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The Interpersonal Metafunction of Finite Clauses in Modern Standard Arabic and English: A Contrastive Study

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Abstract

This study compares and contrasts the structures of finite clauses in Modern Standard Arabic (henceforth MSA) and English to identify their internal constituents. It attempts to point out the similarities and differences in the moods formulated by these clauses in both languages. The Sketch Engine corpus was used to retrieve a comprehensive number of instances representing finite clauses in both languages. The study employed the Interpersonal Metafunction of Systemic Functional Grammar (henceforth SFG) to analyse the collected data. SFG investigates the interplay between subjects and finite operators to form different moods, the contribution of finite operators in clauses, and whether they operate independently or are fused with the predicator. The ultimate goal is to compare the two languages. The analysis investigated all temporal aspects in both MSA and English and identified notable similarities and differences in the orientations and distributions of finite operators, the use of predicators, and the formulation of moods and modalities.

Keywords:

Finite clauses- Tense-Aspect- Mood-Modality-SFG-MSA

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1. Introduction

It has been traditionally understood that finiteness was primarily a morphological concept, categorized into two groups of verbs: finite and non-finite. Furthermore, the term "finiteness" was adopted from the Greco-Latin tradition, along with other traditional linguistic concepts, to describe grammatical aspects in various languages. This has led to inconsistencies in the application of the label of "finiteness" to different languages, as well as within a single language. (Koptjevskaja-Tamm, 2009). Finiteness properties such as tense, aspect, mood, case checking, etc set a parameter for comparing among languages to clarify the presence or absence. This also sets the difference between finite and non-finite clauses across languages.

Applying universal linguistic theories and established terminologies provides a unified framework for analysing finite clauses in English and other languages. This concept creates an opportunity to extend this analysis to Arabic clauses. For instance, applying SFG involves examining the constituents of finite clauses, their functions, as well as absences of such constituents. Moreover, it features the Interpersonal Metafunction which explores the variations in the use of moods and modalities and assists in investigating the concept of temporal finiteness beyond the well-known properties of, such as tense, aspect, and mood. Analysing finite clauses using SFG has led to significant findings regarding the distributions, and orientations of the Mood elements. These differences were observed in finite clauses in both languages.

This study focuses on investigating the syntactic structures of finite clauses in MSA and English. It endeavours to clarify their internal constituents by conducting an in-depth analysis of these clauses, and eventually point out the similarities as well as differences between the two languages. Therefore, the study seeks to answer the following two questions:

1. What are the syntactic structures of finite clauses in MSA and English? To answer this question, the analysis intends to investigate the internal structures and constituents of finite clauses in both languages as well as the role of each constituent in the formation of these clauses.

2. How are different moods and modality expressed in MSA and English? This part focuses on the method each language expresses different moods such as statements, and imperatives using their grammatical means. Mainly, the study attempts to contribute to clarifying the complexities included in clause structures and the usage of mood/modal expression in both languages.

2. Literature Review

This section presents contrastive studies written in the area of temporality, concerning MSA and English. Alasmari et al. (2018) compared the verb systems of English and Arabic utilising the Quranic Arabic Corpus data. The study examined how both languages express tense and aspect by investigating the translation accuracy of Quranic verbs into English. The translations of Sahih International, Pickthall, Yusuf Ali, Shakir, Muhammad Sarwar, Mohsin Khan, and Arberry were analysed which revealed notable discrepancies in the translations. Mazyad (1999) investigated the acquisition of tense-aspect in ninety adult Arabic-speaking learners of English. The participants were divided into three proficiency levels and compared to a control group of twenty-five native speakers. It argued that verbal inflections were utilized as markers of lexical aspects, regardless of tense, in early interlanguage systems. The research emphasized the accessibility of innate universal aspectual values for adult L2 learners. The findings also

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showed the connection between cognitive principles and the prototype model of language acquisition.

O'Brien's (2003) studied how EFL learners from the Gulf area expressed tense and aspect. The population of this study comprised Emirati EFL learners in the third level of college. It emphasized two primary factors causing their incorrect verb choices: the correlation between the lexical aspect of verb types and their forms, and the influence of Arabic tense and aspect systems on their English proficiency. The findings stated that understanding learners' verb usage requires investigating factors other than the verb forms (p.i). Al-Horais (2006) investigated the absence of present-tense verbal copula in Arabic verbless sentences using the minimalist syntax. It argues that Arabic verbless sentences express present tense in two ways: without a verb and with a copular verb inflected for tense. Salih (1985) examines clause structures in Standard Arabic (SA), focusing on "double accusatives," which have two nominals marked for the accusative case. It challenges the prevalent belief that SA allows "double direct object" structures. The study supports the idea that SA allows double accusatives resulting from the advancement of the indirect object to a direct object, thus affirming the universality of the Stratal Uniqueness Law.

In Gadalla's (2017), a corpus of 1,605 instances of Arabic and English tenses was analysed to compare their translation (p.ii). The research aimed to identify similarities and differences in tense expression between the two languages. Schulz (2008) analysed tense, modality, and polarity in English and German to explain finite verbal groups and explore differences in translations using the Bremen Translation Corpus. Additionally, in Alasadi and Abdul Ridha (2015) all non-finite clauses from "The Old Man and the Sea" were translated from English to Arabic.

3. Methodology

This section presents the methodology which the study adopted to answer the study questions and eventually achieve its objective. Additionally, it clarifies the source of the data, the criteria of collection and the process of collection. It also demonstrates the theoretical framework which was employed for analysing the collected data.

3.1. Data source

This study is dependent on data collected from the Sketch Engine website. To collect comprehensive and representative instances of the finite clauses in both languages, suitable formulas were developed and used to extract every possible structure of these clauses. This process resulted in compiling a comprehensive set of examples which paved the way to conduct the contrastive analysis. The Sketch Engine corpus features texts collected from the Internet. These texts had undergone a thorough process to filter out poor content and ensure comparability among languages.

The most recent version of the English TenTen corpus contains 52 billion words. To enhance quality, a selection of texts from the largest web domains was semi-manually reviewed to filter out poor-quality texts and spam. The corpora utilized the Just Text and Seed URLs tools to eliminate duplicates, unwanted content, and spam. The English web corpora employed the Penn Treebank tagset as a part-of-speech (POS) tagging tool to classify parts of speech and grammatical functions. The texts also demonstrate lemmatization, showcasing the base forms of words. The extraction process was conducted using the concordance function to examine examples in context.

Similarly, the Arabic ArTenTen corpus consists of texts compiled from the internet. According to the Sketch Engine website, the Arabic corpus was subject to the same compilation process as the English corpus, utilizing the Just Text tool and Seed URLs to remove duplicates and spam content. The Arabic corpus Ar TenTen 24 on the Sketch Engine website comprises 6.5 billion words and utilizes the CAMEl tagset for annotating parts of speech,

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lemmatization, and grammatical functions. Similar to the extraction process employed for the English corpus, the concordance function was utilized to examine examples within their context. The data collection process for both languages extended from November 2023 to June 2024.

3.2. Theoretical Framework (The Systemic Functional Grammar SFG)

3.2.1. The Interpersonal Metafunction (Clause as exchange)

According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2013), clauses have three distinct functional configurations that work together to create the overall meaning of the clauses.

- The theme function which introduces the *Clause as a Message*. The theme is the starting point at which quantum information clauses embody and provide the basis for speakers' statements.
- The subject function which introduces the *Clause as an Exchange* between a speaker and listener. This function guarantees the validity of the ideas conveyed by speakers.
- The actor introduces the *Clause as a Representation* of an ongoing process in human experience. Speakers play an active role by portraying the actor as the one who acts (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013, p. 83).

These three functions operate in combination with each other. In a sentence such as "*I caught the first ball*," the pronoun "*I*" acts as the subject and enhances the meaning when it is combined with the verbal element "caught" as the process and the *ball* is marked as the goal in the nominal group. Similarly, the subject participates with the other constituents of structure in the Clause as Exchange, and the Theme in configuring the clause as a message. The three functions, namely Theme, Subject, and Actor, convey distinct meanings and are recognized as 'Clause as Message,' 'Clause as Exchange,' and 'Clause as Representation.' (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013). This study employed The Interpersonal

Metafunction (*Clause as exchange*) to investigate the syntactic structures of finite clauses in both languages.

The Interpersonal Metafunction focuses on a clause as an interpersonal exchange and is employed as a framework to analyse the syntactic structures of finite clauses in both languages. This analysis investigates the functions of these clauses in human communication. It also points out their roles in expressing various moods, such as questions, and statements. This function was selected because it provides adequate tools to examine finite clauses such as subject and finite operators. The presence or absence of these components sets the parameters for contrasting these clauses in both languages.

The Interpersonal Metafunction (Clause as exchange) involves the speaker or writer and their audience. This metafunction identifies the clause in the semantic exchange between the speaker and the listener. Interpersonal deixis guides the interpretation of time 'within the semantic space' (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013, p.144). This approach investigates interpersonal communication at a particular moment through two primary means. First, it employs the primary tense to establish the present time relevant to both *you* and *me*. Second, it involves modality, which refers to the speakers' evaluation of uncertain contexts (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013, p.144).

Halliday and Matthiessen (2013) note that in every conversation, the speakers intentionally assign themselves and the listener a specific role. This process is reflected in the selection of different moods. For instance, in the interrogative mood, the speaker assumes the role of the information seeker, while the listener is expected to provide the information. The clause can be divided into two key parts: the mood, which comprises the subject and the finite verb, and the residue, which encompasses the remaining parts of the sentence.

3.2.2. Definition of Mood:

The concept of Mood is utilised here as a way of exchanging information. In English, statements and questions are expressed through grammatical variation affecting one part of the clause, while the rest remains the same. This grammatical variation is called Mood and includes the subject and finite operator. Different variations of subject and finite operators result in different Mood types in clauses, such as declarative and interrogative clauses. Based on this, the Mood in English is expressed by the interplay of a finite operator and subject, and in Arabic, it is expressed by the verb form.

(1) The duke has given away that teapot —

(2) Has the duke given away that teapot? (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013, p. 143).

The concept of Mood includes two main constituents, and they are the subject and the finite operators. The interplay between these two elements results in formulating different moods within finite clauses. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2013), the Mood element is a fundamental component of the interpersonal metafunction, as it focuses on how language is used in conducting human interactions. This research uses the Mood element as an instrumental tool to examine different mood types in both MSA and English.

3.2.3. A subject

The subject of a clause is the part that the statement either confirms or refutes, usually appearing as a noun phrase. If the subject is a personal pronoun like "he", it must be repeated in every clause. However, if the subject is a noun phrase like "*the duke*", it is replaced by a personal pronoun after its initial mention (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013, p. 145).

3.2.4. A Finite Operator

Finiteness is a linguistic concept that gives a proposition a point of reference based on context and speech events. It refers to a sentence having a clear beginning and end point. There are two

methods by which the concept of finiteness is achieved. The first method links the sentence to the speaking time (e.g., tense). For example, "*An old man was crossing the road*". The second method links the sentence to the speaker's judgment (e.g. modality). For instance, "*it can't be true*" (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013,p.144). Finite operators are verbal operators that include modal operators like "*must*" and "*should*", or auxiliary verbs like "*do*" and "*have*". These operators demonstrate tense, such as "*is*" and "*has*", as well as mood and modality, such as "*can*" and "*must*". In some cases, finite operators appear to be merged with lexical ones, called "fused" by Halliday and Matthiessen (2013, pp. 140–141). This fusion occurs in present simple sentences where the finite operator is "*does*" as in "*He eats*", and in past tense sentences where the finite operator is "*did*" as in "*He ate*".

Finiteness is expressed by a verbal operator (temporal and modal) and polarity. This refers to being positive or negative whether '*is*' or '*isn't*' (proposition), or '*do!*' or '*don't!*' (proposal). Thus, whether negative or positive polarity is conveyed using finite elements, expressive primary tense or modality (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013, p. 145).

3.2.5. A *predicator*

As a key component of a residue, a predicator is a crucial constituent in most clauses, except for elliptical ones. It refers to the verbal group without a temporal or modal operator, and the verb form used is non-finite clauses. Predicators serve four primary purposes in sentences. They help define the time of the speech event, provide clarity regarding additional phases such as trying or seeming, indicate the voice (active or passive), and state the nature of the process (action or mental process) (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013, p. 151).

3.2.6. A *complement*

A complement is a component of a sentence that can act as a subject but instead serves as a complement when there is already a subject present. The complement takes the form of a nominal group. For instance, in the clause "*the duke gave my aunt that teapot,*" the

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complements are "my aunt" and "that teapot." If the sentence is converted into the passive voice, either of these complements can become the subject of the clause (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013, p. 153).

3.2.7. An adjunct

An adjunct is a part of a sentence that adds extra information, but it cannot act as the subject of the sentence like a complement can. Arguments cannot be established based on adjuncts. They usually take the form of an adverbial or propositional group (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013, p. 154).

3.3. Data analysis

The analysis of this research uses the data collected from the Sketch Engine website and hypothesizes the existence of intricacies in MSA and English tenses. Therefore, it examines all the temporal tenses alongside the aspects associated with them. The analysis utilizes the Interpersonal Metafunction of the SFG. This investigation attempts to present a comprehensive description of the structures featured in finite clauses in both languages as well as the different components that constitute them.

3.3.1. The Past Tense

3.3.1.1. The Arabic Past Perfect

The analysis begins with investigating the past perfect in MSA. This temporal aspect is formed by using the auxiliary verb "kana," which means "was," as a finite operator, combined with a perfective verb form, as a predicator. This structure expresses actions or states that have already happened and conveys the declarative mood. To clarify, verbs of becoming, being, and remaining hold the same meaning and the same syntactic effect as the verb *kaan-a* 'to be', making them 'sisters' of the latter. All of these verbs convey the meaning of existence (e.g., being, inception, duration, continuation), requiring the accusative marker on the predicate or complement (*xabar kaan-a*) for example *kanna-a za'iim-an* (he was a leader). Typically, the subject of *kaan-a* (*ism kaan-a*) and its sisters is normally in the nominative case (e.g.,

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kaan-a al-rajul-u za'iim-an (The man was a leader) (Ryding, 2005, p.635). However, in compound tenses past progressive and future perfect, they function as auxiliary verbs (Ryding, 2005). Badawi et al. (2004) added that *kaan-a* 'to be' is used in combination with the perfective and imperfective to form compound tenses. Consider the following instance from the collected data:

(3) كانت المؤسساتان بدأتا اول استثمار مشترك

// *kant almūāsāsātāni badāātā awl aīstithmāra mushtaraka*//

was-the two institutions-began-first-investment-joint

The two institutions began their first joint investment

<i>kant</i>	<i>almūāsāsātāni</i>	<i>badāātā</i>	<i>aīstithmāra mushtaraka</i>
Auxiliary	Subject (dual)	Predicator	Complement
Mood	Residue		

The auxiliary verb *kaan-a* with a main perfective verb and the particle *qad* are used to express a complete action in the past that acts as a background for a present action (Ryding, 2005). To clarify, the past tense of *kaan-a* with the perfective form of the main verb is used to express an anterior action. The particle *qad* may appear before the main verb. Standing-alone subjects in such structures appear between the auxiliary verb and the main verb, showing inflection for the plural, unlike the auxiliary verb which remains singular, as it appears before the subject (Ryding, 2005), for example:

(4) كان قد انطلقت أعمال الدورة الثانية

//*kāna qad aiṅṭalaqat 'umāḷu alḏāwraṭi althāḥānīaṭi*//

was-had-launched-proceedings-the round-the second

The proceedings of the second round had begun

<i>kāna</i>	<i>qad</i>	<i>aiṅṭalaqat</i>	<i>'umāḷu alḏāwraṭi althāḥānīaṭi</i>
Finite Auxiliary	Verbal particle	Predicator	subject
Mo-		Residue	-od

The Arabic pluperfect can be expressed by using different forms of the word "qad" along with the perfective verb form. Badawi et al., (2004) claimed that marked perfect is realized by using the following particles by [*wa*]-*qad*, [*fa*]-*qad* or *la-qad* with

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perf. It expresses complete actions, especially the relation between a pluperfect and a previous perf. verb. To clarify, the usage of *qad* emphasized the use of the perfective aspect of the verb form. Thalith (2006) argued that the particle *qad* is used with the perfect verb forms to clarify the completion of the event, as the absence of this particle would not cause a big difference. However, its presence expresses assurance meaning of the completion of the verb. Consider the following instance from the collected data:

(5) وقد استمرت عمليات الصيانة حتى منتصف الليل

//waqaḍ aṣṭamarāt ‘amaliātu alšīyānāti ḥatāy muṅtaṣafī allāyḻi//

had-continued, fem-operations-maintenance-till-mid-the night

Maintenance operations continued until midnight

waqaḍ	aṣṭamarāt	‘amaliātu alšīyānāti	ḥatāy muṅtaṣafī allāyḻi
Verbal particle	Finite + Predicator		subject
	Mo-	Resi-	-od
			-due

3.3.1.2. The English Past Perfect

This aspect is formed by the auxiliary verb *had* and a predicator in the form of the past participle of the verb, for example:

(6) In September 2005, 27% of the web users in America had used the Internet to read someone else's blog.

In September 2005	27% of the web users in America	had	used	the Internet
	Subject	Finite	Predicator	complement
	Mood		Residue	

3.3.1.3. The Arabic Past Perfect Progressive

Verbs of knowing, feeling or understanding are known to stretch over long periods of time therefore, the past progressive aspect is used to express them in Arabic (Ryding, 2005), for example:

(7) في حفل الشواء الذي كان يخطط لإقامته مع أحدهم

//fī ḥafli aṣḥīwā’i ḷādhī kāna yukḥaṭṭu liḷqāmatihī ma’a
aḥḥadihim //

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In-party-barbecue-that-was-planning-to hold-with-someone of them
 At the barbecue party that he was planning to hold with someone

fī ḥafli alshīwā'ī	alādhī	kāna	yukḥaṭītu	liḡāmatihi ma'a aḥadihim
complement	Subject	Finite operator	Predicator	
	Mood		residue	

Functioning as an auxiliary verb with the imperfective verb form, the verbs of continuation shows that the meaning of an action was continuing in the past, and they are: *bāta* became- *zalā* remain -*maḡaa* continued- *baḡāy* kept. This set of auxiliaries are accompanied by the imperfective verb form to express the past continuous aspect (Ryding, 2005), for example:

(8) ظل يتطور عام بعد عام

//zalā yataṭawāru 'āmā ba'ḡda 'āmiⁿ //

continued-developing-year-after-year

It has been developing year after year

zalā		yataṭawāru	'āmā ba'ḡda 'āmi ⁿ
Finite (Auxiliary)	Subject	Predicator	adjunct
Mood		residue	

3.3.1.4. The English Past Perfect Progressive

This aspect of the past is expressed by *had been* and the present participle of the main verb. The verb of *had* function as the finite operator showing no agreement markers for person, number, or gender. The mood elements in this aspect contain a separate finite operator and a predicator. For example,

(9) For some time, the Filipinos outside our fence had been singing "God Bless America" as their way of letting us know that American troops were coming soon to liberate us.

For some time	the Filipinos outside our fence	had	been singing
adjunct	Subject	Finite operator	predicator
	Mood		Residue

3.3.1.5. The English Past Progressive

Similar to the contrast between the present simple and the present continuous aspects, the past simple tense sentence portrays

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the whole event, while the past continuous sentence shows an event was in progress (Quirk et al., 1985). For example:

(10) We were creating a promo video to support their coverage in Forbes magazine.

We	were	creating	promo video
Subject	Finite	Predicator	complement
Mood	residue		

3.3.1.6. The Arabic Past Simple

This aspect means a complete action and its form is realized by adding the person-markers to the perfective form of verbs. The finite operator of this aspect is fused with the predicator. Person markers also show markers for number (singular, dual, plural) and gender.

(11) خسر منذ قليل منتخبنا القومي المصري (11)

//kħasira muṇḏħu qalīli muṇtakħabinā aḷqūmay aḷmiṣrī//

lost-a while-ago-our team-national-the Egyptian

A while ago, our Egyptian national team lost to the Japanese team

kħasira	muṇḏħu qalīli	muṇtakħabinā aḷqūmay aḷmiṣrī
finite operator +predicator	adjunct	subject
Mo-	Residue	-od

3.3.1.7. The English Past Simple

Past tense refers to the situations that occurred before the present moment on the timeline. These sentences do not specify the duration of the event, whether it was a single moment or a longer period leading up to the present (Comrie, 1985), for example:

(12) I felt the whole county was in labour with me

I	Felt	The whole country
Subject	Finite operator (fused) +predicator	Complement
Mood	Residue	

3.3.1.8. The Arabic Prospective Aspect

Certain verbs precede other verbs, and they act like auxiliary verbs to change their meanings. The subject of this verb phrase appears between them, and they are verbs of appropinquation. This class of verbs means the nearness of happening of an action without

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the actual happening (Ryding, 2005). According to (Wright, 1896 ,II:106), this set includes verbs such as *kāda / yukādu* ‘to almost [do something]; be on the point of [doing something]’ and *āušhuk a yūshiku* ‘to be on the verge’ of doing something. *kāda yukādu āušhuk yūshiku*, for example:

(13) كاد الأمر يتطور الى تشابك بالأيدي

//kāda aḷamra yatatawāru aly tshābk biāḷāyḏī//

almost-the situation-develops-to-fight- with hands

The situation almost developed into a fistfight

kāda	aḷamra	yatawāru	aly tshābk biāḷāyḏī
Auxiliary	subject	Predicator	adjunct
Mood	residue		

the two auxiliary verbs *Kaad* and *ushak* followed by the imperfect verb form are used to express the prospective aspect, as the clauses they appear in do not express completion whether in the present or the future so they do not express continuity in the present or the future (Thalith, 2006).

kāda ‘to be near doing’, in positive structures, conveys the meaning of ‘almost’, and ‘nearly’, in negative structures, however, it means *maḳad* and *layḳad* and it means ‘hardly’ (Badawi et al., 2004). For instance:

(14) تكاد لا تختلف سيرة الفنان العراقي جواد سالم

//tukādu lā takhtaliḥ saḡraṭa aḷfanāḡani aḷ ‘irāqīā jawāḡdu salīmu//

almost-not-differ-biography-the artist-the Iraqi-Jawad -Salim

The biography of the Iraqi artist Jawad Salim is almost the same

tukādu	lā	takhtaliḥ	saḡraṭa aḷfanāḡani aḷ ‘irāqīā jawāḡdu salīmu
Finite operator	Negative particle	Predicator	subject
Mood	Residue		

3.3.1.9. The Arabic Inceptive Aspect

This aspect is realized by using the verbs *Saar* and *Asbeh* (lit. mean become) with the imperfect verb form. This group of verbs are used to express the past with the imperfective verb forms, and they mean inceptive or inchoative, they imply the beginning of an action, and they include: *ja‘ala* to set about (lit. ‘to make’),

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ʔaʔkħadhā to start (lit., ‘to take’), *badā* to start (lit., ‘to begin’), *šāra* to set about (lit., ‘to become’), *ʔiṣbah* to become’, *ʔafiqa* to begin *asbah-a* and *saar-a* are verbs that show a change of state and they are sisters of *kaan-a- baat-a* and *saar-a* are (Ryding, 2005), for example:

(15) طفق الوجة يشتد

//ʔafiqa ʔʔwaja‘u yashʔadū//

started-the pain-intensifies

The pain began to intensify

ʔafiqa	ʔʔwaja‘u	yashʔadū
Finite operator	Subject	Predicator
Mood		Residue

3.3.2. Present Tense

3.3.2.1. The Arabic Present Simple

In Arabic grammar, a verb's present tense stem is incomplete without adding a prefix and a suffix. Together, these components form a "circumfix" that appears at the beginning and end of the verb stem. The prefix indicates the subject, while the suffix shows inflections for mood and number. The imperfective verb form convey the meaning of ongoing or incomplete actions (Ryding, 2005).

The imperfective verb form is used to express incomplete events such as continuous or habitual events. Different contexts contribute in clarifying the aspect in involved. This structure convey several compound tenses and modality with *kana* and its sisters (Badawi et al., 2004). The present tense with the habitual aspect is accompanied by temporal adverbs such as *ʔaħayāṇā* sometimes *ʔlħāḍira* present *ghālibaⁿʔ* usually *‘ādaⁿ* often *dāyimaⁿʔ* always

(16) نحن نسعى دائما لتطوير قدرات الأعضاء

//naħnu naš‘ay dāyimaⁿʔ litaṭwira quḍrāti ʔlāʔā ‘ḍā’i//

we-strive-always-to develop-capabilities-the members

We always strive to develop members' capabilities

naħnu	naš‘ay	dāyima ⁿ ʔ	litaṭwira quḍrāti ʔlāʔā ‘ḍā’i
Subject	Finite operator +predicator	Adjunct	complement
mood		Residue	

3.3.2.2. The English Simple Present

The present tense, in English, refers to the current moment on the timeline diagram. However, in reality, situations often do not align perfectly with the present moment. When they do, the present tense is the most appropriate way to express them. This includes performative sentences, in which the sentence itself performs the action conveyed (Comrie, 1985), for example.

(17) I promise to pay you ten pounds (utterance of this sentence constitutes the promise to pay ten pounds),

Since the present is realized morphologically by the base or uninflected form it is considered the unmarked tense (compare the present tense I need a rest with the past tense I needed a rest). The semantic meaning that the present tense expresses justifies the unmarkedness as it expresses present and future meanings (Quirk et al., 1985,p.177). For instance,

(18) that the healthcare industry maintains the highest standards of ethics and professionalism

that the healthcare industry	maintains	the highest standards of ethics and professionalism
Subject	Finite+predicator fused	complement
Mood	residue	

3.3.2.3. The Arabic Present Continuous

While the continuous present with the temporal adverb *ālāna* (now), contextual markers, or locative and adverb, the imperfective verb form is used to express the continuous present aspect, for example.

(19) هناك حيث يرقد صغيرها مصابا بمرض نادر

// hunāka ḥayṯu yaʾrqudu waḥīduhā muṣāba^{na} bimarāḍi nādiri//

there-where-lies-her-only-child-suffering-by a disease-rare

There, where her-only-child-lies alone, suffering from a rare disease

<u>hunāka</u>	ḥayṯu	yaʾrqudu	waḥīduhā	muṣāba ^{na}	bimarāḍi nādiri
Location adverb	Location adverb	Finite+predicator fused	subject	Adjunct	complement
residue		Mood	residue		

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3.3.2.4. The English Present Progressive Aspect

Events are happening at the moment of speaking or in progress are expressed by the present progressive (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, 340). Compare the following two examples:

(20) a- *Well er, I 'm looking across the road now and all I can see is a chemist's shop.*

[someone on the telephone whilst being given directions]

b- *I look at catalogues. I always read so many catalogues on the train.*

[a regular event, but not necessarily happening at the moment of speaking] (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, 340)

As its name suggests, this aspect conveys a happening in progress at a given time, so it might also be called (durative or continuous aspect) (Quirk et al., 1985), to compare the two following sentences:

Simple Present: Joan sings well.

Present Progressive: Joan is singing well

Although the two sentences belong to the same tense, they express different aspects. The first indicates the singer's competence and the permanence of this attribute, while the second indicates her performance at a particular event, for instance:

(21) For instance, if a site is using browsing patterns as indications of content preference,

For instance	if	a site	is	using	browsing patterns
		Subject	Finite	Predicator	complement
		Mood		residue	

3.3.2.5. The Arabic Present Perfect Progressive

This aspect is formed by using the imperfective verb form and the temporal particle *munḍhu* 'since; for; ago.' or the auxiliary verb *māzāla* still to refer to an action that began in the past, and is still going on in the present. The two forms of the auxiliary *māzāla* and *lā zāla* (means still) are mainly used in negative structures (Badawi et al., 2004, p. 425). The structure of *māzāla* and the imperfect form is used to clarify the continuous aspect in the present, unlike the auxiliary *ṣāra* and *aiṣbah* (mean became)

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(Thalith, 2006). As sisters of the auxiliary verb *kāna*, the verbs of *māzāla* and *mādāma* are used to express the meaning of remaining in a particular state (Ryding, 2005). This aspect is expressed by using the auxiliary verb *Zaal* with the imperfect verb form which expresses the continuity of an event in the past present or future (Thalith, 2006).

(22) مازالت اسمع صوته

//maʒalt aɪsma° ʃaʔtahu//

still-hear 1-his voice

I can still hear his voice

maʒal	t	aɪsma°	ʃaʔtahu
Auxiliary	Subject	Predicator	Complement
Mood	Residue		

3.3.2.6. The English Present Perfect

The present perfect tense refers to the currently accessible consequences of a past event, demonstrating its current relevance. It has four main uses, graded from the most to the least accessible (Miller, 2016).

(23) I have written up my thesis. (resultative)

(24). The Minister has (just) arrived. (hot news/recent past)

(25) I've been at work for six hours. (extended now/persistent situation)

(26) -Have you ever visited Doubtful Sound?

- Yes, I have been there. (experiential/indefinite Anterior)

(Miller, 2016, p. 150)

The present perfect tense differs from the past simple tense as it connects a past event to a present-time orientation. This tense can express a variety of meanings such as the 'state past', 'event past', and 'habitual past' respectively. For example, if we say *-That house has been empty for ages.*, we are using the present perfect tense to describe a past event in relation to the present moment (Quirk et al., 1985), for instance:

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(27) That house has been empty for ages.

That house	has	been	empty	for ages
Subject	Finite	Predicator	Adjunct	adjunct
Mood		Residue		

(28) Researchers have discovered that high levels of lean muscle may protect against Alzheimer’s disease.

Researchers	have	discovered	that high levels of lean muscle	
subject	finite	predicator	complement	
Mood		Residue		

3.3.2.7. The English Present Perfect Progressive Aspect

Sentences with the present perfect progressive combine the meaning features of both the perfective and progressive aspects associated with them. such structures express the duration, limitation of duration, and possible incompleteness, the first two features indicate the distinguished ‘ temporariness’ (Quirk et al., 1985), for example:

(29) I've been writing a letter to my nephew.

(30) Weblogs have been attracting increasing attention from researchers,

Weblogs	have been	attracting	increasing attention	from researchers
Subject	Finite	Predicator	Complement	adjunct
Mood		residue		

3.3.3. The Future Tense

3.3.3.1. The Arabic Future Simple Aspect

The imperfective form is used to express marked and unmarked forms of the future. The prefix *sa* usually expresses the marked form- or the future particle *sawfa* (*will*) and their corresponding negative particles *sawfa la* (*will not*) and for the neg. future *lan* (*will not*). This form is prioritized over the unmarked form to ‘ avoid any ambiguity’ (Badawi et al., 2004, p.366). The usage of either *sa-* or *sawfa* depends on the interlocutor’s choice and they might appear in the same sentence. The unmarked future form is inferred from the context similar to the English present

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continuous and its variants. With a suitable adverb to express the future such as the following adverbs: *ghadaⁿa* tomorrow |*almuṣtaq̄bala* the future |*alq̄adima* the next |*bākiruⁿ* tomorrow morning, for example:

(31) تتواصل غداً مواجهات الجولة الخامسة

//tatawāṣalu ghadaⁿa mūājahāti aljawlāti alkhāmsati//

Continue-tomorrow-encounters-the round-the fifth

The fifth-round matches continue tomorrow

tatawāṣalu	ghada ⁿ a	mūājahāti aljawlāti alkhāmsati
Finite operator+ predicator	Adjunct	subject
Mo-	Residue	-od

(32) و سوف نسمع في الأيام القادمة شكاوى و تظلمات

// wa saṣfa naṣma^u fi alāyāyāmi alq̄adimati shakāway watazalūmātiⁿ//

and-will-hear-in-the days-coming -complaints-and-pleas

There will be complaints and pleas in the coming days

saṣfa	naṣma ^u	u	fi alāyāyāmi alq̄adimati	shakāway watazalūmāti ⁿ
Particle	Finite+predicator	subject	Adjunct	complement
	Mood + residue			

3.3.3.2. The English Future Simple

The future simple is employed to express an occurrence that will take place at a time later than now, specifically to the right of the present moment on the timeline diagram. Future clauses are constructed diachronically with desiderative modal constituents such as the modal English verb "will" as in the sentence "John will leave tomorrow" (Comrie, 1985, p.46).

In English, the future time is expressed through grammatical constructions that involve

auxiliary verbs (such as "will" + infinitive). This has led some grammarians to argue that

English only has two tenses instead of three since there is no specific future form of the verb (Quirk et al., 1985). Some believe that the term "future tense" is a misnomer, as opposed to the present and past tenses that are formed by adding suffixes -s or -ed to the

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stem verbs. Future tenses, on the other hand, are expressed through *will* constructions, leading some to suspect that future clauses express the speaker's intention. For instance,

(33) Accepted papers will appear in the conference proceedings published by the Association for Computing Machinery

Accepted papers	will	appear	in the conference proceedings
Subject	Finite	Predicator	Adjunct
Mood		Residue	

3.3.3.3. The Arabic Future Progressive

Badawi et al., (2004) stated that future continuous could be expressed by one of the modals such as *zalla* 'to stay' in addition to the imperfective verb form. In this aspect, the auxiliary and main verbs show inflection for number, person, and gender. For example:

(35) سيظل يتحدث عن عملية السلام

// sayazilũ yataḥadãṯhu 'aṅ 'amalĩãṯi ʔsũlãʔami//

will remain-talking-about-process-the peace

He will continue to talk about the peace process

sayazilũ		yataḥadãṯhu	'aṅ 'amalĩãṯi ʔsũlãʔami
Auxiliary	subject	Predicator	adjunct
Mood		residue	

3.3.3.4. The Arabic Future Perfect

The present or future tense of *kaan-a* with a perfect form of the main verb are used to express an action that will be complete in the future (Ryding, 2005), for example:

(36) التي ستكون وصلت لقناعة

// ʔlãṯi satukawĩnu waṣalaṯ liqanã 'ãṯiⁿ //

And which-it will be-arrived-to a contention

Which will be reached a contention

3.3.3.5. The English Future Progressive

As this aspect is expressed by a modal verb construction, the modal *will* is used combined with the infinitive form of the verb to *be* and a progressive verb form to express the progressive future aspect. This structure is used to show a future time with the 'temporal frame'. For example,

(37) When you reach the end of the bridge, I'll be waiting there to show you the way. (Quirk et al., 1985, p.216)

(38) We will be singing songs, hopefully with music

We	will be	singing	songs
Subject	Finite	predicator	complement
Mood	Residue		

3.3.4. Mood

3.3.4.1. The Arabic *Declarative Mood*

This mood is expressed by the imperfective or perfective verb forms without any particles, and it shows the full form of the suffixes. The orientations of the order of finite operator, mood and predicator are varied, unlike English, for example:

(39) يدعو المسلم ربه بكل يقين و ثقة

//yad'ū almuṣlimu rabīhi bikulū yaqīni wathiqātīn//

pray-the muslim-his God (Allah)-all-certainty-and-confidence

A Muslim calls upon his Lord with complete certainty and confidence

(40) الفتاتان تبحثان عن العلم و المعرفة

//alfatātāni tabḥathānī 'ani al'ilmī wālma rīfatī//

the two girls-searching-about-science-and- knowledge

The two girls are searching for science and knowledge

3.3.4.2. The English Declarative Mood

In English, the indicative mood comprises the declarative as well as the interrogative mood. In the declarative mood, the mood is expressed by a subject, a finite operator and a predicator. The finite operator may stand alone or be fused with the predicator such as:

(41) Cost was more than reasonable.

(42) COVID cases are rising day by day.

3.3.4.3. The Arabic *Subjunctive Mood*

Verbs expressing this mood are suffixed with *fatha* and are referred to as *al-muDaarifi al-manSuub* (Ryding, 2005). To express this mood in Arabic is preceded by one of the following particles: *lāma aḷtā līlu* the causative *lam*, *lāma aḷjuhūdu* the improbability

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lam, *fā'a ʔsābībīāū* the resultative *fa*, *waw ʔlma tāta* accompanying *waw*, *ʔnā if lañ* will not, *kay* in order to, *ḥatāy* until, for example:

(42) منحته المال لينفق منه

//manaḥaṯhu ʔlmālu līunfiqa miñhu//
gave him-the money- to spend-form it
I gave him money to spend from it

(43) لن تستطيع تغيير طباعه

//lañ taštaṯī'u ʔnā tagḥayāra ṯibā' uhu//
will not-can-that-change-his traits

You will not be able to change his personality traits

(44) لن يجبرنى الكون كله على إعادة الاسرى

//lañ yujbirunā ʔlkwn kulūhu 'alay ʔi'ādaṯi ʔlastry//
will not-force us-the universe-on-returning-the hostages

The entire universe will not force us to return the hostages

3.3.4.4. The English Subjunctive mood

This mood expresses hypothetical and unreal situations, and it has present and past forms.

(45) If I were in such difficulties, I would take to my bed, (Miller, 2016, p.138)

3.3.4.5. The Arabic Imperative Mood

The predicator appears at the beginning of the clause to show the imperative nature of this clause, for example:

(46) استعن بالله

//ʔiṣṯa 'in bałlhi //
seek help-from Allah
Seek help from God

(47) ذاکر المواد الصعبة عندما يكون عقلك في انشط حالاته

//dḥākiru ʔlmawādī ʔlṣā'baṯi 'indamā yakwunā 'aqlaka fi ʔunṣḥuṯ ḥālāṯihi//

study-the subjects-difficult-when-is-your brain-in-most active-states

study difficult subjects when your brain is in its most active state

3.3.4.6. The English Imperative Mood

The sentence begins with the predicator with the absence of the mood elements, for example:

(48) Watch your step before taking it.

3.3.5. Modality in Arabic

Modality includes two types: epistemic and deontic:

3.3.5. 1. Epistemic Modality

This modality is expressed by using probability modals such as *mina almuḥkini* (it is possible), and *mina almurajāḥi* (it is probable); prediction modals such as *mina almutawaqā'i* (it is expected) *mina almuḥtazari* (it is expected); presumption modals such as *mina alsā'bi* (it is difficult), and *mina alsāhli* (it is easy mina); validation modals such as *mina almuqarāri* (it is decided); and evaluation modals such as *mina almutāfaqi 'alayhi mina almuštaḥsani* (It is recommended). Additionally, this type of modality is expressed by the particle *qad*, which is according to Holes (2004) usually accompanies p-stem verb to express a modal meaning of possibility, while it precedes s-stem verbs to express time-related functions. *qad* and its more emphatic form *laqad* show the meaning of the approximate past, for example:

(49) قد تنقضي اشهر الخطوبة سريعا

//qad taṅqadī aššḥuru alḫuṭbaṭi sarī'aṅa//

may-pass-months-engagement-quickly

The months of engagement may pass quickly

(50) قد يحدث الحب المعجزات

//qad yaḥduthu alḥubū almu'jizāti//

and-may-happen-love-miracles

Love can make miracles happen

3.3.5.2. Deontic Modality

This type of modality is realized by using one of the obligatory modals such as *yajibu* which means it is compulsory. *mina alwājibi anā* (it is mandatory) *mina alḍrury* (it is necessary). Other obligatory modals include *anā mina allāzimi* (it is supposed to) *mina alwājibi* (it is mandatory) *anā mina alḍrury* (it is necessary) *yaṅbaghī anā* (it is supposed to) *mina almuftaraḍi anā* (it

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is supposed to) *mina ḷmaṣnū`i* (it is forbidden) *mina ḷmaṣmūḥi* (it is permissible) (Badawi et al., 2004), for example:

(51) يجب على الناتو مساعدة أوكرانيا بالوسائل العسكرية
//yajibu `alay ḷnāḷātūi musā`adaṭa ḷwkranya ḷalwsayyl
ḷ`aṣkarīāṭa//

must-on-NATO-helping-Ukrain-with means-military

NATO must assist Ukraine with military means

3.3.5.3. Modality in English

3.3.5.4. Epistemic Modality

In English, there are two main types of modalities. The first one is the epistemic modality, and it is realized by probability and prediction modal verbs, for example:

(52) Terry may not do well on the test

In this example, the modality is used to convey the speaker's knowledge about a situation.

3.3.5.4. Deontic Modality

The second type of modality is the deontic modality which is expressed by using obligatory and necessity modals. It is used to express the necessity to act, for example:

(53) You should rescue an abandoned dog.

4. Results and Discussion:

This section introduces the discussion as well as results of the study. The research utilised the Interpersonal Metafunction from the SFG to analyse the collected data. The analysis showed that in English, the past simple aspect does not exhibit a finite operator in positive polarity, as it is fused with the predicator. On the other hand, the past progressive, perfect, and perfect progressive aspects show separate finite operators separate from the predicators. In Arabic, the simple past and past perfect aspects similarly have fused finite operators and predicators, while the far past, past progressive, past linked to past, past continuous, prospective, and inceptive aspects feature auxiliary verbs that are independent of the predicator, serving as mood elements. In English, the present perfect, present progressive, and present perfect progressive aspects

have separate auxiliary and predicator elements, whereas the present simple combines finite operators and predicators. In Arabic, the present aspects also unify the finite operator and the predicator. As regards English future aspects, all such aspects exhibit separate finite operators and predicators. The Arabic future simple aspect, using "sa" or "sawfa," is accompanied by the predicator, while the future continuous and future perfect use auxiliary verbs as separate finite operators and predicators.

As regards various moods and modality, in English, the indicative mood is expressed by subjects followed by finite operators (distinct or fused with the predicator), the subjunctive mood is expressed by verbs in infinitive form or the past form of the verb "to be", and the imperative mood begins with the predicator. Conversely, moods in MSA employ the imperfective verb form, expressed through verb forms without particles, featuring complete suffix forms. The subjunctive mood is expressed by the imperfective verb form with subjunctive particles. The analysis of modality showed that there are similarities in the expression of both epistemic and deontic modality in MSA and English. Both languages utilize modals that communicate speakers' knowledge and judgments, such as probability and prediction. Both languages employ obligation and necessity modals to express deontic modality.

5. Conclusion

To conclude, after having completed the analysis of the collected data using SFG, the findings indicated similarities as well as differences in the constituents of Mood elements between MSA and English. For example, in English positive polarity, the past simple tense exhibits a finite operator fused with the predicator, while in the past progressive and perfect progressive tenses, finite operators appear separately. In contrast, in MSA, finite operators are fused with predicators in the past simple and past perfect tenses, whereas they appear separately in the far past and past progressive tenses. Regarding the expression of moods, the analysis identified notable differences between the two languages. Although English

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shows finite operators, predicators or infinitives to express moods, MSA expresses moods using perfective or imperfective verb forms. However, the analysis found similarities in expressing epistemic and deontic modality in both languages, as they utilize various knowledge and obligation modals.

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