

## PARTICIPLES IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC: STRUCTURAL AND FUNCTIONAL APPROACHES

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**Abstract.** The article deals with the contrastive analysis of participles as the verbal form combining the characteristics of the verb and adjective in two genetically and structurally different languages: English (Indo-European language family; analytical language) and Arabic (Afro-Asiatic language family; synthetic language) on the basis of structural and functional approach. The paper considers common, universal and differential peculiarities of the participles studied. The following features of the English participles as the categories of aspect and voice, the syntactic function of attribute, the combination with adverbs and the indirect object for Participle I and Participle II, the combination with the direct object for Participle I are revealed; with the Participial Constructions being the peculiarity of the part of the speech studied. The Arabic participles (active and passive) combining nominal (in contrast to the English participles), adjectival and verbal features are characterized by the categories of voice, gender, number, case, definiteness/indefiniteness, modified by the adverbials of manner and followed by the direct (only the active participle) and indirect objects.

**Keywords:** participle, contrastive analysis, structural and functional approach, English, Arabic.

### 1 Introduction

Contrastive research of the languages of different structure, which are the basis of this work, have long traditions. The ideas of comparing Indo-European languages were influenced by the renowned book of F. Schlegel on the language and wisdom of the Hindus (1808), where the term “Comparative Grammar” was first encountered. Comparative grammars of Arabic, Hebrew, and other Semitic languages of the VIII-XI centuries are considered by the historians the foundations of the further comparative studies of the world languages [Mingazova, Safin, Zakirov 2017: 12-19]. The contrastive approach to the unrelated languages is carried out in [S Fernández, Rafael Portillo Medina Lissette Hernández, Tito Crissien Borrero, and Luis Alvear Montoya Gabriel Velandia Pacheco.2018]. “The ability to compare is organically included into a human consciousness and is embodied in a language” [Bolgarova, Safonova, Zamaliutdinova 2014].

The Participle is a form of the verb which combines verbal features with adjectival features [Rozental', Telenkova 1976: 339]. Verbal features are the categories of aspect, voice and tense. Adjectival features of the participle are the categories of gender, number, case, and the syntactical function of the agreed attribute. Rather frequently adjectives are formed on the basis of participles. However, the above-mentioned features of the participle vary, depending on the language.

English possesses two participles – Participle I and Participle II, which are characterized by the following features: voice (active and passive), aspect (indefinite and perfect), tense (present and past); they comply with direct and indirect objects, are modified by adverbs. Lowrey determined to what extent the syntax of *a noun phrase + a present participle* construction with perception verbs in Old English matches the semantics [Lowrey 2014], De Smet offered a synchronic and diachronic analysis of integrated participle clauses in English [De Smet 2015], Breul and Wegner raised the question whether a past participle associated with a given verb is not only phonologically but also semantically and syntactically identical in the perfect and in the passive [Breul and Wegner 2017].

There are two participles in Arabic: *إِسْمُ الْفَاعِلِ* (present participle) and *إِسْمُ الْمَفْعُولِ* (past participle) [Grande 1998: 184; Sandhvi, S., & Sinha, M. (2016)].

Arabic participles combine nominal, adjectival, and verbal features. Thus, nominal and adjectival features are expressed by the categories of gender, number, case, definiteness/indefiniteness. Verbal features are the category of voice and the ability to be defined by adverbial modifiers of manner. Hence, the participles in Arabic are characterized by: voice (active and passive), gender (masculine and feminine), number (singular, dual, and plural), case (nominative, genitive, and accusative), the category of definiteness/indefiniteness; they may comply with indirect object and be modified by adverbial modifiers of manner. The active form of participle in Arabic may express the category of tense [Mingazova, Zakirov 2014: 73].

### 2 Methods

#### 2.1 Participles in English

Originally Old English participles are adjectives. Their genetic connection with adjectives is underlined by the common declension system and the role in a sentence as prepositional attribute.

*Present Participle* was formed from the stem of the Present Tense of strong or weak verbs. Participles of the strong declension were homonymous with the forms of strong adjectives. However, having passed a productive way of

verbalization, present participle became capable of expressing aspect, tense, and voice differences as well as governing the object. Semantically, present participle always expressed the meaning of activity.

At the beginning of Middle English period the participle declension came into disuse. The participle no longer transmitted grammatical categories of gender, number, and case; as a result verbal features of the participle were being intensively developed.

In XIth-XIIth centuries present participle had diversified dialectal variants. In the XIIIth century these forms were unified: all the dialectal forms came to the common variant with the suffix **-ing (e)**. According to scholars, this suffix came into being as analogy with the postverbal noun due to their phonetic and syntactical similarities.

After the solidifying of the suffix **-ing** in the structure of present participle, three homonymous forms arose: the present participle, the postverbal noun and the gerund, their only difference being syntactical.

The Passive form of present participle appeared in the XVth century, having arisen from telic transitive verbs, conveying the meaning of the action prior to the one of the main verb. This indicated the intensification of participle verbalization. At the same time the Perfect form of the participle appeared; it expressed the meaning of prior action. Thus, the participle showed tense relations through its analytical forms.

In early Modern English the Passive form of present participle spread over to untelic verbs [Ivanova 1999: 200-207].

So, in modern English present participle is characterized by the following features:

1. has tense forms (present);
2. complies with direct and indirect objects: *reading a book, having arrived at the station*;
3. is modified by an adverb: *walking slowly*;
4. has the category of voice (active and passive) and aspect (indefinite and perfect), with the negative particle **not** being in preposition to the participle: (*not*) *asking (having asked, being asked, having been asked)*.

Thus, **Indefinite Participle I Active** is formed by adding the suffix **-ing** to the verb infinitive (without the particle **to**): *to ask – asking* and denotes the action which takes place simultaneously with action of the main verb: *Knowing Arabic very well, he can watch news programs in Arabic*.

**Perfect Participle I Active** is formed by the auxiliary **to have** in the progressive form (with the suffix **-ing**) and the main verb in the past participle form (with the suffix **-ed** for regular verbs and specific forms for irregular verbs): *having asked, having learnt* and denotes the action prior to the one of the predicate verb: *Having arrived in Moscow, the tourist went to the hotel*.

**Indefinite Participle I Passive** is constructed by the auxiliary verb **to be** in the progressive form (with the suffix **-ing**) and the main verb in the past participle form (with the suffix **-ed** for regular verbs and specific forms for irregular verbs): *being asked, being learnt* and is used to show the action, taking place at the moment of speech or at present time: *We will try to highlight the data of the paper being analysed*.

**Perfect Participle I Passive** is formed by the auxiliary verb **to be** in the progressive form (with the suffix **-ing**) in the aspect form of the present participle and the past participle form of the main verb (with the suffix **-ed** for regular verbs and specific forms for irregular verbs): *having been asked, having been learnt* and shows the action prior to the one of the predicate verb: *Having been bought in Iran the souvenir was of great value*.

*Past Participle* in Old English had the meaning of passiveness (if it is formed from transitive verbs) and activeness (if formed from intransitive verbs). It could express the meaning of completeness and result, having the prefix of the perfect aspect. Past participle of the strong verbs was formed by ablaut with the suffix **-en**, while weak verbs formed past participles with the dental suffix **-d-** (after voiced consonants) or **-t-** after voiceless consonants.

In Middle English the prefix of the perfect aspect came into disuse in some dialects [Ivanova 1999: 200-205].

Modern English past participle is characterized by the following features:

1. the category of tense (past);
2. is modified by an adverb: *thoroughly investigated*;
4. the categories of voice (passive) and aspect (indefinite): *asked*.

Thus, past participle of the regular verbs is formed by adding the suffix **-ed** to the infinitive; of the irregular verbs – in different ways: *to ask – asked, to break – broken* and is used to transmit actions which take place as a general rule: *The language spoken by negotiating parties is Spanish*.

Participles in the English language tend to form constructions with subordinate words [Rozental' 1976: 341]. The following models may be pointed out:

1. **The Objective Participial Construction** is the combination of a noun in the common case or a pronoun in the objective case with present participle; it plays the role of complex object in a sentence.

The construction is often used after the sense perception verbs (**to see, to notice**, etc.): *We noticed him entering the church*.

The Objective Participial Construction with past participle is the combination of a noun in the common case or a pronoun in the objective case with past participle; it plays the role of complex object in a sentence.

The construction is often used with the verbs of sense perception (**to watch, to observe**, etc.), desire (**to want, to wish**, etc.), and after the verb **to have** (taking into account that the action is not undertaken by the subject, but by somebody else for its sake): *I saw the window closed*.

2. **The Subjective Participial Construction.** This model is the combination of the subordinate clause and the main clause which is represented by a non-personal noun and pronoun in the common case; it functions as the complex subject with present participle which plays the role of the predicate in the sentence.

The Subjective Participial Construction is most frequently used when the predicate is represented by the verbs of sense perception (**to see, to watch**, etc.): *They were heard discussing the problem.*

3. **The Nominative Absolute Participial Construction** is the case in which the participle has its own subject, represented by a noun in the common case (less frequently by a pronoun in the nominative case): *My brother arriving too late, we were not able to go to the zoo.*

4. **The Prepositional Absolute Participial Construction** represents a pattern in which the participle has its own subject, expressed by a noun in the common case (less frequently by a pronoun in the nominative case) in the combination with the preposition **with**: *All the members of the family were sitting in the room, with Tom and his father playing the chess.*

Recapitulating, the English participles are non-finite verb forms which have features of the verb and adjective alike and are distinguished by the following characteristics:

1. present participle complies with the direct and indirect objects;
2. present and past participles are modified by the adverb;
3. possess the syntactical function of the agreed attribute;
4. form participial constructions;
5. have the forms of aspect (indefinite and perfect) and voice (active and passive).

#### Participles in Arabic

The Arabic participles have their own peculiarities. All transitive and intransitive verbs form *the active participle* of different models:

I	فَاعِلٌ	VI	مُتَّفَاعِلٌ
II	مُفَعَّلٌ	VII	مُنْفَعَلٌ
III	مُفَاعِلٌ	VIII	مُفْتَعَلٌ
IV	مُفَعِّلٌ	IX	مُفَعَّلٌ
V	مُتَّفَعِّلٌ	X	مُسْتَفَعِّلٌ

The active participle has similar characteristics with nouns and forms:

1. the feminine gender with the help of the suffix **ة**: ذَاهِبٌ (masculine) – ذَاهِيَةٌ (feminine) «going»,
2. the dual number with the help of the suffix **انِ** in the nominative case and the suffix **ينِ** in the objective case: (dual, obj.) مُدْرَسَيْنِ – (dual, nom.) مُدْرَسَانِ – (sing.) مُدْرَسٌ «teaching»,
3. the human plural masculine with the help of the suffix **ونِ** in the nominative case and the suffix **ينِ** in the objective case: (pl, obj.) مُدْرَسِينَ – (pl, nom.) مُدْرَسُونَ – (sing.) مُدْرَسٌ «teaching»,
4. the human plural feminine with the help of the suffix **اتِ** in the nominative case and the suffix **اتِ** in the objective case: (pl, obj.) مُدْرَسَاتِ – (pl, nom.) مُدْرَسَاتُ – (sing.) مُدْرَسَةٌ «teaching»,
5. three cases for singular: (genitive) مُشْتَرِكٍ – (accusative) مُشْتَرِكًا – (nominative) مُشْتَرِكٌ «participating»,
6. definite and indefinite forms: (def.) المَتَّقَدِمُ – (indef.) مَتَّقَدِمٌ «developed».

The active participle can be followed by the object: جَالِسٌ فِي العُرْفَةِ «sitting in the room» and modified by the adverbial of manner: ذَاهِبٌ سَرِيْعًا «going fast».

All transitive verbs form *the passive participle* of different models:

I	مُفَعَّلٌ	VI	مُتَّفَاعِلٌ
II	مُفَعِّلٌ	VII	مُنْفَعَلٌ
III	مُفَاعِلٌ	VIII	مُفْتَعَلٌ
IV	مُفَعِّلٌ	IX	مُفَعَّلٌ
V	مُتَّفَعِّلٌ	X	مُسْتَفَعِّلٌ

The passive participle has similar characteristics with the active participle and forms:

1. the feminine gender with the help of the suffix **ة**: مَفْهُومٌ (masculine) – مَفْهُومَةٌ (feminine) «understood»,
2. the dual number with the help of the suffix **انِ** in the nominative case and the suffix **ينِ** in the objective case: (dual, obj.) مُدْرَبَيْنِ – (dual, nom.) مُدْرَبَانِ – (sing.) مُدْرَبٌ «trained»,
3. the human plural masculine with the help of the suffix **ونِ** in the nominative case and the suffix **ينِ** in the objective case: (pl, obj.) مُدْرَبِينَ – (pl, nom.) مُدْرَبُونَ – (sing.) مُدْرَبٌ «trained»,
4. the human plural feminine with the help of the suffix **اتِ** in the nominative case and the suffix **اتِ** in the objective case: (pl, obj.) مُدْرَبَاتِ – (pl, nom.) مُدْرَبَاتُ – (sing.) مُدْرَبَةٌ «trained»,
5. three cases for singular: (genitive) مَتَطَوَّرٍ – (accusative) مَتَطَوَّرًا – (nominative) مَتَطَوَّرٌ «developed»,
6. definite and indefinite forms: (def.) المَعْلُنُ – (indef.) مَعْلُنٌ «informed».

The active participle can be followed by the indirect object: مَذْكُورٌ فِي جَرِيْدَةٍ «mentioned in the newspaper» and modified by the adverbial of manner: مُتْرَجَمٌ جَيِّدًا «translated well».

### 3 Results And Discussion

The English participles are characterized by the categories of aspect and voice, the syntactic function of attribute, the combination with adverbs and the indirect object for Participle I and Participle II, the combination with the direct object for Participle I, with the Participial Constructions being their unique feature.

The Arabic participles (active and passive) combining nominal (as their unique characteristic), adjectival and verbal features are characterized by the categories of gender, number, case, definiteness/indefiniteness, modified by the adverbials of manner being their peculiarities, and followed by the direct and indirect objects and characterized by the category of voice being their common feature.

### 4 Summary

The contrastive analysis of the English and Arabic participles being the verbal form and combining the characteristics of the verb, adjective (and noun for the Arabic participles) in two genetically and structurally different languages on the bases of the structural and functional approach revealed some common, universal and unique features.

The English participles, having adjectival and verbal features, are characterized by: the category of aspect and voice, the function of an attribute, the Participial constructions and followed by the objects.

The Arabic participles, having nominal, adjectival and verbal features are characterized by: the category of voice, gender, case, definiteness/indefiniteness, followed by the object and modified by the adverbials of manner.

### 5 Conclusions

Any language is perceived as a nation's cultural phenomena [Shemshurenko 2015, 87]. National-specific indicators of a particular characteristic are estimated in the prism of the social attitudes and traditions of the people [Wei Liu 2016]. So, the English participles, in contrast to the Arabic participles, are characterized by the category of aspect and have no gender, number, case, definiteness/indefiniteness. The English language possesses two participles – Participle I and Participle II, which are characterized by the verbal and adjectival features. There are two participles in Arabic: *إِسْمُ الْفَاعِلِ* (present participle) and *إِسْمُ الْمَفْعُولِ* (past participle) that combine nominal, adjectival, and verbal features.

### 6 Acknowledgements

The work is performed according to the Russian Government Program of Competitive Growth of Kazan Federal University.

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