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An Image of the Negative Effects of English on Modern Standard Arabic in Latest Bestsellers

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Abstract

This paper aims at detecting whether there are negative effects of English on written Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) or not. It analyzes the reverse transfer from English into MSA in four chapters from four of the latest best-selling books that are all available online:

1- (Chapter 7) of a translation of التأثير السيبراني *AT-Ta'thīr assibrānī (The Cyber Effect)* (2017) by Mary Aiken.
2- (Chapter 7) of أفراح المقبرة *Afrāḥ al-Maqbarah (Tomb Weddings)* (2018) by Dr. Aḥmad Khālid Tawfīq.
3- (Chapter 15) of أوروبا المتحررة *Ūruppā al-Mutaḥarrirah (Liberal Europe)* (2020) by Muḥammad Aḥmad 'Ubayd.
4- (Chapter 3 of part II) of ذكر شرقي منقرض *Dhakar Sharqī Munqariḍ (An Extinct Oriental Male)* (2021) by Dr. Muḥammad Ṭāhā.

The analysis proved that there are negative effects of English on MSA in all the samples at the levels of vocabulary, structure, and style. The findings of analysis indicate that the most dangerous reasons of the problem are the spread of social media and the prevalence of defective translations. The paper recommends finally a number of procedures that can help stop the deterioration of MSA and suggests further research about the future of Arabic language and the relation between education and mother-tongue maintenance.

Key Words

Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), reverse-transfer of L2 on L1, Non-Standard Arabic (NSA), balanced bilingualism, mother-tongue maintenance.

صورة للتأثيرات السلبية للغة الإنجليزية على اللغة العربية المعاصرة في أحدث الكتب الأعلى مبيعا

الملخص

تهدف هذه الورقة البحثية إلى معرفة ما إذا كانت للغة الإنجليزية آثار سلبية على اللغة العربية الفصحى الحديثة المكتوبة أم لا؛ عن طريق تحليل أوجه النقل العكسي من الإنجليزية إلى العربية الفصحى الحديثة المكتوبة في أربعة فصول من أربعة من أحدث الكتب الأعلى مبيعا والمتوفرة جميعها بصيغة PDF على الانترنت؛ وهي كالتالي:

١. الفصل" ٧" من ترجمة كتاب *التأثير السيبراني* (٢٠١٧) لماري إيكين.
٢. الفصل "٧" من مجموعة القصص القصيرة *أفراح المقبرة* (٢٠١٨) لد. أحمد خالد توفيق.
٣. الفصل "١٥" من كتاب *أوروبا المتحررة* (٢٠٢٠) لمحمد أحمد عبيد.
٤. الفصل "٣" من الجزء "٢" من كتاب *ذكر شرقي منقرض* (٢٠٢١) لد. محمد طه.

يتوصل البحث لوجود آثار سلبية للإنجليزية على العربية الفصحى في كل العينات موضع البحث على مستويات المفردات والتراكيب والأسلوب. وتوضح نتائج التحليل أن أخطر أسباب المشكلة هو انتشار وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي وانتشار الترجمات المعيبة. وتوصي الدراسة أخيرًا بعدد من الإجراءات التي يمكن أن تساعد في وقف تدهور اللغة العربية الفصحى الحديثة. وتقترح مزيدًا من البحث حول مستقبل اللغة العربية والعلاقة بين التعليم والحفاظ على اللغة الأم.

الكلمات الرئيسية

اللغة العربية الفصحى الحديثة، النقل العكسي من اللغة الأولى إلى اللغة الثانية، اللغة العربية العامية، ثنائية اللغة المتوازنة، الحفاظ على اللغة الأم.

An Image of the Negative Effects of English on Modern Standard Arabic in Latest Bestsellers

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1- Introduction

Today, languages are being destroyed faster than ever before in human history (Hanani, 2009, P. 10). Globalization and the rapid diffusion of the internet necessitate the presence of English as an international lingua franca. This powerful presence sometimes overwhelms local languages in countries that do not care about maintaining their mother tongues. A second language L2, especially English, can have positive effects on a first language L1 like enriching its vocabulary, varying its structures, cultivating its speakers and preparing them for better job opportunities. However, an excessive reliance on L2 can pose threats not only to L1 but also to the culture, faith and identity of a whole people. Language loss happens gradually when communities choose another dominant language instead of their own. It usually happens in bilingual societies where the mother tongue coexists in a state of competition with another dominant language used as a language of instruction. This may diminish the role of the mother tongue in use and may lead to its gradual shift and displacement or its attrition (Hanani, 2009, P. 10). Fishman (1996) believes that if people lose their language "they would lose a member of the family, an article of faith, and a commitment in life and those are not little things for people to lose" (P. 83).

In this worldwide phenomenon, Arab countries are no exception. They witness a sort of bilingualism by inevitably depending on English more than Arabic in vital domains like education, economy, media, tourism, internet, communication etc. All Arab countries that already have diglossia (i.e. standard Arabic and non-standard Arabic dialects) are now, with the help of the internet and social media, suffering from an unprecedented sway of English over both Standard and non-Standard Arabic. This unbalanced bilingualism has led to widespread use of English among the young Arab generations who are gradually "losing their ability to think and produce knowledge in Arabic" (Badry, 2007, P. 1).

Research Question

This research aims to find out whether there are negative effects of English on written Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) or not.

2- Objective of Research and Data Collection

This research aims to shed more light on the harmful effects of English on written MSA by analyzing the language of four chapters from four Arabic bestsellers:

1- (Chapter 7) of a translation of التأثير السيبراني *AT-Ta'thīr assibrānī (The Cyber Effect)* (2017) by Mary Aiken.

2- (Chapter 7) of أفراح المقبرة *Afrāḥ al-Maqbarah (Tomb Weddings)* (2018) by Dr. Aḥmad Khālid Tawfīq.

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4- (Chapter 3 of part II) of ذكر شرقي منقرض *Dhakar Sharqī Munqariḍ (An Extinct Oriental Male)* (2021) by Dr. Muḥammad Ṭāhā.

The works are considered bestsellers according to (Ramaḍān, 2019), (Manṣūr, 2019), (books-library.net, 2020), and (Ash-Shādhlī, 2021) respectively. They are carefully selected from different genres and branches of knowledge in order to enable the researcher examine the problem from different dimensions. The first book is a translation, which will help show the relation between translation and negative effects of English on MSA. The second book is a collection of short stories, which will answer the question whether Arabic literature – which is supposed to be written in the most polished style –also is infected by English effects or not. The third book is a history book related to an Islamic context. This should indicate to what extent English could invade the Arabic language in Islamic contexts. The last book is mainly based on chats from the social media, which will show the role of social media and internet in the discussed problem. For this same reason, the researcher selected all works available online as electronic books.

3- Literature Review

According to Higby and K Obler 2015, research on first language attrition has seen a rapid increase in the past twenty years, investigating a wide range of situations in which attrition can occur. Nevertheless, some of the fundamental questions pertaining to first language loss continue to elude clear answers. For instance, when one experiences native language attrition, does the effect represent a true loss of the knowledge, of the speaker's linguistic competence, or does the knowledge simply become inaccessible?

On the other hand, there are myriad studies tackling aspects of "cross- linguistic influence"; (i.e. effects of two - or more - languages on each other) (e.g. Cook, 2003; Grosjean, 2001; Mahmoud, 2005; Ringbom, 2007). However, just few of them discuss the effects of the second language on the mother tongue. The majority of such researches approach the impacts of the first language on the second language for pedagogical purposes (see e.g. Mahmoud, 2005 for more information). The term 'language transfer' is used by teaching and learning experts to refer to the way a first language can hinder the process of second language learning; a problem traditionally called "first language interference". On the other hand, the "reverse transfer" (Cook 2003) of a second language on the first is not given the due attention (see also Laufer, 2003; Pavlenko and Jarvis, 2002). According to Weinreich's (1974), there are ''instances of deviation from the norms of either language in the speech of bilinguals as a result of their familiarity with more than one language'' (P. 1). However, it is only in

the 1980s that researchers began to realize that cross-linguist influences are bidirectional (Major, 1992; Waas, 1996; Pavlenko, 2000).

In Arab countries, the majority of researches about cross-linguistic influence discuss the negative effects of Arabic on the process of learning English. Despite a great awareness of the importance of maintaining the Arabic language for the Arab's identity, there is no enough research on the negative impacts of English on Modern Standard Arabic. Among the studies concentrating on the effect of English on MSA is Hanani (2009). She conducted a study to determine the impact of the second language (English) proficiency on the use of Arabic language by the Arab youth, which might cause the loss of Arabic. The study sample consisted of a group of students aged between 14-16 years of different nationalities from five international schools in Dubai and Sharjah. The results revealed that both students and parents were unaware of the consequences of the excessive usage of English.

Darwish (2005) also points out that very little research has been conducted on the influence of translation from other languages on Arabic. Abdalla (2018) studied the influence of translation from English on Arabic with a focus on the translation. The influence of media language was confirmed in his study. Both old and modern studies are more interested in the morphological aspect; only few of them have dealt with some forms of structural change. Ibrahim (2006) surveys the process of borrowing in written Arabic rather than spoken. The study distinguishes between two types of borrowing: loan words which do not have equivalents in Arabic and those which have equivalents. The first type is inevitable because it is associated with the dominant culture which provides inventions and modern technology. The second type is considered the real danger because there is no reason to use these loan words. Most of the examples in the following tables have been attested by Ibrahim (2006).

Other examples of studies about the effects of L2 on L1 structure are Al-Jabaali (2004) and Al-Zoubi (2006). Al-Jabaali (2004) discussed the impact of globalization on the linguistic structures of the language of short stories in Jordan after the age of globalization. Al-Zoubi (2006) investigated the forms of syntactic transformation also in the language of short stories in Jordan in the 1970s and 1980s. Moreover, there was a report published by Majma' al-lughah al-'Arabīyah (2014) (The Academy of Arabic) on the image of the Arabic language in the media. It was a detailed report focusing on spelling, morphological and structural errors, and weak language editing in the media. This report was primarily concerned with linguistic editing and language mistakes and paid limited attention to the new structures of Standard Arabic. A group of Arabic professors from Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) and inspectors from the Ministry of Education in Oman discussed the problem of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) in Al-Masar (2004), a bulletin published at SQU. Although the bulletin was titled ''Arabic is in Danger'', the Arabic experts were divided. Some believed that MSA is at a crisis point. Some others thought that such a belief in itself could pose a threat to the language

and it is a psychological war waged against it. Yet others maintained that it is not a problem of crisis or threat; it is a process of natural change in keeping with the social and cultural change and the technological development that society is witnessing.

Mahmoud 2012 provides a detailed study of the influence of English on modern standard Arabic (MSA). He discusses the most common linguistic manifestations of this reverse inter-lingual transfer together with some of the possible consequences. Data were collected from books, articles, manuals, reports and recommendations. Adopting a descriptive linguistic approach, the paper lists some of the manifestations of this reverse transfer such as transliteration, substitution, re-ordering, overproduction, omission, poor translation, calquing, borrowing, and code mixing. It also enumerates some of the detrimental effects of reverse cross-linguistic transfer from English as a Foreign Language (EFL) to Modern Standard Arabic (MSA): linguistic invasion, 'foreignness', alienation of the audience and the speaker/writer, incomprehensibility, misunderstanding, and exposing readers to poor and incorrect MSA. The paper concludes with a recommendation for further studies to give more insight into the negative effects of this reverse transfer, to investigate the other factors leading to the deterioration of the standard of MSA, and to propose some solutions.

4- Method of Research

The research adopts a descriptive qualitative quantitative approach to detect the traces of English in the four analyzed chapters and calculate their percentages in each chapter to the total numbers of words, or sentences in the whole chapter. The percentages of the four works are then compared to each other to show the extent of effects of English in each work. The quantitative findings are followed by a discussion of the quantity and quality of the observed effects. The analysis addresses three linguistic aspects; vocabulary, structure, and style.

4.1. Vocabulary

This section classifies English effects on Arabic vocabulary into six categories: 1) unjustifiable borrowings, 2) words or figures written in English, 3) calquing, 4) NSA "i.e. Non-Standard Arabic" words, 5) misusages, and 6) neologisms. As for elements 3) and 6), the researcher confines the observation only to terms not listed in Al-Maʿānī Arabic-Arabic dictionary site www.almaany.com (with all the dictionaries it includes: Al Maʿānī Al Gāmi', Al Kull, Al Ghanī, Al-Muʿgam 'Arabī 'āmmah, Allugha Al-ʿarabiyya Al Muʿāṣir, Ar-Ra'id, Al-Muʿgam Al- Wasīṭ, Lisānul ʿArab, Al Qāmūsul Muḥīṭ), or even listed in a different meaning. Although the research aims at studying reverse effects of English on MSA, it turned necessary to count NSA words as an indirect factor of increasing the harmful effect of English on MSA.

4.2. Structure

This section classifies structural mistakes into six categories: 1) Two modifiers of one noun, or two verbs with one object, 2) Substitution of "و wa" with a comma and omission of connectors, 3) Introductory phrases that precede sentences, 4) Use of irregular superlative or comparative formula instead of regular ones, 5) Using pronouns cataphorically instead of anaphorically, 6) Fragment or Ungrammatical sentences.

4.3. Style

The elements of style refer to structural formulae that are considered atypical, rather than wrong, in traditional Arabic style. They are so common in English style that they got recurrently echoed in Modern Standard Arabic. This is clear in 5 aspects: 1) use of nominal sentences at the expense of verbal ones, 2) use of passive voice instead of active voice, 3) excessive use of parenthetical sentences, 4) use of ascriptions "nasab" at the expense of genitive case " Muḍāfun wa muḍāfun ilayhi", and 5) use of prepositional phrases instead of cognate object " al-Mafʿūl muṭlaq".

5- Research Limitations

- The study is just exploratory and the findings are not to be generalized.
- The researcher could not find the original of the translated book. Accordingly, the effects of English on MSA in the translation are detected without comparing the target text to the source text.
- The total numbers of words and sentences are not exact; they are just approximations. The books are available online as PDF files that do not have word count. As for the sentences, the differences between English structure and Arabic structure made it impossible to give exact numbers of sentences. For example, it was impossible to count simple sentences in Arabic texts that are translations of clauses in compound sentences in English. Besides, the texts omit connectors between sentences and do not use punctuations marks properly. This makes beginnings and ends of sentences unclear in many cases. To overcome these obstacles, the researcher counted the words and sentences in one page of each chapter and multiplied the total by the overall number of its pages.
- The subjects of the books are various in a way that may lead to different percentages of errors. For example, a translated book about cyber effects on behavior is of course more liable to use strange words and structures than a book about the history of Islam in Europe.
- The study lists vocabulary, structure, and style mistakes in appendices for all the works except ذكر شرقي منقرض *Dhakar Sharqī Munqariḍ (An Extinct Oriental Male)*. There is a list only for the vocabulary mistakes of the book. There are no lists for the structure

or style mistakes since the book is mainly written in NSA that deviates from rules of MSA in the majority of sentences.

6- Findings of Analysis

The examination of vocabulary, structure, and style of the four selected samples – as shown in appendices 1-10 – came up with the following findings:

6.1. Vocabulary Mistakes

	Unjustifiable Borrowing	English words or figures	Calquing	NSA	Misusage	Neologisms
Cyber Effect	90	87	45	2	81	142
Percentages	85/9478 = 0.89%	79/9478 = 0.83%	47/9478 = 0.49%	.02%	81/9478 = 0.85%	142/9478 = 1.49%
Total	Cyber 447					
Total Percentage	447/9478 = 4.7%					
Tomb Wedding's	36	12	14	13	49	11
Percentages	36/4680 = 0.76%	12/4680 = 0.25%	14/4680 = 0.29%	13/4680 = .27 %	49/4680 = 1 %	11/4680 = 0.23%
Total	Tomb 135					
Total Percentage	135/4680 = 2.9 %					
Liberal Europe	1	1	Zero	Zero	6	Zero
Percentages	1/1040 = .096%	1/1040 = .096%	Zero	Zero	3/1040 = .57%	Zero
Total	Europe 8					
Total Percentage	8/ 1040 = .77%					
Extinct Oriental Male	8	Zero	6	1349	Zero	33
Percentages	8/2030 = 0.39%	0	6/2030 = 0.29%	66.5%	0	33/2030 = 1.6 %
Total	Oriental 1396					
Total Percentage	1396/2030 = 68.8 %					

Table 1: Total numbers and percentages of vocabulary mistakes in the four studied samples.

6.2.   Structure Mistakes

	Two modifiers of one noun, or two verbs with one object	Substitution of "و wa" with a comma and omission of connectors	Introductory phrases that precede sentences	Use of irregular superlative or comparative formula instead of regular ones	Using pronouns cataphorically instead of anaphorically	Fragment or Ungrammatical sentences
Cyber Effect	10	20	• 86	4	3	7
Percentages	10/520 = 1.9%	20/520 =3.8%	86/520 = 16.5%	4/520 = .76 %	3/520 = .57 %	7/520 = 1.3 %
Total	130					
Total Percentage	130/520 = 25%					
Tomb Weddings	3	90	20	1	Zero	3
Percentages	3/624 = 0.48%	90/624 = 14.4 %	20/624 = 3.2 %	1/624 = 0.16%	0	3/624 = 0.48%
Total	117					
Total Percentage	117/624 = 18.75%					
Liberal Europe	1	3	3	Zero	Zero	4
Percentages	1/80 = 1.25%	3/80 = 3.75%	3/80 = 3.75%	0	Zero	4/80 = 5%
Total	11					
Total Percentage	11/80 = 13.75%					
Extinct Oriental Male	90% (* the majority of sentences are written in an informal style that does not abide by any of the rules of Arabic grammar. This is why the percentage is given as an approximation)					

Table 2: Total numbers and percentages of structure mistakes in the four studied samples.

6.3.   Style Mistakes

	Use of nominal sentences at the expense of verbal ones	Use of passive voice instead of active voice	Excessive use of parenthetical sentences	Use of ascriptions "nasab" at the expense of genitive case " Muḍāfun wa muḍāfun ilayhi"	Use of prepositional phrases instead of cognate object " al-Mafʿūl muṭlaq"
Cyber Total	63	36	12	74	11
Percentage	63/520 = 12.1 %	36/520 = 6.9%	12/ 520 = 2.3 %	74/520 = 14.2 %	11/520 = 2.1 %
Total	196				
Total Percentage	196/520 = 37.7%				
Tomb Total	24	1	Zero	2	Zero
Percentage	24/624 = 3.8%	1/624 = 0.16%	0	2/624 = 0.32%	**0**
Total	27				
Total Percentage	27/624 = 4.3%				
Europe Total #	3	1	Zero	15	Zero
Percentage	3/80 = 3.7%	3/80 = 1.25%	0	15/80 = 18.75%	0
Total	19				
Total Percentage	19/80 = 23.75 %				
Extinct Oriental Male	90% (* the majority of sentences are written in an informal style. This is why the percentage is given as an approximation)				

Table 3: Total numbers and percentages of style mistakes in the four studied samples.

Here follows a chart that represents the percentages of deviations of MSA vocabulary, structure, and style in the four analyzed works:
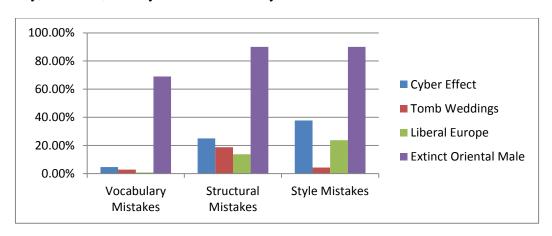

Figure 1: Relations Between Vocabulary, Structure, and Style Mistakes in the Four Studied Samples.

7. Discussion

7.1. Vocabulary Mistakes

7.1.1. Unjustifiable borrowing

Borrowing is not always harmful. When necessary, it can be considered a natural linguistic phenomenon whereby languages fill in lexical and semantic gaps and enrich their vocabulary (Holmes 2001, qtd. in Mahmoud, 2012, P. 40). The point here has to do with unjustifiable borrowing; when a language user favors borrowings from foreign languages to equivalents available already in the mother tongue. This happens because the borrowed terms are more <u>powerful</u> than their native equivalents. The "power" meant here is the "fame" that a term acquires when it becomes:

1- more prevalent in media, internet, social media.
2- more prevalent in NSA, and finds its way to MSA as a result.
3- more prestigious and sounds more educated
4- more trendy, up to date, MSA equivalents sound old fashion.
5- more acceptable and easier to use for sweeping majority of language users.

e.g. سوشيال ميديا sūshal mīdiyā (social media) = مواقع التواصل الاجتماعي (Ṭāhā, 2021, P. 147)

انترنت alinternet (internet) = الشبكة العنكبوتية ash-Shabakah al-'ankabūtīyah (Aiken, 2017, P. 238)

كمبيوتر Kumpiyūtar (computer) = حاسوب Ḥāsūb (Tawfīq, 2018, P. 165)

الجيتار Algītār (guitar) = قيثارة Qīthārah ('Ubayd, 2020, P. 40)

This ill-advised borrowing of English words shows lack of concern about the future of the Arabic language, especially the formal variety. Written works are supposed to stick to the standard style as far as possible. The prevalence of English borrowings at the informal level does not justify absence of institutional supervision of borrowing at the formal level.

7.1.2. Use of English letters and figures

In the analyzed samples, there is flagrant use of words and numerals written in English even without exerting effort for transliterating them into Arabic letters.

5-DSM (Aiken, 2017, P. 248)

Pareidolia (Tawfīq, 2018, P. 176)

Europe ('Ubayd, 2020, P. title)

7.1.3. Calquing

"Calquing" refers to borrowing a word or phrase from another language while translating its components, so as to create a new lexeme in the target language (Gachelin). For example, the English "skyscraper" is calqued into Arabic as " ناطحة سحابNāṭiḥat saḥāb". Like borrowing, calquing is sometimes necessary to enrich a language with new important expressions. However, calque terms are harmful to a mother tongue when taken for granted as if well known to all language users. In the studied samples, the calque terms are neither introduced as new expressions (i.e. between inverted commas for example), nor are they listed in Arabic-Arabic dictionaries. This would alienate a reader from MSA and make them mistrust the value of their native language.

متلازمة ستوكهولم mutalāzimat stukhulm→ (Stockholm Syndrome) (Ṭāhā, 2021, P. 147)

غرف دردشة ghuraf dardashah →(chat rooms) (Aiken, 2017, P. 254)

يفكر خارج الصندوق Yufakkir khārig as-Ṣundūq → (think outside the box) (Tawfīq, 2018, P. 184)

7.1.4. NSA Words (Non-Standard Arabic Words)

NSA words invade MSA in bestselling books that are supposed to abide by the highest levels of formality. Most NSA words in the analyzed samples appear in Ṭāhā, 2021, P. whose content is mainly based on chats from social media. NSA is already overwhelmed by powerful neologisms and borrowings from English, especially after the age of globalization and the prevalence of internet. Therefore, it prepares language users to familiarize with borrowings and accept them in MSA at the expense of their Arabic equivalents that would die out a day after another.

e.g.   ماما mama (i.e. mama) (Aiken, 2017, P. 249)

تشطيب سوبر لوكس Tshṭīb Sūber luks (i.e. super luxe painting) (Tawfīq, 2018, P. 170)

عملتي إيه خلاه يتعصب ʿamalty īh khallāh yitʿaṣṣab (i.e. what did you do that made him angry?) (Ṭāhā, 2021, P. 148)

7.1.5. Misusage of MSA words

In the four analyzed samples, many MSA words are misused in a way that deviates from their correct meanings. However, the majority of those misusages are considered individual mistakes except for six cases: "ثُمَّ thumma then", "هناك hunāka there", and "سوف sawfa will", "تَمَ tamma is done or happened", "قام qāma did", "راح rāḥa

began". The mistaken uses of these words became so common that they are about to change their original meanings in Arabic.

7. 1.5. a) ثُمَّ thumma (then)

"ثُمَّ Thumma then" is a conjunction in all Arabic-Arabic dictionaries at Al-Ma'ānī that means "after a while". It is used to order actions that take some time to follow one another. It is neither used to connect actions happening at the same time, nor is it used to order actions that follow one another immediately. However, this meaning is different in just one of those dictionaries; Allugha Al-ʿarabiyya Al Muʿāṣir. "ثُمَّ Thumma then" is given two contradictory definitions: one defined it as a conjunction that means "after a while" another definition reduced the meaning of "ثُمَّ Thumma then" just to mean "and". It seems that the original meaning of the conjunction changed across time till a dictionary maker was forced to add an "updated" definition of the word.

In the analyzed sample, "ثُمَّ Thumma then" in many cases is not used to mean "after a considerable period of time". It means just "and", or "then" that orders actions that follow one another immediately:

e.g. وثب مصطفى .. ثم وضع السماعات على رأسه

Wathaba Muṣṭafá .. thumma waḍaʿa as-samāʿāt ʿalá raʾsihi

 (Mustafa jumped .. then wore the headphones) (Tawfīq, 2018, P. 169)

In this example it is clear that there is no long time between the two actions. The conjunction here is used for linking and ordering actions, without "a period of time between them". The conjunction lost part of its original meaning. It seems that it is a reverse effect on MSA of the use of "and" and "then" in English.

7.1.5. b) Hunāka "هناك" there

Except for Allugha Al-ʿarabiyya Al Muʿāṣir and Al-Ghanī, all dictionaries at Al-Ma'ānī define "هناك" as a demonstrative for far places. In the former two contemporary dictionaries, it is given also the meaning "exist". It seems that the meaning of the word was affected by the "existential there" in English, and encountered a deviation in meaning in recent dictionaries as a reverse effect of English on MSA:

e.g.

وجد أن هناك شبكة wagada anna hunāka shabakah (He found that there was a net) (Tawfīq, 2018, P.178).

* It is even used with " وجد found" that would be enough to mean "exist"

هناك فقط نسبة ضئيلة hunāka faqaṭ nisba ḍʾīlah (There is only a small percentage). (Aiken, 2017, P. 241)

كان هناك عالم يهودي Kāna hunāka ʿĀlim Yahūdī (there was a Jewish scholar). (ʿUbayd, 2020, P. 42)

7.1.5. c) Sawfa سوف will

In all dictionaries at Al-Ma'ānī, " Sawfa سوف" is used for far future. Recently the word is used as an equivalent of "will" in English that refers to either far or near future. This is clear in the analyzed samples:

سوف أنهي أوراقي بسرعة Sawfa 'unhy awrāqī bi-surʿat (I will finish my documents quickly) (Tawfīq, 2018, P.178)

سوف يموتون أسرع sawfa yamūtūna asraʿ (they will die faster) (Aiken, 2017, P. 261)

* It is even used with words like quickly and faster that make the meaning illogical.

7.1.5. d) "tamma تم is done"

In all dictionaries of Al-Ma'ānī, the verb "tamma تم" is given a number of definitions that have to do with the meaning "to complete"; except for Al-Gāmi' and Al-Mu'gamul Waṣīṭ. In these dictionaries the word is defined as sort of auxiliary that more or less means "is done". This strange usage is a very common mistake that could invade even Arabic-Arabic dictionaries (Maqalāt). In the analyzed samples it is found in many places; like:

e.g.

الحمام قد تم تجهيزه بشكل أنيق al-Ḥammām qad tamma tajhīzuhu bi-shaklin anīq (The bathroom is elegantly appointed) (Tawfīq, 2018, P. 170)

Europe

أما تبني الأرقام العربية فلم يتم إلا في القرن الثالث عشر. Ammā tabannī al-arqām al-ʿArabīyah falam yatimm illā fī al-qarn al-thālith ʿashr (The adoption of Arabic numerals did not take place until the thirteenth century). (ʿUbayd, 2020, P. 44).

7.1.5.1.e) "قام qāma did"

The verb "قام qāma" has many meanings in dictionaries. The one meant here is the use of the verb as one of "أفعال الشروع afʿālu ash-shurūʿ inchoative verbs" that are considered as sort of auxiliaries referring to the beginning of the main verb. The use necessitates that the verb "قام qāma" be followed by a VP predicate: e.g قام الطلاب يدرسون Qāma aṭ-ṭullābu yadrusūn the students began studying (Injīlah). It must take a predicate VP "قام الطلاب يدرسون" But nowadays the verb is mistakenly used as an auxiliary followed by a preposition "بـ bi with" to mean "did" (ʿAṭallāh). The analyzed samples have some examples like:

e.g.

قام عمال العرب المسلمين المهرة بصناعة الأدوات الدقيقة Qāma ʿUmmāl al-ʿArab al-Muslimīn al-Mahrah bi-ṣināʿat al-adawāt ad-daqīqah (Skilled Arab Muslim workers made sophisticated tools) (ʿUbayd, 2020, P. 39)

يقوم بواجب Yaqūmu biwājib (Is doing a duty) (Tawfīq, 2018, P. 174)

Although this usage is strange for the verb, it is listed in Al-Maʿānī Al Gāmiʿ, Allugha Al-ʿarabiyya Al Muʿāṣir, Al-Muʿgam ʿArabī ʿāmmah, Al-Muʿgam Al- Wasīṭ, Lisānul ʿArab.

7.1.5. f) "راح rāḥa began"

In dictionaries of Al-Maʿānī, the verb "راح rāḥa " is given a number of definitions that have to do with the meaning "to go"; except for Al-Gāmiʿ and Al-Muʿgam ʿArabī ʿāmmah. In these dictionaries the word is defined as one of "أفعال الشروع afʿālu ash-shurūʿ inchoative verbs" that means "to begin". Although this meaning is not accepted by all Arabic linguists, it is widely used in MSA (ʿAṭallāh).This is possibly a reverse effect of English on MSA because the verb is very similar to the English verb "to go" when used in sentences like:

- he <u>went</u> shopping   --- translated as → راح يتسوق rāḥa yatasawwaq.

In the analyzed samples it is used in examples like:

- •راح يراقب "٢" rāḥa yurāqibu (He <u>started</u> watching) (Tawfīq, 2018, P. 181)

7.1.6. Neologisms

A "neologism" is a relatively recent or isolated term, word, or phrase that may be in the process of entering common use, but that has not been fully accepted into mainstream language (Anderson). Neologisms are often driven by changes in culture and technology (McDonald), (Forgue); e.g. "laser". These neologisms should be listed and defined in dictionaries of a target language once they enter the common use. As a reverse effect of English, many new terms invade MSA without being listed in Arabic-Arabic dictionaries and many Arabic words acquire new meanings without being updated in dictionaries. This is clear in the following examples:

شرقي Sharqī (oriental) in the sense of prejudiced against women (Ṭāhā, 2021, P. 151)

سيناريو Sīnāriyū (scenario)" in stead of توقعات Tawaquʿāt = possibilities (Tawfīq, 2018, P. 171)

متلازمة" mutalāzimah (syndrome)/ "متابع" mutāb' (follower)(Aiken, 2017, P.253)

Although some of these words may sound common for Arabic readers, they are not listed in the Arabic-Arabic dictionaries with the same meaning they are used for. For example the word "سيناريو Sīnāriyū (scenario) " is defined in Arabic-Arabic dictionaries (Al-Maany) only as referring to dramatic scenes, while nowadays it acquired a new meaning that refers to "possibilities or predictions". The recurrence of these new words can alienate readers and prevent them from understanding MSA correctly. On the other hand, if they are defined and updated in Arabic dictionaries, they will enrich the repertoire of MSA and help readers understand their native language better.

7.2. Structure Mistakes

7. 2.1. Two modifiers for one noun or two verbs with one object

Unlike English, Arabic adds just one modifier to a noun in the genitive case. When there is more than one modifier for the same noun, just one is used before the noun and the other modifier(s) are added to a pronoun referring to the same noun. The use of more than a modifier before a noun is a reverse effect of English on MSA. It is clear in the following examples:

اكتشاف ومنع أي مرض Iktishāf wa-manʿ ayy maraḍ.(Detecting and preventing any disease) (Aiken, 2017, P. 257)

The correct use should be (اكتشاف أي مرض ومنعه) Iktishāf ayy maraḍ wa manʿihi (Detecting any disease and preventing it).

As well, it is unacceptable in Arabic for two combined verbs to share one object. In case two verbs have the same object, a verb should precede the noun and another verb follows the noun with a pronoun referring to the same noun:

ابتكر وطور أفكارا iptakara wa-Ṭawwara afkāran (he invented and developed ideas) (Tawfīq, 2018, P.184)

The correct use should be: ابتكر أفكارا وطورها iptakara afkāran wa Ṭawwaraha (he invented ideas and developed them).

7.2.2. Omission of Connectors

In the analyzed samples, connectors are omitted in many places and sometimes the "و wa and" is substituted with commas like English:

شعر بقشعريرة..هذا هو ماحدث فعلا shaʿara bi qashʿarīrah .. hādhā huwa mā ḥadatha fiʿlan (he shivered .. this is what happened already) (Tawfīq, 2018, P. 185).

الصين (٩٤ بالمائة)، تايلاند (٩٣ بالمائة) المملكة العربية السعودية (٩١ بالمائة)، الهند (٩٠ بالمائة)

aṣṣīn (94 bilmāʾah), tāylānd (93 bilmāʾah) al-mamlakah alʿarabiyyah assaʿūdiyyah (91 bilmāʾah), al-Hind (90 bilmāʾah)

(China (94 percent), Thailand (93 percent), Saudi Arabia (91 percent), India (90 percent)) (*Aiken, 2017, P.* 238).

7. 2.3. Introductory phrases that precede sentences

Modifying phrases in Arabic follow sentences. In English they precede sentences. As a reverse effect of English on MSA, they are misplaced:

• في مسح دولي، اتضح أن غالبية الناس يلجأون للإنترنت fī mashin duwalī, ittaḍaḥ anna ghālibiyyat an-nās yalgaʼūn lil-intirnit (In an international survey, it was found that the majority of people) (Aiken, 2017, P. 238).

*The correct place should be

اتضح في مسح دولي أن غالبية الناس يلجأون للإنترنت ittaḍaḥ fī mashin duwalī anna ghālibiyyat an-nās yalgaʼūn lil-intirnit (it was found in an international survey that the majority of people…).

7.2.4. Use of Irregular Superlative or Comparative Words

In Arabic, 3-letter words are put in a simple one-word comparative or superlative form. If a word consists of more than 3 letters, the comparative and superlative take irregular two-word forms. However, the analysis shows that many 3-letter words are put in irregular comparative or superlative forms because their equivalents in English are irregular. The English more/most formulae are unconsciously echoed in MSA:

"أكثر دقة akthar diqqah (more accurate) instead of "Adaqq أدق Tawfīq, 2018, P. (Tawfīq, 2018, P. 184)

7.2.5. Using Pronouns Cataphorically

In Arabic, pronouns must be used anaphorically. They are considered preforms that refer to a preceding noun as an antecedent (Aldaqeq). In English pronouns can be used both anaphorically and cataphorically. As a reverse effect of English, they are nowadays used in MSA cataharically to refer to nouns as postcedents:

• من خلال مظهرها الأنيق الذي يوحي بالثقة ـ وشعبيتها الواسعة ـ تبدو هذه المواقع المنتشرة على الهواء من المصادر الرصينة

Min khilāl maẓharihā al'nīq alladhī yūḥy bith-thiqah-wa shaʿbiyyatihā al-wāsiʿah-tabdū Hādhihi al-mawāqiʿ al-muntashirah ʿalá al-hawā' min al-maṣādir arrṣīnah

Through their elegant appearance that inspires confidence - and their wide popularity - those online sites seem to be sober sources (Aiken, 2017, P. 239)

*The correct use should be

وشعبيتها الواسعة - من - تبدو هذه المواقع المنتشرة على الهواء - من خلال مظهرها الأنيق الذي يوحي بالثقة المصادر الرصينة

tabdū Hādhihi al-<u>mawāqi‘</u> al-muntashirah ‘alá al-hawā’ - Min khilāl maẓhari<u>hā</u> al’nīq alladhī yūḥy bith-thiqah-wa sha‘biyyati<u>hā</u> al-wāsi‘ah - min al-maṣādir arrṣīnah

those online sites seem - Through their elegant appearance that inspires confidence - to be sober sources.

7.2.6. Fragment Sentences

There are many fragment sentences that deviate from MSA structural rules. This sometimes comes as a direct effect of English structure on MSA through translation, and other times it is an indirect effect of English on the performance of MSA writers of forming well-structured Arabic sentences:

مثل الإنترنت تماما، إيرلندا لا تنسى شيئا – ابتكرنا طريقة لتحويل حتى الكلمات..

mithl al-intirnit tamāman, aiyrlandā lā tansá shay’an – iptakarnā ṭarīqah litaḥuīl ḥattá al-kalimāt ..

Just like the internet - Ireland forgets nothing - we've come up with a way to transform even the words.. (Aiken, 2017, P. 239)

7.3. Style Mistakes

The problems of style in the analyzed samples have to do with structural formulae that are considered atypical, rather than wrong, in traditional Arabic style. They are so common in English style that they got recurrently echoed in Arabic and cause a sort of foreignness in MSA.

7.3.1. Nominal Sentences instead of Verbal Sentences

Generally, typical Arabic style favors verbal sentences (verb + subject + object) to nominal sentences (subject + verb + object) (bylyny). The reverse effect of English on Arabic style, especially in translated works, appears in the heavy reliance on nominal sentences rather than verbal ones:

بعض الأطباء في الواقع يرحبون • ba‘ḍ al-aṭibbā’ fī al-wāqi‘ yuraḥḥibūn (Some physicians actually welcome) (Aiken, 2017, P. 236)

* What accords more with traditional Arabic style is:

يرحب بعض الأطباء في الواقع yuraḥḥibū ba‘ḍ al-aṭibbā’ fī al-wāqi‘

The excessive use of such sentences produces a prosaic Arabic style.

7.3.2. Passive voice instead of active voice

In Arabic, active voice is favored in most cases to passive voice. Passive is used just for few specific purposes. The opposite is true for English. However, many Arabic sentences are used in passive without a necessity. It is nothing but an effect of English:

al-'Ummāl ... 'uṣībū bi-inhiyārin 'Aṣabī (the workers … العمال ... أصيبوا بانهيار عصبي had a nervous breakdown) (Tawfīq, 2018, P.182)

* A better Arabic style is

'aṣāba al-'Ummāl inhiyārun 'Aṣabī أصاب العمال انهيار عصبي

7.3.3. Excessive Use of Parentheses

English style depends heavily on parentheses. This causes their increase in Arabic and results in strangeness of MSA style:

لنفكر الآن في قصة ليزا – وهي امرأة تتمتع بالصحة، والرزانة، والتعليم الجيد ولاتريد أن تستسلم بسهولة للسلوك القسري – أو تتقبل الانهيار الافتراضي..

Linufakkiru al-āna fī qiṣṣat Līzā – wa-hiya imra'ah tatamatta'u biṣ-ṣiḥḥah, warrazānah, wat-ta'līm al-Jīd wa lā turīd an tastaslima bisuhūlah lis-sulūk al-qasrī – aw tataqabbal al-inhiyār al-iftirāḍī ..

Now let's think of the story of Lisa - a healthy, stoic, well-educated woman who does not want to give in easily to coercive behavior - or accept a virtual meltdown. (Aiken, 2017, P. 237)

7.3.4. Use of ascriptions instead of genitive

(noun + modifying adj.) instead of (genitive modifying noun + noun)

One of the very common effects of English on Arabic style is the excessive use of ascriptions "نسب nasab" at the expense of genitive case "مضاف ومضاف إليه mudaf wa mudaf eleih". An ascription consists of (noun + modifying adj.) while a genitive case consists of (modifying noun + noun).

- •الأعاجيب الطبية al-a'ājīb aṭ-ṭibbīyah (Medical miracles) instead of أعاجيب الطب a'ājīb aṭ-ṭibb (Aiken, 2017, P. 239)

التأثير الإسلاميّ at-ta'thīr al-Islāmī (The Islamic impact) ('Ubayd, 2020, P.37) instead of تأثير الإسلام ta'thīr al-Islām

Although the latter is more suitable for Arabic style, the former is more prevalent in MSA. It shows an emulation of English style that depends on modifying adjectives - especially –al adj - followed by nouns.

7.3.5. Use of Prepositional Objects instead of cognate objects

The use of prepositional phrases instead of cognate object "مفعول مطلق maf'ul Mutlak" is another effect of English style on MSA

•يعتمد إلى حد كبير ya'tamidu ilá ḥaddin kabīr (Depends heavily)

* instead of يعتمد اعتمادا كبيرا Ya'tamidu i'timādan kabīrā (Aiken, 2017, P. 246)

Conclusion

This paper is intended to detect whether there are negative effects of English on written Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) or not. The analysis of four chapters from four modern Arabic bestselling books showed many negative traces of English at the levels of vocabulary, structure, and style. Although the minor percentages of those traces vary from one book to another, the percentages of total numbers of English effects are so meaningful. They can be summed up in the following conclusions:

1- The highest rates of English effects on MSA came in ذكر شرقي منقرض *Dhakar Sharqī Munqariḍ (An Extinct Oriental Male)*; a book based on material from the social media. However, the effect of English on MSA here is indirect because it came through NSA. The language of the social media is full of chaotic NSA conversations that teem with English words. Colloquial Arabic is invaded everyday by new powerful English terms without any resistance. The social media spreads this invaded NSA at a very wide scale and affects MSA in turn. This draws attention to the devastating role social media may play in the future of Arabic language. If this chaotic use of social media continues without supervision, it will cause grave harm to the Arabic language and the identity of new Arab generations.

2- The second most affected MSA text of the four samples is التأثير السيبراني *At-Ta'thīr Assibrānī (The Cyber Effect)*; a translation. Despite the importance of translation for all fields of knowledge, it can be a double-edged weapon that may pose real threat to the target language. There are many bad Arabic translations introduced by translators who do not master Arabic language. Such translatios help spread Arabic texts full of unjustifiable borrowings, strange words, wrong structures and foreign style.

3- It is clear from the analysis that the language of modern Arabic literature, as represented in أفراح المقبرة *Afrāḥ al-Maqbarah (Tomb Weddings)*, is not quite assuring. Although it is expected from a bestselling piece of Arabic literature to be written in the most polished language, the analyzed sample turned to have a considerable number of English effects at all levels.

4- Though having some English effects, the Islamic history book أوروبا المتحررة *Ūruppā al-Mutaḥarrirah (Liberal Europe)* written by an Azharite scholar who

646

graduated from Al-Azhar University (https://books-library.com/sayings/muhammed-Ahmed-Ebeed), proved to be the least affected of all samples. This raises questions about the relation between Islam, education, and Arabic-language maintenance.

From the above conclusions, it is clear that MSA is affected by English to an alarming extent that necessitates taking decisive procedures to protect it from further deterioration. The study suggests the following recommendations for solving the problem.

Recommendations

1- Governments should entitle Al-Azhar institutions in Egypt and Academies of the Arabic Language in Arab countries, as responsible for the affairs of the Arabic language, to supervise the use of Arabic on internet, edit and revise translations, linguistically censor publishing paper and electronic books, and assign editors in media and translation institutions.

2- A relevant following step, after editing, revising, and censoring books is dictionary updating. The above institutions should exert more efforts in updating of Arabic-Arabic dictionaries periodically according to the new words they find after the revisions.

3- As well, they should try their best to coin easy Arabic equivalents for English borrowings, cooperate with media to propagate for them, and prevent the ill-advised use of English borrowings at least at the formal level.

4- The government should sponsor TV programs, ads, shorts on internet, cartoons for children, and songs for young people for correcting Arabic common mistakes and raising consciousness of its inevitable importance for preserving the national identity. Those programs should depend on the smartest media means and the most popular celebrities to succeed in appealing to the taste of viewers; especially young people.

5- Faculties of translation studies should reconsider their programs to increase emphasis on mother tongue and prepare their graduate translators with balanced bilingualism by mastering both Arabic and a second language equally.

6- Governments should draft penal laws for deviations from Arabic in official institutions. There are already articles in the constitutions of Arab countries that declare Arabic as the official language of the state and there are also a number of law projects and initiatives here and there for protecting the Arabic language from attrition. However, all these attempts are not seriously executed so far. Therefore, they need more powerful decisions form the part of Arab governments to be actually effective.

7- Governments should also study means of developing educational systems that balance between maintaining Arabic as the mother tongue and teaching English as a global lingua franca.

8- Despite the intimate relation between Arabic language and the Islamic studies at Al-Azhar institutions, Azhar schools in Egypt notoriously suffer from many problems that repel the majority of students, especially those of the elite families, from joining them. There needs to be more studies on the role those schools can have in safeguarding the correct Arabic language and how to develop them to restore their academic prestige and attract more students in the future.

Further Research

Further research is needed in this problem to give more insight into:

1- The future of Arabic language with the current challenges: May these challenges lead to complete loss of Arabic? Is there hope to restore and protect it? Are the recommended solutions feasible?
2- Educational systems and how to improve them to teach balanced bilingual programs.
3- Azhar schools with their close relationship to correct Arabic language and their far relation from the modern life and elite students. How can this contradiction be solved?

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Dr. Muhammad Taha reveals its details). معكم Maʿakum (with you). CBC. Youtube: *https*://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H21JJ7zBgSQ.

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