

**Translating English Clefts and
Pseudoclefts into Arabic
A Parallel Corpus-Based Study**

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1. Translation Studies and Corpus Linguistics

Translation practice, theorizing, as well as the long-held preoccupation with equivalence have all recently undergone cutting-edge changes by the development of corpus linguistics by the mid-nineties. Of course, corpus-based studies are not a novelty for translators; translators used to manually explore a parallel corpus (a ST and a TT) for documentation. Before the introduction of electronic data and software, translators had to extensively read through the texts in order to be able to extract any relevant information (O'Keeffe and McCarthy, 2010: 502). It was a tedious and tiring job even with relatively short stretches of texts.

According to Biber et al (1998: 4), a corpus is a collection of authentic texts (written or spoken) which are stored as electronic databases that are available for both qualitative and quantitative analysis with the help of a concordance software. Corpora can provide us with much more insightful knowledge about language than that which we can get by our intuition. Moreover, intuition may be wrong. Consulting corpora, on the other hand, allows for millions of instances in which a word or phrase actually occurs in real language use and, consequently, checks our intuition with evidence. The idea of corpus linguistics lies in the assumption that "language looks different when you look at a lot of it at once" (Sinclair, 1991: 100).

Corpus linguistics has changed the way grammar is explored. Traditionally, grammar is described and studied from a dichotomous perspective; sample structures are judged as being either acceptable or unacceptable, grammatical or ungrammatical, accurate or inaccurate (O'Keeffe and McCarthy, 2010: 227). However, the advent of electronic corpora has allowed for a systematic study of language usage and variation in a quite larger collection of authentic texts than could be analyzed manually. In other words, it allows "to focus on the patterns that characterize how a large number of people use the language, rather than basing generalizations on a small set of data or anecdotal evidence, or focusing on the accurate/inaccurate dichotomy" (O'Keeffe and McCarthy, 2010: 228).

Corpus-based studies can, in effect, come out with interesting statistical information about any language. They cannot, on the other hand, figure out the implications for the researcher. Of course, statistical findings are not sufficient for describing and explaining grammar; they are not a substitute for intuition. However, that type of probabilistic data may point to some unnoticed language patterns that need further investigation.

2. Theoretical Background

Clefts and pseudoclefts determine which parts of the sentence contribute new or focused information. Clefts are traditionally defined as consisting of two parts: a clefted constituent, which expresses a focus, and a cleft clause which expresses a presupposition (Hedberg, 1993: 119). Pseudoclefts, on the other hand, are ordinary copular sentences which are divided into two parts: a pre-copular free-relative clause and post-copular focused clefted constituent (Ibid). Both clefts and pseudoclefts fall under the category of ‘focus constructions’ (Rochemont, 1986; Breul, 2004).

2.1. Focus Constructions

Focus is a grammatical category in information structure. The term ‘focus structure’ originates in the work of Lambrecht (1994) who makes a distinction between three types of focus: the predicate focus, the argument focus and the sentence focus. Focus structure is part of information structure which, according to Lambrecht (1994), "is not concerned with discourse, but with the organization of the sentence within discourse" (75).

Semantically, cleft constructions provide guidance to the readers in terms of the clefted constituents. They 'activate' a certain entity out of a set of entities (Hedberg, 1990: 149). Based on their syntactic structure, clefts convey logical presupposition. As a semantic category, presupposition helps to establish a 'contrastive' relationship with the preceding discourse. As Delin (1992: 295) observes, presupposition marks information as anaphoric, and conveys to the reader that the presupposed information is 'non-negotiable'. Moreover, presupposition suggests novelty of the relationship between the two parts of the cleft construction.

Pseudoclefts, on the other hand, are copular sentences with a free-relative clause in one of the copular positions and a modifying phrase in the other copular position (Hedberg, 1993: 119). A pseudocleft consists of a pseudocleft clause, a copula and a clefted constituent:

pseudocleft clause + copula + clefted constituent

(2) What Mike drinks is tea. (Ibid)

Inverted pseudoclefts can also occur when the pseudocleft clause follows the clefted constituent and the copula (Hedberg, 1993: 119):

clefted constituent + copula + pseudocleft clause

(3) Tea is what Mike drinks. (Ibid)

Semantically, Collins (1991: 67-74) explains three properties to these constructions: identification, exclusiveness implicature and existential presupposition. He observes that pseudoclefts are a type of identifying structure which expresses the relationship between the identified and the identifier; the identified element is expressed by the relative clause while the identifier is expressed by the focused clefted constituent (Ibid). Another semantic feature is that of exclusiveness which derives from the equative form of pseudoclefts (Ibid). Collins (1991: 67-74) adds that the term 'exclusiveness implicature' refers to the exhaustive list of entities which satisfy the identified clause. Moreover, pseudoclefts are characterized by their presupposition function which has its origin in transformational grammar (Ibid). Existential presupposition is mapped onto the identified part of the pseudocleft; consequently, it directs the readers' attention towards the part that completes the information expressed in the presupposition, namely the highlighted clefted constituent (Ibid).

2.3. Clefts and Pseudoclefts in Arabic

Arabic cleft constructions consist of an f-phrase (focus phrase), a pronominal copula and a free relative; they slightly differ from English clefts in that they lack the expletive subject 'it' (Ouhalla, 1999: 336). Arab Grammarians (e.g. Dayf, 1982) have named the Arabic equivalent of an English cleft construction as /ʔal-jumlat-u ḏaat-u l-wajhayn/, literally 'the double-faced sentence'. They defined it as a type of equational constructions in which a value (expressed by the clefted constituent) is assigned to a variable (expressed by the cleft clause). In that sense, Arabic clefts bear a strong resemblance to Halliday's (1985: 59) analysis of English clefts as equative constructions of the identifier/identified formula.

Ouhalla (1999) notices that in Standard Arabic focus phrases can be found either in-situ or placed at the initial position of the sentence. He also adds that those focus phrases are marked with /ʔan-nabr/ or 'the focal stress' in pronunciation:

- 4- a. ʔallaf-at Zaynab-u riwaayat-an. (in-situ)
wrote-she Zaynab-NOM novel-ACC
'Zaynab wrote a novel'

b. Riwaayat-an ?allaf-at Zaynab-u. (preposed/fronted)

Novel-ACC wrote-she Zaynab-NOM

'It was a novel that Zaynab wrote.'

(Ouhalla: 1999: 337)

Moutaouakil (1989) points out that there is a difference in pragmatic function between the two sentences. The former in-situ focus phrase is an instance of 'new information focus' which is simply used by the speaker to give new information. However, the latter preposed focus phrase, which resembles the English cleft, is an instance of 'contrastive focus' where the speaker tries to provide information which is in conflict with another existing piece of information.

Arabic pseudoclefts, on the other hand, are regarded as 'identifying' constructions in which an argument is identified by a term-predicate:

5- maa ?allaf-a Zayd-un (huwa) haaða l-kitaab-u

what wrote-he Zayd-NOM this the book-NOM

'What Zayd wrote is this book.'

(Moutaouakil, 1989: 43)

Here the element expressed by the argument /maa ?allaf-a Zayd-un/ is identified as the element expressed by the term-predicate /haaḏa l-kitaab-u/. Such a description conforms to Heycock and Kroch's (1996) analysis of English pseudoclefts as equative constructions.

3. Data Collection and Rationale:

The corpus of the study consists of 35 United Nations English documents and their parallel Arabic translations, mainly UNESCO, UNICEF and International Monetary Fund (IMF) publications and informational papers and reports that were issued over a 23 - year period from 1992 to 2015 (<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/>, <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark://>). The selection of the corpus has been directed by two main reasons. On the one hand, for a descriptive translation study to work out, the availability of a large amount of data is indispensable, and the United Nations offers nearly the biggest electronic parallel corpora in English and Arabic. On the other hand, since the writer's main aim is to provide opinions and persuade the readers, clefts and pseudoclefts tend to occur more in formal written discourse or historical narratives (Prince, 1978). Moreover, in a study of both the

Lancaster-Oslo/Bergen Corpus (LOB) and the London-Lund Corpus (LL), Collins (1991) reported that cleft and pseudocleft constructions are much more frequent in informative or opinionative prose such as reports, editorials, press reviews and essays than in fiction.

4. Accessing the data:

A concordance software (AntConc) is used to extract IT-clefts and pseudoclefts (WH-clefts and reversed WH-clefts with 'what'), as well as to work out frequencies and other statistical data (<http://www.laurenceanthony.net/software/antconc/>). It is not within the scope of this study, however, to discuss TH-clefts or ALL-clefts.

To help access and locate the constructions under study in such a relatively sizeable corpus of 1,925,563 words, the concordancer, AntConc, has been run to bold face a number of key words and phrases such as 'it', 'it is', 'it was', 'that' and 'what' as it is shown in Figure 1. While doing so, however, some extracted constructions were only superficially similar to IT-clefts. Sentences such as 'It's a poor heart that never rejoices' (Jespersen, 1961:89) can be easily mistaken for specificational IT-clefts because they seem to exhibit the same syntactic structure, while,

in fact, they are of the type that Declerck (1988) calls 'predicational clefts'. Therefore, such constructions had to be manually excluded from the corpus. Moreover, impersonal constructions such as 'it is important that...', 'it is true that...', and 'it is said that' were also manually rejected.

20399. afoot.' **IT** was that ability to unearth and organize economic
20400.kly. And **IT** is here **that** she said their results have not been r
20401.ent. And **IT** was at the IMF **that** the two hatched the idea for Th
20402.hip. And **IT** is precisely in these areas of the law **that** gender
20403.per. But **IT** was not until 2006 **that** they began to work in earne
20404.lopment. **IT** was there **that** she caught a first glimpse of societ
20405.dentity. **IT** is for good reason **that** the maple leaf is Canada's
20406.creases. **IT** was the paper they presented at the January 2010
20407.s issue, **IT**'s the diversity of women's work experience across
20408.t to me. **IT** is one area **where** there has been tremendous progre
20409. n name. **IT** is family, inheritance, and land laws **that** define r
20410. sition. **IT** was at Oxfam **that** people outside Britain began to t
20411. System.**IT** was during her four years at the now defunct inve
20412. es that **IT** is because dawn comes **that** it crows and not the oth
20413.aim that **IT** is the 1991 reforms, rather than earlier, more mi
20414.or women **IT** is performance or demonstrated competence **that** matt
20415.ard. Yet **IT** is precisely in the areas of property rights and

Figure1. Occurrences of IT-clefts as Shown in the Concordance
Program

5. Distribution of IT-clefts, WH-clefts in the Corpus

The results show that of the 1,925,563 words, only 397 tokens of clefts (IT-clefts and WH-clefts) are located, i.e. 0.02 per cent. These figures are not quite in line with some of the previous studies, though. In a study by Collins (1991: 181) based on the Lancaster-Oslo/Bergen Corpus of written British English, he could locate 975 tokens of cleft constructions in his million-word bulk of data (0.09 per cent), which is categorically bigger than the results shown in this study.

A reasonable explanation to such a significant difference is that Collins (1991) has included All-Clefts and TH-clefts in his figures, and has also accepted inverted WH-clefts other than those with 'what' (i.e. 'why', 'where', 'who' and 'when'). Another reason comes from Garcia's (2007: 3) paper on clefts in journalistic texts in which she concludes that IT-clefts and WH-clefts are generally more common in British English than American English. However, the findings by Biber et al (1999: 961) on the Longman Spoken and Written English Corpus (LSWEC), in which they have been able to identify 300 IT-clefts and WH-clefts per every 1,000,000 words (i.e. 0.03 per cent), are much more closer to the results offered by the current study.

With regard to the distribution of IT-clefts, WH-clefts and reversed WH-clefts, the results show a fair conformity with the conclusions drawn by several other studies. Of the 397 tokens found in the corpus of this study, there are 257 IT-clefts, 127 WH-clefts, and 13 reversed WH-clefts, i.e. 64.73 %, 31.99 % and 3.27 %, respectively (Figure 2).

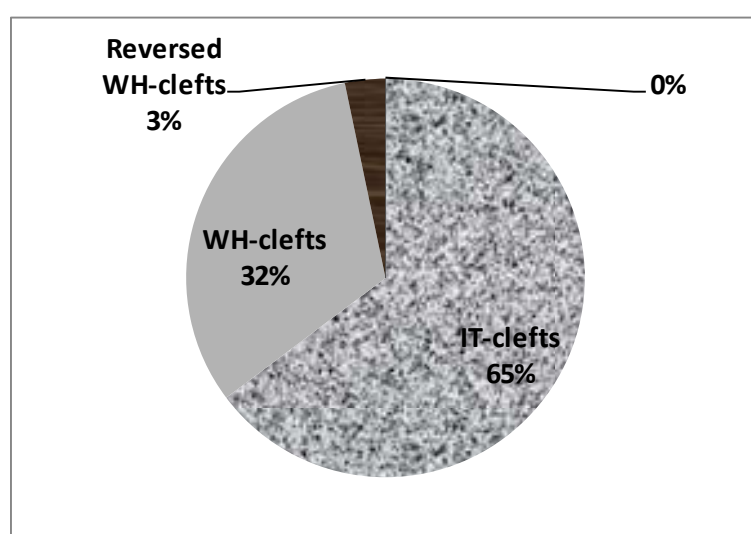


Figure 2: Distribution of Cleft Constructions in the Corpus

Collins (1991: 186) reports that It-clefts are twice as common as WH-clefts in the informative prose category of the Lancaster-Oslo/Bergen Corpus, with a ratio of 402:249. Biber et al (1999: 961), in their corpus of over 40 million words, observe that for every million words, there are 200 IT-clefts, 100 WH-clefts, and 150 reversed WH-clefts (including relative words other

than 'what'). Moreover, in a 30,000-word study on cleft constructions in newspaper editorials, Jarad (2013: 160) lists 31 IT-clefts, 25 WH-clefts and 7 reversed WH-clefts. All those former ratios have their significance with regard to the functional properties of the structures and their popularity in certain registers.

According to Collins (1991), the high frequency of IT clefts – as compared to WH-clefts – in informative types of texts is determined by "the extent to which the discourse is opinionative and/or persuasive" (213). He adds that IT-clefts are orientated towards newness; they provide new information by means of the focused or clefted constituents to which the readers' attention is directed. Hence they are more popular in information-packed written discourse where stress-marking is absent (Halliday, 1994: 59).

WH-clefts and reversed WH-clefts, on the other hand, exhibit a 'givenness' component that makes them more suited to the dynamic nature of spoken discourse (Collins 1991: 181-2). In other words, while WH-clefts give special status to the addressee's background information by means of a subordinate clause (e.g. 'What I mean...', 'What they need...', etc.), reversed WH-clefts often provide a minimal piece of news to conclude a conversation

(e.g. 'That's what happened'). All of those semantic properties render WH-clefts and reversed WH-clefts particularly more suitable to spoken language.

5.1. Distribution of Cleft Constructions According to XP (Clefted Constituent) Types

Although all types of cleft constructions tend to focus on specific pieces of information, they are not quite similar. For a better understanding of these constructions, it is crucial to account for the various syntactic classes of the focused elements themselves (i.e. the complement of 'be' in IT-clefts and WH-clefts, and the subject of 'be' in reversed WH-clefts). Moreover, identifying the different types of clefted constituents would give more insight into the selection process conducted by the translators while rendering these constructions into Arabic.

5.1.1. IT-Cleft Constructions

While analyzing the different types of the clefted/focused elements in IT-clefts, four categories are identified in the corpus of the study, NP, PP, Subordinate Clause and AdvP. The frequencies of these classes are shown in Figure 3:

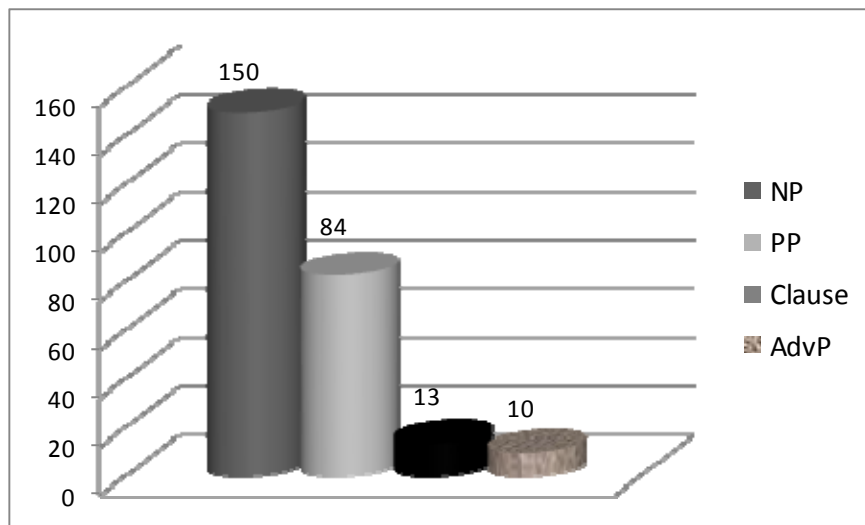


Figure 3: Form of the Highlighted Constituent in IT-Clefts

As indicated in the above bar chart, NP is – by a substantial margin – the most frequent constituent occupying the focused position in IT-clefts, with 150 tokens out of the total number of 257, that is 58.36 per cent:

1. Even though it is illegal to kill people with albinism, it still happens – it's **greed** that makes people do it. (Aslam, 2013: 7)
2. Often the failure to do so stems from autarkic policies that make foreign markets less profitable than domestic markets. In the end, however, it was not the bulk of the developing countries that prevented Doha from being closed in 2011. (Hayden b, 2013: 10)

3. However, despite these efforts, the world failed to meet its overall commitment to Education for All. Millions of children and adolescents are still out of school, and it is **the poorest and most disadvantaged** who bear the brunt of this failure to reach the EFA targets. (Benavot, 2015: 55)

That popularity of NP as the most frequent type of the focused XP in IT-clefts has been also supported by Collins (1991: 56) and Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 1418).

The second most common type of XP, which occupies the position of the clefted constituent in IT-clefts, is prepositional phrases (PP), with 84 occurrences out of 257 cases (that is, 32.68 per cent). For example.

4. The Governments of the States parties to this Constitution on behalf of their peoples declare that since wars begin in the minds of men, it is **in the minds of men** that the defenses of peace must be constructed. (Rifaat, 1995: 3)
5. It is **during early adolescence** that girls and boys become more keenly aware of their gender than they were as younger children, and they may make adjustments to their behaviour or appearance in order to fit in with perceived norms. (Lake, 2011: 6)

Both Collins (1991: 56) and Garcia (2007: 4) have the same observation with regard to the high frequency of prepositional

phrases in the clefted position. Delahunty (1984) attributes commonness to the fact that focused PPs "may range over the entire set of roles and functions assignable to that category" (75).

Next in range are adjunct subordinate clauses as clefted constituents, with 13 tokens (5.05 per cent). The following are two examples from the corpus of study:

6. And the intelligent rooster surely realizes that it is **because dawn comes** that it crows and not the other way round. (Hayden, 2013: 12)
7. But the biggest contribution the IMF can make to reducing youth unemployment is helping its member countries restore economic growth. It is only **when the economy recovers** that people will start to find jobs again. (Clift, 2012: 19)

Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 1418) argue against the possibility of having a content clause (e.g. subordinate that-clause) in the highlighted constituent place in IT-clefts. Prince (1978), on the other hand, claims that content clauses are possible in the focused position when they function as the subject as in "It was that he would say such a thing that surprised me" (885). It is noted that there are no examples of such clauses located in the corpus of this study, though.

The last and least common XP category in IT-clefts is AdvP of which 10 cases are identified in the corpus, that is, 3.9 per cent of the total number of IT-cleft constructions. Similar conclusions have been drawn by Jarad (2013: 161) and Collins (1991: 57) about the scarcity of that type of highlighted constituent. Here are two examples from this corpus:

8. It is precisely **here** that we come up against the dividing line between ideals and reality, between the theoretical generosity of the Enlightenment and the lack of practical social sense. (Dias, 1998: 517)
9. It is only **recently** that it has become mandatory in a few schools. (Goucha, 2007: 53)

It is noted that AP (adjective phrase) as clefted elements could not be located here. Unlike Delahunty (1984) who claims that AP can occur as a focused constituent in IT-clefts as in "It was green that he painted his boat" (77), both Quirk et al. (1985: 1386) and Prince (1978: 884) believe that only NPs, ADVs and PPs can fit into the XP position in those constructions. The corpus of the study, however, records no instances of APs in that position.

5.1.2. WH-Cleft Constructions

As for WH-clefts, 5 classes of focused elements are represented in the corpus: NPs, APs, finite clauses, bare-infinitives and to-infinitives, the ratios of which are designated below in Figure 4.

The most frequent type of highlighted constituent in WH-clefts, as shown in Figure 4, is NP which accounts for 49.6 per cent of the total number of WH-clefts in the corpus (127 occurrences):

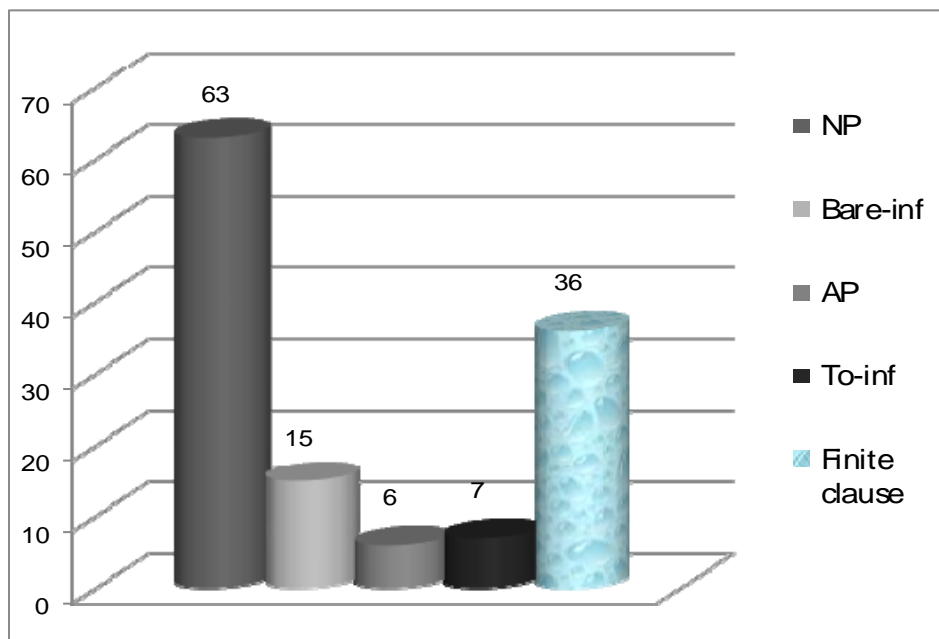


Figure 4: Form of the Highlighted Constituent in WH-Clefts

10. In fact, what differentiates labor productivity in South America from that in the rest of Latin America in the last decade is **the performance of the services sector**. (Hayden, 2013: 36)
11. What sets the situation in urban settings apart, here as in the wider region, **is the separation of Roma from the rest of the municipal population**, with the Roma population living in de facto ‘ghettos’. (Aslam and Szczuka, 2012: 37)

The findings of the study agree with those of Jarad (2013: 165) and Garcia (2007: 6). For both Collins (1991: 58) and Kim (2007: 6), however, NPs come second in frequency after the finite clauses.

As indicated in examples 10 and 11, the clefted constituent position in WH-clefts can support longer stretches of NPs than is the case with IT-clefts (Prince 1978: 880). Prince (1978: 885) also notices that unlike IT-clefts that allow for both animate/human and inanimate/non-human NP in the focus position, WH-clefts allow only for inanimate/non-human NP to be placed in that position.

The following, in order of frequency, are finite clauses, with 36 cases out of 127 WH-clefts, that is 28.35 per cent. Collins (1991: 58) observes that finite clauses, especially content clauses, are the most common type of highlighted constituents in his corpus. Below are two examples from the corpus of this study:

12. When economies tighten fiscal policies simultaneously, what matters for the current account is **how much an economy consolidates relative to others**. (IMF, 2011: 135)
13. “What makes him special,” says former student Kala Krishna, now an economics professor at Penn State, “is **that** more than anyone else I know, **he sees economics as an inescapable part of life**: from books, movies, negotiating with a taxi driver - everything has economic content. (Clift, 2010: 2)

The third most common class in the focus position in WH-clefts is bare-infinitive clauses, which amount to 15 tokens or 11.18 per cent of the whole number of WH-cleft cases in the corpus of the study:

14. What we need to do is **keep** that boat safe by making some sort of precautionary arrangements and enhancing the safeguards. (Clift, 2008: 29)
15. What they [directors] were starting to do was **withhold** the easy-to-match pairs and match them internally at their hospital, and only show us the hard-to-match pairs. (Hayden, 2014: 4)

To-infinitives come next in frequency in the focused position of WH-clefts. With 7 cases, they account for 5.51 per cent of the total number of WH-cleft occurrences:

16. What we need now is **to develop** a common language for understanding and respecting cultural differences, without doing harm to our universal values. (UNESCO World Report, 2009: 44)
17. What is needed is rather **to encourage** spontaneity and ensure personal authenticity. (Goucha, 2007: 171)

Thus both to-infinitives and bare-infinitives account for 17.32 per cent in total. The figures representing that type of focused element in WH-clefts show a fluctuating trend across a few corpus studies: 20.9 per cent in Collins (1991: 58), 8 per cent in Jarad (2013: 165), and 11.76 per cent for Garcia (2007: 6).

The least frequent class of highlighted element position is AP, with 6 tokens, that is 4.72 per cent:

18. Unfortunately, what we have today is very **superficial** and rather distorted. (UNESCO World Report, 2009: 145)
19. But what is good for an individual household isn't necessarily **good** for an entire economy. (Hayden, 2013: 48)

In other previous studies AP occurrences in place of the highlighted constituent in WH-clefts are either rare or nonexistent; Jarad (2013: 165) locates one token in his 30,000-word corpus,

Garcia (2007: 6) identifies two cases of AP focused element in her 100,078-word corpus, while Collins (1991: 58) records no instances of AP in that position in his million-word corpus.

5.1.3. Reversed WH-Cleft Constructions

For reversed WH-clefts, where the focused element occurs at the beginning of the constructions, NPs are the favorite in the highlighted position, with 13 occurrences out of the 13 cases of reversed WH-clefts (100 per cent):

20. **The combination of daring questions and beautiful answers** is what makes George the successful contrarian he is. (Clift, 2011: 3)
21. **Culture in this sense** is what enables individuals and groups to become the agents of their own development, even when resources are limited, by providing the means for awareness-building based on their own assets and emphasizing the development of open-mindedness and cooperation. (UNESCO World Report, 2009: 199)

The fact that NPs are the most prevalent has been observed by other studies such as Kim (2007: 6) and Jarad (2013: 169). Collins (1991:59), on the other hand, locates a very few instances

of PP, AP and AdvP that account for less than one per cent of his data. Although finite clauses are represented with high frequency in WH-clefts, no instances of such clauses are located in reversed WH-clefts. The reason is not that finite clauses would render reversed WH-clefts ungrammatical; rather, they seem to violate the end-weight rule in English, which is the tendency for longer elements to occur at the end of a sentence (Quirk *et al.* 1985:1361–2).

6. Translating English It-Clefts and WH-Clefts into Arabic

Since English and Arabic clefts are not structurally similar, Baker (1992) notices that an exact translation of these constructions would be very unnatural in Arabic. She provides the following example:

1- It's a general picture this book tries to depict...

وهذه الصورة العامة هي، من باب أولى، تلك التي نحاول رسمها في هذا الكتاب...

(Baker, 1992: 149-150)

Baker (1992) argues that such an Arabic translation would distort the original information structure "by presenting the first element (general picture) as given when the point of the cleft

structure is to present it as the new information worth attending to" (150). Instead, a more relevant alternative would be:

إن ما نحاول رسمه في هذا الكتاب هو صورة عامة...

(Baker, 1992: 150)

In a discourse study on the translation of It-clefts into Arabic, Obiedat (2001: 285-288) points out that the linguistic devices of cleftization in Arabic include the use of the emphatic particle /ʔinna/ or 'surely' and the insertion of the copulative pronoun of separation /huwa/ or 'he'. This conforms – to some extent – to the concluding observations found in the corpus of this study. The following are some examples of English IT-cleft and WH-cleft constructions in the corpus and their translation into Arabic.

6.1. Linguistic Devices Employed by the Translators

There are several techniques by which focus can be marked in Arabic. One of them is /ʔat-taxSiiS/ (literally translated as specification) that is associated with contrastive focus and can be achieved via /ʔat-taqdiim/ or 'preposing' (Moutaouakil, 1989: 112). There are also a number of emphatic particles or /Huruuf-u tawkiid/ 'particles of assurance' such as /la-qad/, /la9alla/, /ʔinna

(maa)/, and /Damiir l-faSl/ or the pronoun of separation, /huwa, hiyya/ 'he, she' (Ouhalla, 1997: 20). The choice of the employed linguistic devices depends, to a great extent, on the type of the clefted constituent itself, as well as the type of focus – new or contrastive.

6.1.1. IT-Cleft Constructions

For IT-clefts, the four categories of clefted constituents will be presented, namely, NP, PP, subordinate clauses and AdvP. Here is an example in which the focused element is a NP:

1. It is family, inheritance, and land laws that define rights regarding legal capacity and property ownership. (Hayden, 2013: 18)

إن القوانين المعنية بالأسرة و الميراث و الأرض هي التي تحدد الحقوق فيما يتعلق
بالأهلية القانونية والملكية.

As noted in the above example, the translator used the emphatic particle /?inna/ 'surely' and the pronoun of separation /huwa/ 'he' to mark the contrastive focus of the noun phrase, 'family, inheritance and land laws. It seems that these linguistic devices are the most common among translators when they render IT-clefts with an NP focused element into Arabic (Obiedat, 1994: 96; Elgerwi, 2013: 94).

The following is an example of a PP clefted constituent in IT-clefts:

2. And it was at the IMF that the two hatched the idea for This Time Is Different. (Hayden, 2013: 7)

وفي صندوق النقد الدولي تفتق ذهنهما عن فكرة "هذا الزمن مختلف".

In example (2), the translator retains the contrastive focus meant by the source text by means of preposing the prepositional phrase, 'at the IMF'. Farghal and Khalaf (2017: 244) argue that a structure like this needs the emphatic marker /ʔinna/ 'surely' to convey the focus. However, since Arabic is primarily a VSO language, both SVO and OVS – exemplified in the translation above – are considered marked, and thus they can be used to capture the focus in the source text.

3. And the intelligent rooster surely realizes that it is because dawn comes that it crows and not the other way round. (Hayden, 2013: 12)

ولا شك أن الديك الذكي يدرك أن طلوع الفجر هو الذي يجعله يصيح وليس العكس.

In example (3), the focused element is the subordinate clause 'because dawn comes'. The translator tries to maintain the contrastive focus by using the emphatic particle /ʔanna/ 'surely'

and the pronoun of separation /huwa/ 'he'. In another example (4) where a subordinate clause is in the focused position, it is noted that the translator opts for preposing, that is, placing the clause in an initial position:

4. It is only after the first cultural shock is over, and one starts to gain some understanding of another culture, that a more complex picture of the other and of oneself arises. (UNESCO World Report, 2009: 46)

وبعد زوال أول صدمة ثقافية، وعندما يبدأ المرء في الحصول على بعض الفهم لثقافة أخرى، حينئذ فقط تظهر صورة أكثر تعقيدا للآخر وللذات.

The last focused class located in the corpus for IT-clefts is AdvP, as in examples (5) and (6):

5. Once you get stuck in a full-size banking crisis, you don't get out of it quickly.” And it is here that she said their results “have not been really fully represented. (Hayden, 2013: 5)

ومتى وقعت في أزمة مصرفية مكتملة، لن تستطيع الخروج منها بسرعة. وهنا ذكرت أن نتائجها لم تعرض حقيقة بصورة كاملة.

6. Such an attitude calls of course for changes in people's minds and in their hearts. It is here then that education is required to fulfill its role. (Morsy, 1992: 54)

ومثل هذا الموقف يفترض بالطبع تبديلا في العقول والقلوب. وفي هذا المجال بالذات إنما يقع عمل التربية.

In example (5), the translator opts for preposing the adverb 'here' to communicate the focus. However, in example (6), the translator adds the word /bi-ḏaati/ or 'itself' to intensify the contrastive focus denotation intended by the English sentence.

6.1.2. WH-Cleft Constructions

As stated above, five classes of focused elements of WH-clefts are identified in the corpus of this study: NP, AP, to-infinitive, bare-infinitive, and finite clause. It should be noted here that WH-clefts denote new focus (not contrastive), and, therefore, the clefted constituent does not come in preverbal position (Moutaouakil, 1989: 56). Here are a few examples:

7. What cartels do is manage the supply of the underlying product - and, by extension, the price. (Hayden, 2013: 48)

و ما تفعله الاتحادات الاحتكارية هو أنها تدير المعروض من المنتج الأساسي – ومن ثم، سعره.

8. What is needed is a commitment to these children's rights and their futures, giving priority to the most disadvantaged – as a matter of equity and for the benefit of all. (Aslam, 2013: 1)

إن ما يجب القيام به هو الإلتزام بحقوق هؤلاء الأطفال وبمستقبلهم، و إعطاء الأولوية للأطفال الأكثر حرمانا – باعتبار ذلك مسألة إنصاف، و يحقق المنفعة للجميع.

9. What matters is how much consolidation an economy undertakes relative to other economies. (IMF, 2011: 137)

وما يؤثر هو مقدار التقشف في كل اقتصاد مقارنة بالاقتصادات الأخرى.

10. Unfortunately, what we have today is very superficial and rather distorted. (UNESCO World Report, 2009: 145)

ومما يؤسف له أن المعلومات المتوافرة لدينا اليوم سطحية جدا ومشوهة.

With regard to WH-clefts, there seems to be more consensus among the group of translators over the linguistic devices utilized to mark the new focus. In translating these constructions, it is clear that the translators show a preference for using /maa/ for the relative pronoun 'what' and the pronoun of separation /huwa/ 'he' in the middle of the structure right before the focused element, as indicated in examples (9) and (10). In (8), the translator uses /?inna/ 'surely' at the beginning of the WH-cleft construction. Obiedat (1994: 92) has the same observation about translating WH-clefts. In these examples, the pronoun of separation acts as a copula and is followed by the highlighted element, which represents new information. In example (10), the AP acts as a complement and comes at the end of the structure, marking the new focus.

Appendix

A. Consonants of Standard Arabic

Place		Bilabial	Labiodental	Interdental	Dento-Alveolar		Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Manner	Voicing				Non-Emphatic	Emphatic					
Stop	Voiceless Voiced	<i>b</i>			<i>t</i> <i>d</i>	<i>T</i> <i>D</i>		<i>k</i> <i>q</i>			<i>ʔ</i>
Fricative	Voiceless Voiced		<i>f</i>	<i>θ</i> <i>ð</i>	<i>s</i> <i>z</i>	<i>S</i> <i>Z</i>	<i>š</i>	<i>x</i> <i>ḡ</i>		<i>ħ</i> <i>ʕ</i>	<i>H</i>
Affricate	Voiced						<i>j</i>				
Flap	Voiced				<i>r</i>						
Lateral	Voiced				<i>l</i>						
Nasal	Voiced	<i>m</i>			<i>n</i>						
Glide	Voiced	<i>w</i>					<i>y</i>				

B. Vowels of Standard Arabic

	Short			Long		
	Front	Central	Back	Front	Central	Back
High	<i>i</i>		<i>U</i>	<i>Ii</i>		<i>uu</i>
Mid						
Low		<i>A</i>			<i>Aa</i>	

(Adapted from Gadalla, 2006)

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