

Impact of Arabic as a Mother Tongue on Translating English Relative Pronouns: A contrastive Study

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Abstract:

Pronouns represent a basic and very important part of building sentences. They are used to prevent repetition of the first noun to which they refer. Thus, this study aimed to investigate the impact of Arabic as a mother tongue on translating English relative pronouns. To achieve this aim the study touches the similarities and differences between both language. The most important findings are that many students face difficulty in translating English relative pronouns. Moreover, similarities between English and Arabic facilitate the process of translating English relative pronouns. It has also been found that knowledge of differences between relative pronouns in English and Arabic improve EFL students performance in translation. The study ends with a summary of the main concluding remarks that highlight the main areas of difficulties in understanding relative pronouns in English.

المستخلص :

تمثل الضمائر جزءاً أساسياً ومهماً في بناء الجمل وذلك لمنعها تكرار الاسم الأول مرة أخرى. هدفت الدراسة إلى تتبع أثر اللغة العربية بوصفها اللغة الأم في ترجمة ضمائر الوصل ولتحقيق الهدف فإن الدارسه ركزت علي توضيح اوجه التشابه والاختلاف في اللغتين في هذا المجال. ومن أهم نتائج الدراسة أن معظم الطالبات

يواجهن صعوبات عند ترجمة ضمائر الوصل إلى العربية وأن إدراك أوجه التشابه بين اللغة العربية واللغة الانجليزية يسهل من عملية الترجمة وأن معرفة أوجه الاختلاف في ضمائر الوصل بين اللغتين الإنجليزية والعربية تحسن من أداء الطالبات في الترجمة. انتهت الدراسة بملخص يحتوي علي اهم النتائج الحلول التي توصل اليها البحث.

1.Introduction

Translation is ultimately a human activity which enables people to exchange ideas and thoughts regardless of different in tongues. It helps learners to understand better the influence of one language on the other. Knowledge of pronouns is a basic and very important part of building sentences. It is used to prevent repetition of the noun to which they refer. Thus it is important for EFL learners to know how to deal with English pronouns to improve their performance in translating English texts. It aims to point out the differences and similarities between English and Arabic pronouns ,also to investigate EFL learners inabilities in translating English relative pronouns. The study distributed in various sections: Section 1 definition of English and Arabic Pronouns. Section 2 types of English and Arabic Pronouns. Section 3 Features of pronouns in English and Arabic. Section 4 Relative Pronouns in English and Arabic. Section 5 Comparison between English and Arabic Pronouns. Section 6 Problems of Translating English Relative Pronouns, and section 7 is summary remarks.

1.1 Definition of English Pronouns

There are many definition of the word “pronoun” all of them are the same to a great extent. According to Kroll (2002) “a pronoun is word that takes the place of a noun”. The pronoun which replaces and refers to first noun is called the antecedent of the pronoun”. Crystal (1990: 248) defines a pronoun as “A term used in grammatical classification of words, referring to the closed sets of items which can be used to substitute for a noun phrase or a single noun”.

In linguistics, Hago (2005, 40) defines the word pronoun as “One of the class of words that serves to replace a noun, phrase that has already been or is about to be mentioned in the sentence or context”.

Pronouns are used to prevent repetition of the noun to which they refer. It must agree with the noun it refers to. Therefore, if the noun is singular, the pronoun must be singular, if the noun is plural, use a plural pronoun. Also a pronoun must agree with its antecedent in gender. In this case when the antecedent is clearly feminine, a feminine pronoun must be used.

Some other scholars distinguished between pronouns and nouns. According to Freeman and Murica (1950: 123) pronouns are existence for special object forms, such as, him for her or me for I. In addition to that, pronouns do not take articles “a, an or the” before them. Also pronouns do not take adjective before them, except in very restricted construction involving some indefinite pronouns, examples: “*a little something, a certain some one*”. Moreover, morphologically, pronouns have unrelated number forms, such as “I/we”, “he, they” as opposite to the typical regular formation of noun phrasal, as girl/ girls. Pronouns can be defined as, words which stand for a noun, a whole noun phrase, or several noun phrases, also they refer directly to some aspect of the situation surrounding the speaker or the writer.

Crystal (2000: 210) suggests that the meaning for all cases in pronoun must be less specific than that found in phrases containing nouns.

1.1.1 Negative Pronouns

A pronoun that indicates the absence of people or other entities. In English the negative pronouns are “neither, nobody, none, non one, and nothing”. The function of negative pronouns are the subject of sentence, object of a verb or preposition, examples:

- *No one came.*

- *I didn't hit anyone*
- *She wasn't playing with anybody.*
- *He doesn't want to buy any of the books.*
- *Nobody is associated with this project.*

1.2 Definition of Arabic Pronouns

Khubal and Al Doush, (2006: 68) define the pronouns as “any word that refers to a speaker, addressee or absentee”. The same definition is shared by Omer (1988: 23), and Stover (2005).

The pronouns in Arabic are the most elaborated, since they have a masculine and feminine variant for the second person singular and plural, they also have a dual variant denoting two persons. Such as: “*anna* أنا , *aant* أنت , *howa* هو , *Hee* هي , *nahnu* نحن , *hom* هم , *allataan* اللتان”.

Another definition is mentioned by Al Bagari (1988: 241) who explains linguistic meaning of the word “*dammar* ضمير” which means “atrophy” or ‘covert’ as in “*gamal damir* جمال ضمير which roughly means “*a thin camel*” or ‘*Admara fee nafsihi shiea* أضمر في نفسه شيئاً which means “*He hides something in his inners*”.

2.1 Types of English Pronouns

There are many kinds of words which represent pronouns and they express different meanings but not all these expressions follow the same grammatical rules.

2.1.1 Personal Pronouns

Azar (1988, 97) mentioned that the personal pronouns refer to one or more person or things. In this case pronouns are classified as subject and object forms, as in the following table:

Person	Singular		Plural	
	Subject	Object	Subject	Object
1st	I	Me	We	Us
2nd	You	You	You	You
3d	He	Him	They	Them
	She	Her		
	It	It		

Source: Haliday and Hasan, (1976: 44) Cohesion in English:

As revealed in the above table, personal pronouns, like other functional words are divided into two major forms, singular and plural. Also the subject is different from object when compared with each other in the level of shape, except 'you' and 'it' have the same shapes, for example:

- *You know Amna.*
- *Amna knows you.*
- *Did you see the lion? Yes, I saw it and it saw me. Did it frighten you?*

Another distinction in personal pronouns is 'it' which can be used for both genders 'masculine or feminine', for example: in the word '*baby*' there is no real indication of '*boy*' or '*girl*'.

- *Did you feed the infant?*
- *Yes I feed it (i.e. Him or her).*

2.1.2 Possessive Pronouns

Possessive pronouns indicate who or what something belongs to, or express ownership, it appears in two forms in the following table:

Possessive adjectives (subject)	Possessive pronouns (object)
My	Mine
Your	Yours
His	His
Her	Hers
It	It
Our	Ours
Your	Yours
Their	theirs

Source: Quirk and Green (1973: 102) a University Grammar of English)

Examples of the possessive adjectives and its corresponding possessive pronouns:

That is my book	→	that books is mine
That is your pen	→	that pen is yours
That is his book	→	that book is his
That is her bag	→	that bag is hers
That is our school	→	that school is ours
That is their book	→	that book is theirs

Students notice that possessive adjective remains for both, singular or plural, example

- *The boy lost his book*
- *The boy lost his books*

In this type of possessive pronouns, the students should guard against the common mistakes of writing the possessive “its”, with an apostrophe; “it’s” means “it is”, not a possessive pronoun.

2.1.3 Demonstrative Pronouns

This type is used to identify someone or something, such as: “this, that, these and those”. All these are similar in meaning: “this and those” tend to refer to items fairly close at hand, while “that and those” tend to be further a way. Moreover, “this and that” refer to single items, while “these and those” are plural for example

- *This is my book, that is yours.*
- *These are Ahmed’s pens, those are Fatim’s*

Another type of demonstrative pronoun is “such”, for example

John is the captain of the team and, as such, he must decide who is to bat first.

If the students used one of the demonstrative pronouns before a noun, it became an adjective pronoun not demonstrative one, example:

- *This is the most comfortable chair, (pronoun)*
- *This chair is comfortable(adjective)*

2.1.4 Indefinite Pronouns

According to Echersley (1981: 34) who says that pronouns, “refer to things or people in a vague or general way”. There are many words that represent indefinite pronouns contained in the following group: some (-thing, -body, -one, any (-thing, -body, -one), all, one, none, no (-thing, -body, -one), every (-thing, -body, -one), other, an other, much less, (a) few, (a) little, enough, each, either, neither.

- *Yesterday, two pupils were absent, today all are present .*
- *All the students are here today.* (adjective)

Sometimes students do not distinguish between “all” and “the whole” because the two expressions are very similar in meaning. According to Huddleston, (1988, 127) who distinguishes between them; ‘all’ can be used as pronoun or as an adjective:

1. as a pronoun with the meaning of everything, for example: *when he saw his troops retreat, the general cried, all is lost’*
2. As an adjective with the meaning ‘the whole of’ for example *All his money is spent. He spent all last week in London*

Students also find, difficulty in the use of “some” and “any”. The distinction between ‘some’ and ‘any is that, ‘some is used in affirmative sentence, for example:

- *I am looking for some matches.*
- *There is some one in the room.*

While “any” is used in interrogative and negative sentences, for example:

- *Have you any matches?*
- *I haven’t any matches.*

2.1.5 Reflexive Pronouns

A reflexive pronoun refers back to the subject of the sentence or adds information by pointing back to a noun or another

pronoun. There are many types of reflexive pronouns for both singular and plural such as: “myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves”.

For examples:

- *I am teaching myself Latin*
- *Julia had a great holiday, she really enjoyed herself.*
- *Do you talk to yourself sometimes?*

According to Freeman and Murica (1950: 128) a reflexive pronoun can be:

- a. A direct object: for example:
She saw herself in the looking glass.
- b. An indirect object: for example:
He cooked himself a good meal.
- c. Part of the predicate of the verb to be: for example:
If he has a holiday at the seaside he will soon be himself.
- d. Used after preposition: for example:
I want a little time to myself

Sometimes a reflexive pronoun is used instead of ordinary, personal pronoun for adding clarity for the meaning, for example:

- *She suspected that they recognized her sister but not herself.*

2.1.6 Interrogative Pronouns

The interrogative pronouns are “who, whom, whose, which, what”. They are used as in forming questions and always precede the verb, for examples:

- *Who broke that door?*
- *What have you written?*
- *Whose are these gloves?*
- *Which book do you want?*

The answer of interrogative pronoun used for person may be “feminine, singular or plural” also “masculine, singular or plural” or “feminine and masculine”.

Sometimes interrogative can introduce a direct or indirect question, for example:

- *What happened after that?* (direct)
- *He asked me what happened after that.* (Indirect).

2.1.7 Relative Pronouns

Relative pronouns are used to link two phrases or clauses, there are similar to the interrogative pronouns, but interrogatives are used to ask questions.

The relative who, whom, whose are used to person, for example:

- *The man who spoke was my brother.*
- *The man whom you saw is my brother.*
- *He is the writer whose style is the most attractive.*

“Which” used for things and non-human, for example:

My book, which was lost, has been found.

“That” is used for persons or things, for example:

My brother, that is in Khartoum, has sent me a letter.

All relative pronouns have the same forms for singular or plural, masculine or feminine. More classification is limited in special sections.

2.1.8 Distributive Pronouns

The distributive pronouns are: each, either and neither. There are similar to the distributive adjective but the difference is that, one of them stands instead of the noun, it becomes pronoun, and when it qualifies a noun it becomes adjective. Examples:

Each of the men received his salary

“Either” means one or the other of two, for example:

- *I have two books here, either would suit you quite well.*

“Neither” means none of two, for example:

- *He gave me two novels but neither is very good*

2.2. Types of Arabic Pronouns

Mugalssa (1991: 95) showed that pronouns in the Arabic language are of three types:

Firstly – separate pronouns(الضمائر المنفصلة) which stands in itself and come at the beginning of the speech. This type is divided into two types:

a. Separate nominative pronouns (ضمائر الرفع المنفصلة) which refers to persons and have three kinds:

1. ضمائر المتكلم First Person

Which means person speaking about him/herself, Annaa (أنا), nahnu (نحن), mean (I) and (we).

2. (ضمائر المخاطب) Second Person

‘Person spoken to’ such as:

anta (أنت), anti (أنت), antumaa (أنتما), antum (أنتم), antunna (أنتن), which nearly means ‘you’

3. ضمائر الغيبة Third Person:

The third person pronoun such as: howa (هو), hiya (هي), humaa (هما), hum (هم), hunna (هن). Which takes the roles of (he), (she) (they) in English .

b. Separate accusative pronouns ضمائر نصب منفصلة

Which in Arabic refers to : iyyaya (أيي), iyyanaa (إيانا), iyyaka (إياك), iyyaki (إياك), iyyakumaa (أياكم), iyyakum (أياكم), iyyakuna (إياكن), iyyahu (إياه), iyyaha (إياها), iyyahumaa (أياهما), iyyahuna (إياهن),

Secondly-Junct Pronouns الضمائر المتصلة

In contrast with disjunct pronouns in Arabic since, the junct pronouns do not stand by themselves and they do not come at the beginning of the speech. They are divided into three kinds:

1. **Junct nominative pronouns** ضمائر رفع متصلة :

They link with ‘verb’ or ‘verbs of existence (أفعال الكينونة) which means in Arabic (تاء الفاعل)

Katabtu (كتبتُ), Katabta (كتبتِ), katabti (كتبتِ), which are roughly translated as katabtu - I wrote’.

Katabta – you wrote, singular masculine’

Katabti – you wrote, singular feminine’

- (الفاعلين)

- As in katabna(كتبنا) 'we wrote'
 - (ألف الاثنين)
 As in katabaa(كتبا) 'you wrote'
 Yaktaban (يكتبان) 'they wrote'
 - (واو الجماعة)
 As in katabuw(كتبوا) 'they wrote,
 yaktubwn(يكتبون) 'they wrote.'
 - (ياء المخاطبة)
 As in taktubeen(تكتبين) 'you write'
 - (نون النسوة)
 As in (كتبن) katabna 'they wrote'
 yaktabna(يكتبن) 'they write'
- 2. Junct accusative pronouns ضمائر نصب متصلة**
 They link with verbs or with (إن وأخواتها) as in
 a. (ياء المتكلم) for example: zarani (زارني) which is translated into English as 'he visited me'
 b. (ناء المتكلمين) as in 'zaurnaa'(زارنا) 'he visited us'
 c. (كاف الخطاب) as in 'ashkurak (أشكرك)' 'I thank you'
 d. (ها الغائب) as in 'shakrh'(شكره) 'he thanked him'
- 3. Junct genitive pronouns (ضمائر جر متصلة)**
 They link with nouns and prepositions, for example:
 'Our God blessed us because we are faithful and we have good deeds'.
 (أكرمنا ربنا لأننا مؤمنين ولنا أعمال صالحة)
Thirdly –covert pronoun (الضمير المستتر).
 Aeed (2009: 137) states that the covert pronoun hasn't a limited linguistic shape to pronounce it. It has two kinds:
 1. Necessity covert pronoun (ضمير مستتر وجوبا) which cannot replace the overt names, for example 'Do your work frankly'. (أد واجبك بإخلاص).
 2. Potential covert pronoun (ضمير مستتر جوازاً) in contrast with the necessity covert pronoun, can be

replaced by the overt names, as in *'justice can achieve security'* (العدل يحقق الأمن)

3.1. Features of pronouns

3.1.1. Features of English Pronouns

The English pronouns have features that distinguish them from other parts of speech. In this case the personal pronouns have all these features, but most other kinds of pronouns have at least one.

Winterond and Murray (1985: 287) mention these features of English pronouns as follows:

1. A pronoun may be singular or plural. In this feature many types of English pronouns take the two forms such as: 'personal, reflexive', demonstrative and indefinite pronoun'. While in relative and interrogative pronouns do not show the number. The same forms are used with both singular and plural antecedents, such as:

- The girl who I saw was my friend
 - The girls who I saw was my friends.
 - Which book do you want?
 - Which books do you want?
- } relative
} interrogative

In addition, students are aware of the concord between the pronouns and the verbs whether they are singular or plural, such as:

Each of the representative is here (singular)

Many of the representatives are here (plural)

2. A pronoun may change its form to show the function in a sentence. In this case only personal pronouns have this characteristic, it is used as subject when the pronoun function as the subject of the sentence, for example:

She always visits her uncle.

They play football everyday

Or object, when the pronoun functions as the object of the sentence, for example:

The letter wasn't for me

3. A pronoun may show gender, both personal and reflexive pronouns. It may be masculine such as: 'he, him, his, himself', feminine like: 'she, her, hers, herself' or neutral like: 'it, its, itself'.

3.1.2 Pronouns in the Arabic Language: Meaning and Usages

Omer (1988: 23) says that both covert and overt pronouns in Arabic play a vital role in clarifying the meaning of the sentences in the language, for example:

'We work for developing our country'
(نعمل على رفع وطننا)

In the above example the pronoun (نحن) does not stand clearly in the sentence but when we transfer the same sentence into English one the covert pronoun become overt. In other words, the meaning of the sentence can be understood from the context.

Omer himself draws the attention to the types of overt pronoun which are 'disjunct' and 'junct' pronouns since the former used to begin the speech and the latter is used by contrast, as in:

'We are the only who keep promises', (ما يفى بالعهود إلا نحن)
as for the 'junct' pronoun as in this example *'You are doing proficiently in cooking'* (أنت تجيدين فن الطبخ)

4.1 Relative Pronouns in English and Arabic

4.1.1 English Relative Pronouns

The word 'relative' is defined in Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2005: 289) as the item that refers to an earlier noun, sentence or part of a sentence, for example:

'The man who came', 'who' is a relative pronoun and 'who came' is relative clause.

According to Geva (2003) who says 'a relative pronoun is used to introduce a subordinate clause'. It connects the clause to some other word in sentence, for example:

- *The key which is lost, has been found*
- *The student who plays is Osman*
- *This is the girl, whose name is Laila.*
- *The man that you met is my uncle*
- *That is the student with whom I went to the theatre yesterday.*

Thomson and Maretinet (2001: 81) mention the general principle for the use of the most important relative pronouns:

- **‘Who’**, is used for person as subject or object, for example
He saw Ali who killed the lion, (subject)
The woman who I saw told me to come back today
‘object’
- **‘Whom’**, is used for person as object, for example:
The man whom you met was Osman
- **‘Whose’**, is used for possessive, for example:
The boy whose car is red has come.
- **‘Which’**, is used for non-humans as subject or object, for example:
This is the bus which goes to Kassala (subject)
This is the bus by which we traveled to Kassala. (Object)
- **‘That’**, is used for humans and non humans
She works at the hospital that was founded in 1995.
The man that you met is my brother
- **‘Where’**, is used for place, for example:
Sinnar is the town where she lives
- **‘Why’**, is used for reason, for example:
This is the reason why I came.
- **‘What’**, is used when the antecedent is not expressed. Relative pronoun and an antecedent in one word, for example:
Tell me what you want to know.
- **‘When’**, is used for time, for example:

The day when they arrived.

In addition to that there are other forms of relative pronouns by adding 'ever' to the above forms, in this case they are called 'compound relative pronouns', such as: *Whoever, whomever, whichever*

Take which ever you like

You can have whatever you want.

Leech and Svartvik (1987: 285) explain that the choice of relative pronoun depends on the following:

A) Whether the clause is a restrictive or non restrictive. Examples:

- *People who live in towns are deprived of life's greatest blessing a healthy environment.*
- *Many people, who live in towns, are deprived of life's greatest blessing, a healthy environment*

B) Whether the head of the noun phrase, is personal or non personal, for example:

- *The man who was following us seems to have disappeared.*
- *The car which was following us seems to have disappeared.*

C) The role of the pronoun in the relative clause, either subject or object, for examples:

- *The girl who is going to marry Ahmed is an extremely attractive brunette.*
- *The girl whom Ahmed is going to marry is an extremely attractive brunette*

4.1.2 Arabic Relative Nouns

Hamouda (1981: 160) defines relative pronouns as any noun that needs an antecedent. In other words, the relative pronouns in Arabic language are labeled as relative nouns not relative pronouns which are used to join sentences together. A relative pronoun in Arabic is called a noun of the connected' (اسم الموصول) it is always definite word.

They have many types of relative nouns in Arabic:

1. Relative nouns that are sensitive to singular masculine (الاسم) (الموصول الخاص بالمفرد المذكر) such as Al-lathee (الذي) in (عاد) (الذي سافر منذ شهر) which translate in to English as ‘*the man who traveled abroad came back again*’ .
2. Relative nouns that are sensitive to singular feminine, (الاسم) (الموصول الخاص بالمفرد المؤنث) such as al-latee (التي) such as, (أشفت على السيدة التي في آخر الصف) which nearly means ‘*I felt pity for the lady who is at the last row*’.
3. Relative nouns that are sensitive to dual masculine (اسم) (الموصول الخاص بالمتنى المذكر) as in al-lathayn (الذين), al-lathayn (الذان) (شجعت الطالبين اللذين أحرزا الدرجة القصوى) which means ‘*I have encouraged the two students who get the high mark*’
4. Relative nouns that are sensitive to dual feminine (اسم) (الموصول الخاص بالمتنى المؤنث) such as al-lataa (اللتان), al latayn (اللتين), for example (أعجبت بالمرضتين اللتين ساعدتا) (المريض) ‘*I admired the two nurses who helped the patient*’.
5. Relative nouns that are sensitive to plural masculine (اسم) (الموصول الخاص بالجمع المذكر) as in al latheen (الذين), al-ulaa (الألى), for example: (عاد الذين سافروا معاً) ‘*The people who traveled abroad came back together*’
6. Relative nouns that are sensitive to plural feminine (اسم) (الموصول الخاص بالجمع المؤنث) such as al lattee (اللاتي) al laee (اللائي) al-lawattee (اللواتي) as in (لا يرضي المجتمع عن الفتيات اللاتي) (ينحرفن) ‘*The society isn’t pleased with the girls who are straying*’
7. The share relative nouns (اسم الموصول المشترك). There are certain words used for both masculine, feminine, whether they are singular, dual or plural, bearing in mind the ‘resumptive pronoun’ (ضمير الصلة) in the sentence from the side of agreements to the antecedents, such as (من) ‘who’ for human and (ما) ‘what, which comes for both. For examples:’

'I thanked the one who helped me'

(شكرت من ساعدني)

'I liked what I have bought'

(أعجبتني ما اشتريته)

5.1 Comparison between English and Arabic Pronouns

English is a Germanic language while Arabic is a Semitic language. In this case the two languages are supposed to have more differences than similarities because they belong to different language families. So, differences between them lead to mother tongue interference, hence students are expected to commit some errors.

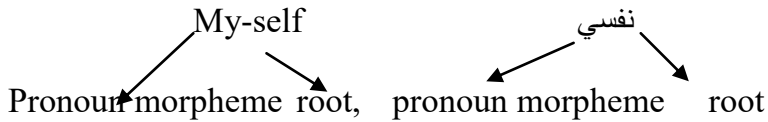
In the following section the detailed similarities and differences between the two languages are presented.

5.1.1 Similarities between English and Arabic Pronouns

Al Khuli (1997: 130) states that English and Arabic share the following features:

1. The pronoun refers to a noun, whether an aphorically or cataphonically in both English and Arabic, for example:
'*She is a girl*' (هي بنت)
2. Both English and Arabic have pronouns distributed over different cases:
 - a. Nominative: 'أنا - I'
 - b. Accusative: 'إيانا - us'
 - c. Genitive: 'mine -
 - d. Pronouns for two cases or more for example:
'You -ك in (كتاباً ، كتبنا)
3. The pronouns have three persons in both English and Arabic:
 - a. First person: it covers pronouns referring to speaker for example: 'نحن - we'
 - b. Second person: it covers pronouns referring to addressed person, such as: 'أنت - you , هي - hiya , أنتم - antum , هو - huw , هم - hum , أنت - anta ,

- c. Third person: those do not refer to speaker or addressee, for example: 'he, she (هي ، هو), 'they- هن وهم'
4. Both English and Arabic pronouns can be used personally or impersonally. For example:
Personally: أنت محاسب أمين، 'you are an honest accountant'
Impersonally: إذا أردت التفوق عليك بالاجتهاد 'If you want to excel, you have to work harder'.
5. Reflexive pronouns used as objects in both English and Arabic, for example:
Hani saw himself in the mirror هاني رأى نفسه في المرآة
6. Reflexive pronouns may be used as emphazier in both English and Arabic, for example:
'Osman himself did it', عثمان نفسه فعل ذلك
7. In both English and Arabic, the reflexive pronoun consists of one word made of two morphemes, for example:



8. Both English and Arabic do not accept articles

5.1.2. Differences between English and Arabic Pronouns

Al Khuli (1997: 133) states that the pronouns in English are different from the pronouns in Arabic in certain respects:

1. Pronoun system in English does not take determiner, while some pronouns in Arabic do, for example: we do not say 'the he' but we say (الذي).
2. English pronouns have two numbers: singular, such as: 'I, he, she, it, you, me, him, her, mine, my, his, her, your'. Plural, like: 'you, we, they, us, hem, our, ours, their, theirs'.
While Arabic pronouns have three numbers: singular, for example (أنت), dual such as (أنتما), plural, for example (أنتم).
3. Pronouns in English have four genders: masculine like 'he', feminine like 'she', neutral, such as 'it', common, like 'they'.

- Pronouns in Arabic have three genders: masculine, like (هو), feminine such as (هي) and common, like (نحن).
4. English pronouns are free morpheme, i.e. each one makes a word: such as (he, his), but in Arabic pronouns are free morpheme, like (إياك ، أنتم ، أنت) or bound morpheme they are suffixed to another word, for example: ك ، ن ، ك as in كتبت.
 5. In English language the pronoun morpheme in the reflexive come first but in Arabic it comes second, example 'herself, نفسها.
 6. In the possessive pronouns the structure of English system is, possessive + N: for example 'My book'. While in Arabic he structure is N+ possessive for example: (كتابي)
 7. English language has four demonstrative pronouns (this, these, that , those) while Arabic language has more than four (هؤلاء ، ذلك ، ذاك ، هذا ، ذا).
 8. English demonstratives express both near and far distances, such as (this, that). But Arabic demonstratives express; near, medium and far; like (ذلك ، ذاك ، ذا).
 9. English demonstrative pronouns are used as determiners: for example 'This book'. While Arabic pronouns are not used as determiners but predeterminers; such as (هذا الكتاب).
 10. English demonstrative pronouns for singular and plural, like: (this, these). In Arabic language the demonstratives are for singular, dual and plural, such as: (هذان ، هؤلاء).
 11. English demonstrative follow the 'noun' in number: for example: (*This book, these books*) while in Arabic follow the 'noun' in number and gender, such as: (هذه حديقة ، هذا الكتاب).
 12. English language has some negative pronouns, like 'none, nobody, nothing, neither'. But Arabic language does not have negative pronouns although it has expressions parallel to those of English as in (لا أحد ، لا شيء). These expressions are mainly known in Arabic as negating particle.

13. English language has about twelve indefinite pronouns while their equivalents in Arabic are not pronouns: such as 'anybody أي شخص', 'everyone كل واحد'
14. In English language there are personal: (Who, whom), non personal: (which) and common: (whose, that), While in Arabic the relatives are limited or labeled as relative nouns, like (الذي ، اللذان، الذين التي ، اللتان ، اللتين ، اللذين ، اللاتي ، اللواتي).
15. In Arabic the relatives are sensitive to the antecedent in the level of number and gender: such as (الولد الذي ، الأولاد الذين ،) (البنات التي) while in English the relatives are sensitive to the antecedent in the level of human or non-human (who, which, that).

6. Problems of Translating English Relative Pronouns

In fact Arabic and English pronouns have many distinctions so the students should be more aware of rendering a text from one language to another.

English shows no number distinction in the relative pronouns 'who, whom, that, which', are not marked for number, in Arabic, on the other hand, has singular, dual and plural forms for relative pronouns, such as (الذي ، اللذان، الذين). Thus in translating English sentences that contain any of the relative pronouns, the translator should make sure that the equivalent Arabic relative pronoun is marked for number. Moreover, relative pronouns in English have some characteristics that are not present in Arabic language. For example, in English the pronoun 'that' is used for humans and non humans. While in Arabic, it has to change to modify different numbers and genders, such as:

Singular masculine	الذي	al-lathee
Singular feminine	التي	al-latee

In addition to that when translating an Arabic relative clause into English, one should drop, al-damir (الضمير) when the translator translates the sentence into English, as in the Arabic sentence (الولد الذي رايته) , could be into English one, 'The boy whom I saw'. It is

incorrect when translating this sentence into 'the boy whom I saw him'.

Furthermore, relative pronouns in English differ from the relative pronouns in Arabic in case of distinguishing between 'human' and 'non-human', for example: which is used in English for both 'human' and 'non-human' as in:

- The current, which is very rapid, makes the river dangerous.
- The London team, which played so well last season, has done badly this season.

While in Arabic cannot replace (من), which is used for 'human' by (ما), which is used for 'non-human', for example : شكرت من ساعدني but not شكرت ما ساعدني.

Thus, the translator finds it difficult to differentiate between 'who' or 'which' in the following example:

The train 'who' or 'which' arrived late is an old one

In addition to that, in the case of relative pronouns in English the relative is frequently omitted, when it were expressed, it would be in the objective case, for example:

I went to the play that you told me about.

Or *I went to the play you told me about*

Where as in Arabic language the omission of the relative pronouns may cause misunderstanding of the meaning of sentence, as in : سعدنا بالجنود الذين حققوا لنا النصر but not سعدنا بالجنود حققوا لنا النصر

7. Summary remarks

This study investigates the impact of Arabic as a mother tongue on translating English relative pronouns. It clarified that interference of mother tongue is one of the main factors that affect student's performance in translating English relative pronouns. Then EFL university students lack the knowledge of the differences between English and Arabic structure. This study also showed that similarities between English and Arabic pronouns facilitate the

process of translating English relative pronouns, while the differences between English and Arabic relative pronouns hinder the process of translation. Furthermore, a relative pronoun has more than one form in Arabic, this affects the learners choice of the appropriate relative noun.

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