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Contrastive Analysis Of Arabic And English: The Quantifiers

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Article Info	Abstract
	The selection of the elements analysed has been made in order to show certain aspects that could be exploited from the teaching point of view as a tool to facilitate the teaching-learning process of English. The main objective of this work is to offer a contrastive analysis of the main quantifying elements in Arabic and English in light of the theory of systems of parts of speech. General characterization of Arabic and English, is designed to illustrate the most relevant features of both languages. At the lexical level, it was attend to the processes of linguistic contact of Arabic and English and we compare the different mechanisms of lexical creation that both languages carry out. This work is mainly based on descriptive analysis of quantifiers in Arabic and English, we form a contrastive analysis of the main quantification elements in both languages in light of the theory of systems of parts of speech, well understood that this model has been critically assumed according to the arguments of literature available. This study is limited to the most relevant grade content and is based on the prototypical functions used in part-of-speech systems works.

Introduction

The works of contrastive linguistics started from the so-called contrastive analysis hypothesis, also known as the strong version given its excessive restrictive character. Broadly speaking, this hypothesis holds that in the learning process, "an individual tends to transfer the forms and meanings of his own language and culture as well as the distribution of these forms and their meanings to the foreign language and culture" (Mowafaq Mohhamad Momani, 2015). Understood in this way, this process will be successful in those areas in which both languages show structural similarities, since a positive transfer will take place. On the contrary, when the divergences are notable in a certain part of the languages, linguistic interferences will originate that will influence in a negative way in the learning (Lightbown, 2006). In this way, the mother tongue is seen as a source of errors, which are interpreted as deviant behaviours. The fact that the students' mother tongue is perceived as the sole cause of errors, makes contrastive studies to be trusted as the best therapy to tackle them. In fact, these works are often oriented towards their didactic side; Thus, for example, Al-Ajrami (2014) expresses that the teacher can use the results obtained in these studies for the correction of the programming, the evaluation and creation of didactic materials, the preparation of tests and exams or the improvement of instructional techniques. Confidence in the didactic applicability of contrastive studies is also shown in the works of Tascovici et al., (2011). They propose that instruction begin with the most difficult elements (distinction) to gradually advance to the easiest (correspondence). Al-Qahtani (2006) position in this regard is analogous; after experimenting with beginning students of English and French, he advocates that the different structures be taught first. Despite the fact that these ideas are unacceptable today, we find Betti's explanation (2009) interesting, who points out that the excessively negative perception of the error that existed then causes the most probable sources of appearance to be prioritized in the instruction of wrong structures, in order to stop them as soon as possible.Following the assumptions of this model and according to the terminology proposed by Igaab, et al. (2018), differentiated languages would be those that have the four lexical categories that we have just mentioned (verb, noun, adjective and adverb). To this are added two possibilities of grammatical coding, one flexible and the other rigid. Flexible languages are characterized by the fact that the absence of a certain category is compensated for by functional fusion with the preceding category. For example, a language that lacks adverbs will make up for this lack by assuming its functions by the adjective, which Betti (2009) calls a flexible modifier in these cases. In rigid languages, however, the lack of certain lexical categories is not compensated by categorical fusion, but by means of alternative constructions.

Betti (2009) highlights the predictive capacity of the model and highlights its relatively simple formulation. However, he perceives two problematic aspects in it. On the one hand, he criticizes that the field of adverbs is limited only to those of manner and does not consider other types; With his contribution, he manages to extend the basic foundations of the theory to other semantic domains, since he analyses the adverbs of degree, which he also considers lexical and non-functional units. On the other hand, he believes that the model neglects intra-linguistic variation by conceiving the different languages of the world as typological taxonomies. Although

Igaab, et al. (2018) recognize that certain languages are located in intermediate positions, Betti's (2008) proposal goes a step further, since he advocates a reinterpretation of the model based on sentence constituents and not on languages themselves. In his opinion, the notions of differentiation, flexibility or rigidity should not be understood as exclusive to one language or another, but rather they would be potentially compatible grammatical strategies. Our goal in this work is to study the different quantification mechanisms in Arabic and English. The starting theoretical framework to analyse them is the typology of systems of parts of speech known as the Amsterdam model, which has been forged over recent years thanks to contributions.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

Regarding the methodology, we believe it appropriate to comment that during the elaboration of the most practical sections we have resorted to consulting manuals, guides and grammars for both Arabic and English. We have also conducted multiple searches on the Internet in order to locate samples that will illustrate our exposition. However, to confirm certain hypotheses and to corroborate examples for the sake of their grammaticality, the support of native informants.

3. THE QUANTIFIERS

3.1. Introduction

The quantifiers that we have selected for our study are grouped into six blocks that attempt to respond to the most relevant grade content, namely:

[1]. Small amount (little).
[2]. Large amount (a lot).
[3]. Excessive amount (too much).
[4]. Inaccurate quantity (various).
[5]. Undefined entities (someone-something).
[6]. Indefinite quantification (some).

We also focus on the four prototypical functions used in part-speech systems studies:

i. Term (T): it is linked to linguistic units with referential value.
ii. Term Modifier (MT): it is associated with the adjective grammatical category.
iii. Predicate Modifier (MP): it is related to the adverb grammatical category.
iv. Modifier Modifiers (MM): it is linked to the adverb grammatical category.

With regard to the internal organization of this chapter, it should be noted that each of the six groups that we have just listed is based on three points (although there is no differentiation into separate headings). In the first place, we present a morph syntactic characterization of the operation of the quantifying units of Arabic, together with examples that are intended to illustrate the exposed contents. Second, we summarize in a table the main functions that each of the analysed quantifiers fulfils. Finally, we offer some notes on the correspondence of these degree contents in English (Dib, 2019).Regarding the examples, it should be noted that we include the sample in Arabic first. Next, we introduce the transcription along with the glosses and finally we offer a translation into English. Finally, we want to point out that the quantifier is marked in bold in the transcription section. In the case of a simple construction (one or two words), it will be marked in the gloss by the abbreviation CNT ('quantifier'); if it is a complex structure, we choose to include the relevant morph syntactic data in the gloss.

3.2. Small amount (little)

To express a small quantity in Arabic, the quantifier qalyl is generally used, which, as we will be able to confirm with the examples that follow, is a very flexible element, since it can act as T, MT, MP and MM. Finished

(1) الكثيرونفيالسفحوقليلونجدّاًيصلونإلىالقمة!

alkathirun fi alsafah waqalilun jddaan yasilun 'iilaa alqimat!

English: Lots at the foot and very few make it to the top!

In example (1) the quantifier qalyl appears in the plural and without an article and acts as T, since the quantized element is elided.

Term Modifier: When the qalyl quantifier works as MT, Arabic offers two possibilities. First, a syntagmatic structure, in which the quantifier is postponed to the quantized element with which it must agree in gender, number, case and determination; that is to say, the quantifier would act as a specifying adjective with respect to the noun, which would be the syntactic core.

(2) وقتقليل

waqt qalil

English: Little time

(3) ونزلكميةقليلةمنالماءفيشهرمايو

nuzul kamiyatan qalilat min alma' fi alshahr alkhamis

English: The descent of a small amount of water in the fifth month

The above examples are samples of these syntagmatic structures. We can see that in both the quantifier is postponed to the quantized element (waqt 'time'; kammiyyat 'quantity'). Example (2), which is extracted from a

dictionary, presents agreement of gender (masculine), number (singular) and determination (indeterminate). In example (3), the quantifier qalyl appears in a concrete context, so the agreement of gender (feminine), number (singular) and determination (indeterminate) is added that of case (accusative). Second, Arabic has a portative structure with the preposition min 'of', in which case the quantifier is the syntactic nucleus (invariable in gender and number) and precedes the quantized element, which functions as a specifies. This analytical structure is often considered a carbon copy of English (Al-Shaikhli, 2011).

(4) القليلمنالقهوةيقللمنخطرالإصابةبسرطانالثدي

qalil min alqahwat yuqalil al'iisabat bisaratan althudiyi

English:A little coffee reduces the risk of breast cancer

(5) أكلالأولادالقليلمنالأرز

'akl al'awlad alqlyl min al'arz

English: The boys ate a little rice

English: The children ate some rice

Through these examples, we can verify that the quantifier has not experienced gender or number variations. The only difference that can be observed between the two sentences is the case mark; in example (4) qalyl appears in the nominative because it fulfils the function of the subject and in (5) it has the accusative mark because it acts as a direct object.

Both structures are syntactically and semantically different. In syntagmatics, the quantifier operates as a mere specifying adjective, so a statement of the type 'awlaad qalylun (' few children ') would be equivalent to a statement with any other adjective such as' awlaad Saghyrwn ('little children'), since their function is to limit the reference to which the main noun alludes. In the portative structure, however, the quantifier is the syntactic core of the construction while the quantized element acts as the specifies (modifier). Regarding its use, according to the natives consulted, the most common structure is portative; however, the semantic differences that we have just mentioned should be considered, as well as possible pragmatic conditioning factors.

The distinction between accounting and non-accounting elements does not seem to condition too much the use of one structure or another, since both the syntagmatic and the portative are combined with one and the other, as the following examples show.

(6) أناليصدقاتقليلات

'ana li sadaqat qalilat

English: I have a few alms

(7)القليلمنالمال

alqlyl min almal

English: A little money

(8) عددقليلمنالكتب

qalil min alkutub

English: Few books

(9) كميةقليلةمنالماء

kamiyat qalilat min alma'

English: A little water

In the previous examples it is observed that the syntagmatic structure is used both with the friendly countable noun and with the non-countable noun money. The same happens with the partitive structure, which appears with a book (accounting) and with water (non-accounting) (Salim, 2011).

Predicate modifier: To express a small quantity referring to a predicate, the quantifier qalyl is also used, but always in the indeterminate accusative.

(10) فهمقليلا

fahum qalilana

English: understand a little

When the quantifier appears after the verb, Arabic grammar normally considers it an adverb of time, although it is actually analysed as an absolute complement (Al-hindawi, 2016); that is, the existence of a hidden absolute complement is assumed and, by not mentioning it, the accusative adjective takes its place. We clarify it by the following examples.

(11) غفوتقليلا

ghafwat qalilanaan

English: I fell asleep a little

(12) نمتقليلاً

English: Grown a little

In sentence (11), the absolute complement would be nawmaan qalylaan ('a short dream'), which is why it appears in the indeterminate accusative. This hypothetical sentence would give rise to the following (12), where I slept little is expressed without the absolute complement and directly introducing the quantifier, which remains indeterminate accusative.

In addition to the qalyl quantifier in the accusative, the predicate can be modified by invariable structures of the type shay'aan maa ('some thing') or baˈD al-shay '(' something ').

(13) قليلا،الاقليلمتن

namat qalilanaan , qalilanaan

English: I slept a bit, a little (lit. 'certain thing')

(14) قليلاماشيءرتأثي

tathir shay' ma qalilana

English: Influence something, a little (lit. 'something)

Modifier

The possibilities that the Arabic language presents to express a small quantity referred to a modifier are the same as those that we have just commented regarding the modification of the predicate; that is, the quantifier qalyl in indeterminate accusative (15), or statements such as shay'aan maa ('certain thing') (16) or baˈD al-shay '(' something ') (17).

(15) قليلابعيد

baeid qalilanaan

English: A little far

(16) إنهكاذبنوعَاما،كاذبنوعَاما

'iinah kadhib nweana ma , kadhib nweana ma

English: He's a bit of a liar, a bit of a liar

(17) قصةصغيرةحزينة،شيءمحزن

qisat saghirat hazinat , shay' muhzin

English: A little sad story, something sad

To express a small quantity in English, the little quantifier is used, which, like qalyl, can fulfil the four main functions we are discussing (T, MT, MP and MM). Acts as T through anaphora (many students took the exam, but few passed); like MT, it presents inflection in gender and appears in the plural when it accompanies accounting elements (few reports; few actresses) and in the singular with non-accounting units (little knowledge; little confidence); likewise, you can modify a predicate (you ate little) or a modifier (not very credible). The variant a little has a similar behaviour, except when it modifies non-countable elements, in which case it also appears in the singular, but without gender inflection and through a portative structure with the preposition 'de' (a little milk).

3.3. Large amount : The quantifier that expresses a large quantity in Arabic is Kathy, an element that can be considered analogous to qalyl in terms of its operation, since it also acts as T, MT (with the duality of possibilities represented in the syntagmatic and portative structure), MP and MM, in which case there are certain semantic restrictions that we will comment on later.

Finished:

(18) يعتقدالكثيرأنهمذنب

yaetaqid alkthyr 'anah madhnib

English: Many think that he is guilty

In the example above kathyr acts as T, because a human referent is understood to be elided.

Term Modifier

As we have already commented regarding the quantifier qalyl, to modify a term the Arabic language has two different resources: a syntagmatic structure and a partitive one. In the syntagmatic, the quantifier performs the function of specifying the quantified element, with which it agrees in gender, number, case and determination, as in (19) between the kathyr quantifier and the Tullaab quantifier, which appear in masculine, plural, indeterminate, nominative.

(19) المعلملديهالعديدمنالطلاب

almuelim ladayh aledyd min altullab

English: The teacher has many students

Also in the example that we include below, the agreement between the quantified jaraa'id ('periodic') and the quantifier kathyr ('a lot') is produced. Both are indeterminate elements in the accusative; However, the fact that the first appears in the masculine plural and the second in the feminine singular obeys an Arabic grammar rule according to which the plurals of irrational beings always agree in the feminine singular (regardless of the gender of said element) (20).

(20) ابنييسافروأناأفتقدهكثيرا

abnay yusafir wa'ana 'aftaqiduh kathirana

English: My son is traveling and I miss him so much

In both cases, the quantifier is placed after the verbal predicate in indeterminate accusative, thus maintaining the same position and the same case of a hypothetical absolute complement.

Modifier: The flexibility of the kathyr quantifier allows you to modify other modifiers as well, but with a semantic restriction: they must appear in comparison or contrast contexts. In these cases, kathyr must go well in the indeterminate accusative (21) (as in the case of the modification of the predicate).

شيءمزعجللغاية (21)

shay' muzeaj lilghaya

English: Something very disturbing

This semantic distribution prevents the functions of both quantifiers from overlapping, since to modify a modifier, the jiddaan quantifier is used in a generalized way, while the use of kathyr (in accusative or with a preposition) is restricted to opposition contexts.

A large amount is indicated in English by the mucho quantifier, which acts as T, MT and MP. It works as T by anaphoric reference (more than 100 proposals were made, many were accepted); Like little, it shows gender inflection when acting as TM and appears in the plural with countable references (many journalists; many illnesses) and in the singular with non-accountants (a lot of affection; a lot of patience); also modify predicates (you have worked a lot), but not other modifiers; for this case, English has the very quantifier, specialized in the MM (very early) function.

3.4. Excessive amount (too much)

Term Modifier: To express excess in Arabic, one can use the quantifier kathyr ('a lot'); in this case, it will be the context that tells us that it is an excessive quantification.

الكثيرمنالمال (22)

alkthyr min almal

English: Too much money (lit. 'a lot of money')

However, to specify that it is an abundant amount, in Arabic fixed structures are used such as' ifraaT fy ('excess of' + name), zyaadat mufriTat fy ʿadad ('excessive increase of number' + name) or ʿadad kabyr min ('large number of' + name).

الكثيرمنالأطفال (23)

alkthyr min al'atfal

English: Too many children (lit. 'large number of children')

Note that while the structure 'ifraaT fy (' excess of '+ name) is used with non-countable elements, as shown in example (34), the last two —zyaadat mufriTat fy ʿadad (' excessive increase in number '+ name) and ʿadad kabyr min ('large number of' + name) - include in the expression itself the statement 'number of', which requires that the referent that follows is countable, as happens with books (35) and children (36).

Predicate modifier: Also to modify predicates an invariable structure is used in Arabic: 'akthar min al-luzwm (' more than necessary ').

أنتتسألكثيرا (24)

'ant tus'al kathirana

English: You ask too much (lit. 'more than you need')

Modifier : Again the context can help us to indicate the excess with respect to another modifier. Thus, the quantifier jiddaan ('very') is also used with the semantic nuance of abundance.

إنهباكرجدا (25)

'iinah bakir jiddaan

English: It's too early (lit. 'too early')

However, the invariable structure that we alluded to when talking about the modification of the predicate can be used: 'akthar min al-luzwm (' more than necessary ').

ربماكنتأثقكثيرا (26)

rubama kunt 'athq kathirana

English: Maybe I was too trusting

In contrast to the rigid structures of Arabic, English has the flexible quantifier too much to indicate an excessive amount. Its flexibility is demonstrated in its multi-functionality, which is manifested in the possibility of acting as T, MT, MP and MM. As has been common in the English quantifiers studied, it fulfils the function of T by means of anaphora (they asked many questions, too many were impertinent); like little and a lot, it shows gender inflection to modify a term, appearing in the plural with accounting elements (too many problems; too many unknowns) and in the singular with non-accounting entities (too cold; too much contamination). As we have already indicated, it can act as MP (they have had too much) and as MM (too expensive).

3.5. Inaccurate quantity (various)

Term Modifier: To express an imprecise quantity in Arabic, the quantifier ʿiddat is used, the closest reflection of the notion 'several'. It can be part of two different structures: on the one hand, as the first term of a construct state, in which case it will not experience gender or number variation and must be accompanied by a quantified genitive plural, as in (27) with friends and in (28) with countries.

عدةأصدقاء (27)

edt 'asdiqa'

English: Several friends

جاءالمعلمونمنمختلفالبلدانالعربية (28)

ja' almuelimun min mukhtalaf albuldan alearabia

English: Educators came from various Arab countries

On the other hand, the ʿiddat quantifier can be placed in apposition after the quantized element, which will also be plural, as happens with regions (29) and histories (30.

(29)فيمناطقمختلفة

fi manatiq mukhtalifa

English: In various regions

(30) هناكالعديدمنالإصداراتحولماحدث

hnak aledyd min al'iisdarat hawl ma hadath

English: There are several versions about what happened

Likewise, to transfer the concept 'several', muxtalif ('different') can be used, which has a greater impact on the semantic nuance of diversity. This element also offers two structural possibilities: on the one hand, it is used as the first constituent of a construct state (without gender or number variation). As we can see in the examples that follow, this quantifier must be followed by a quantified element in the genitive plural (parts, cities).

We observe that the constructions used in Arabic in order to convey the idea of an imprecise quantity are rigid, since they are limited to their performance as modifiers of terms. Likewise, the corresponding quantifier in English, various, is quite specialized, since it only works as a T using anaphora (you took hundreds of photographs, but several came out dark) and as MT; in the latter case, it always appears in the plural and with gender inflection, but unlike the rest of the quantifiers we have analysed, it can only be combined with accounting elements (several newspapers; several opportunities).

Undefined entities (someone-something)

Finished: To refer to an undefined human entity, the Arabic language uses the names 'aHad (masculine singular and inflected if applicable),' iHdaa (feminine singular and indeclinable) and 'aHaad (plural). The following examples show that they can be used in affirmative (31), negative (32) and interrogative (33) sentences.

(31) شخصمااتصلبالمدير

shakhs ma 'atasil bialmudir

English: Someone contacted the director

(32) لمينتقلأحدمنموقعهم

lm yantaqil 'ahad min mawqieihim

English: Nobody moved from their site

(33)هلرأيتشخصًامافيالحديقة؟

hal ra'ayt shkhsana ma fi alhadiyqa?

English: Did you see someone in the garden?

The quantifiers that are used in English in order to refer to undefined entities are someone (human) and something (non-human). Like in Arabic, they can function as T (someone came to see you; I have something to tell you) these quantifiers do not undergo any change in interrogative contexts (do you think someone could help me? to worry about). The somewhat quantifier, for its part, has greater flexibility, since it also works as MT, in partitive structure and together with non-countable elements (some peace), such as MP (has improved somewhat) and as MM (I am somewhat tired).

3.7. Indefinite quantification (some)

Term Modifier

To indicate an indefinite quantification and transfer the idea of 'some' or 'any', the Arabic language makes use of the word baʿD —literally 'part', placing it as the first component of a construct state. The second constituent of this structure may be a determined (34) or indeterminate (35) genitive plural noun.

(34) بعضالجمعياتالخيرية

bed aljameiat alkhayria

English: Some charities

(35)ايرجل

'aya rajul

English: Any man

Likewise, the word baʿD may be followed by a genitive singular noun, provided that it is divisible.

(36)فترة

fatra

English: A while (lit. 'some time', 'part of time')

قرأتشيئامنالكتاب (37)

qarat shayyana min alkitab

English: I read something from the book (lit. 'part of the book')

The indefinite quantification is expressed in English by the quantifiers one or one, which present a similar behavior. Both act as T through anaphora (I bought several books, some were on sale; I interviewed several candidates, one was a doctor) and also function as term modifiers, in which case they are gender inflected (some volunteer; sometime; a kiss; an opportunity) and number (some paratroopers; some businesswomen; some messages; some letters) and can only accompany accounting references. As has been verified with the examples, the two quantifiers present truncation in the form of the masculine singular (some, a).

(38) بعضالنبيذ

bed alnabidh

English: Some wine (lit. 'part of the wine')

DISCUSSION

Throughout this chapter we have reviewed the expression of the main undergraduate content in English and Arabic, paying special attention to the latter. By means of the data offered in our presentation and through the examples, we have been able to verify that they present a quite heterogeneous morph syntacticbehaviour that is reflected in various structural possibilities; thus, in the syntagmatic and appositive structure, the quantifier is postponed to the quantified element and operates as a mere specifying adjective, while in the portative structure and in the construct state, the quantifier is the syntactic core of the construction and precedes the element quantized, which acts as a modifier.Nor are the rules that govern the agreement between quantifier and quantized stable. The syntagmatic structure, for example, imposes agreement of gender, number, case and determination, but it is necessary to take into account the Arabic grammatical rule according to which the plurals of irrational beings agree in the feminine singular. To this must be added the peculiarities of other quantifiers, such as the masculine form biDʿ, which is combined with feminine names and its corresponding feminine biDʿat, which only appears together with masculine elements; or the masculine quantifier ʾayy, which accompanies elements in the singular (whether masculine or feminine) and its feminine form' ayyat, which we only find with other feminine elements, regardless of whether they are singular or plural.

Regarding the distinction between accounting and non-accounting elements, we have observed that it is a very relevant question in English, as it has significant syntactic repercussions. On the one hand, it conditions the presence of certain quantifiers, as happens with one, one or more, which are only combined with countable elements, or with something that appears in a partitive structure only with non-countable names. On the other hand, we found that many quantifiers show inflection in number according to the name they accompany; thus, a little, a little, a lot, a lot and too much go in the plural with countable elements and in the singular, with non-countable elements. In Arabic, however, the impact is not so obvious; Although we have observed a certain resistance of the syntagmatic structure to co-appear with non-countable elements, we think that this is an issue that deserves to be studied in more detail. The only quantifiers that actually enforce the company of countable names are zyaadat mufriTat fy ʿadad… ('excessive increase in number') and ʿadad kabyr min… ('large number of') for containing the word 'number' in their own statement.Beyond these formal specificities, we are now concerned with its functional characteristics. To do this, we show a table as a compilation and we comment below on the most relevant conclusions we have obtained in this regard.First of all, it should be noted that Arabic would be a flexible type 3 language according to the standard Amsterdam model since, strictly speaking, it has practically no adverbs and the function of MP is usually fulfilled by adjectives, in the accusative case. However, the operation of grade words in Arabic has highlighted the fact that in this language, as in English, flexible, differentiating and rigid strategies are combined.Flexibility is manifested in elements such as qalyl ('little') and kathyr ('a lot') that, as we can see, can fulfil the four basic functions (T, MT, MP, MM). On the other hand, there are quantifiers that, to a lesser extent, also behave in a flexible way, since they cover more than one function; This is the case of shayʾaan maa, baʿD al-shay ʾ(little) and' akthar min al-luzwm (too much), who move between the two main functions of the adverb (MP, MM).Likewise, we find quantifiers such as 'aHad (' someone ') and shay' ('something') that act as T and MT, but it should be noted that while in the first case they are presented independently, to modify another term they need to appear in construct states. The same happens with baʿD y 'ayy (' some '); In these cases, we would be faced with rigid structures, since the quantifier behaves as the syntactic core of the construction.Another example of a rigid structure is the portative construction offered by some quantifiers, including qalyl and kathyr. As we have already mentioned, these quantifying elements are invariable in these cases and are placed before the quantized element, which would act as a modifier of the syntactic core. Within the group of rigid structures, the invariable expressions ʾifraaT fy…, zyaadat mufriTat f ʿ adad… or ʿadad kabyr min… (too much) would also fit, who always quantify to terms.

Finally, it should be noted that jiddaan is the paradigmatic case of a differentiated structure, since it specializes in a single function: MM.Ultimately, the coding of undergraduate content in Arabic reflects that differentiated, flexible and rigid strategies can coexist in the same language, which has been shown by the present study on quantifiers.

CONCLUSIONS

In this work, and in order to extrapolate its conclusions to a Semitic language such as Arabic, we study how the most relevant grade contents (small quantity, large quantity, excessive quantity, imprecise quantity, indefinite entities, and quantification) are encoded in said language indefinite) and we contrast its operation with the quantifiers of English. We found that, despite belonging to disparate linguistic families, they share a congruent functioning with regard to the characterization of their linguistic constituents in terms of flexibility or rigidity. Our work shows that, despite being a flexible type 3 language —according to the standard version of the Amsterdam model— in the field of expression of grade content, it combines flexible, differentiating and rigid strategies.The flexibility is shown in quantifiers such as qalyl ('little') or kathyr ('a lot'), which can function as independent terms (T), or modify terms (MT), predicates (MP) and other modifiers (MM). Other flexible elements, however, move only between two functions, MP and MM; This is the case of shay'aan maa, ba'D al-shay '(little) or' akthar min al-luzum (too much). The differentiating strategy, on the other hand, is manifested in specialized degree words in a single function, without showing signs of categorical flexibility, as is the case of jiddaan ('very'), which is limited to its function as MM. Finally, the rigid strategy is evidenced in invariable structures such as 'ifraaT fy…, zyaadat mufriTat fy 'adad… or 'adad kabyr min… (too much). The portative structure and the construct state are also considered rigid solutions; This last construction is very productive in the Arabic language and appears recurrently in many of the quantifiers analyzed when they act as TM. Some examples are 'aHad, shay' (some of), ba'D, 'ayy (some),' iddat, muxtalif, biD,, shattaa (various). In this type of structure, the quantifier acts syntactically as a kernel, which is modified by the quantize element. All of this shows that the Arabic grade word system is a clear example of the variable interaction of flexible, differentiating and rigid strategies.

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