Adab Al-Rafidayn Journal

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Adab Al-Rafidayn Journal

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Editor-in-chief

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A Comparative Study of Modulation in English and Arabic

Hisham Saleh Rmadan Hasan∗
Hala khalid Najim∗

Abstract

This study aims at conducting a comparative study of modulation in Arabic and English. It attempts to give extensive description of modulation in English and Arabic. It tries to find out the aspects of similarities and differences of the meanings of modulation in the two languages. The outcomes show that there are some aspects of similarities in Arabic and English Languages at different parts of speech such as nouns, adjectives and adverbs. The results also show that there are some points of differences between the two languages. For example, English is mainly expressed by using modal verbs. In opposite, Arabic is mainly expressed by using lexical verbs in addition to using prepositional phrases to express the meanings of modulation.

Keywords: comparison, analysis, difference.

1.Introduction

Contrastive grammar is a part of wide field of contrastive linguistics. It aims at making a contrastive studies between two or more languages, focusing mainly on similarities and differences among the languages. It generally deals with certain elements of the grammar of those languages to be compared since it is hard to compare all the parts of speech and the details of languages to be compared and contrasted. (Aziz, 1989:7)

Modulation can be defined as a way of expressing different meanings which are related to speaker or writer attitudes and feelings towards certain action or event. Modality can be divided into deontic, epistemic and dynamic modalities(Palmer,1988: 96 - 98). Modulation represents two of the main three types of modality

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Dept. of Translation / College of Arts / University of Mosul .

Prof. Dr/Dept. of Translation / College of Arts / University of Mosul .

: deontic which includes permission and obligation, dynamic which includes willingness and ability (Quirk, R., Sidney, G., Geoffrey, L., & Jan, S.,1985: 221). Modulation can be defined as an intrinsic modality which involves human control over events and uses modal verbs to express permission, obligation and volition(willingness, intention, insistence). Quirk et al.(1985) exclude 'ability' as they regard it as a special type of extrinsic modality although it involves human control over events. Halliday (1970 : 349) defines Modulation as a kind of quasi-modality which is intrinsic to the content, and it involves with "a characterization of the relation of the participant to the process". It comprises what is known as dynamic modality: ability and willingness of the participant and deontic modality.

2. Questions of the Study
This study tries to answer the following questions:
1-Does Modulation in Arabic have the same meanings as that in English?
2-What are the ways that can be used to express modulation in both languages ?

3. Aims of the Study
 This study aims at:
1-Giving a full description of modulation in English and Arabic.
2- Contrasting Modulation in English and Arabic.
3- Emphasizing the aspects of similarities and differences of modulation in English and Arabic.

4. Hypotheses
        The present study hypothesizes that :
   1- Various means can be used to express meanings of Modulation in Arabic.
2-Different means can be used in Arabic and English to express modulation.

5. Scope of the Study
        This study is restricted for contrasting and describing standard written English and Arabic languages in terms of the following meanings : permission, ability, willingness, obligation, intention and insistence.

6. The Model
The approach adopted in this study is that of Quirk et al. (1985) and (Thomson and Martinet (1986) for English. For Arabic, however, Aziz (1989) and Omar (2000) models will be adopted since modulation is not found as a fixed item in Arabic grammar books.

7. Value of the Study
The current study is an investigation of modulation in English and Arabic. It proceeds to show how modulation is viewed in Arabic. This study will be of great help not only to the researchers but also to teachers and translators. Besides , it is useful for second language learners since it sheds light on the uses of modulation in Arabic in contrast to English.

8. Meanings of Modulation in English
According to Quirk et al. (1985 : 219) the main meanings of modulation are permission, obligation, and volition (intention, willingness and insistence).

8.1 Permission
In English, permission can be expressed by using different parts of speech such as modal verbs, lexical verbs, nouns, adjectives and by using the imperative mood. Such items can be classified as verbal and non-verbal items. They are as follows:

A) Verbal items for expressing permission
Permission can be expressed mainly by modal verbs such as : can / could, may/might, be able to, for example:

1-   You *can* borrow my car when you like.
2-   *Might* I ask whether you are using the typewriter? (Leech, 2004:75)

Permission can also be expressed by using lexical verbs, for example:

3-   The manager *allowed/ permitted* the students to leave early.

B) Expressing Permission Using non-Verbal items
There are another ways used to express permission rather than verbs such as nouns, adjectives, imperative mood in addition to certain expressions.

Some nouns can be used to express permission such as *acceptance, allowance, permission, license, authorization*...etc.

4-   *Permission* was granted to the crew.(Noun)

5- Smoking is not *allowable* at fuel stations.(An adjective)

6- Help yourself. (An imperative)   (Quirk et al., 1985 : 832)

8.2 Obligation

Obligation in English is mainly realized by verbal items such as modal verbs and it can be avoidable and non-avoidable obligation. It can also be realized by non-verbal items.

8.2.1 Verbal Items to Express Non-Avoidable Obligation

There is a number of verbal items which can be used to express this sense such as *must, have (got)to, need, shall* . For example:

7- You *must* be back before midnight. [You are obliged to be back…., I require you to be back….] (external obligation) Or by exercising authority over himself (the speaker), appealing to his own sense of duty, because the meaning is one of the self-admonishment.

8- I *must* remember to write to aunt Anna.(with I as a subject : internal obligation) (Quirk et al., 1985 : 225)

    Have to is a semi-auxiliary / lexical-modal verb which is objective (the obligation is external) that is used to express obligation which resembles *must* in meaning:

9- I *have to* learn English because I want to go abroad.

    Had to is used to express past obligation and it is regarded as the past form of *must* which has no past by its own.

10- I *had to* sell my car last week.

    Need is one of the marginal modals that is usually used to express a strong obligation like *must, should, ought to*:

11- You *need to/ ought to / must / should* take these books back. (Saeed, 2016 : 135)

Need is essentially used in negative and interrogative. E.g.:

12- *Needn't* I go? (Negative-interrogative)

13- *Need I* go?(interrogative) (Palmer, 1988)

    Shall is another type of central modal auxiliaries to express obligation.

14- All competitors in the Games *shall* wear a number.(Downing & Locke 2006 : 388)

8.2.2 Verbal Items to Express Non-compulsory obligation:

    Should and *ought to* are used to express a medium obligation (weak obligation), which is not mandatory and may be unfulfilled:

15- People *should* drive more carefully.

16- I *ought to* call him today.

had better is used in order to say what is the best choice to do in certain circumstances.

17- You're ill. You *had better* see a doctor. NOT You have better see a doctor.

The negative is *had better + not.*

8.2.3 Non-Verbal Items to Express Obligation

Obligation can also be realized by using phrases , nouns and adjectives such as : obligation, *necessary, obligatory, mandatory, and commitment. Obligation* as a noun is used when we promise to do sometimes or because it's our duty:

18- We have moral *obligation* to help people who are in need.

Duty as a noun is used when we have to do something that people expect us to do or we think it is right:

19- It is our *duty* to look after our parents when they got older.

Adjectives such as mandatory and *compulsory* refer to something that you should do since it is related to law that must be fulfilled.

20- *It is mandatory* to stop when the traffic signal is red.

21- Education in Iraq is *compulsory.*(Michelle, expressing obligation,2018)

8.3 Volition

Volition includes three senses : willingness, intention and insistence. The volitional choice spreads from the weak volition of willingness to the strong volition of insistence. Intention occurs between the two senses which is considered as a more usual moderate volitional sense.(Quirk et al., 1985 : 229)

8.3.1 Willingness

A) Expressing Willingness Using Modal Verbs

i. Will / would

We can use *will* in the present tense to say that someone is willing to do something.

22- He'll help you if you like. (Quirk et al., 1973 : 55)

Willingness can be expressed by using *to-infinitive* which is mostly found after nouns that have intrinsic usages and involve human control over events as in :

23- Sami has the *will to win*.(Quirk et al., 1985: 1272) or :

Will not / won't is used to express *unwillingness* to do something:

24- Suha *won't* open the door – she doesn't want to talk to me.

ii. Shall / Shan't

Shall can be used to express *willingness* on the part of the speaker especially with 2nd and 3rd persons for restricted use:

25- You *shall* do precisely as you wish.(Quirk et al., 1973: 54)

Shan't is used to express *unwillingness* or refusal as in :

26- 'Go and buy some milk, will you, love?' 'No , I *shan't*. I am busy'.

(Foley and Hall, 2003 :192)

B) Expressing Willingness Using Lexical Verbs

Bybee et al. (1994) state that verbs of *desire* such as *want, like, wish* and *would like* can also be used to give rise to the expressions of willingness, as in **:**

27- I'll help you.(Bybee et al., 1994 : 178)

Foley and Hall (2003 : 193) and Thomson and Martinet (1986 : 139) state that verbs of wishing and liking such as : *like*, *want*, *wish*, *love*…etc. all mean desire. E.g.:

28- Why do/did you *wish* to see the director?

29- The manager doesn't *wish* Mr. Ahmed to leave the school. (Thomson and Martinet, 1986: 185)

In less formal language, *want* and *would like* are used:

30- I *would like*/*want to* speak to Ann.(ibid)

C) Non-Verbal Items for Expressing Willingness

Willingness can also be expressed by nouns (eagerness, (un)willingness, inclination, will…etc.) :

31- He was annoyed of her *unwillingness* to finish the work.

Willingness can be expressed by adverbs such as *with reluctance, voluntarily and (un)willingly*:

32- He was in Mosul *reluctantly* (unwillingly) for his son's party.

Or by adjectives (ready, eager, willing…..etc.)

33- Ali is *eager* to help her.

8.3.2 Intention

A) Verbal Items for Expressing Intention

Will and *shall* are the main modal verbs that are mainly used to express intention according to Quirk et al. (1985: 214,230), Quirk et al. (1973: 54, 55), ECKERSLEY(1958 : 51,52) and Downing and Lock (2006 : 386) as in :

34- I'*ll* write as soon as I can. (Quirk et al., 1986 : 229)

35- We won't stay longer than two hours. (Negative intention) (ibid)

Leech and Svartvik (2003 : 337) and Quirk et al.(1985 :1204) add a number of lexical verbs which are used to express intention such as *intend, mean, aim , arrange , plan and decide* + (infinitive clause):

36- She *aims / intends* to catch that last bus.(Leech and Svartvik , 2003 : 337)

B) Non- Verbal Items for Expressing Intention

Intention can also be expressed by other ways such as nouns, adverbs and prepositional phrases. for example :

37- The student has the *intent* to complete her study this year.(Noun)

38- They broke the window *intentionally*.(An adverb)

39- The soldiers shot the ship *with intent*.(Prepositional phrase)

8.3.3 Insistence

A)Express insistence Using Verbal Items

Will, would, shall are the main modal verbs for expressing insistence, for example:

40- He *'will* do it, whatever you say. (She insists on doing that)

41- She '*would* keep interrupting me. (Quirk et al., 1985 : 229)

Shall is used to express insistence for restricted use as in :

42- You *shall* do as I say. (Quirk et al., 1973: 54)

43- I '*won't / 'shan't* give in. (' I am determined not to …'). (Leech and Svartvik , 2003 : 125)

The modal verbs in this case receive primary stress (as shown in the examples above).

Lexical verbs can also be used to express this sense, for example:

44- She *determined* to give up smoking next year.

45- He *insists* on doing everything himself. (Leech and Svartvik , 2003 : 125)

A)   Express Insistence Using Non-Verbal Items

Adjectives are another way for expressing insistence, for example:

46- He was *insistent* that we all come to His party.

47- We are *determined* to face all difficulties.

9- Meanings of Modulation in Arabic

According to Aziz (1989 : 84) modulation in Arabic can be defined as a means which is used to express the following senses: ability, obligation, permission and willingness.

9.1 Permission

According to Aziz (1989 : 85-86), Mustafa et al. (1989: 11, 463) , Omar (2000 :56 -57) and Al-Fayruzabadi (2008 : 477, 506) permission can be expressed by a large number of verbs.

(A) Expressing permission using verbs

A number of verbs can be used to express this sense such as: حلَّل (permitted), رخصَّ (permitted), سَمَح (allowed) and سَوَّغ (justified /permitted). E.g.:

48- حلَّل الشرع الخدعة في الحرب .

(Sharia [law of Islam] had permitted deceiving in the war).

49- رخصَّ الوزير للشركات الاجنبية التنقيب عن النفط .

(The minister had permitted oil exploration for the foreign companies).

civilians.).

The negation of permission of such verbs can be done when by preceding them by the لا الناهية (Prohibitive *La*) , e.g. :

50- لا يجوز له تناول الغداء معنا اليوم.(He was not permitted to have lunch with us today.)

(B)Nouns used for expressing Permission

A number of nouns used for expressing permission according to Mustafa et al. (1989: 11, 463) , Omar (2000 :56 -57) and Al-Fayruzabadi (2008 : 477, 506) such as: تَحِلَّة (absolution) , تحليل (To make it halal), تسويغ (justification),e.g. :

51- ﴾قَدْ فَرَضَ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ تَحِلَّةَ أَيْمَانِكُمْ﴿ (At-Tahrim- 2)

(Allah has already ordained for you (O men) the absolution from your oaths) (AL- Hilali & Muhsin Khan , n.d. :768)

52- تحليل أكل الميته جائزٌ عند الضرورة .

(Eating the dead animals[for Muslims] is possible when necessary)

(C) Adjectives used for expressing permission

According to Omar (2000 :56 -57) a number of adjectives can be used for expressing permission such as : مُسَوَّغ (permissible, justified), مَشروع (permissible), مُمْكِن (permissible / possible), e.g. :

53- أخذُك إجازةً أمر مسَوَّغٌ. (It is permissible to take a leave.).

54- (التدخين خارج العيادة ممكن. Smoking outside the clinic is possible.).

D)Expressing permission using prepositional phrases

Permission in Arabic can also be expressed by prepositional phrases من المسموح ، من الجائز ،من المباح، من الممكن، : such as الجار ومجرور e.g. : لك أن,

55- لك أن تستعير سيارتي. (You are allowed to borrow my car.)

56- من المسموح لك ان تدحن هنا. (It was permitted to smoke here)

9.2 Obligation

According to Aziz (1989 : 86), Mustafa et al. (1989: 105,108,357),Omar (2000: 239 -240) and Al-Fayruzabadi (2008 : 141), obligation in Arabic can be expressed by lexical verbs, nouns, prepositional phrases, imperative mood, adjectives and adverbs.

A) Lexical verbs for expressing obligation

Verbs such as :يجب (must),أرْغَم (obliged / forced), أزْأم (obliged / forced) andأكره (obliged / forced) are used to express this sense, e.g.:

57- يجب أن تغادر الان. (You must leave now.).

58- أرغمه على ترك البيت. (He forced him to leave the house.).

B) Prepositional phrases for expressing obligation

According to Khalil (2010: 241) and Aziz (1989:86),constructions which من الضروري ,من الواجب ،من المفروض عليه، عليك، عليها : such as are composed of the preposition على   plus a suitable personal pronoun or a noun:

59- من الواجب أن تصلي.   (It is obligatory to pray .).

60- عليها ان تفعل ما بوسعها.(3rd person, feminine) (She should do her best.)

C) Imperative mood to express obligation

Different ways by which obligation in Arabic can be expressed such as :

i)   By using the imperative verb such as :

61- لا تَكْتُبْ (Don't write). (Haywood & Nahmad, 1965 :135)

ii) The imperfect verb is prefixed by لام الطلب which is known as لام الامر   (The imperative Lam), e.g.:

62- ﴿ وَلْيَعْفُوا وَلْيَصْفَحُوا﴾ (Al Nur-22) (Let them pardon and forgive) (AL- Hilali & Muhsin Khan , n.d.:469).

iii) The verbal imperative nouns أسماء فعل الأمر ,e.g.:

حَيَّهَل (come) as in:

63- حَيِّهل الصلاة (أتُو الصلاة) , come to Prayer.(Al- Awsy, 1988: 175)

iv)متعلقات فعل الامر(**Adverbs) such as** :

64- إليكَ (تنحَّ), (Move a side.)

D) Particles for Expressing Obligation

The particles ها and لا can also be used for expressing the sense of obligation(see Al Awsy, 1988: 468 and Harron, 2001 : 66)

65- لا تتكلم. (Do not talk.)

66- ﴿ هَاؤُمُ اقْرَءُوا كِتَابِيَهْ﴾ (Al-Haqqah – 19) ("Here! read my Record!) (AL- Hilali & Muhsin Khan , n.d. :781).

9.3 Willingness

Willingness in Arabic, according to Mustafa et al. (1989: 27, 65) and Omar (2000: 53, 591), can be expressed by a number of verbs, nouns, particles and adjectives.

Sadoon (1983:111) states that the particles سوف and سـ (will) are not only related to the future, but they can also be used to express willingness ,for example :

67- سوف احضر المقابلة اليوم. (I will attend the meeting today.)

68- عمر سيزورنا الليلة. (Omar will visit us tonight.)

A)Verbs for Expressing willingness :

A large number of verbs are used to express this sense such as:أمَّل (hoped)رَادَ (asked /requested) and اشتهى , (desired) are used to express this sense. E.g.:

69-) أمَّل الرجل في تحقيق أهدافه.
      The man was hoped to achieve his goals.)

70- اشتهى اكل العنب. (He desired eating grapes.)

71- رَادَ العمل. (He asked and requested the work.)

B)Nouns of ألأمل والرجاء (hopefulness) for expressing willingness such as :
أمَل (hope),أُمْنِيَة (wish, aspiration)and بُغْية , (aim/ goal/ purpose),

72- الشباب أمل المستقبل.   (The young people are the hope of the future.)

73- لديه امنية في زيارة مكة.   (He has a wish to visit Makkah.)

C) Express Willingness using Adjectives

Adjectives such as: طامِح (aspirant / ambitious), مُتمنَّ (wishful /ambitious) and مُرتجٍ (hopeful / wishful) are used to express willingness, e.g. :

74- انه طامح في راتب جيد. (He is looking for a good salary.)

75- مُتَمَنٍّ لآمالٍ كَبيرَةٍ. (Wishing great hopes.)

76- مُرتجٍ مغفرة اللهِ. (Hoping Allah's forgiveness.)

9.4 Ability

A)Verbs Using for Expressing Ability

A number of lexical verbs such as: أَطَاق (bore) إِخْتَمَل (bore) أَسْتَخْمَل (bore) and أستطاع(could) can be used to express ability in Arabic. (See Mustafa et al. (1989: 142, 199) , Omar (2000: ١٦٢) and Al-Fayruzabadi

(2008 : 460)), e.g. :

77- أطَاق أحمد الألم بشجاعة. (Ahmed bore pain bravely.)

78- ﴿ فَمَا اسْطَاعُوا أَنْ يَظْهَرُوهُ وَمَا اسْتَطَاعُوا لَهُ نَقْبًا ﴾ (Al- Kahf- 97)

 (So they [Yajuj and Majuj (Gog and Magog)] could not scale it or dig through it.) (AL- Hilali & Muhsin Khan , n.d. :768)

B)Nouns Using for Expressing Ability

Mustafa et al. (1989: 199,142), Omar (2000 : 163-704) and Al-Fayruzabadi (2008 : 460) add a number of nouns used for expressing ability such as: إقْتِدَار (ability), اضطِلاع (assumption/ carrying out), تجشم

(bearing), e.g:

79- الإِضْطِلاعُ بِالْمَسْؤوليَّةِ. (Assuming a responsibility.)

80- ان الاقتدار على الزراعة في الصحراء له اثار جيدة في المستقبلِ.

 (The ability of planting in the desert has positive effects in the future.)

C)Adjectives used for Expressing Ability

  Omar (2000 : 706) presents a number of adjectives used to express ability in Arabic such as قادر (able), قدير (Mighty), متمكن (versed), which are mainly representing characteristics of Allah.

81- هذا الرجل متمكنٌ من صناعة الاثاثِ.

 (This man is versed / skilled with furniture making.)

82- ﴿ إِنَّهُ عَلَىٰ رَجْعِهِ لَقَادِرٌ ﴾ (At-Tariq-8)

(Verily, (Allah) is Able to bring him back (to life)!)(AL Hilali & Muhsin Khan , n.d.:829).

D) Expressing ability using prepositional phrases

Prepositional phrases can also be used to express ability especially with attached preposition as in:

83- بمقدوري عبور النهر سباحةً.(I can cross the river swimming.)

84- له القدرة على الفوز في السباقِ. (He has the ability to win the race.)

10. Results

In the light of the comparison of the meanings of Modulation in English :Permission, obligation, and volition(willingness, intention and insistence) with the meanings of Modulation in Arabic: permission, obligation, willingness and ability, some of similarities and differences have been brought to light. These are summarized below:

1-Expressing permission in English using modal verbs, lexical verbs, nouns, adjectives and imperative mood. While in Arabic, permission can be expressed by lexical verbs, nouns, adjectives and prepositional phrases .

2-Obligation in English is basically expressed by modal verbs in addition to nouns, adjectives, semi-auxiliaries and marginal auxiliaries. In Arabic, Obligation is mainly expressed by lexical verbs, nouns, adjectives, prepositional phrases, and imperative mood, in addition to particles and adverbs.

3-Willingness in English can be expressed by using modal verbs and lexical verbs. Besides, non-verbal items include nouns, adjectives and adverbs. Whereas in Arabic, willingness is basically expressed by verbs, nouns, adjectives and particles.

4-Intention and insistence in English, not in Arabic, are realized by modal verbs, lexical verbs ,nouns, adjectives and prepositional phrases. Whereas Ability in Arabic, not in English, can be expressed by lexical verbs, prepositional phrases, adjectives, verbs in the present tense and nouns.

11. Conclusions

This paper concludes that:

1-Modulation in Arabic is realized by various parts of speech such as verbs, nouns, adverbs, adjectives, an imperative mood to express various senses: permission, obligation, willingness. This conclusion verifies hypothesis number one.

2- Different parts of speech, structures and constructions are used for expressing modulation in English and Arabic. This conclusion verifies hypothesis number two.

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دراســة مقارنة للتضمين في اللغة الإنكليزيَّة والعربيَّة

هشام صالح رمضان حسن* وهالة خالد نجم*

المستخلص

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى إجراء دراسة مقارنة للتضمين باللغتين العربيَّة والإنجليزيَّة وتحاول إعطاء وصف موسع عن التضمين في هاتين اللغتين، ويهدف البحث لاكتشاف أوجه التشابه والاختلاف في معاني التضمين باللغتين المقارنتين، وتظهر نتائج التحليل أنَّ هناك بعض أوجه التشابه في اللغتين العربية والإنجليزية في أجزاء مختلفة من الكلام، مثل: الأسماء والصفات والظروف، كما تظهر النتائج أيضًا أنَّ هناك بعض نقاط الاختلاف بين هاتين اللغتين، وعلى سبيل المثال: يُعبَّر في اللغة الإنجليزيَّة عن التضمين بشكل أساسي باستعمال الأفعال الشرطيَّة، في المقابل يُعبَّر في اللغة العربية عن معاني التضمين بشكل أساسي باستعمال الأفعال المعجميَّة فضلًا عن استعمال حروف الجر .

الكلمات المفتاحيَّة: مقارنة، تحليل، اختلاف.

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