

ANALYZING DIFFERENT PHRASES STRUCTURE BETWEEN MALAY, ARABIC AND ENGLISH

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ABSTRACT

In several manners, languages can vary widely. They can use various sounds, make words with different ways, put words together within ways to form a phrase, and that's just for beginners. A language's dialects can differ greatly of accents, the words that individuals use, the way some people construct their words. Hence, the aim of this paper was to discover the differences between the three languages: English, Arabic and Malay, using the phrases structured from the respective languages mentioned earlier. The analysis focused on the phrases of the structures created as the study looks more closely at the factors that affect the structure of the phrases that make the difference between the languages. This research used the case study as design, since it is suitable for qualitative study and it measures up for analysis and better comprehension of the specific target (Hancké, 2009). The sampling was purposive and three participants were involved in this research to represent each language. The results of the study showed that all the three languages have similarity but also a different, unique linguistic features of their own, especially Arabic since it is a language that does not adhere to the rules similar to English unlike Malay, which the latter is similar due to its past history of how the language was formed. In terms of uniqueness, Arabic has the most as it is within the same vein of other languages that are quite unique on their own such as Welsh, Gaelic and so forth, even many of these languages have studies related to them and many marked on the lack of a generalized theory for all of these languages to be put together.

KEYWORDS: Malay, Arabic and English, Phrases Structure

Article History

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INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the topic of this study, and it is broken down into a number of major sections including the sections that cover the study background, objectives. Then, the research questions and significance of the study are outlined, followed by the review of the related literature.

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

People has always talk to each other. The existence of multiple ways of communicating messages and many variations of languages available are due to the complexity of the communication itself; it serves as a medium to get the messages across from one to another. The flexibility of the usage of languages plays a role, since a word or a phrase can bring many different messages with it depending on the context, the target and the time it was used. Languages spawn whenever the

need and demand arises, and many of the languages tend to have their own distinct differences that made up by the typography, grammar, word stock, along with the distinctions influenced by the community that uses the said language (Algeo, 2005. Klammer et. al., 2012, Romli, Othman, Abdullah, & Hamat 2018).

As such, this is one of the many factors why languages expanded and many variations exist; such as the origins of Malay language (Mees, 1967), the history of how the English language came about to its current state (Algeo, 2005; Mubarak, Rahman, Awaliyah, Wekke & Hussein 2020), the Arabs and their language (Shah, 2003). This further became complex as each of the language can be different accordingly; evidenced by the aforementioned aspects within the system itself such as the grammar, how the phrases can be structured, typography, et cetera (Algeo, 2005. Klammer et. al., 2012; Hummadi, Mat Said, Hussein, Sabti, & Hattab 2020). This paper will focus on one aspect, mainly the structure of the phrases based on an existing method of analysis the structure (Klammer et. al., 2012; Salleh 2017) for this research's findings.

OBJECTIVES

This paper aims to discover the differences of the three languages; English, Arabic and Malay through the phrases structured from the respective languages mentioned. The analysis focuses on the phrases of the structures formed as the research will look more into detail pertaining on what factors that influence the phrases structure to be different between the languages.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What are the differences of the three languages; English, Arabic and Malay on how the phrases are structured?
- In what aspect do these differences happen and what is the factor (ie; word-borrowing) that cause these differences to happen?

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The result from this study contributed to the ever-increasing knowledge pool of the language study, thereby allowing future studies to have more reference pertaining on the research of inter-language analysis on their differences and similarities. This aspect can be considered crucial if we are to study, acknowledge and preserve any language.

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

The language has an important word that defines it- the system. Due to this, humans speak in patterns, structured in a complex manner through a collection of words to convey our messages to one another (Algio, 2005). Algio mentioned that all languages have '... two levels to its system' in which termed as the duality of patterning, which denotes the sign of when a word is deemed 'meaningful' or 'meaningless' in the context of the phrase created to convey the message. Duality of patterning plays one of the major role in which it influences how language can be created despite humans can only do fewer sounds than words can be created by our minds. The concept of 'meaningful' and the 'meaningless' components are further broadened (Owens, 2003. Algio, 2005; Safeat, & Kurniawan 2019.) in which the 'meaningless' components are like the sound system, phonology, while the 'meaningful' are a language's vocabulary, grammatical system, or the morph syntax.

Algio (2005) explained that in a language, the lexis (vocabulary) is the least systematic aspect; This Grammar sometimes can be defined as the part that governs the language's rule, the lexis is the unpredictable part, but all of this only can go to certain extent. Collocations, 'mild' and 'gentle' words accompanying a noun can affect the nature of the phrase. Even the phrases and sentences in conversation are in similar vein; the speaker speaks one word at a time while the listener divides the information into meaningful chunks for better intelligibility, hence the significance of subject and predicate division in a sentence or a phrase (Klammer et. al., 2012; Hashim 2017).

Several studies in the past are related to what this paper strives to make; Al-Muhtaseb (1992) is one of the studies made in Saudi Arabia in regards to what are the differences between Arabic and English languages. Despite the paper being published for the benefit of the Institute of Computer and Science (ICS) Department, his journal proved to be in-depth regarding the analysis of the differences between the two languages as he referred much towards past journals of linguistics field. Al-Muhtaseb showed in the research of how Arabic are much more flexible compared to English by the benefit of the former language able to adhere the sentence rule of Subject-verb-object (SVO) according to the context, in which it can be SVO or VSO easily and much more accepting than English in terms of usage (Ling 2018).

On Malay language several studies have been made (Aminurrashid, 1996. Musa, 2006), mainly remarked on how the language made its dependency of both languages, Arabic and English. Their research showed that due to Malaysia's past history of exposure to the Arab culture, Islamisation and eventual fall to the colonization of the British Empire affected the language; this in turn essentially served as a stepping stone for the language to eventually mature and prospered into a language of its own (Hashim 2017; Ling 2018).

METHODOLOGY

The following part presents and highlights the research design, sample size, participants, instruments, data analysis, data transaction and results. Further, the conclusion is revealed.

Research Design

This research used the case study as its' design, as it is suitable for qualitative study and it measures up for analysis and better comprehension of the specific target of the research is focused on (Hancké, 2009). The design of the case study requires the researchers to arrive at the real question much prepared beforehand, as the data collection requires a long time given for it to be done (Creswell, 2009). This sets the qualifications of us using the design suited for our study as we need the time to analyze the phrases: as a corpus needs to be used as the data for the analysis taken from three different languages, and each has to be relevant for the analysis purpose of this research paper.

Sample

The sampling was purposive; the means of data collection for the research are purposefully chosen, selected and filtered for the convenience to the research's goal, as the scope of the study involves the analysis of the phrases between the three languages; this is so that the sampling is within the constraints of the researcher and the research framework (Schatzman & Strauss, 1973). The corpus that is taken for the research will be using the same subject, object and same context so that it is relevant and constant among the three languages used in this research.

Participants

This is limited to a local university of a specific faculty that is related for this research purposes, the participants are postgraduate students. The participants' involved in this research are mainly used as a source of corpus data, filtering of the corpus and additional input; the ones involved are those that are knowledgeable with the language related to this research and were asked to be given some input as to how the phrases can be structured in such a way to show the differences between the languages more apparent for this paper's analysis. Also, the nationality and language knowledge and proficiency of the participants is highly noted, acknowledged but remained confidential as such information are purely for the use of this study. The research aimed for at least three (3) participants to represent each language in this research.

Instruments

The instruments that were utilized in this research has to be related with the recording of a corpus as a research material, given that the research pertains to the analysis of the phrase between the three languages. As such, the evidence were taken through the use of technology for convenience and ease of recording. Recording of the participants' inputs are also considered, mainly with recording of voice during short interview with them as a support material for later reference of this research.

Data Analysis

This research data analysis were done through the use of the tree diagram; this is to find out the structure of the phrases. The analysis began at first with the phrases from English language, thereby the phrase in question were referred to the basic rule:

S (Sentence) = NP (Subject) + VP (Predicate)

After the phrases from the English language is done, the other two languages (Malay and Arabic) followed suit with their phrases written as how it would adhere to each respective language rule, and also were referred back to back with the English phrase if it is possible to be written in the same structure as the English language.

“That is my book” – English

“Itu bukunya” – Malay

“thakkitabi” - Arabic

After the tabulation and drawing of the diagram of all the three languages and their phrases has been done, discussions and conclusions were drawn from what can be seen from the diagrams made by the use of the corpus data.

Data Transcription

The corpus data for this paper revolves around a simple premise on which all the three languages able to construct the phrases without difficulty. Due to being in consideration for convenience of the research along with the speakers of respective languages to be able to contribute with little hassle, we presented several subjects and factors that can be used for the participants to create the phrases. The subjects and factors that mentioned are listed below:

- A person. For his sake, we settled down on the name ‘Ahmed’. Wears white T-shirt, blue slacks and sport shoes.
Note: We notify the participants not to construct phrases that touch upon Ahmed's nationality, facial features nor his background. Physical features (ie: height) is accepted barring the face.

- A bicycle. One that is foldable, small and light. Red in color, has an interesting 'A' look to it.
- At a faculty located in UPM. Participants excluding, very few people are present in the area. We are located somewhere near to one of the entrance to the faculty.
- The time of the day is early evening. Sun can be seen above in the sky.
- The weather is sunny.

Through these listed factors above, the participants were given time to decide among them what phrases to create, as all the three languages have to create phrases that has the same essential context and are to be written in their respective languages. After that and much filtering, the research settled down on few phrases:

- **Ahmed Stops Riding the Bicycle because the Weather is nice.**
 - Ahmed berhentimenunggangbasikal itu keranacuacanyabaik. (Malay)
 - Tawaqqaf Ahmed an kiyada ad-darrajah bi-sabbab al-jaw al-jamil. (Arabic)

توقف احمد عن قيادة الدر اجة بسبب الجو الجميل

- **The Bicycle Belongs to Ahmed.**
 - Basikal itu kepunyaan Ahmed. (Malay)
 - Ta' wood Ad-darrajah li Ahmed. (Arabic)

تعود الدر اجة ل احمد

- **Ahmed Arrived at the Faculty with his Bicycle.**
 - Ahmed sampai ke fakulti dengan basikalnya. (Malay)
 - Wasal Ahmed li al-kuliyah bewasetat ad-darrajah (Arabic)

وصل احمد للكلية ب در اجه

- **The Bicycle is too Small for Ahmed.**
 - Basikal itu terlalukecil bagi Ahmed. (Malay)
 - Ad-darrajah sagherah jedd anala Ahmed (Arabic)

ال در اجة صغيرة جداً ل احمد

There were many examples but majority of the corpus had to be set aside and filtered many times over with the participants, with the last four examples shown earlier are the only ones chosen. This is due to the fact that finding the phrases suitable for this research proved to be time consuming and the many examples the writers rejected compared to the ones above are simply too complex, therefore it is omitted from this paper. Out of four examples one will be shown in analysis below, the other three will be covered and discussed sans the diagram.

Results

The resulted corpus that we obtained from the participants proved to be interesting; the phrase from the Arabic language showed the most radical departure of phrase structuring compared to English or Malay phrases as shown above. Illustration of the sentences using the formula would be a better view, therefore the first phrase from above is made into a diagram as shown below:

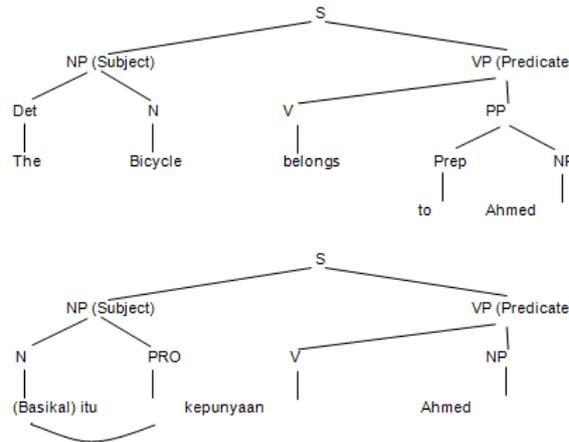


Figure 1: A: Tree Diagram English (Top), Malay (Bottom).

The first two diagrams showed a similar trait between the two languages; both are SVO-derived (Subject-Verb-Object) type of language, but the Malay makes its distinction by in the phrase above does not use determiners unlike English. This is interesting; the Malay language does have the rule of determiners in the vein of ‘kata penentu’ (Hassan, 1953), but the fact that the ‘kata penentu’ only limits to either ‘itu’ (that) or ‘ini’ (this). This convention changes altogether when the language body of the government (Kamus Dewan) in its fourth edition guidebook illustrates that ‘itu’ and ‘ini’ are mainly considered as ‘kata penunjuk’, which means the words that shows direction (Maros et. al., 2007).

The Arabic language phrase example on the other hand is different from the other two; it is transparent in terms of the words are placed in the phrase; it shows that Arabic language can be VSO (Verb-subject-object) depending on the context of the communication. The writers of this research has difficulty on forming the tree diagram for Arabic language; many have been considered, especially the likes of Tolkien’s (1966) tree diagram on how his made-up language for the elves, ‘Sindarin’ is made due to the nature of the said language is SVO. The picture below is an example of the tree diagram:

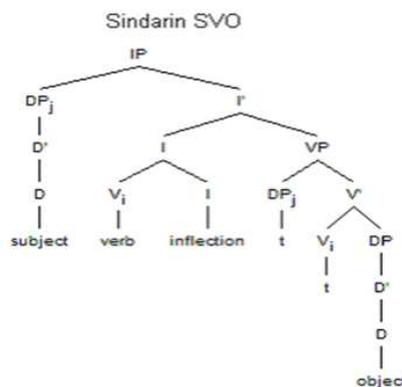


Figure 2: Example of Tolkien’s Sindarin SVO.

Despite the reference towards Tolkien’s tree diagram along with other sources that may be worthwhile, this paper focuses on the formation of the words shown in a simpler manner in the case of Arabic language. Below is the breakdown of the phrases:

verb
|
English: The bicycle belongs to Ahmed.

verb
|
Arabic: Ta’wood Ad-darrajah li Ahmed.

Ta’wood [تعود]: belongs, Ad-darrajah [الدراجة]: the-bicycle, li Ahmed [لاحمد], to Ahmed.

Example

It should be noted that Arabic also has a derivation system with its words; while it can be similar to an inflection, it is more onto manipulation of the base word to achieve a different usage of the same word to be used. Many studies related to analysis of language difference already noted on this matter, and one such example can be seen as the one below:

Table 1

Word & Transliteration	Meaning	Word & Transliteration	Meaning
<naāma> [نَامَ]	He slept	<naā'imun> [نَائِمٌ]	Sleeping
<yanaāmu> [يَنَامُ]	He sleeps	<munawwamun> [مُنَوِّمٌ]	Under hypnotic
<nam> [نَم]	Sleep	<na'ūmun> [نَائِمٌ]	Late riser
<tanwēmun> [تَنْوِيْمٌ]	Lulling to sleep	<'anwamu> [أَنَوِّمٌ]	More given to sleep
<manaāmun> [مَنَامَةٌ]	Dream	<nawwaāmun> [نَوَّامٌ]	The most given to sleep
<nawmatun> [نَوْمَةٌ]	Of one sleep	<manaāmun> [مَنَامَةٌ]	Dormitory
<nawwaāmatun> [نَوَّامَةٌ]	Sleeper	<'an yanaāma> [أَن يَنَامُ]	That he sleeps
<nawmiyyatun> [نَوْمِيَّةٌ]	Pertaining to sleep	<munawwamun> [مُنَوِّمٌ]	hypnotic

RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION

Various relevant issues that require the utilization of reasonable improved analyzing different phrases structure between Malay, Arabic and English have been featured and discussed about in this investigation, the input contribution of which is triple:

- To the ongoing debate on the analyzing different phrases structure between Malay, Arabic and English;
- To the information concerning the advantages and conditions for the analyzing different phrases structure between Malay, Arabic and English
- A study on how these components analyzing different phrases structure between Malay, Arabic and English.

One of the primary contributions of this study is the assessment of the elements that various relevant issues require the utilization of reasonable improved analyzing different phrases structure between Malay, Arabic and English have been featured and discussed about in this investigation, the input contribution of which is triple:

A study on how these components analyzing different phrases structure between Malay, Arabic and English goal. Furthermore, the study for this research is all the three languages have similarity but also a different, unique linguistic features of their own, especially Arabic since it is a language that does not adhere to the rules similar to English unlike Malay, which the latter is similar due to its past history of how the language was formed.

CONCLUSIONS

All the three languages have similarity but also a different, unique linguistic features of their own, especially Arabic since it is a language that does not adhere to the rules similar to English unlike Malay, which the latter is similar due to its past history of how the language was formed. In terms of uniqueness, Arabic has the most as it is within the same vein of other languages that are quite unique on their own such as Welsh, Gaelic and so forth, even many of these languages have studies related to them and many marked on the lack of a generalized theory for all of these languages to be put together. The research done on this paper only adds to a huge wealth of knowledge pool in analysis of language grammar and in future it may be related to, whether big or small- nevertheless a contribution to the field of linguistics.

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