Translating English of-Complement Noun Phrase into Arabic Construct State: A Parallel Corpus-Based Study

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Received on: 15-11-2011 Accepted on: 07-02-2012

Abstract
Taking contrastive linguistics as its springboard, this study investigates how English of-complement noun phrases are translated into Arabic construct state. A syntactic typology shows five syntactic classes of Arabic construct state that can be used in translating English of-complement noun phrases. These five Arabic renderings are morphologically, syntactically and semantically constrained. Moreover, the syntactic properties of Arabic construct state that affect English-Arabic translation have been analyzed. They are definiteness inheritance, adjacency requirement and word order. Finally, three sources of ambiguity in English-Arabic translation have been indicated; the absence of collocational clash, the absence of morphological clash and the presence of coordination. Moreover, three solutions are suggested. They are the preposition li-, resumption and indefiniteness, and head reiteration and indefiniteness. The study indicates that good translation should be based on contrastive linguistic analysis because it has been proven that translator’s realization of the morphological, syntactic and semantic properties of the construct state in Arabic might determine his translational behavior.

Key words: construct state, of-complement phrase, definiteness inheritance, adjacency, ambiguity, collocation, resumption, coordination, word order.
Introduction
The present study investigates how English of-complement noun phrase is translated into Arabic construct state. By holding this cross-linguistic contrastive analysis between the two languages based on a parallel linguistic corpus, the study argues that the translator should be well aware of the morphological, syntactic and semantic structure of the two languages in question to achieve better translation. The study is composed of five sections and a conclusion. Section (1) deals with the aims and rationale of the study. Section (2) introduces the sample, theoretical framework and method of analysis. The concept of the Arabic construct state is dealt with in section (3). Section (4) presents the formal features of the Arabic construct state that might affect English-Arabic translation. The last section presents translating ambiguity in Arabic construct state into English. The conclusion provides the main findings of the study as well as suggestions for further research.

1. Aims and rationale of the study
The aim of this paper is twofold. First, it focuses on how English of-complement noun phrases are translated into Arabic construct state; hence it is an equivalence-based translation study. Second, using a bilingual parallel corpus, this study tries to shed light on the contrastive linguistic aspects of these two structures in both languages; hence it is a contrastive linguistic-based study.
Construct state constructions have been theoretically studied by many linguists. (See, for example, Benmamoun, 2000; Falk, 2007; Hasan, 1976; Ibn Aqil, 1990, and others). What is new in this study is to analyze English of-complement noun phrases through examples drawn from a long parallel corpus to obtain real results instead of the traditional practice of contriving artificial sentences from the mind. As a result, the results can be blurred and unrepresentative to the real situation. Thus, this study is both theoretical and practical and lies in the fields of both translation and contrastive linguistics. It takes a linguistic analysis as a springboard towards better translation.
Generally, English of-phrases function as noun phrase modifiers. To Miller, “modifiers fall into two classes – obligatory modifiers, known as complements, and optional modifiers, known as adjuncts” (2002, p. 4).
This study will be limited to translating of-complements noun phrases as obligatory modifiers. Among post-modifiers of the head noun are appositives, relative clauses, linked adjectives and participial adjectives (Blake, 1990). Of-complement noun phrases have been chosen for analysis because they are considered the most frequently occurring type than all other types combined (Biber, Johansson, Leech, Conrad, & Finegan, 1999).

2. Sample, theoretical framework and method of analysis
The study is corpus-based. Our corpus is compiled manually. It includes 800 of-complement noun phrases that have been randomly chosen from four English novels and their corresponding Arabic translation. Both the English novel and its Arabic translation are included in the same source as English-Arabic translation, as shown in the Reference section). The novels that represent the English and Arabic corpus are Dickens’ Great Expectations (GE) (2005) and Hard Times (HT) (2004), Brontë’s Wuthering Heights (WH) (2004) and Brontë’s Jane Eyre (JE) (2002). These four source texts and their translation as a target text represent our bilingual parallel corpus because the lengthier the corpus is, the better the results will be (Meyer, 2002).

This study will be based on the syntactic theory of Phrase Structure Rules proposed by Chomsky (1965) and developed by Jackendoff (1977) and later by Cowper (1992). Depending on these rules, the study will postulate some transformational rules or mapping rules that will account for the word order in both English and Arabic constructions. Moreover, our illustrative examples will be arranged in three levels; the English text is written first, followed by Arabic transliteration, as the corresponding translation, and then glossing. These English and Arabic examples will be explained by transformational rules between the source and target texts. In this study, the parallel technique between the source language and the target language aligned texts will be adopted to compare “transitionally equivalent texts” (Hartmann, 1980, p. 37). After this line-by-line translation, the overall frequency and percentage of the Arabic construct state classes that are used to translate English of-complement noun phrases will be calculated and explained using comparative tables.
3. What is Arabic construct state?
Arabic has a construction in which the noun is followed by a genitive complement. This special construction is termed construct state (Ritter, 1991). Construct state or idafa (Hasan, 1976) means ‘addition’ and it is essential to understand Arabic. Construct state is an Arabic syntactic structure par excellence. Construct state noun phrases in Arabic will be treated as two annexed nouns; a head noun followed by a noun complement to the head noun. The first expression is considered the head (possessee or annexee). It is called al-mudaaf ‘the added or the annexed’. This expression is a bare noun and, morphologically speaking, it bears neither the definite marker al- ‘the’ nor -n tanwiin ‘nunation’. Moreover, its syntactic function is determined by its position in the sentence. The second expression is the head complement (possessor or annexor). It is called al-mudaaf ilayh ‘the added to or the annexed to’, it comes after the head and it is marked in the genitive case; an ending shows that “Arabic has a complex morphology compared to English” (Badr, Zbib, & Glass, 2009, p. 87).

The following example explains the annexation construction in Arabic.
(1) kitaab-u l-?ustaað-i
    book-NOM the-teacher-GEN
    ‘The book of the teacher.’

Example (1) shows that in Arabic construct state constructions two nouns are annexed tightly. These nouns express a relationship of possession between these two closely annexed nouns. These constructions correspond to English of-complement noun phrase (Ryding, 2005). This is how the structure of English of-complement noun phrase and Arabic construct state structure appear:

(2) a. English: NP ——— N1 of N2
    b. Arabic:    NP ——— N1 N2

4. Formal features of the construct state
4.1 Syntactic classes of the construct state
Table (1) includes 800 hundred of-complement noun phrases and their Arabic translations collected manually by reading through the four English novels and their translations. On examining Arabic translations, it has
been found that English of-complement noun phrases can be translated into five different Arabic construct state classes. They are nominal, verbal, adjectival, inherent and quantificational construct states. Table (1) shows the frequency and percentage of the construct state classes used to translate English of-complement noun phrases. This table can be called the master table or controlling table because it contains the total number of all the syntactic classes of Arabic construct state. The subsequent tables will explain in detail the subclasses of each class presented in Table (1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Syntactic classes of construct state</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Nominal</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>52.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Verbal</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Adjectival</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Inherent</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>6.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Quantificational</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table (1): Syntactic classes of Arabic construct state used to translate English of-complement noun phrases*

The frequency and percentage of Table (1) will be explained in detail in the following subsections and tables.

### 4.1.1 Nominal construct state

The head noun N1 in nominal construct state is usually a common noun which is modified by N2 or what is termed ‘inner NP’ (Falk, 2007). This N2 can be of three types; a common noun, proper noun or an attached pronoun. Example (3) presents the first type in which the annexee waajihat ‘front’ and the annexor manzil ‘house’ are common nouns in both English and Arabic.

(3) The front of the house (JE: 151)  
   waajihat-u l-manzil-i  
   front-NOM the-house-GEN

Example (4) depicts a nominal construct state in which N1 sukkaan ‘people’ is a common noun followed by N2 kuktaawin ‘Coketown’ as a proper noun. Consider (4) in which both languages behave the same way.
(4) The people of Coketown (HT: 195)
   sukkaaan-u kuttaawin
   people-NOM Coketown.GEN
The third N2 type that follows N1 can be an attached personal pronoun. This personal suffix is added to N1 and both function as construct state (Fischer, 2002). Both the head noun and the possessive pronoun clitic that it hosts are in a construct state. In (5), both the annexee ?arba9at ‘four’ and the annexor -naa ‘us’ form a construct state.
(5) The four of us (GE: 373)
   ?arba9at-u-naa
   ‘four-NOM-us.’
In Example (5), the clitic -naa ‘us’ is affixed to the simple form ?arba9at ‘four’ to form a more complex form ?arba9atunaa ‘the four of us’. This feature shows that Arabic language is an inflectional language as compared to English as an isolating language. This inflectional annexation should be taken into consideration when one translates English of-complement noun phrase into Arabic construct state. Table (2) presents the total frequency and percentage of the first class, nominal construct state, that have been presented earlier in Table (1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominal construct state classes</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English of-phrase</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Common noun - common noun</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Common noun - proper noun</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Common noun - attached pronoun</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>418</strong></td>
<td><strong>418</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table (2): Syntactic classes of the Arabic nominal construct state used to translate English of-complement noun phrases*
Table (2) explains that English and Arabic exhibit a striking similarity in translating English of-complement into Arabic nominal construct state. The only difference is that the English of is lost in Arabic translation. In both languages, N1 is mainly a common noun, whereas N2 can be of three types; a common noun, proper noun or pronoun. There is no change in the syntactic class of either N1 or N2 translated from English into Arabic. The only morphosyntactic difference is that the detached pronoun N2 in English becomes an attached pronoun N2 in Arabic. This is due to the fact that Arabic is an inflectional language.

4.1.2 Verbal construct state

In this type of Arabic construct state, the construct head is the verbal noun ‘masdar’ and N2 is either its annexed subject or object. In (6a), N1 saqy ‘irrigating’ is a verbal noun followed by a subject saхаа?ib ‘clouds’ and in (6b) the verbal noun tark ‘leaving’ is followed by an object nafs ‘self’.


       b.  tark-u nafs-i-ka (Hasan, 1976, p. 54) leaving-NOM self-GEN-your ‘The leaving of yourself.’

In (7a), the annexor ?iizaabellaа ‘Isabella’ is a subject of the verbal noun ?i9jaab ‘admiration’, whereas in (7b) the annexor 9aqaaqiir ‘medicine’ is an object of the verbal noun bay9 ‘sale’.

(7)  a.  The admiration of Isabella (WH: 106) ?i9jaab-u ?iizaabellaа admiration-ANOM Izabellaа.GEN

       b.  The sale of medicine (JE: 37) bay9-u l-9aqaaqiir-i sale-NOM the-medicine-GEN

Consider Table (3).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verbal construct state classes</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English of-phrase</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Verbal noun + subject</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Verbal noun + object</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table (3): Syntactic classes of the Arabic verbal construct state used to translate English of-complement noun phrases
The same figures presented in Table (3) shows that when N1 is followed by N2 in English of-complement noun phrase, they can be translated into Arabic either as N1 as a verbal noun and N2 as its subject or N1 as a verbal noun and N2 as its object. This translation is semantically constrained. That is when the relationship between N1 and N2 in English of-complement noun phrase is that N2 is the agent of N1, the whole structure is translated into the Arabic construct state in which there is a verbal noun followed by subject, as in (7a). On the other hand, when N2 is the affected of N1, the whole structure is translated into the Arabic construct state in which there is a verbal noun followed by an object, as in (7b). Thus, N1 and N2 in both languages express the same thematic roles. The cases in which N1 and N2 in English are translated into verbal construct state in Arabic show that it is important for the translator to understand the underlying semantic relationship between the N1 and N2. This semantic realization is very important in rendering correct translation.

4.1.3 Adjectival construct state

In adjectival construct state, the head noun can be either an assimilated adjective or an elative. The assimilated adjective is derived from a trilateral verb and it is similar in its syntactic behavior to the active participle (Al-Hamadi, Al-Shinawi, & Ata, 1981). The adjectival construct is formed of an assimilated adjective in construct with a noun, as shown in example (8).

(8) a. A man of unknown origin (WH: 157)
rajul-un majhuul-u l-hawiyyat-i
man-NOM unknown-NOM the-origin-GEN

b. The clothes of a wealthy farmer (GE: 305)
libaas-u muzaari9-in ğaniyy-in
clothes-NOM farmer-GEN wealthy-GEN

When the N2 in English is premodified by an attributive adjective, it can be translated into Arabic adjectival construct state as an assimilated adjective. In (8a), the Adjective majhuul ‘unknown’ is followed by the noun hawiyyat ‘origin’ as its complement. Thus, it is clear that the modifying adjective is the head in the construct state, and the noun that follows it is its complement. This head adjective is the degree adjective because it specifies the property expressed by this noun. An important feature of the assimilated adjective in the adjectival construct state is that it is indefinite because it is the first
expression in the construct state. The same analysis can be applied to the example presented in (8b).

On the other hand, when N1 is a superlative adjective in English, the whole NP is translated into elative construct state in Arabic (Fischer, 2002). In example (9), the English superlative is expressed by an elative in the Arabic construct state.

(9) The best of feelings (JE: 257)
afDal-u l-mašaa9ir-i
best-NOM the-feelings-GEN

The frequency and percentage of the Arabic assimilated and elative construct states of the adjectival construct state presented in Table (1) are shown in Table (4).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjectival construct state classes</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English of- phrase</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Assimilated</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Elative</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table (4): Syntactic classes of Arabic adjectival construct state used to translate English of-complement noun phrases*

Table (4) shows that English and Arabic have the same percentage in translating English of complement into Arabic adjectival construct state. When N2 has an attributive adjective modifier in English of-complement noun phrase, the whole NP can be translated into Arabic assimilated adjective construct state, as shown in example (8). Moreover, whenever a translator finds N1 as a superlative in English of-complement noun phrase, both the adjective and N2 can be translated into Arabic elative adjectival construct state, as shown in (9).

**4.1.4 Inherent construct state**

In Arabic language, there are words that are inherently relational. That is when they occur as N1, they are followed by N2 and both form a construct state. These words are of two types: adjective-like particles and inherently relational words.

In adjective-like particles construct state, the head is an adjective-like
particle and agrees with its head in number, gender and definiteness. These particles include ðuu ‘own’, siwaa ‘except’, kilaa ‘both’, ba9da ‘after’, etc. (Ibn Aqil, 1990). These particles cannot stand alone; they need another noun to express a complete meaning (Nimah, 1973). In our sample, the particle ðuu ‘own’ has been used to translate English of-complement noun phrases when N2 is preceded by an adjective that expresses a possession or attribute and N1 is inanimate. Fischer (2002) says that “the nominal demonstrative ðuu followed by substantives or adjectives in the genitive is used to form qualifying expressions” (p. 203). This syntactic collocation is an important phenomenon in Arabic construct state, as in (10a-b).

(10) a. A quality of the greatest use (JE: 475) mayzat-un
   ðaat-u l-faa?idat-i l-9uZmaa quality-NOM of-NOM the-use-GEN the-greatest.GEN
   b. a fine head of black curly hair (JE: 211)
   ra?s-un laTiif-un ðaat-u Ša9r-inmutamawwij-in
   head-NOM fine-NOM of-NOM hair-GEN curly-GEN

There are some words which are inherently relational, such as Saahib ‘companion’ and ?ahl ‘people’. These words refer to relationships and they are used as substantives that indicate connection (Fischer, 2002). Inherently relational construct state is used to translate English of-complement when N2 is premodified by an adjective that expresses an attribute and N1 is animate. Consider.

(11) Fellow of great strength (GE: 133)
   ŠaxS-un Saahib-u quwwat-in Šadiidat-in
   fellow-NOM of-NOM strength-GEN great-GEN

Table (5) illustrates the frequency and percentage of translating English of-complement noun phrase into Arabic inherent construct state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inherent construct state classes</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English of-phrase</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Adjective-like particles</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Inherently relational words</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table (5): Syntactic classes of Arabic inherent construct state used to translate English of-complement noun phrases*
Table (5) exhibits the same frequency of translating English of complement into Arabic inherent construct state. Whenever a translator finds N2 premodified by an adjective that indicates an attribute and N1 has the semantic feature [–animate], he might translate the whole English NP into Arabic adjective-like particles construct state, as in example (10). On the other hand, whenever a translator finds N2 premodified by an adjective that indicates an attribute and N1 has the semantic feature [+animate], he might translate this English structure into Arabic inherent relational construct state, as in example (11).

4.1.5 Quantificational construct state
Generally, quantification expresses a relation between two sets. Quantificational relationship in English is expressed by determiners, such as most, every, some, etc. On the other hand, quantificational relationship in Arabic is expressed by nouns. Two quantificational construct state constructions have been found in the Arabic corpus and they are used to translate English of-complement noun phrases. They are nominal quantifiers and numeral quantifiers.

Kremers states that “qualifiers often appear prenominally, and take the noun as a complement, in construct state” (2003, p. 63). Nominal quantifiers are indefinite quantity and they are expressed as N1 in Arabic construct state construction where N1, as possessee, is followed by N2, as possessor. (For more details, see Fassi-Fehri, 1999; Mohammad, 1989; Benmamoun, 1992).

Arabic nominal quantifiers include words like mu9Zam ‘most’, ba9D ‘some’, kull ‘every, each’, jamii9, ‘all’, qaliil ‘few, little’, 9adiid ‘several, many’ and kaθiirun min ‘a lot of’. When N1 in English of-complement is some type of a nominal quantifier, the whole NP is translated into Arabic nominal quantificational construct state. Example (12) exemplifies one of the uses of these nominal quantifiers in English-Arabic translation.

(12) Some of my studies (JE: 135)
    ba9D-a druus-ii
    some-ACC lessons-my

An important feature of the nominal quantifiers when they occur in a construct state is that N2 must be obligatorily definite. That is if it is indefinite, its meaning must be restricted by another modifier or restrictor.
These restrictors fall into two categories; either a genitive noun modifier or a possessive adjective modifier; N2 is a restriction to N1 and N2 is followed by a restrictor. This restriction-restrictor relationship should be taken into consideration by translators because N2 is stripped of the clitic al- ‘the’ but endowed with a restrictor.

The first type of restrictors is evident in example (13) where the indefinite restriction maal ‘money’ of the nominal modifier mu9Zam ‘most’ is also restricted by the restrictor genitive noun modifier kuktaawin ‘Coketown’s’.

Example (13) shows that N2 comes before the genitive noun in Arabic translation.

(13) Most of Coketown’s money (HT: 153)
    mu9Zam-a maal-i kuktaawin
    most-ACC money-GEN Coketown.GEN

In example (14), the restrictor -hi ‘his’ is a possessive adjective modifier of Ša9r ‘hair’. The possessive pronoun ‘his’ in English occurs after N2 as an attached pronoun in Arabic translation.

(14) Most of his hair (HT: 9)
    mu9Zam-a Ša9r-i-hi
    most-ACC hair-GEN-his

Numerals are quantifying phrases. They may be ordinal, cardinal or proportional. Numeric quantifiers are quasi-adjectives because they agree with their restriction. In our sample, it has been found that proportional quantifiers occur in a construct state. Proportional quantifiers include fractional numbers, such as 1/3 (a third), 1/2 (a half), etc. When N1 is a numeral quantifier in the English of-complement noun phrase, this phrase is translated into Arabic numeral quantificational construct state. In example (15), the N1 rub9 ‘quarter’ is a proportional quantifier followed by N2 in Arabic construct state.

(15) A quarter of an hour (GE: 68)
    rub9-a saaqat-i
    quarter-ACC hour-GEN
Table (6): Syntactic classes of Arabic quantificational construct state used to translate English of-complement noun phrases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantificational construct state classes</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English of- phrase</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Nominal</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Numeral</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table (6) explains that when the translator finds N1 as a nominal or numeral quantifier in English of-complement noun phrase, he can translate this phrase into Arabic construct state; N1 as nominal or numeral quantifier followed by N2. Moreover, when N2 in English is made definite by a restrictor, Arabic translation exhibits the same restriction relationship. The only difference is that the restricted and the restrictor reverse their positions.

4.2 Syntactic features of the construct state

Arabic construct state construction has four syntactic features. They are definiteness inheritance, adjacency requirement and word order. Transformational rules will be used to account for the differences in structures between the source text and the target text.

4.2.1 Definiteness inheritance

Arabic construct state is inherently definite. This is called definiteness by annexation. Three types of definiteness are identified; pure definiteness, quasi-definiteness and accumulative definiteness. I will call the first type pure definiteness because the construct state receives complete definiteness. In this type, construct state is made definite either by prefixing the definite article al- ‘the’ to N2, suffixing a possessive pronoun to N2 or N2 being a proper noun. These three types correspond to the three processes of cliticization, pronominalization and properness, respectively. The following subsections will explain these three types.

One syntactic feature of Arabic construct state is that its first constituent is indefinite because it lacks the clitic al- ‘the’, yet it is made definite by being annexed to a definite N2. This definiteness by annexation phenomenon is explained by Badr et al. (2009) as “idafa construct is made definite by adding the definite article al- ‘the’ to the last noun in the noun phrase” (p.
88). Example (16) exhibits pure definiteness through cliticization.

(16) a. The rest of the day  (JE: 395)
    baqiyat-u n-naaahir-i
    rest-NOM the-day-GEN

b. The rest of the day
    *al-baqiyat-u n-naaahir-i
    the-rest-NOM the-day-GEN

It is clear from (16a) that the English definite article al- ‘the’ before N1 ‘rest’ has no equivalent in the Arabic translation due to this phenomenon of definiteness by annexation that is realized through cliticization. N1 is made definite by being annexed to a definite N2. The ungrammaticality of example (16b) renders the translation wrong because Arabic construct state, contrary to English of-complement noun phrase, does not allow for double definiteness. Consider transformational deletion rule in (17) in which N1 determiner is deleted from Arabic translation.

(17) a. English: NP \[\text{Det} + \text{N1} + \text{of} + \text{Det} + \text{N2}\]

b. Arabic: NP \[\text{N1} + \text{Det} + \text{N2}\]

The second type of pure definiteness is captured through attaching a possessive pronoun to N2. This process might be called definiteness through pronominalization. Example (18) is illustrative.

(18) a. The colour of his clothes  (GE: 57)
    lawn-u malaabis-i-hi
    colour-NOM clothes-GEN-his

b. The colour of his clothes
    *al-lawn-u malaabis-i-hi
    the-colour-NOM clothes-GEN-his

Again the English definite article ‘the’ is not translated into Arabic clitic al-‘the’ because N1 is made definite by suffixing the pronoun -hi ‘his’ to N2. Thus, the translation in (18b) is not correct because Arabic construct state resists double definiteness as shown in transformational deletion rule (19).

(19) a. English: NP \[\text{Det} + \text{N1} + \text{of} + \text{PosP} + \text{N2}\]

b. Arabic: NP \[\text{N1} + \text{N2} + \text{PosP}\]

When N2 is a proper noun, N1 becomes definite because it is annexed to an inherently definite noun. This might be called definiteness through properness. Consider the well-formedness in (20a) and the ill-formedness in (20b).
(20)  a. The comforts of Lowood  (JE: 123)
mašaqqaat-u  luuwuud
discomforts-NOM  Loowood.GEN
b. The comforts of Lowood
*al-mašaqqaat-u  luuwuud
the-discomforts-NOM  Loowood.GEN

Again, translating English ‘the’ into al- ‘the’ distorts Arabic translation. Example (20b) is both ungrammatical and hence renders the translation wrong. The transformational rule in (21) accounts for this difference.

(21)  a. English:  NP  \[\rightarrow\] Det + N1 + of + N2
b. Arabic:  NP1  \[\rightarrow\] N1 + N2

From the discussion of the three types of pure definiteness, one can say that there is no-form-to-form correspondence between English and Arabic translation. Thus, one can postulate the following generalization: Construct state in Arabic resists double definiteness, contrary to the English of-complement noun phrase.

Quasi-definiteness means that the two expressions of the Arabic construct state are indefinite because they do not bear the definite article al- ‘the’. However, the first expression is made definite by being annexed to an indefinite N2. Though this annexation does not give N1 complete definiteness, it restricts its meaning to some extent (Hasan, 1976). Consider (22) in which indefiniteness in English is expressed by annexing two indefinite nouns in Arabic translation.

(22)  A branch of a tree  (WH: 41)
ğuSn-u  Šajarat-in
branch-NOM  tree-GEN

This means the branch of any tree; however, the branch is still recognized as a branch of a tree. This might be called definiteness through restriction. The following transformational deletion rule is illustrative.

(23)  a. English:  N  \[\rightarrow\] Det + N1 + of + Det + N2
b. Arabic:  N  \[\rightarrow\] N1 + N2

Accumulation of determiners is another linguistic phenomenon that might affect translating English of-complement noun phrases into Arabic construct state. While N1 is premodified by the definite article ‘the’ and N2 is premodified by a demonstrative pronoun in English of-complement
noun phrase, Arabic uses both determiners before N2; a phenomenon that is impossible in English because in English a determiner “can be used in place of, but not with an article” (Thomas, 1993, p. 7). Demonstratives and definite articles are mutually exclusive in English. That is the presence of one excludes the presence of the other. On the other hand, Arabic permits what might be called accumulation of determiners, and surprisingly enough the demonstrative contracts a new construct state relationship with the following noun, as in

(24) a. The reputation of that defence (GE: 349)
Šuhrat-u haða d-difaa9-i
reputation-NOM this the-defence-GEN

b. The reputation of that defence
*aŠ-Šuhrat-u haða d-difaa9-i
the-reputation-NOM this the-defence-GEN

Transformational movement rule (25a) records the separateness of English determiners whereas (25b) shows the accumulation of determiners in Arabic. Det1 moves before N2.

(25) a. English: NP → Det1 + N1 + of + Det2 + N2
b. Arabic: NP → N1 + Det2 + Det1 + N2

4.2.2 Adjacency requirement

Arabic construct state is subject to a very strict adjacency requirement. That is its two constituents are inseparable except for some stylistic effects (Hasan, 1976). Thus, this construct state construction can be called construct state phrase because the phrase is “a sequence of words which form a coherent group” (Fabb, 1993, p. 2). I will apply what I call modification test to examine this requirement. This means that when N1 is modified by an attributive adjective in English, the adjective modifier moves to the leftmost of the construct state; after N2. This nesting property of adjective after N2 is very important phenomenon in translation. Example (26a) shows that when N1 naZrat ‘look’ in a construct state with N2 kurh ‘hate’, N1 modifier ġariibat ‘strange’ nests after N2 in Arabic because nothing is allowed to intervene between the two constituents of the construct state, contrary to the English language text. Consider also the example presented in (26b).

(26) a. A strange look of hate (WH: 27)
nazrat-u kurh-in ġariibat-in
look-NOM  hate-GEN  strange-ACC
b. An expensive bottle of wine  (GE: 253)
zujaajat-u  nabii-in  ġaaliyat-in
bottle-NOM  wine-GEN  expensive-GEN

The adjectival phrases in (26a-b) before being in construct state phrases are shown in (27a-b).
(27) a. naZrat-un  ġariibat-un
look-NOM  strange-NOM
‘A strange look.’
b. zujaajat-un  ġaaliyat-un
bottle-NOM  expensive-NOM
‘An expensive bottle.’

Transformational movement rule (28) portrays the nesting property of adjective in Arabic translation as opposed to premodifying adjective of N1 in English; Adj moves after N2 in Arabic translation.
(28) a. English: NP ➔ Det + Adj + N1 + of + N2
b. Arabic:     NP ➔ N1 + N2 + Adj

4.2.3 Word order
In some languages, “the order of head and modifiers follow a stricter pattern with all modifiers either preceding or following the head” (Miller, 2000, p. 11). In this section, I will discuss word order in N1, N2 and N1N2 premodification, showing how word order restrictions in Arabic construct state might affect English-Arabic translation.

Word order in N1 premodification can be divided into single modification and double modification. Two single premodifiers have been found to precede N1 and affect word order in English-Arabic translation. They are a possessive pronoun and attributive adjective.

When N1 is premodified by a possessive pronoun in English, this pronoun is moved and attached to N2 in Arabic. Example (29b) shows that form-to-form translation is wrong.
(29) a. His moment of victory  (WH: 367)
lahZat-u  ?intiSaar-i-hi
moment-NOMvictory-GEN-his
b. *lahZat-u-hu  ?intiSaar-i
moment-NOM-his  victory-GEN
'Lit. His moment victory.'

The difference between (29a and 29b) is that N1 resists modification when annexed to N2. Hence, it becomes indefinite. Moreover, N2 borrows N1 modifier. This borrowing feature plainly explains that nothing can intervene between N1 an N2 in Arabic construct state. Transformational movement rule (30) describes the borrowing phenomenon of modifiers between N1 and N2 in Arabic translation.

\[(30) \begin{align*}
\text{a. English:} & \quad \text{NP} \rightarrow \text{PosP} + \text{N1} + \text{of} + \text{N2} \\
\text{b. Arabic:} & \quad \text{NP} \rightarrow \text{N1} + \text{N2} + \text{PosP}
\end{align*}\]

The second modifier that precedes N1 and affects word order in English-Arabic translation is the attributive adjective modifier. When an attributive adjective modifies N1 in English, this adjective nests after N2 in Arabic.

\[(31) \begin{align*}
\text{The blind owner of the room (JE: 405)} \\
\text{Saahib-u l-bayt-i D-Dariir-i} \\
\text{owner-NOM the-house-GEN the-blind-GEN}
\end{align*}\]

The normal word order in Arabic is N + Adj, as presented in (32).

\[(32) \begin{align*}
\text{The blind owner} \\
\text{aSaSaahib-u D-Dariir-u} \\
\text{The-owner-NOM the-blind-NOM}
\end{align*}\]

However, when N1 is in a construct state with N2, there will be a deviation from the norm; the adjective comes after N2, as depicted in (32), otherwise the English phrase is translated in the wrong way as shown in (33).

\[(33) \begin{align*}
\text{The blind owner of the room} \\
\text{*aSaSaahib-u D-Dariir-u l-bayt-i} \\
\text{The-owner-NOM the-blind-NOM the-house-GEN}
\end{align*}\]

Transformational movement rule in (34) is an illustration of the nesting feature of the attributive adjective in English-Arabic translation.

\[(34) \begin{align*}
\text{a. English:} & \quad \text{NP} \rightarrow \text{Det + Adj + N1 + of + Det + N2} \\
\text{b. Arabic:} & \quad \text{NP} \rightarrow \text{N1 + Det + N2 + Adj}
\end{align*}\]

After discussing word order in N1 premodification in English-Arabic translation, one can propose the following generalization: Whenever a N1 is premodified in English of-complement noun phrase, this modifier nests after N2 in Arabic construct state phrase. Double premodification of N1 means that two consecutive modifiers occur before it. They might be two adjectives or an adjective followed by a
When N1 is premodified by two adjectives in English of-complement noun phrase, both adjectives come at the leftmost of the Arabic construct state but the two adjectives reverse their position. Example (35) shows that both adjectives in English are displaced and reverse their position in the Arabic translation.

(35) The dull blue eyes of the Lintons (WH: 85)

 Transformational movement rule (36) explains this displacement and reversibility phenomenon. This might be called double movement because Adj1 and Adj2 move after N2 and reverse their positions.

(36) a. English: NP —— Det + Adj1 + Adj2 + N1 + of + Det + N2
   b. Arabic: NP —— N1 + N2 + Adj2 + Adj1

After examining N1 double modification in English of-complement noun phrases and their renderings into Arabic construct state, one can reach the following generalization. If two consecutive modifiers in English of-complement noun phrase occur before N1, the two modifiers are displaced to the leftmost of the construct state and their positions are reversed. Similar to N1 premodification, N2 can be modified by a single modifier or doubled modifier. N2 single modifiers can be an adjective or noun modifier. The following explanation provides an account for these two types.

When N2 in English of-complement noun phrase is premodified by an attributive adjective, this adjective comes after N2 in Arabic. This difference in word order results from the fact that the attributive adjective in Arabic, contrary to the English language, occurs after the noun it modifies.

(37) An expression of great sorrow (WH: 305)

 Transformational movement rule (38) maps this difference between the two languages in question.

(38) a. English: NP —— Det + N1 + of + Adj + N2
   b. Arabic: NP —— N1 + N2 + Adj

The second N2 premodifer is the noun modifier. It also comes at the leftmost
The wall of the fruit garden (JE: 485)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{wall-NOM} & \quad \text{hadidiqat-i} & \quad \text{l-faakihat-i} \\
\text{in Arabic translation.}
\end{align*}
\]

In (40), \( \text{NM} \) has been moved after \( \text{N2} \).

(40) \textbf{a. English:} \( \text{NP} \rightarrow \text{Det} + \text{N1} + \text{of} + \text{NM} + \text{N2} \)

\textbf{b. Arabic:} \( \text{NP} \rightarrow \text{N1} + \text{N2} + \text{NM} \)

After this discussion of \( \text{N2} \) premodifiers in English and their rendering into Arabic, one can suggest the generalization that whenever \( \text{N2} \) premodifier occurs in English of-complement noun phrase, it comes after \( \text{N2} \) in Arabic construct state.

\( \text{N2} \), similar to \( \text{N1} \), can be modified by two consecutive modifiers. They are a possessive pronoun and attributive adjective, and possessive pronoun and genitive noun. The following explanation presents these two types of double modification.

The first double modifier is composed of a possessive pronoun and attributive adjective. When the \( \text{N2} \) is premodified by both a possessive pronoun and attributive adjective in English, both determiners occur after \( \text{N2} \) and reverses their order in Arabic construct state translation. Fischer refers to this reversibility in position feature in Arabic construct state as “anything else qualifying the word in the construct state must come after the genitive or pronominal suffix” (2002, p. 89). In example (41), the qualifying adjective comes after the pronoun in Arabic construct state, contrary to the source text.

(41) The influence of my new position (HT: 251)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{nufuuð-u} & \quad \text{markaz-i} & \quad \text{l-jaddiid-i} \\
\text{influence-NOM} & \quad \text{position-my} & \quad \text{the-new-GEN} \\
\text{Transformational double movement rule in (42) depicts these displacement and reversibility feature.}
\end{align*}
\]

(42) \textbf{a. English:} \( \text{NP} \rightarrow \text{Det} + \text{N1} + \text{of} + \text{PosP} + \text{Adj} + \text{N2} \)

\textbf{b. Arabic:} \( \text{NP} \rightarrow \text{N1} + \text{N2} + \text{PosP} + \text{Det} + \text{Adj} \)

A possessive pronoun and noun modifier form the second type of \( \text{N2} \) double modification. When we translate this type of double modification, it behaves the same way presented in (41).
This double movement of displacement and reversibility is shown by the transformational movement rule in (44).

(44) a. English: \[ NP \rightarrow \text{Det} + N1 + \text{of} + \text{PosP} + \text{NM} + N2 \]
    b. Arabic: \[ NP \rightarrow N1 + N2 + \text{PosP} + \text{NM} \]

These two examples support Fischer’s (2002) view that if we have a double modifier and one is a pronoun, the pronoun comes first followed by the second modifier. Depending on the previous two examples, we can reach the following generalization: If there N2 is premodified by two modifiers in English, the first is a possessive pronoun and the second is an attributive adjective or noun modifier, both modifiers are displaced after N2 and the pronoun comes before the second modifier in Arabic translation. Both N1 and N2 can be premodified. Two types of modifiers have been found in our sample. They can be two attributive adjectives or an attributive adjective and pronoun.

When two attributive adjectives occur in English of-complement noun phrase; one modifies N1 and the other modifies N2, the adjective that modifies N1 is displaced after N2 modifier in Arabic construct state translation. Example (45) exemplifies this generalization.

(45) The evil emperors of ancient Rome (JE: 17)
\[ ?abaaTirat-u ruumaa l-qadiimat-i l-?aŠraar-i \]
emperors-NOM ruumaa.GEN the-ancient-GEN the-evil-GEN

Consider the following transformational double movement rule.

(46) a. English: \[ NP \rightarrow \text{Det} + \text{Adj1} + N1 + \text{of} + \text{Adj2} + N2 \]
    b. Arabic: \[ NP \rightarrow N1 + N2 + \text{Adj2} + \text{Adj1} \]

The second type of N1 and N2 premodifiers are an attributive adjective and a possessive pronoun modifier, respectively. In this word order, the two modifiers follow N2 and the pronoun comes first followed by the attributive adjective in Arabic translation, similar to example (45). This generalization is well expressed by example (47).

(47) Pleasant days of her childhood (WH: 251)
\[ ?ayaam-u Tufuulat-i-haa s-sa9iidat-i \]
days-NOM childhood-GEN-her the-pleasant-ACC
Transformational rule (48) portrays this displacement and reversibility phenomenon.

(48)  
   a. English: NP → Adj + N1 + of + PosP + N2  
   b. Arabic: NP → N1 + N2 + PosP + Adj

5. Translating ambiguity in the Arabic construct state
Generally, ambiguous structures increase the range of possible interpretations in language. The following sections will address the sources of this ambiguity when the English of-complement noun phrase is translated into Arabic construct state. Moreover, it will suggest some ways for solving such ambiguities in English-Arabic translation.

5.1 Sources of ambiguity
In our sample, three sources of ambiguity have been found. They are absence of anomaly, absence of agreement morphology and the presence of coordination.

5.1.1 Absence of anomaly
Hurford & Heasley (1983) define anomaly as “a semantic oddness…” that “involves the violation of selectional restrictions” (p. 191). Example (49) records this semantic feature.

(49) Place of his lazy father (GE: 57)  
    makaan-i waalid-i-hi l-kasuul-i  
    place-GEN father-GEN-his the-lazy-GEN

In example (49), there is no ambiguity in Arabic translation because of the absence of the anomaly or collocational clash between the adjective modifier and N1. The adjective kasuul ‘lazy’ modifies N2 waalid ‘father’. This adjective cannot describe N1 which bears the semantic feature [–animate]. This collocational clash resolves ambiguity. Thus, the same meaning is realized in both languages. However, consider example (50).

(50) The thought of the new life (JE: 355)  
    fikrat-i l-hayaat-i l-jadiidat-i  
    idea-GEN the-life-GEN the-new-GEN

In Arabic translation presented in example (50), there is no anomaly because the adjective jadiid ‘new’ can modify both N1 and N2. Hence, ambiguity arises.
5.1.2 Absence of agreement morphology

Arabic language is a highly morphological language. Hence, agreement morphology plays an important role in its morphosyntactic system. (For more discussion, see Hoyt, 2004). The inflections presented in Arabic translation in (51) explain this syntactic feature.

(51) The last attack of coughing (GE: 131)
   nawbat-u   s-su9aal-i   l-?axiirat-i
   last.F-NOM the-cough.M-GEN the-last.F-GEN

In (51), the adjective ?axiirat ‘last’ modifies N1 only. Ambiguity is resolved as a result of gender agreement between the adjective ?axiirat ‘last’ and nawbat ‘attack’ because adjectives are inflected for gender and number in Arabic language (Badr et al., 2009, p. 87). This adjective never agrees with N2 because it bears the morphological markers M (masculine), whereas the adjective bears the morphological marker F (feminine), as shown in the glossing of example (51). Thus, there is no problem in Arabic translation due to what might be called morphological clash.

On the other hand, the absence of this morphological clash in Arabic sentence renders ambiguity inevitable. According to Badr et al. (2009), example (52) is “ambiguous in that the adjective kabiir (big) can modify any of the preceding three nouns” (p. 88). The adjective kabiir ‘big’ can modify muftaa9 ‘key’, baab ‘door’ or bayt ‘house’.

(52) muftaa9-i   baab-i   l-bayt-i   l-kabiir-i
   key.M-GEN door.M-GEN the-house.M-GEN the-big.M-GEN
   ‘The key of the door of the big house.’

Example (53), drawn from our sample, illustrates this ambiguous feature that translators face.

(53) A soft sound of rising (JE: 277)
   Sawt-a   nuhuuD-in   xafiif-in
   sound.3MS-ACC rising.3MS-GEN soft.3MS-GEN

The adjective xafiif ‘soft’ can modify both N1 and N2 because there is no morphological clash between the adjective and N1, and N2. The three constituents carry the morphological features third person, masculine and singular, as shown in the glossing presented in (53).

5.1.3 Presence of coordination

A third source of ambiguity springs from N1 or N2 being a complex NP.
When N1 is a coordinated NP, ambiguity arises in both languages.
(54) The days and the hours of love (GE: 145)
?ayaam-a wa saa9aat-a l-hubb-i
days-ACC and hours-ACC the-love-GEN
The English example in (54) is ambiguous because the of-complement noun phrase postmodifier can modify N1 or both N1 and N2. In Arabic construct state translation, we have the same two possible meanings, as shown in coindexation (55a-b).
(55) a. [The days and the hours] i [of love] i
[?ayaam-a wa saa9aat-a] j [l-hubb-i] j
b. The days and [the hours] j [of love] j
Similarly, when N2 is a complex NP, two meanings are possible in both English source text and Arabic construct state translation, as in (56).
(56) A look of love and pity (HT: 325)
naZarat-a ħubb-in wa ?iŠfaaq-in
look-ACC love-GEN and pity-GEN
Coindexation in (57) explains the two possible translations.
(57) a. [a look of] i [love and pity] i
b. [a look of ] i [love] i and pity
 [naZarat-a] j [ħubb-in] j wa ?iŠfaaq-in

5.2 Solving construct state ambiguity
Three solutions are suggested to solve the semantic and structural ambiguity mentioned in (5). They are the use of the preposition li-, resumption and indefiniteness, and head reiteration and indefiniteness.

5.2.1 Preposition li-
According to Arab grammarians, there is a direct connection between the meaning of the construct state and the prepositional meaning (Hasan, 1976). Any construct state relation falls, in its underlying structure, into one of three prepositional relationships. This annexation relation can be replaced by prepositions that express the same semantic meaning expressed by a construct state. These prepositions are of three main classes and express different semantic relationships. They are fi ‘in’, min ‘from’ and li- ‘for’. Fi is used adverbially and expresses location in place, location in time and the
meaning of inclusion. Min is used for hyponymy and partitive relationship. Li- is used for possession and ownership. (For more discussion, see Al-Shamsan, 1987; Al-Ramani, 1973).

Since the meaning of the construct state in Arabic is a prepositionally-based structure, a preposition can be used to resolve ambiguity in Arabic translation. The preposition li- is used when there is absence of anomaly or collocational clash in the structure. Translating the English text into Arabic construct state in example (50), drawn from our corpus, does not work. The ambiguity presented in example (50) can be solved by using the preposition li- ‘for’ that indicate connection or relationship. The two meanings can be expressed in the two different translations presented in examples (58a-b), respectively.

(58) a. al-fikrat-i l-jadiidat-i li-l-hayaat-i
the-idea the-new-GEN for-the-life-GEN
‘The new idea of life’
b. al-fikrat-i li-l-hayaat-i l-jadiidat-i
the-idea-GEN for-the-life-GEN the-new-new-GEN
‘The idea of the new life’

For more clarification of this phenomenon, consider the following example in which (59a) has two different interpretations when translated into Arabic in (59b-c).

(59) a. An expression of great sorrow (WH: 305)
ta9biir-u huزن-in 9aZiim-in
an expression-NOM sorrow-GEN great-GEN
b. ta9biir-un 9aZiim-un li-huزن-in
an expression-NOM great-NOM for-sorrow-GEN
‘A great expression of sorrow’
c. ta9biir-un li-huزن-in 9aZiim-in
an expression-NOM for-sorrow-GEN great-GEN
‘An expression of great sorrow’

It is clear that the translator should understand first the underlying meaning in the source language before rendering it into the second language. This preposition solution can also be used when there is absence of agreement morphology. The ambiguous example presented in (53) can be solved by using the preposition li- ‘for’. The two meanings and their corresponding
translations are presented in (60a-b), respectively.

(60) a. Sawt-an xafiif-an li-nuhuuD-in
    sound-ACC soft-ACC for-rising-GEN
    ‘A soft sound of rising.’

b. Sawt-an li-nuhuuD-in xafiif-in
    sound-ACC for-rising-GEN soft-GEN
    ‘A sound of soft rising.’

In examples (60a-b), there is no construct state. Thus, whenever a translator meets a problem in ambiguity, he should resort to the prepositional meaning of the construct state. Thus solving ambiguity necessitates that the translator should realize that a preposition could replace a construct state meaning. In this sense, construct state in Arabic is a two-sided coin that the translator manipulates it and adapts it according to his need; as a construct state and as a prepositional complement phrase.

5.2.2 Resumption and indefiniteness

The solution of using resumptive pronouns can be resorted to when N1 is a coordinated or complex NP. Resumptive pronouns are means used in some languages to mark a long-distance dependency (Falk, 2002; Dalrymple, 2001). Ambiguity in example (54) can be solved in Arabic construct state translation by resorting to resumption. N3 is annexed to the resumptive pronoun -hi ‘his’ which refers to N2. Example (61) represents the first translation.

(61) ?ayyaam-i l-ħubb-i wa saa9aat-i-hi
    days-GEN the-love-GEN and hours-GEN-its
    ‘Lit. The days of love and its hours.’

Annexation through coordination translation taken from our corpus in (54) is not preferred. From my point of view, this translation, though common, shows how translators seem to be influenced by English coordinated structure in the source text, which is considered a form-to-form translation. My argument against the use of this coordination and the suggested resort to the resumption is based on the fact that a basic rule in Arabic annexation is that N1 and N2 are tightly connected and nothing can interfere between them. Moreover, the resumption solution is in line with Fischer’s (2002) view that “if there are two substantives in the construct state but one dependent genitive, the genitive must be represented by a personal pronoun
suffix on the second member of the construct” (89).

If the word al-ħubb ‘love’ modifies the word ?ayaam ‘days’ only, N1 and N2 are in a construct state and N3 can be indefinite to avoid ambiguity. Thus, meaning two is well expressed in the second translation presented in (62).

(62) ?ayaam-i l-ħubb-i wa s-saa9aat-i
days-GEN the-love-GEN the-hours-GEN
‘The days of love and the hours.’

5.2.3 Head reiteration and indefiniteness

The translator can resort to the third solution when N2 is a coordinated or complex NP. To solve ambiguity in example (56), N2 should be repeated. The first meaning can be expressed by the translation presented in (63).

(63) naZarat-a ħubb-in wa naZarat-a ?iŠfaaq-in
look-ACC love-GEN and look-ACC pity-GEN
‘A look of love and a look of pity.’

The second meaning can be realized in translation by making N1 and N2 a construct state structure, and N3 becomes indefinite.

(64) naZarat-a l-ħubb-i wa ?iŠfaaq-in
look-ACC the-love-GEN and pity-GEN
‘A look of love and pity.’

Conclusion and suggestions for further research

Based on a cross-linguistic contrastive analysis of a parallel corpus, the present study investigates how English of-complement noun phrase is rendered into Arabic construct state. Section one of the study attempts a syntactic typology of the Arabic construct state. Five classes have been identified in the target text to be used in translating English of-complement noun phrases in the source text into Arabic. They are nominal, verbal, adjectival, inherent and quantificational construct states. Translating English-of complement phrases into these Arabic classes is morphologically, structurally and syntactically constrained.

In translating English of-complement noun phrase into Arabic nominal construct state, it has been found that in both languages N1 can be a common noun, whereas N2 can be a common noun, proper noun or pronoun. As for the Arabic verbal construct state, the study has found that the semantic
relationship between N1 and N1 can determine the translating English of-complement noun phrase into Arabic verbal noun and subject construct state or verbal noun and object construct state. The translator should realize that when N2 in English has an attributive adjective modifier, the whole noun phrase can be translated into assimilated adjectival construct state. Moreover, when N1 is a superlative in English of-complement noun phrase, the noun phrase can be translated into Arabic elative adjectival construct state. The similarity between the figures in translating English of-complement into Arabic inherent construct state is interesting. When N2 is premodified by an attributive adjective and N1 is inanimate, the whole English noun phrase is translated into adjective-like particle construct state. On the other hand, when N2 is premodified by an attributive adjective and N1 has the semantic feature animate in English, the whole noun phrase can be translated into Arabic inherent relational construct state. The last result of this section in this study has shown that when N1 is a nominal or numeral quantifier in English of-complement noun phrase, the whole noun phrase can be translated into Arabic nominal quantificational or numeral quantificational construct states, respectively. Moreover, English and Arabic exhibit similarity in the restriction feature. The only difference between them is that the restricted and the restrictor reverse their positions.

The second main part of the study deals with the syntactic features of Arabic construct state showing how these features might affect English-Arabic translation. This part of the study proposes some deletion and movement transformational rules and it reaches some generalizations. The first feature is definiteness inheritance. This definiteness by annexation renders the definite article of N1 to be inevitably absent in Arabic translation, though present in the English language, because Arabic construct state resists double definiteness. The second syntactic property is adjacency requirement. On applying the modification test to examine this requirement, it has been discovered that when N1 is premodified by a possessive pronoun or attributive adjective in English, these modifiers move to the leftmost and nest after N2. This means that no constituent is allowed to interfere between the two nouns of the construct state in Arabic. The last syntactic feature is word order. When N1 is premodified by a possessive pronoun, N2 borrows this pronoun and becomes its modifier in Arabic. Moreover, when N1 is
premodified by an attributive adjective, this modifier comes after N2 at the leftmost of the construct state. When N1 or N2 is premodified by two modifiers in English of-complement noun phrase, the two modifiers come at the left most of the Arabic construct state and reverse their positions. Finally, when both N1 and N2 are premodified in the source text, N1 modifier is displaced after N2 modifier at the leftmost of the construct state.

The last section of the study deals with translating ambiguity in Arabic construct state. Three sources of ambiguity in translation have been indicated; the absence of anomaly, the absence of morphological clash and the presence of coordination. Moreover, three solutions have been suggested. First, the possessive preposition li- is used when the collocational clash or morphological clash is absent in the source text. Second, the resumptive pronoun and indefiniteness of N2 are used when ambiguity arises in N1 as a result of being coordinated nouns. Third, reiteration of N1 and indefiniteness of N2 are used when N2 is being coordinated nouns.

This study might be helpful in the field of translation. It claims that good translation should be based on a contrastive linguistic analysis between the two languages in question. This might be called contrastive linguistic-based translation. Thus, the translator’s realization of the unique morphological, syntactic and semantic structures of the Arabic construct state might determine the linguistic and translational behavior of the translator.

Further research might be needed to see how the results of this study, particularly the transformational rules, can be applied in the field of machine translation. Moreover, this study might open the door for teaching translation from a contrastive linguistic point of view. Above all, English-Arabic electronic corpus is needed in the future to study other contrastive linguistic morphological, syntactic and semantic features in English and Arabic as a basis for better translation.
References

Beirut: Dar wa Maktabat Al-Hilal.

Translating English of-Complement Noun Phrase into Arabic Construct State:
A Parallel Corpus-Based Study (1-34)

Nashr wa Al-Tawzii’.


Appendices

Appendix (1)

List of Phonemic Symbols Used to Represent the Arabic Data

A. CONSONANTS

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<th>Place Voicing</th>
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B. VOWELS

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Appendix (2)

List of abbreviations and symbols

- ACC: Accusative
- Adj: Adjective
- Card: Cardinal Number
- D: Dual
- Det: Determiner
- F: Feminine
- GEN: Genitive
- GN: Genitive Noun
- M: Masculine
- N: Noun
- NM: Noun Modifier
- NP: Noun Phrase
- P: Plural
- PosP: Possessive Pronoun
- 1: First Person
- 2: Second Person
- 3: Third Person

becomes
ترجمة شبه الجملة في اللغة الإنجليزية إلى مركب الإضافة في اللغة العربية: دراسة قائمة على عينة لغوية تقابلية

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أسيوط - مصر

ملخص

تناولت هذه الدراسة ترجمة شبه الجملة في اللغة الإنجليزية إلى مركب الإضافة في اللغة العربية. وتقوم الدراسة على عينة لغوية تقابلية مترجمة. وقد بدأ الجزء الأول من الدراسة بالتصنيف النحوي المركب بالإضافة حيث وجد أن شبه الجملة في اللغة الإنجليزية يمكن ترجمتها إلى خمس مركبات إضافة في اللغة العربية. وتناول الجزء الثاني الخصائص النحوية لمركب الإضافة التي تؤثر على الترجمة من العربية إلى الإنجليزية مثل التعريف الملازم، ومتطلب التجاور، وترتيب الكلمات داخل المركب الإضافي. وتناول الجزء الثالث والأخير أسباب الغموض في ترجمة شبه الجملة الإنجليزية إلى المركب الإضافي مثل تغايدي المصاحبة الفظية، وغياب التغايدي الصرف، وجود العطف، واقتراحت الدراسة حلولاً لهذه الأنواع الثلاثة من الغموض وهي إضافة حرف الجر "اللام"، وإضافة ضمير الاستئناف، وتكرار كلمة الرئيسية. وانتهت الدراسة إلى أن الترجمة الجيدة يجب أن تقوم على دراسة لغوية تقابلية لغتين حيث أثبتت هذه الدراسة أن إدراك المترجم للخصائص الصرفية واللاحوية والدلالية لمركب الإضافة في العربية يمكن أن تحدد طريقته في الترجمة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: مركب الإضافة، شبه الجملة، التعريف الملازم، التجاور، الغموض، المصاحبة الفظية، الاستئناف، العطف، وترتيب الكلمات.