Adverbial Transformations in English and Arabic
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I. Introduction

The objective of this study is to point out the similarities and/or differences between adverbials in English and Arabic. The results are useful in FLT (Foreign Language Teaching), Translation, and Stylistics. To reach the aims of the research, the analysis depends on Transformational Generative Grammar (TG) which allows a deep structure analysis rather than phrase structure rules (surface structure) only. This type of analysis facilitates both the examination of adverbials in each language and the comparison between them.

There are various approaches and notations in TG. The approach and kind of notation used by Paul Roberts in his <u>English Syntax</u> (1964) is followed here. It is the type closest to most approaches though some notations are replaced for simplicity.

Sometimes transformationalists interpret certain kinds of structure differently and their applications of transformational rules to the phrase structure rules are eventually different. For example, two kinds of deep structure are given for this sentence:
Ali left when the others came.

1. Ali past leave [the others past come SOMETIMES]

2. Ali past leave SOMETIMES [the others past come come then]

In such a case the first structure is taken for it does not demand processes of addition and deletion of another adverbial as the second structure requires.

II. Background Information

Adverb is a term which refers to a part of speech. In English we have a considerable number of kinds of adverb but restriction is made here to the most common ones namely; adverbs of time, adverbs of place, and adverbs of manner.

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An adverbial is a term attached to the adverb when referring to its grammatical function. Prepositional phrases, clauses, and some noun phrases are called adverbials when they have the functional meaning of adverbs. Therefore, adverbs are only one type of adverbial. Thus, we have adverbials of time, place, and manner to be dealt with in this study. The following examples illustrate the four types of adverbials with their functional meanings. Mark Lester (1976); 86.

__ Adverbial of time: Ahmed is going soon.

(adverb)

In the morning

(PP)

When he feels better

(clause)

next year.

(NP)

__ Adverbial of place: My father is there.

(Adverb)

In the garage

(PP)

Where Ali is

(clause)

Next door.

(NP)

__ Adverbial of manner: Ali spoke seriously.

(adverb)

With great care

(PP)

As he should

(clause)

The adverbials of place are of two types; adverbials of position which tell about the place of someone or something, and adverbials of direction which tell about the movement of someone or something to or from some place. The latter is used only with dynamic verbs. The following sentences are examples of these two types:

__ I'll have my sandwich <u>there</u>

(position)

__ I'll take my sandwich <u>there</u>

(direction)

We may account for these adverbials by the following phrase structure rules:

{ Adv of time }	{ PP }
{ Adv of position }	{ Adverb }
{ Adverb of direction }	{ clause }
{ Adverb of manner }	

Adv --------- adverbial   PP --------- preposition + NP

NP ----------- noun phrase   (Ibid., p. 87)

A relativizer like where, when, which, …. etc. may replace an adverbial in a relative clause as in the following clauses:

__ Where he was living.   (place)

__ When he was talking.   (time)

In this case such a relativizer will function as an adverbial of the sort it replaces. Likewise, a subordinator like *because, when, where,….*etc. replaces an adverbial in a subordinate adverbial clause and it also functions as whatever adverbial it replaces as in the following two sentences:

__ I know <u>where</u> he is living.   (place)

__ I was there <u>when</u> he left.   (time)

Adverbials may function as sentence modifiers. In this sense adverbials are optional and may come at the beginning or at the end of a sentence. (Liles 1971: 11)

__ I went to the post office yesterday.   { time }

__ Yesterday, I went to the post office.   =

__ I found my pen in the drawer.   { place }

__ In the drawer, I found my pen. (not common)   =

__ The party wasn't pleasant because of the smoke.   { reason)

__ Because of the smoke the party wasn't pleasant.   =

It may be said that if the adverbials do not give essential material to the sentence they could be optional (Lester, Op. cit., p. 85). In other words, the adverbial can be deleted when this deletion does not affect the meaning of the sentence, it remains meaningful. This will be recalled when dealing with transformational rules.

The verb <u>to be</u> may take an adverbial as its predicate and here the adverbial is essential and without it an ungrammatical sentence will result (Liles, Op. cit., p. 15).

__ He is here.   * He is.

__ The book is there.   * The book is.

We may account for this in the following phrase –structure rules:

                        (passive)   vt   NP

VP ----------   vi

                                          be   pred

                                                        NP

be pred ----------   be   +   Adv (place)

                                                Adj

Pred = predicate

III. Adverbial Transformations

1. Adverbial Movement Transformation (T adv movement)

        This kind of transformation moves the adverbials from the end of the structure to its beginning. It is a sort of rearrangement of the same structure. Let us consider the following sentence and its deep structure.

__ Yesterday I saw you at the festival.

    NP + Tense + VP + Adv place + Adv time

    I past see you some place sometime

                    || T adv movement

    Sometime I past see you some place

                    || T affix

    Sometime I see past # you someplace

     Yesterday I saw you at the festival.

        We may notice that the surface structures of the two sentences are identical. The following modified rule of the process accounts for adverbial movement transformation:

        NP Tense VP (Adv) --------- (Adv) NP Tense VP.

One more point to mention here is that only for emphasis do most adverbials of manner undergo this transformation (Ibid., p. 62).

        In Arabic, the sentence   __ البارحة رأيتك

        في المهرجان .

is identical with the English one in meaning and in the position of the adverbials. The deep structure of the sentence is :

        NP + Tense + VP + Adv place + Adv time

        I past see you some place sometime   أنا ماضي رءا

مكان ما زمان ما

Which is the same deep structure of the English sentence. When applying the T adv Movement Transformation to the Arabic sentence, the following structure results:

        Sometime I past see you some place   زمن ما   أنا

ماضي رءا مكان ما

This shows that this transformation is applicable to both languages and the meaning is the same in both, i.e. emphasis.

2. <u>The Adverbial of Direction Deletion Transformation (T adv of direction deletion)</u>

__ He came <u>*into*</u> the room.

If we examine the adverbial of direction in the above sentence we notice that it has a double (or two-element) preposition, <u>in</u> and <u>to</u> . Deleting this adverbial results in an ungrammatical sentence. However, with such an adverbial of direction, the second element of the preposition (<u>to</u> in the example) and the NP may be deleted. The deep structure of the above sentence is as follows:

    __ He came into the room.
     he past come into the room
           || T Adv of direction deletion
      he past come in
          || T affix
      he come past # in
      he came in

The transformational rule for the above process is :

    NP1 + VP [v + prep1 + prep2 + NP2]
                    || (T Adv of direction deletion)

NP1 + VP [V + prep 1]

(Lester,) Op. cit., pp, 99-100)

The Arabic version of the above sentence has one-element

    __ ذهب إلى الغرفة.

Preposition. It can have a two-element preposition but

    __ ذهب إلى داخل الغرفة.

this is not common in Arabic. Here, again, the second element of the preposition can be deleted but not the following NP as in English. The deletion of the NP in Arabic results in ungrammatical sentence.

    * ذهب إلى .

To illustrate this point furthermore, another example is given.

__ He jumped down from the chair.

    __ قفز من فوق الكرسي

he past jump down from the chair   هو

ماضي ق ف ز من فوق الكرسي

      || T Adv of direction deletion

    ||

137

he past jump down   هو

ماضي ق ف ز من الكرسي

He jumped down.

قفز من الكرسي

    In Arabic there is another possibility of deleting the first element of preposition and keeping the second:

___ قفز فوق الكرسي

It will indicate a different meaning (He jumped over the chair). This is, in fact, a property not existing in English.

3. <u>The Relative Transformation (T relative)</u>

      Adverbials may come in relative clauses and may be replaced by a relativizer in the surface structures by a process called <u>the relative transformation</u>. This process allows a relativizer to stand for the repeated adverbial in the deep structure and shifts this relativizer directly after NP. (Roberts, 1964 : 267)

The following example is given to illustrate this transformation.

__ The time when he came was last week.

the time [he past come at the time] was last week.

                || T relative

the time when he past come was last week

              || T affix

the time when he come past # was last week

The time when he came was last week.

The following relativizer may replace adverbials in the surface structure:

Adv of time   → when

Adv of direction   }

                 } → where

Adv of position   }

Adv of reason   → because

Adv of manner   → that , which

The rule generating the T relative may be started like this:

NP1 [NP2   VP   Adv] →   NP1 relativizer   NP2
      VP ……

The position of the main verb is after the relative clause.

In Arabic the deep structure of the sentence
(The time when he came was last week) is   كان وقت مجيئه
الأسبوع الماضي
the time [he past come at the time] was last week

الوقت (هو ماضي ج ا ء زمان ما)

كان الأسبوع الماضي
the time [he past come at the time] was last week || T relative
الوقت عندما هو ماضي ج ا
||
ء كان الأسبوع الماضي
the time when he past come was last week
Here two other transformations are needed to reach the surface structure
of this sentence: a main verb movement and relativizer deletion
transformation.

|| T

main verb movement

كان الوقت عندما هو ماضي ج ا ء

الأسبوع الماضي
was the time he past com last week || T
relativizer deletion
was time he past come last week   كان الوقت هو ماضي ج ا ء
الأسبوع الماضي

|| T

Affix
was time he came last week   كان وقت ماضي ج ا ء هو   +
الأسبوع الماضي
كان وقت مجيئه

الأسبوع الماضي
Thus the position of the main verb can be before and after the relative
clause in the Arabic sentence
وقت مجيئه كان الأسبوع الماضي
while in the English sentence there is only one position which is after the
relative clause. This needs the presence of an additional transformation ;
the T main verb movement. Another optional transformation is the T
relativizer deletion which is also applicable to English: The time he came
was last week. Here <u>when</u> is deleted.
4. <u>The subordinate Adverbial transformation (T sub Adv)</u>
        Subordinate adverbial clauses are embedded in matrix sentences. So
they involve subordinators replacing adverbials in the surface structure.
The adverbials in the deep structure are not fully specified, i.e. they are

PRO constituents. The subordinate adverbial transformation moves the PRO constituent to the front of the embedded deep structure. Therefore, a subordinator is applied to replace the PRO constituent according to the following criteria :

SOMEREASON ------> because
SOMETIME   -----$\rightarrow$ when
SOMEPLACE   -----$\rightarrow$ where
The following examples illustrate this kind of transformation :
__ He started where others ended.
he past start [others past end SOMEPLACE]
                    || T sub Adv
he past start SOMEPLACE others past end
                    || **T affix**
he start past # SOMEPLACE others end past #
He started where others ended.

__ He started when others ended.
he past start [others past end SOMETIME }
                    || T sub Adv
he past start SOMETIME others past end
                    || T affix
he start past # SOMETIME others end past #
He started when others ended.
In Arabic the same transformation is applicable.

بدأ حين انتهى الآخرون   and   بدأ حيث انتهى الآخرون

The deep structures of the above Arabic sentences are :

هو ماضي ب د ء (ماضي ا ن ت ه الآخرون زمن ما)

and   هو ب د ء (ماضي ا ن ت ه الآخرون مكان ما)

he past start [others past end SOMETIME] and

 he past start [others past end SOMETIME]

When applying the T sub Adv the following structures can be generated :

هو ماضي ب د ء زمن ما ماضي ا ن ت ه الآخرون

and هو ماضي ب د ء <u>مكان ما</u> ماضي ا ن ت ه الآخرون

he past start SOMEPLACE others past end and he past start SOMETIME others end

Again when applying the T affix the following structures can be generated :

he start past # SOMETIME others end past #

هو ب د ء ماضي ++ <u>زمن ما</u> ا ن ت ه ماضي الآخرون

he start past # SOMEPLACE others end past #

هو ب د ء ماضي ++ <u>مكان ما</u> ا ن ت ه ماضي الآخرون

He started when others ended .

بدأ حين انتهى الآخرون.

He started where others ended.

بدأ حيث انتهى الآخرون .

It is clear after this illustration that the <u>T sub Adv</u> is applicable to the subordinate adverbial clauses in both languages which, in turn, means that English and Arabic manifest a similar construction to express the same meaning.

IV. Conclusion

This study has showed that the first two transformations namely, the adverbial movement and the adverbial of direction transformation, are optional in both Arabic and English. In other words they are only stylistic variants. The other two adverbial transformations, the relative and the subordinate, are obligatory in both languages too.

Nevertheless, there are some differences between the two languages in two transformations. In the (T Adv of direction deletion) the adverbial of direction can be deleted together with the following noun phrase in English while this is not possible in Arabic. Only the preposition can be deleted. Either one of the two prepositions might be deleted whereas in English only the direction preposition can be deleted. The deletion of either element of preposition in Arabic results in a different meaning. In the third transformation (the relative), the English sentence allows only one position of the main verb, which is after the relative clause, while the Arabic sentence allows two positions, one preceding the relative clause and the other following it. This implies the presence of another transformation for the Arabic relative adverbial clause which might be called <u>T main verb movement</u>, and it is optional. Both Arabic and English allow T relativizer deletion.

Out of the foregone analysis, it is clear that there are some areas where Arabic and English are the same and some areas where they are different. Understanding these similarities and differences helps in commencing better achievements in FLT and translation in what concerns the two languages. Further studies of these similarities and differences can also help illustrating stylistic issues and enhance FLT courses and translation rules concerning Arabic and English.

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التحويلات النحوية الظرفية في الانكليزية والعربية

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المستخلص

يهدف هذا البحث إلى تشخيص أوجه التشابه والاختلاف بين اللغة العربية والانكليزية في ما يتعلق بالعبارات الظرفية وفق المدرسة النحوية التحويلية. بينت مقدمة البحث سبب اختيار هذا النوع من النحو في تحليل العبارات الظرفية في كلا اللغتين كما وضحت حدود الدراسة ومجالها اضافة إلى فوائد نتائجها لمختلف المجالات اللغوية. مهد للدراسة مبحث يتضمن معلومات أساسية عن الظرفية بالإطار اللازم لإجراء التحليل النحوي. أجريت الاختبارات التحويلية الظرفية على جمل من اللغتين العربية والانكليزية. توضح من خلال فحص الجمل ان بعض هذه التحويلات تعطي تشابها كليا أو جزئيا وبعضها الآخر ينتج اختلافا كليا أو جزئيا أيضا في اللغتين فيما يتعلق بالعبارات الظرفية موضوعة التحليل. وأخيرا توضح خلاصة البحث النتائج المستخلصة وتناقش ما تحصل منها بشكل يبين تشابهها أو اختلافها في اللغتين العربية والانكليزية.

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