
'Law stops the deceit of the collaborator'
B*yuuqef l-qanoon 'an yaghdor l-xaa'en
Stop the law that deceive the collaborator
'Law stops the collaborator to deceive'
- 44a. yu'jel l-mohmel 9amal l-yawom ila l-ghadd
Delay the lazy work the day to the tomorrow
'The lazy delays the work of today until tomorrow'
b.* yu'jel l-mohmel 'an ya9mal l-yawom ila l-ghadd
Delay the lazy that work the day to the tomorrow
*‘The lazy delays to work of today until tomorrow’
- 45a. yuwaSel Ali s-sayra layl-an
Continues Ali walking night

‘Ali continues walking at night’

b.*yuwasei Ali 'an yaseer-a layl-an
continues Ali that walk night
‘Ali continues to walk at night’

As seen these examples show clearly that the aspectual verbs in Arabic accept only overt derived nominal but not modified derived nominal. Therefore the sentences in (41b, 42b, 43b, 44b, 45b) are illegitimate. However the aspectual verbs in English accept both gerund and infinitive.

Semantic distinction

Some English verbs from the two categories above can be followed by both gerunds and infinitives with little or no change in meaning:

I love to eat sandwiches

I love eating sandwiches

This typically corresponds to the Arabic verb *yuhib* 'love'.

Some verbs can be followed by both gerunds and infinitives, but have a change in meaning. These are like: quit, stop, remember, and forget

John forgot to buy the linguistics book . >> John didn't buy the book because he forgot to buy it

John forgot buying the linguistics book. >> John bought the book, but he forgot that he bought it

Mary quit to cook. >> Mary quit her first activity because she wanted to cook.

'Mary quit cooking. >> Mary doesn't cook anymore .

John remembered to wash the plates. >> John had stopped his first activity so he could go and wash the plates.

John remembered washing the plates. >> After John finished washing the plates, he remembered that he had already washed the plates.

Mary stopped to eat. >> Mary had stopped her first activity so that she could go and eat.

Mary stopped eating. >> Mary stopped the process of eating.

The equivalents of these verbs are not followed by overt or modified nominal except the verbs; *yataDakker* 'remember', and *yansa* 'forget'. The sentences involving such verbs have differences in meaning between the structure of overt and modified nominal following them. Consider:

46a. *taDakker zayd-un an yusaleh s-sayara*
remembered Zayd-nom that repair the-car

On Arabic verbs accepting overt and modified derived

'Zayd remembered to repair the car'

b. taDakker zayd-un tasleeH s-sayara
remembered Zayd-nom repairing the-car
'Zayd remembered repairing the car'

47a. naseya zayd-un an yusaleh s-sayara
forgot Zayd-nom that repair the-car
'Zayd forgot to repair the car'

b. naseya zayd-un tasleeH s-sayara
forgot Zayd-nom repairing the-car
'Zayd forgot repairing the car'

Zayd in (46a) remembered to repair the car. >> Zayd had stopped his first activity so he could go and repair the car.

Zayd in (46b) remembered repairing the car. >> After Zayd finished repairing the car, he remembered that he had already repaired the car.

In example (47a) Zayd forgot to repair the car. >> Zayd didn't repair the car because he forgot to do so.

In (47b) Zayd forgot repairing the car. >> Zayd repaired the car, but he forgot that he repaired it.

3. Reactive Verbs

The reactive verbs of English only take gerunds because they have a later time reference than that of their complement. They do not have explicit time references in their lexical meanings. However, when they take gerunds as objects, the contrasting time references become quite obvious. (Jacobs, 1995) For example:

48. I appreciate hearing from you.

There are two apparent time references here in (48); one is hearing from you, and the other I appreciate. The act of getting a response from someone is being appreciated (Amer 2004).

Some of the reactive verbs include: confess, consider, deny, detest, dislike, enjoy, abhor, recall, recommend, regret, reject, remember, repent, resent, resist, require, risk admit, appreciate, avoid, forget, imagine, mind, and propose,. According to (Jacobs, 1995), "these verbs have to do with realized experience, whether past or ongoing" (P. 295).

49. We discussed going to the zoo in the weekend.
50. The family has seriously considered selling its house.
51. The suspect denies ever committing the crime.
52. He detests socializing with students at school.
53. He repented having shot the dog.
54. He resents having to get his parent's permission for everything he does.
55. He admitted killing the thief.
56. The suspect confessed murdering the man
57. It's hard to imagine staying in a place where people suffer from occupation.

In commenting on such verbs Amer (2004:69) maintains that the verbs including those in the above examples "may not essentially refer to temporal meanings, but when they take a gerund as the object of the verb, there is a time sequence that forms a temporal contrast; that is, one event occurs before the other".

The attitude of reactive verbs in Arabic differs from those in English since most of them alternate i.e. they accept overt and modified derived nominal. These verbs are like: yuthammen 'evaluate', yunaqesh 'discuss', yuqadder 'appreciate', yuqaym 'evaluate', yuqawem 'resist', yataDaker 'remember', yansaa 'forget', yataxayal 'imagine'. Lets consider some examples for convenience:

- 58a. qadder Allah=u 'an yatem Dalek.
Decide Allah-nom that occur this
'Allah decides this to be achieved'
- b. qadder Allah-u itmaam Dalek
decide Allah-nom achieving this
'Allah decides achieving this'
- 59a. la nataSawwer ann naqbala D-Dolem.
Not we-imagine that accept the-tyranny
'We do not imagine to accept tyranny'
- b. La nataSawwer qabuul-a D-Dolem
Not we-imagine accepting the-tyranny
'We do not imagine accepting tyranny'
- 60a. yarfoD-u Ali-yun 'an yaDlem n-naas-a.
Refuse Ali-nom that tyrannize the-people

On Arabic verbs accepting overt and modified derived

'Ali refuses to tyrannize people'

- b. yarfoD-u Ali-yun Dolm-a n-naas-i
Refuse Ali-nom tyrannizing the-people
'Ali refuses tyrannizing people'

61a. yaftaraD-u zayd-un 'an yajee' 9amr.

Assume Zayd-nom that come Amr

'Zayd assumes Amr to come'

B. yaftaraD-u zayd-un majee'-a 9amr.

Assume Zayd-nom coming Amr

'Zayd assumes Amr's coming'

62a. yatatallab n-najaaH an najtahed.

Necessitate the-success that we-activate

* 'Success necessitates to work hard'

b. Yatatallab n-najaaH ijtehad-an kabeer-an.

Necessitate the-success working hard

'Success necessitates working hard'

However some reactive verbs only accept nouns following them, such as; yuthmen, 'valuate', , yuqaawem 'defend' but not the verb; yunaaqesh 'discuss' which only accept overt derived nominal. Consider:

63a. la yuthmman ta9bu l-waaledayn-I bi n-noquud.

Not valuate tiredness the-parents by the money

b.* la yuthmman 'an yata9b l-waaledayn-I bi n-noquud

Not valuate to tire the-parents by the money

64a. yuqawem l-jond-u hojoom-a l-9adow.

Resist the-soldiers aggression the-enemy

'Soldiers resist the enemy's aggression'

b.* yuqaawem l-jund-u 'an yahjum-a l-9adow.

Resist the-soldiers that invade the-enemy

*'Soldiers resist the enemy to invade'

65a. yunaaqesh l-kull-u Halla l-moshkela

Discuss the-all solving the problem

'All discuss solving the problem'

b.* Yunaaqesh l-kul 'an yaHol-loo l-moshkela

Discuss the-all that solve-they the problem

*'All discuss to solve the problem'

As shown above the reactive verbs in (62-64) only accept common nouns. However, the verb Yunaaqesh 'discuss' in (65a) only accepts gerund. This contradicts with the verbs in the examples (58-61). Which are seen as alternating verbs. As a result of this variation in accepting overt derived nominal or not, it becomes evident that Arabic reactive verbs here vary between accepting overt and covert derived nominal or only overt derived nominal, whereas the reactive verbs in English only accept gerund and this represents another point of asymmetry between the two languages.

4. Forward-oriented Verbs

Forward-oriented verbs, or commitment verbs, in English take infinitive only. They refer to actions that to be fulfilled in future, i.e these verbs refer to "some kind of commitment to future action" (Yule, 1998:221). Therefore the situation they refer to is potential rather than an existing one. For example:

66. we expect to stop this security disorder soon.
67. We hope to submit the paper soon.
68. Ahmed intends to travel to Egypt for studying medicine.
69. They plan to spend the vacation in London.
70. My friend wanted to start his undergraduate study in law this fall.

According to Amer (2004:70) "The verbs: plan, want, yearn, expect, intend, hope, and wish, all indicate a future orientation. The suggested events, being conveyed by the meaning of these verbs, have yet to happen. Other verbs that have a less explicit future orientation may include: beg, choose, command, compel, decide, advise, agree, decline, fail, force, ask, aspire, learn, order, teach, tell, tend, urge, persuade, pretend, promise, refuse, remind, seek, long, manage, struggle, swear, mean, offer, strive, and vow."

71. Mary aspires to be a famous advocate.
72. They chose to take his threats seriously.
73. Ahmed was obliged to attend the meeting.
74. the suspect abstained to answer the detective's questions.

As the above examples show, the forward oriented verbs here don't seem to have an explicit time reference. However, their meanings suggest some kind of future event, not an existing one.

On Arabic verbs accepting overt and modified derived

The foreword oriented verbs in Arabic differ completely from English since they accept both overt and modified derived nominal. These are like Yatawaqqa9 'expect', ya'mal 'hope', yuxaTeT 'plan', yureed 'want' yanwy 'intend', yuSamem 'insist'

Consider the following examples:

- 75a. yatawaqqa9 zayd-un an yaSal axaah men s-safar l-yawm
Expect Zayd-nom that arrive brother-his from travel the day.
'Zayd expects his brother to arrive from travel today'
- b. yatawaqqa9 zayd-un wosool-a axeeh men s-safar l-yawm
Expect Zayd-nom arrival brother-his from travel the day.
'Zayd expects his brother arrival from travel today'
- 76a. ta'mal hind-un an tanal-a n-najaaH haDi s-sanah.
Hope Hind-nom that get the success this year.
'Hind expects to have success this year'
- b. ta'mal hind-un nayla n-najaaHaa haDi s-sanah.
Hope Hind-nom having the success this year
* 'Hind expects having success this year'
- 77a. yoreed-u zayd-un an yaqra'a l-qeSSa
Want Zayd-nom that read the story
'Zayd wants to read the story'
- b. yoreed-u zaydun qeraa'ta l-qeSSa
'want Zayd-nom reading the story'
- 78a. yanwy l-mosee'-u an yatuub-a 'ila Allah
Intend the-sinner-nom that repent to God
'the sinner wants to repent to God'
- b. yanwy l-mosee'-u t-tawbata 'lla Allah
want the-sinner-nom repenting to God
'the sinner wants to repent to God'
- 79a. 'xtar-a Ali-yu an yadrus-a t-tareex
Chose Ali-nom that study the -history
'Ali chose to study history'
- b. 'xtar-a Ali-yu deraasat-a t-tareex
chose Ali-nom studying the-history
'Ali chose studying history'

- 80a. yaqtareH zayd-un an yuqabel-a Hind-an
Suggest Zayd-nom that meet Hind-acc
'Zayd suggests to meet Hind'
b. yaqtareH zayd-un moqabalat-a Hind-in
suggest Zayd-nom meeting Hind
'Zayd suggests meeting Hind'
- 81a. yoxaTeT waalidi an yabny dar-an l-laytaam
Plan father-my that build house-acc for the-orphans
'My father plans to build a house for orphans'
b.* yoxaTeT waalidi benaa' dar-in l-laytaam
plan father-my building house for the-orphans
- 82a. yuSamem-u Ali-yu an yaquud-a s-sayaara
Insist Ali-nom that drive the car
'Ali insists to drive the car'
b.* yuSamem-u Ali-yu qeyadat-a s-sayaara
insist Ali-nom driving the car

The above examples clearly show that the forward oriented verbs alternate, i.e. they accept both modified derived nominal and overt derived nominal except the verbs yuxaTeT(plan) and yuSamem (determine) in examples (81 and 82) respectively. They only accept modified derived nominal. Thus, this category of verbs is confusing mainly when translating from Arabic to English due to the differences between the two languages in this specific field.

5. Conclusion

The study highlighted the semantic entry of Arabic verbs which accept either modified or overt derived nominal constructions or both. It appeared that there are certain explicable semantic features that motivate the Arabic native speaker in choosing one form over the other and that the semantics of verb behavior plays a major role in this overt and modified derived nominal dichotomy. The proposal clarifies that verbs associated with these constructions can be classified into four basic working categories according to their lexical meanings and their behaviors: emotive verbs, aspectual verbs, reactive verbs, and forward-oriented or commitment verbs. The emotive verbs of Arabic, like the emotive verbs of English, indicate the mood and attitude of agents or participants. These Arabic emotive verbs are

On Arabic verbs accepting overt and modified derived

also not associated with an explicit time reference in meaning. Consequently, these verbs are syntactically symmetrical to their counterparts in English, i.e. they accept both overt and modified derived nominal (translated as infinitive and gerund in English).

The aspectual verbs in Arabic accept only overt derived nominal but not modified derived nominal. However the aspectual verbs in English accept both gerund and infinitive, and this represents an area of differences between the two languages.

Arabic reactive verbs vary between accepting overt and covert derived nominal or only overt derived nominal, whereas the reactive verbs in English only accept gerund and this represents another point of asymmetry between the two languages.

Finally, forward oriented verbs in Arabic alternate. They accept both modified derived nominal and overt derived nominal except the verbs *yuxaTeT* 'plan' and *yuSamem* 'insist' which only accept modified derived nominal. Whereas the forward oriented verbs in English only accept infinitive. Thus, this category of verbs is somewhat confusing mainly when the native speakers of Arabic translate into English.

References

1. Amer, Walid. (2004) On the semantic features of infinitive and gerund dichotomy.
2. Fikr wa Ibda' Vol.26 (P61-72)
3. Bolinger, D. (1968). "Entailment and the meaning of structures." *Glossa*. 2: 119-127.
Celce-Murcia, M. & Larsen-Freeman, D. (1983). *The grammar book: An ESL/EFL teacher's course*. Boston, MA: Heinie & Heinie Publishers.
Celce-Murcia, M. & Larsen-Freeman, D. (1999). *The grammar book: An ESL/EFL teacher's course*. (2nd edition) Boston, MA: Heinie & Heinie Publishers.
4. Chalker, S. & Weiner E. (1994). *The Oxford dictionary of English grammar*. Oxford, England: Clarendon Press.
5. Fassi Fehri, A. (1993): *Issues in the Structure of Arabic Clauses and words*. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers.
6. Jacobs, R. (1995). *English syntax: A grammar for English language professionals*. Oxford University Press
Levin, B. (1993). *English verb classes and alternations: Apreliminary investigation*. Chicago & London: The Chicago University Press.
Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., & Svartvik, J. (1985). *Acomprehensive grammar of the English language*. London & New York: Longman.
Quirk, R. et-al (1986): *A Grammar of Contemporary English*. Longman.
7. Siloni, T. (1994) *Noun Phrases and Nominalizations*. Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Geneva.
8. Yule, G. (1998). *Explaining grammar*. Oxford University Press.