

An analysis of the Post-Nominal Modifiers in English and Arabic in light of Cognitive Grammar Theory

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Abstract

Why may a syntactic structure of an English expression differ from its Arabic counterpart though they may, semantically, convey similar or equivalent messages? Investigating resources in the two languages produces the view that the difference between these languages in terms of syntactic constructions belong to the difference between the worlds that the natives of the two languages perceive and communicate in composing these messages. The English natives deal with the projected world (mental world of concepts) whose input is the natives' mental interpretations of entities in the real world. Whereas Arabs tend to deal with the real world -as it is -in composing their messages.

This paper surveys some cases of post-nominal modifiers in English and Arabic in the light of the notion mentioned above. It comes to the conclusion that even when the two languages happen to show similarity in terms of grammatical position of a certain linguistic unit, the difference still present in terms of the details which underlie that similarity because the entities encoded linguistically belong to different worlds.

Keywords: Cognitive grammar, projected world, real world, post-nominal modifier, priority, concepts, sequence, adjectives, phrases, clauses.

الخلاصة

لماذا قد يختلف التركيب النحوي لتعبير ما في اللغة الانجليزية عن نظيره في اللغة العربية على الرغم من ان كلا التعبيرين قد ينقلان المعنى ذاته او مايكافئه من الناحية الدلالية. لقد قاد البحث في مصادر كلا اللغتين الى رؤية تنص على ان الفرق بين هاتين اللغتين من حيث البناء النحوي يعزى الى ان الناطقين باللغة الانجليزية والناطقين بالعربية يدركون وينقلون عالمين مختلفين في تركيب الخطابات اللغوية. اذ يتعامل الناطقون بالانجليزية مع العالم الذهني (عالم المفاهيم والتصورات الذهنية للموجودات) والذي تكون مدخلاته عبارة عن تصورات الناطقين بهذه اللغة للموجودات في العالم المادي. في حين يميل العرب الى التعامل مع العالم الوجودي المادي في تركيب خطاباتهم.

يعرض البحث بعض حالات التعبيرات الواصفة التابعة للاسم في اللغتين العربية والانجليزية في ضوء المفهوم المشار له اعلاه. واستنتج من هذا العرض انه حتى وان ورد تشابه بين اللغتين من حيث الموقع النحوي لمفرده لغوية ما في تعبير ما فان الاختلاف بين اللغتين يبقى قائماً في التفاصيل التي تكمن وراء هذا التشابه كون ان الموجودات المعبر عنها لغوياً من قبل الناطقين باللغتين تعود الى عالمين مختلفين.

الكلمات المفتاحية: النحو الادراكي، العالم الذهني، العالم المادي، التعبيرات الواصفة التابعة، الاسبقية، المفاهيم، تتابع، صفات، عبارات، جمل.

1. Post-Nominal Modifiers in English

1.1. Introduction

Evans (2007: 216-20) states that the grammatical rules are in fact representations of the way a language is used by its speakers and that a grammar is a sort of “linguistic behavior” which represents cultural and contextual repertoire. When that repertoire is frequently used by the speakers of a language in a routine linguistic habit, it turns to be conventional.

As any linguistic convention has its own content which is determined by the native speakers of the language, the following theoretical discussion is intended to show the syntactic convention of post-nominal modifiers as it is determined by its natives.

1.2. The Concept of Post-Nominal Modification in English

Post-nominal modification refers to the occurrence of a modifier after the head word it modifies (Kim and Sells, 2007: 122). As “We put things in the same categories because they are similar to each other” (Wilson and Keil, 1999: 104), different grammatical classes can be categorized as post-nominal modifiers because they share the function of modifying the head noun that precedes them.

Langacker, (2008: 83-4) discusses the concept of modification in terms of “reference point relationship”. His view is that people prompt the idea of one entity to provide a mental access to (mental understanding of) another one. The “reference point relationship” is actually a process of “mental scanning” of entities in the real world where our awareness’ focus is directed to certain entities as they are faster to our cognition than others. For instance, whole entities are faster to our awareness than their parts (ibid: 505). That is when we look at some entity we see it as a whole, and realizing its parts is a posterior step of recognition. Langacker (ibid) states that ‘temporal sequence’ of the mental awareness determines the order of occurrence of the linguistic elements.

Though our cognition is confined to recognize the whole things then their parts, the concrete things then the abstract, the human entities then the animate, the animate then the inanimate, it cannot be said that the choice of a reference point is as direct as that sequence looks (ibid). Rather, the choice of a reference point depends on how the speakers of language view the scenario in question.

However, it is a general view in the light of cognitive grammar that the entities which are prior to our recognition occur first in an English expression. Details about this notion will be discussed through the analysis of some types of post-nominal modifiers.

1.3. Types of Post-Nominal Modifiers

i. Adjective: An adjective is a relational word which implies a dependent conceptual unit that denotes a subcategory of a thing (i.e. head noun) (Radden and Dirven, 2007:146). It can be said that the term ‘subcategory’ invokes the view that an adjective connotes a sense of part –whole relation between the particular property (as a sub-entity) and the thing modified (as a whole entity):

1. a “ *The visible stars* “ (Quirk et al 1985:419)

The adjective ‘visible’ is the entity that functions as ‘a reference point’ which allows getting into some target entity (i.e. the modified noun) through identification. In the light of this view, an adjective as a reference point is perceived as a gate that allows our understanding to get to the target noun (i.e. to go inside some place we must step the entrance first):

Reference point (adjective) —————> Target (noun)

It can be said that the reason which underlies the occurrence of an adjective before the head noun is that English speakers symbolize the ‘path of composition’ syntactically (Langacker: 61). Conceptually speaking, the expression ‘visible’ in (1.a.) refers to a characteristic in the referent ‘stars’, where a property is a part of a referent and the two are perceived within a containment concept. The referent is perceived as a ground content or as a container which contains the feature ‘visible’ that rests as a sub-component entity in that ground ‘container’.

It may be viewed that the expression ‘visible star’ seems a deviation from the natural mental path proposed by Langacker and mentioned in (1.2) above. In fact this deviation is not a real one if we remember that we are dealing with the projected world which bases on the way the English natives perceive a particular scene. When the modifier indicates an intrinsic facet of the thing to be modified, the temporal sequence of the mental scanning will have the decisive role in expressing that interconnection between the modified thing and the modifier.

If we look at a bottle which contains a colored liquid, the colored liquid will naturally be the focal of our attention (rather than the container itself) and hence it is used as a reference point to mentally contact the container as a whole. Even when we enter a room, for instance, the room itself remains at the background and what we really focus at is its contents. By the same token, it can be said that in the case of the pre- position of ‘visible’ we follow a schematic order of the scene where ‘visible’, though being an intrinsic state of the container, is faster to our cognition than the container ‘stars’.

Syntactically speaking, a single form of an adjective may equally precede or follow its head noun with a difference in meaning imposed by the grammatical position of an adjective (ibid), while the pre-position of the adjective ‘visible’ is seen within a containment frame, it typically expresses “an intrinsic’ property which is as permanent as its container ‘star’. Whereas the posterior position of the adjective in (1.b) denotes that the state of being visible is not a component of the ground (stars) but a passed-by state:

1. b. “The stars visible” (Quirk et al 1985:419)

“The stars visible” is a reduced form of the relative clause (i.e. the stars which are/were visible by someone or during a particular time). In the two cases enclosed in brackets, the focus is on the information of being visible as a state which is conditioned by some external entity other than the modified referent. Thus the concept of being conditioned requires transience from one original state to the result state which is in turn a temporary state in the light of the whole event frame¹.

The two poles of modification are: the noun “stars” which is perceived as a permanent ground and “visible” which is a temporary state. As the sequence of the elements in a modifying relation is determined by temporal sequence of recognizing them by our cognition (Langacker, 2008: 84), the sequence of the elements in (1.b.) involves the perception of the permanent ground entity (stars) first, then its temporary latent state. Thus, the compositional path here can be schemed as:

Permanent Ground (modified noun) —————> adjective (temporary state)

¹. (The star as a ground is stable, Transience involves a change in its state from being invisible by others to be visible to someone, or from being invisible at some point of time to be visible at another point). More elaboration about the concepts of contingency and temporariness is presented in items (v and vii).

Accordingly, Langacker (ibid: 319) summarizes the typical cases of English adjective as follows: When an adjective occurs before the head noun, it expresses “an intrinsic or permanent property” in the ground noun, and when it follows its head noun it expresses “a contingent or a temporary character” (i.e. a latent state).

ii. Another occasion where an adjective occupies a post-position might be found in some fixed expressions (Burchfield, 1996:23) such as:

2. “*Notary public, Attorney General, Postmaster-general, Situation vacant,*” (ibid).

The English linguistic convention which links post-position and the concept of temporariness is salient in these expressions. Taking into account that these titles refer to people who change from time to time, the property or quality expressed by adjectives then transmits from one referent to another (i.e. one who occupies the certain position (i.e. Director, Notary, Postmaster, etc.).

As the property denoted in these expressions is not an intrinsic quality in the referent, its temporariness is indicated by the structural position in light of the English usage. The same is applied to the expression “Situation vacant” as the vacancy jobs are temporary and will be occupied by some employees.

iii. Eastwood (2002: 256) states that “adjectives come after a compound with every, some, any, and no” occur after its head noun (ibid):

3. “*You mustn’t do anything silly*”. (ibid)

These pronouns known as indefinite pronouns encode a concept of generality. As general things are prior to our perception than their categories, the pronoun ‘anything’ precedes the adjective ‘silly’ which represents a late state that imposes a sort of an identifying property or modification on the indefinite pronoun represented by the head word ‘anything’. The path of composition here is that general entities are prior to cognition than specific ones.

iv. Modification may involve qualifying relations which are encoded by prepositional phrases (Radden and Dirven, 2007:141):

4- “*The detective with the waxed moustache solves the most baffling cases*” (ibid. 143)

According to the cognitive view that the grammatical and the semantic aspects in a language is a reflection of how people perceive the world. The phrase “with the waxed moustache” designates a possession relation with the head noun. The concept of possession involves the knowledge that the possessor dominates and controls what he\ she possesses (Langacker, 2008:506). The occurrence of the noun first mirrors the directionality of effect (ownership\ control) of the possessor (i.e. the modified noun) on things to be possessed (i.e. expressed by word, or phrases). In other words, the dominator is more prominent than the dominated entity and hence it is the first to be realized by our awareness.

Some structures like the prepositional phrases cannot be understood without being related to some autonomous structures. The head word ‘detective’ is autonomous, i.e. is understandable in its own, as it is the name that refers to a particular entity in the world. While the phrase “With the waxed moustache” in (4) is not manifested unless being connected to autonomous structure. The usage schema then states that the “dependent structure refers schematically to an autonomous, supporting structure as an intrinsic aspect of its own characterization” (ibid: 199)

This contextual justification coincides with the cognitive one. Conceptually speaking, relations are dependent entities whereas the participants in these relations are autonomous

ones (ibid. 200). It is not possible to perceive the type of relation encoded by “with” without calling the participants in that relation. While the words “detective” and “mustache” are understandable by themselves, and both of them represent the two poles which manifest the intended meaning of the preposition “with”.

v. Modification may also include qualifying relations which are encoded by participle phrases (Radden and Dirven, 2007:141):

To discuss this kind of modifiers we must first discuss the concepts of noun and verb in English. An expression is categorized grammatically as a noun or a verb not in terms of the conceptual content of the entities denoted by these categories but in terms of the ways of conceiving of (mentally scanning) these entities. Logically, any entity consists naturally from components that are interconnected to form the general frame of that entity. An expression is perceived as a noun when our perception focuses on the holistic entity (its interconnected components’ relations as a whole). This is called a “summary mental scanning”. Whereas an expression is categorized as a verb when our perception focuses on a process of “interconnecting operations” which involve transition and change of an entity’s components through time. That is our perception traces the sequence of the entity’s components’ states across time. This involves a “sequential mental scanning”. In brief, a noun indicates an entity that involves an unprocessual relation, whereas a verb encodes an entity which involves a processual relation. (Langacker, 98-108)

According to the English understanding of verb and noun concepts, a verb cannot be used to modify a noun because a referent cannot be viewed as being holistic and sequential at the same moment. Thus the English speakers restore to the nominalization of the verb as it is shown in the example below:

5- “*The monkey climbing the tree” is very cute.* (ibid: 120)

In this sentence, the participle form ‘climbing’ indicates a state (i.e. a portion) in the event; hence it has no time reference as no sequentiality is involved in this individual state itself. However, ‘climbing’ as un-stable state in the whole event frame implies temporariness which in turn is encapsulated structurally by the post- position of this word. The participle functions as a stative adjective as it restricts attention to a particular state of the participant ‘monkey’ (ibid. : 122). The holistic referent is prior to our perception than its latent state, and this sequence is encoded syntactically.

While in the case of past participle forms, the focus of the speaker is on the end of the process (i.e. the final state). Again, focusing on this state alone excludes the sequential operations which naturally constitute the processual event and consequently it eliminates the time frame and denotes an atemporal situation (Radden and Dirven, 2007:144) as it is exemplified below:

6- “*Hercules Poirot is the famous detective created by the English mystery writer Agatha Christie*” (ibid: 143)

The past participle and its complement provide an additional description of the outcome of a particular event. The concept of addition entails that we first realize an entity ‘detective’ to which we add, and then we recognize the addition (encoded in this example by the passive participle).

The sequence can be then summarized as the original entity is prior to our realization, and the addition is a latent entity.

vi. Quirk et al (1985:452) states that “the gradable measure adjectives deep, high, long, old, tall, thick and wide” follow a noun phrase:

7. “Peter is five feet < tall >. [‘in height’]” (ibid.)

They (ibid.) add that in such expressions the modifier is actually the noun phrase rather than the adjective. The latter represents ‘a scale of measure’ which shows the level of a particular property (ibid. : 471). The measure phrase “five feet” is a prominent reference point which specifies a point on the scale of height implied in the adjective “tall” (i.e. ‘five feet’ is a part which rests in the whole scale which is perceived as a ground):

Reference point (five feet) —————> Scale (adjective)

The occurrence of adjectives representing these scales in a post- position implied temporariness and the latter is justified as scales may vary (i.e. length, width, weight, temperature, etc.).

Vii. Miller (2002: 11) mentions the relative clauses as a sort of modifiers that occurs after its head noun:

8. “The house which they built out of reinforced concrete” is next door. (Miller, 2002:11)

A relative clause such as that underlined in (8) presents a processual event and it is used as a modifier of the head noun “house” which is a holistic entity. Downing and Locke (2006: 4) justify this linguistic phenomena through directing the attention to the point that language does not refer directly to the real entities in the real world but to the speakers’ conceptualization of the states and situations in the real world. A piece of language is actually a carrier of a concept and the material of conceptualization can be different kinds of things, processes, attributes, or circumstances, etc. in the real world.

Conceptually speaking and in the light of this justification it can be said that in (8) the sentence elements which involve the participant(they), and (reinforced concrete), and the relational entity (out of) all comprise one concept of “accomplishment”. The latter indicates a holistic content represented by the overall meaning of the clause. Hence, the meaning of the clause as a whole is a complete piece of information (a concept of accomplishment) and is used to restrict ‘house’ to that concept. We first realize the general entity ‘house’ and restricting or categorizing it is a posterior mental path.

The same justification can be applied to example (9) as the clause “who talk too much” is perceived as a content which indicates a habitual state of the subject “people” (ibid. :193):

9. “People who talk too much annoy me intensely” (Side and Wellman, 1999:183)

The relative clause denotes an entity which is part (“subtype”) of the entity designated by the head noun. The relation is then between the conceptual contents of the nouns in the main clause (House, people) and the concepts of a situation and a state (denoted by the relative clauses) of these entities (Radden and Dirven, 2007:143). That relation is encapsulated linguistically by the relative pronouns (Langacker, 2008: 425). In (9) the modified noun denotes a general concept (people in general), followed by a restrictive clause to categorize and modify the referent entity. Within the frame of restriction concept, general things are prior to our perception than their categories.

2. Post-Nominal Modifiers in Arabic

2.1. Introduction

Arabs view that an adjective is the type of a noun which indicates an attribute of either a concrete referent, or an abstract one. The function of naming is just to add more

specification on the referent, and actually a name and a referent are one entity. The name 'Zaid' is not separable from the male referent but distinguishes it from other male referents. If a person is white (ابيض) there is no actual separation between that person and his/her color. They are still one entity in the real world even if we use two words to refer to that person as (رجل ابيض: white man). An adjective is then used to indicate both a referent and an attribute in that referent (Almawsili (2), 2001:244), and it is a subtype of a noun as both of them are used to name things in the world (Alghlayini (1), 1994:97)

Hence, in Arabic an adjective must agree with its referent in terms of gender, number, definiteness and indefiniteness because one referent cannot be male and female, singular and plural, definite and indefinite at the same time. All the linguistic units which are equivalent in their functions to the adjective are described as adjectival structures (modifiers) and they follow the syntactic rules, and have the semantic contribution of the adjective.

2.2. Post Nominal Modification in Arabic: In his discussion of the measures of Arabic language (مقاييس اللغة العربية), Ibin Jinni (1953:109-11) mentions two kinds of measures in the Arabic language: one of them is the semantic measure (القياس المعنوي) and the other one is the verbal measure (القياس اللفظي). He adds that the semantic measure is more influential than the verbal one because the latter is a picture of the semantic measure and is determined by it. In brief, it can be said that the semantic measure refers directly to the real world (i.e. the behaviors of entities in the real world) whereas the verbal measure refers to the gestalt of that reality. Language in the light of Ibin Jinni's view is a mirror of the real world.

The following analogy can clarify the notion. If I look at myself in a mirror my vision will be a reflection of how I actually look. My figure in the mirror will be exactly as I am (for instance a head at the top, followed by a neck, and feet at the lower part of the body, etc.). If I stand for the real world, and my figure on the mirror stands for the verbal expression and the mirror (which is the media of connection between me and my figure) stands for language as a medium of communicating the world, it can be said then that Arabic structures encode the sequence of entities in real world without being mediated by our conceptualization.

In the case of adjectives and their equivalents, the Arab culture adopts the view that the priority in occurrence is for the word which signifies the modified noun. Their justification is that the referent encapsulated by the modified noun is found first (Sibaweih (1), 1988:20-1), then qualities and descriptions are found to indicate the different cases of that referent. Accordingly, the Arabic adjective and its equivalent units are categorized as second occurrence units because the referents exist first then the modifying expressions appear to modify them.

2.3. Types of Post Nominal Modifiers in Arabic

i- A single word Adjective

-A single word adjective is either derived from a verb (صفة مشتقة من فعل) or is an equivalent to the derivative adjective (صفة مؤولة بالمشترك). The derivative adjective is manifested in items (a, b, c, and d)¹:

¹ - As the topic of derivation is not the pivot of our analysis, we investigate only some patterns of the derivative adjectives not all of them because we focus on the information that serves our comparison between English and Arabic in the light of certain points that will be summarized in the conclusion section.

a. اسم الفاعل (**the active participle**): it is derived from the active trilateral verb form. It has the morphological pattern of (فاعل) (Alghlayini, 2007: ٤٢):

10. "خالد دائب في عمله" (ibid) (Khalid is consistent in his work).

The active participle adjective indicates that the modified entity performs an act. That act is temporary and not permanent. It has the time reference of the present tense verb (ibid.43). Moreover, when the verbal measure interferes with the semantic measure Arab people follow the normal sequence of existence of entities in the real world. This point is apparent in the example above when the name of a person is itself a derivative form. The name Khalid 'خالد' is a participle noun (اسم فاعل) yet it precedes the adjective because that name denotes the referent, while the adjective refers to an attribute in that referent (a referent exists first then the modifying expressions are assigned to him\her).

b. الصفة المشبهة (**The assimilate epithet**): it has the morphological pattern of (فعلان\فعيل) (ibid:45)

This adjectival form is derived from the intransitive form of the trilateral verb (الفعل) (الثلاثي اللزم). It indicates a permanent state in the modified entity and shows an atemporal meaning as permanency does not require time (ibid):

11. "فاطمة جميلة" (ibid.) (Fatimah is beautiful).

The sense of beauty is a permanent state in Fatima not a regenerative happening (حدث) (متجدد) (ibid.).

c. اسم المفعول (**The passive participle**): it has the morphological pattern of "مفعول". It is derived from the passive form of the trilateral verb. It indicates that the modified entity has undergone some event. Again, it connotes a temporary meaning rather than a permanent one (i.e. it has the time reference of the present tense verb) (Alghlayini (1), 1994: ١٨٢):

12. قرأت النص المكتوب (I read the written text)

d. صيغة المبالغة (**The intensive form**): it is derived only from trilateral verb. It has the morphological pattern "فعال \ فعول" (Algili, 2007:43)

It has both the semantic connotation of the active participle (اسم الفاعل), and the augmentation sense as an additional piece of meaning:

13. محمد عبد شكور (Mohammed is a thankful slave).

"شكور" in this instance implies that Mohammed does the act of thanking God too much.

Some adjectives are equivalent to the derivative (مؤوله بالمشتق) as they imply the meaning of the derivative adjectives (Almawsili (2), ٢٣٥: 2001) as it is shown through the discussion of the forms below:

e. **The relative noun** (ذو)

14. "هذا رجل ذو مال". (ibid) (This is a man with plenty of money)

In (14), the implied meaning of (ذو) is (صاحب: owner\ possessor) which is an active participle (اسم فاعل)

15. محمد شاب تميمي. (Ibid.) (Mohammed is Tamimi)

Mohammed, the referent, is attributed to Tamim (a name of an Arabic Tribe). The suffixed particle of relation (ياء النسب: ياء النسب) implies the meaning of (being attributed to : منسوب), and (منسوب) is a passive participle.

f. **The infinitive** (**المصدر**): this type of adjective conveys the meaning of exaggeration; i.e. the attribute or property is personified (incarnated) in the modified noun (ibid, ٢٣٧):

¹ - A modified noun is written in bold, and an adjective is underlined in all the Arabic examples.

16. "هذا رجل عدل" (ibid: 238) (This is a man of justice)

The infinitive implies the meaning of (عادل: the one who acts fairly), and (عادل) is an active participle. The morphological pattern of infinitive adds a sense of exaggeration as the man is described as being the core of justice (i.e. justice is incarnated in the modified noun).

g. The conjunctive noun which starts with (al: ال) as (الذي\ التي\ اللذان\ اللتان\ الذين\ اللاتي):

17. "جاء الرجل الذي اجتهد" (Alghlayini (٣), 1994: 223). (The man who worked hard came).

The underlined clause implies the meaning of the passive participle "المجتهد" (ibid).

In all of these instances, the modifier which is either a derivative adjective or a linguistic unit that is semantically equivalent to the derivative follows the head noun. The cognitive justification which underlies this syntactic sequence is discussed below.

Arab grammarians state that a simple entity precedes the compound entity (Almawsili (2), 2001: 243), and they record that a derivative adjective and an adjective equivalent to the derivative (الصفة المؤولة بالمشترك) are comparable to a compound entity (Al-Suyuti (1), 1987: 124) and hence they follow their head nouns because 'a noun is an origin entity' (ibid: 119).

In adopting such a cognitive view, Arabs recall their background knowledge that a compound entity (المركب) results from combining a number of single components. Their justification is that the derivative adjective and the adjective equivalent to the derivative (الصفة المؤولة بالمشترك) involve not only the semantic component of the root word (a word from which an adjective is derived) but also a semantic addition to that root. For instance an active participle adjective such as (ضارب: hitter) involves both the act of hitting implied in the root verb (hit: ضرب) and the doer of that act. By the same token, the semantics of the adjective (تميمي: Tamimi) comprises two meaning components: one is represented by the meaning of the verb 'attribute to', and the other one is represented by the referent who is attributed to the Arab tribe 'Tamim'. Accordingly, both the derivative adjective and the adjective equivalent to the derivative comprise more than one single meaning component and are hence comparable to compound entities. Thus they follow the modified noun because the latter is a simple entity which denote a particular single component meaning represented by the referent.

ii. Arabic Clauses and Phrases as Modifiers

It has been mentioned in item (2.1) that an adjective and adjectival clauses and phrases (nominal modifiers) must agree with the head noun because the modified noun and the modifier have the same referent entity. Arabs thus limit the modification by clauses to the indefinite noun. They adopt the cognitive philosophy that sentences are indefinite entities as the pieces of information they include are unknown to the hearer's cognition before the time of telling (Al-Suyuti (1), 1987: 320). This is apparent when it is said that the function of a sentence is to inform the hearer. We use sentences either to tell the hearer something new or to eliminate ambiguity about certain proposition in the hearer's mind. In the two cases, the content of a sentence was originally unknown (or ambiguous) to the hearer's cognition till its content is informed (or clarified) by the speaker's sentence.

Therefore, it can be said that Arabs use the term definite entity (المعرفة) to indicate something defined and known, and they use the term indefinite entity (الذكر) to indicate something vague and unspecific. For Arab people an adjective and its referent are

actually one entity (see 2.1) and hence it is impossible for that entity to be defined and vague at the same time. Accordingly, in the examples below:

18. " هذا رجل قام " (Almawsili (2), 2001: 241) (This is a man who stood up)

19. " هذا رجل أبوه منطلق " (ibid) (This is a man whose father goes ahead).

the underlined verbal clause in (18) and the underlined nominal clause in (19) are modifiers whose function is equivalent to that of an adjective; i.e. to modify the indefinite noun " رجل " as they add a sense of specification on it.

If the modified noun is definite, Arabs restore to the use of the conjunctive nouns (الذي\ التي\ اللذان\ اللتان\ الذين\ اللاتي) 'which are contextually defined by the relative clause that follows it (جملة الصلة)' (Alghlayini (1), 1994: 129):

20. هذا الرجل الذي قام

Arabic phrases and clauses follow the noun they modify. Such a syntactic order is determined by Arabs cognitive view that 'the single entity is prior to the compound entity' (Almawsili (2), 2001: 243). We group a number of single components then we get the compound entity. This normal behavior of things in the real world is the justification for the priority in occurrence of the modified noun (which is one word), and the posteriority of the adjectival clause (which is a group of words).

The adverbial and prepositional phrases can also be used to modify the indefinite nouns:

21. " اقرات كتابا في الفلسفة " (Abdullatif, 1991: ٥٠) (I read a book in philosophy).

22. " مررت برجل عند المدرسة " (Alghlayini (3), 1994: ٥٣) (I passed by a man near the school)

The Arabic prepositions and adverbs contribute a piece of meaning in some other elements in the sentences, each of them function as a conjunctive that passes the meaning of the verb to the genitive noun after the preposition or the adverb (Al-Suyuti(٢), 1987: 26-8); i.e. to pass the meaning of the verb (read:قرا) to the noun (philosophy:الفلسفة) in (21), and the meaning of the verb (pass by:مر) to the noun (school:المدرسة) in (22). As the normal position of a conjunctive is between the two entities it connects, the preposition (in: في) and the adverb (near: عند) occur between the verb and the genitive noun. The semantic measure appears once again when the modified nouns (book: كتابا) and (رجل: a man) precedes the preposition and the adverb in the two sentences above due to Arabs' understanding that a noun (referent) is prior to the particle as the referents (nouns) are found first, then they do some action which is termed (verb), and the particle later appears to pass the meaning of the verb to the noun (Al-Suyuti (1), 1987: 119-20).

iii. Measurement Expressions

Numbers and measurement expressions are regarded as adjectives because they imply the sense of being (much, few, short, tall, etc.) (Almawsili (2), 2001:44):

23. " رايت ثوبا ذراعا " (Alghlayini (3), 1994: ٢٢٣) (I saw a dress whose length is an arm)

The word (ذراعا: an arm) specifies the length of the referent in (23); so it fulfills one of the functions of the Arabic adjective (i.e. to specify the indefinite noun).

A measurement expression occurred either as a single element as it is shown above or as a part of an adjectival nominal clause which includes a suffixed pronoun ha (ها: ضمير متصل) that refers back to the modified noun as it is shown below:

24. " مررت بحية ذراع طولها " (Sibaweih (٢), 1988: 28)

Again, the referent (i.e. head noun) precedes the modifiers as it is the normal order in the real world that a thing first exists then we modify it.

3. Conclusions: The survey of the cognitive philosophies that underlie the structural position of the post-nominal modifiers in English and Arabic leads to the following points:

1. English natives' understanding of the concept of adjective differs from its counterpart in Arabic. In English, an adjective is a relational unit whose content is the focused part of the referent. Within a conceptual frame of a part-whole relation with the referent, an adjective is a relational conceptual entity which allows a mental entry to the referent (i.e. a head noun) which is a holistic conceptual entity (i.e. an adjective and a referent are conceived as two individual conceptual entities).

While Arab natives view an adjective as a subtype of nouns which is used for naming the properties in a referent. An Arabic adjective designates both a referent and a property in that referent simply because a referent remains one entity in the real world regardless of the number of properties we use to modify him/her

2. In sequencing their ideas in the form of syntactic arrangement, the English natives depend on the projected world (i.e. the world of mental concepts which is built by speakers' interpretation of the entities and their relations as they are conceived by the speakers). The projected world is subjective to a high degree as it is guided by the speakers' focus on the entities to be conceptualized and on the temporal sequence of mental awareness of these focused entities. The syntactic order of a modifier and a modified noun is typically determined by the temporal sequence of realizing the concepts encoded by these linguistic units.

While the Arab natives depict the behavior of entities in the real world as it is without interference of the projected world. Objectivity is so active in sequencing the linguistic elements and the priority in syntactic order (of the linguistic units) coincides with the priority in existence (of the referents expressed by these units). The syntactic order of a modifier and a modified noun is typically determined by the path of existence which involves the temporal sequence of being.

3. English adjective precedes the noun as it is perceived as a gate that opens the mental path toward getting the identity of the noun referent. This is the cognitive view which underlies the pre-position of an adjective in the English language.

An Arabic adjective follows the noun as it is the normal sequence in the real world that an entity exists first, then attributes and properties are used to modify it. This is the cognitive view which underlies the post-position of an adjective in the Arabic language

4. In English the concepts of permanency, temporariness and contingency are typically encoded structurally, whereas temporal relations and atemporal situations are encoded by relative clauses and participle phrases (i.e. present and passive participle). Temporariness is either a posterior state of a referent or a contingent one and hence the linguistic units encoded these concepts occupy a post-position in relation to the modified noun.

While, in Arabic, the meanings of permanency, temporariness are encoded morphologically by deriving the adjectives in particular patterns from the verb forms. Every morphological pattern denotes a particular meaning. The assimilate epithet (الصفة المشبهة), for instance, connotes a permanent property in the referent (this entails the meaning of an atemporal meaning as what is permanent does not involve time), while the

passive participle and the active participle (اسم الفاعل واسم المفعول) denote the time reference of the present tense verbs and they indicate temporariness. The normal sequence of occurrence of things in the real world is that the origin precedes the derived. The derivative forms of adjectives and their equivalents are thus always second occurrence units.

5. In English, a verb cannot be a direct modifier because a noun is a concept of a holistic entity whose sub- component interconnections are stable. While a concept of a verb involves a process of sequential operations on the entity causing a change in its component states. All concepts in our mental world are structured by how we see things. As our perception cannot see one thing as being holistic and sequential at the same moment a verb cannot directly modify a noun.

In Arabic, a verb can modify only the indefinite noun (الاسم النكرة) because the verb itself is regarded an indefinite entity. Arabs view that an adjective encodes both the referent and the property of that referent. Accordingly, a definite noun (whether contextually or intrinsically) cannot be modified by a verb as it is impossible for one entity to be definite and indefinite at the same time. In Arabic a verb is an indefinite entity because it is used to tell about an action or a happening which is unknown to the hearer until it is informed by the speaker. Hence a verb can modify an indefinite noun only.

6. An English clause can be used to modify a noun because it is perceived in terms of its content information as a holistic message 'concept' and hence it can be used to modify a noun. The concept of restricting the reference, or adding more sense of identification to the referent underlies the postposition of the relative clause. As we perceive the general entity (i.e. modified noun) first then we categorize or add to it (i.e. via relative clauses). This temporal sequence of conceiving matters governs the post-position of the relative clauses

In Arabic, nominal and verbal clauses, prepositional and adverbial phrases can directly modify an indefinite noun as they are considered indefinite entities for the same reason mentioned in (4) (see also item 2.3. ii). These sentences and phrases occur after the modified noun for two reasons: the first one is that they function as modifiers and the normal sequence in the real world involves that a referent (i.e. noun) exists first then people modify it. The second reason is that the modified noun is a single entity while a clause, and a phrase are compound entities (they consist of more than one element). Arabs' cognitive view is that priority in existence, in the real world, is to the single entity and this view is encoded syntactically when the modified noun (one word) precedes the modifying clause or phrase (more than word).

7. English measurement expressions are used as reference points on a scale encoded by the adjectives. The adjective in such an occurrence denotes both a scale and a property which represents a point on that scale (this is a case where English speakers meet with the Arabic natives in using an adjective to mean both a referent and a property of that referent). Each measure noun phrase is a reference point (gate) which allows us determine the identity of that scale as being a scale of height, length, width, size... etc.).

In Arabic measurement expressions follow the modified noun for the same reason that have been already mentioned i.e. the referents are found first then people attribute certain properties to modify them.

8. Throughout all these conclusions, it can be said that the difference between English and Arabic in terms of the typical position (pre- position in Arabic versus post –position in English) of a modifier in relation to its head noun can be justified by the notion that the natives of the two languages communicate different worlds namely the world of concepts and the real world. However; sometimes, an entity happens to have both a priority in existence in the real world and a priority in our awareness in the projected world. For instance, general (indefinite) entities are found first and then they are specified (or identified), our mental awareness happens to follow the same sequence as we realize the general concept first, then their categories.

Such a coincidence is predictable as the projected world is inspired by the knowledge of the real world. If we summarize the ancestors' steps that lead to the projected world as: thing exists, thing is known, thing is interpreted, and thing is conceptualized, it is logical then to expect that the thing conceptualized meets in some area with any of its ancestors. Being developed out of the real world, the projected world can neither be totally separated from nor exactly the same as the real world. It is simply a different world.

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