

عنوان المحاضرة: Essentials

المادة الدراسية: النحو المقارن

المرحلة الدراسية: 3rd class

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جامعة الموصل

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القسم: الترجمة

In English **questions** the subject is normally placed after a part of the predicate (operator).

Will **John** arrive tomorrow?

Subject

Predicate

This change from **statements** to **questions** involving change of word order is not found in Arabic.

غدا

علي

أ يصل

Subject

Predicate

The structure of the subject is fairly simple, it may be considered homogeneous. The predicate in both languages is less homogeneous; it comprises a number of elements.

1.5 The Predicate

In English, the predicate may comprise the verb alone as in

9. They are reading (V).

or the verb and one or more of the following elements: the complement (C), the object (O) and the adverbial (A)

10. S She is clever (C).

11. She is here (A).

12. She bought a dress (O).

13. They elected him (O) their chairman (C).

Thus, the structure of the predicate in English may be stated as: V (C) (O) (A); the brackets contain optional elements, the verb is the only non-optional element.

In Arabic, the predicate may or may not contain a verb. On the basis of this fact, Arabic sentences may be classified into **verbal** (*containing a-verb*) and **non-verbal** (*containing no verb*).

Verbal Sentences: The verb may precede (14) or follow the subject (15).

14. (جاء المهندس) The engineer has come.

(اشترى صديقي بيتا) My friend bought a house.

15. احمد وضع الكتاب على المنضدة . Ahmed put the book on the table.

(ابوه يأتي في الاسبوع القادم) His father will come next week.

Nominal Sentences: The subject normally precedes the predicate. If the subject is an indefinite is noun it usually follows the predicate (17).

16. ليلي تلميذة Layla is a student.

(جاسم ذكي Jassim is clever.

(الثعلب حيوان مكر A fox is a cunning animal.

17. عنده بيت He has a house.

(في الحديقة رجل There is a man in the garden.

Since these nominal sentences have no verb, they are considered timeless. (The English translations have the verb in the present; this is one Interpretation.) The time reference of such sentences is derived from the context. it is to be noted that Arabic verbless sentences are existential or possessive.

To indicate the past or the future explicitly, nominal sentences are preceded by كان سيكون يكون or سوف يكون respectively.

كانت ليلي تلميذة . 19.)Layla was a student.(

سيكون عنده بيت 20.)He will have a house.(

(19) and (20) are considered verbal since the predicate contains a verb.

The structure of the Arabic predicate may be said to comprise one element or more. The one-element predicate may be a verb, a complement or an adverbial. The structure of the predicate may be stated as follows:

(V) (C) (O) (A)

The brackets refer to alternative structures. The first line describes the structure of verbal sentences: the last two lines, the structures of nominal sentences.

The definition of nominal and verbal sentences in this section is slightly different from the definition used by traditional Ant grans, who define **verbal** sentence as one beginning with a verb, and **nominal** sentence as a sentence beginning with a noun. For these grammarians جاء على verbal sentence, whereas جاء علي is a nominal sentence.