

Agreement in Arabic Grammar, Study of Loanwords

Arief Ma'nawi¹, Syamsul Hadi², Suhandano³

¹ Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Yogyakarta, Indonesia
arief_arb@ugm.ac.id

² Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Yogyakarta, Indonesia
syamsulhadi@mail.ugm.ac.id

³ Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Yogyakarta, Indonesia
suhandano@ugm.ac.id

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ABSTRACT: *One of the specificities of Arabic is the agreement in grammar, which includes several language units. The parts that correspond to other language units are gender, numbers, and cases. Conformity is also found in the definiteness, personal pronoun, from phrases to sentences. Deciphering the sentence from its constituent structure can show the suitability and relationship between the language units. This parsing model is equivalent to I'rāb in Arabic grammar. The model will be applied in sentences focused on loanwords. From this, it is known that loanwords try to adapt to Arabic grammar morphologically and syntactically. Agreement is not only a phonological adjustment that has been known from various linguistic researches, but also morphological and syntactical. Loanwords adjustments between units in dominant sentences include agreement in gender, amount, cases, and definition.*

KEYWORDS: agreement, Arabic grammar, loanwords.

Introduction

Arabic grammar shows that there are parts that are always involved in various language units in a sentence. Several linguistic units are always dominant in grammar, such as number, gender, cases, and definiteness. However, the degree of dominance of engagement varies. Such gender has a match between nouns, verbs, and personal pronouns in one sentence. Numbers and cases have a coherent correspondence in sentences, while

definiteness is at phrase level. This study will look at the general agreement in loan nouns from other languages in Arabic sentences.

This problem is essential because Arabic has become an international language. This is because Arabic is one of the languages spoken at the UN headquarters. By becoming an international language, the contact of Arabic with other languages and speakers will allow the perception of different speakers to occur. One of the crucial consequences of this contact is the development of Arabic in keeping up as the world progresses. As a result, Arabic adopts new terms in science and technology, most of which come from the element of loans (loanwords). These borrowed elements will then be adapted as part of Arabic and be used in colloquial language. The source language of loanwords, which has a different language typology from Arabic speakers, is adapted to Arabic grammar. The loanwords adjustment in Arabic phonology is used with the terms *ta`rīb* and *dakhīl* (Hilal 2004, 375). Among the loanwords that have emerged are terms used in science and technology, such as the following.

burūtīnāt 'protein', *al-aiyūnāt* 'ions',
al-ilikturūnāt 'electrons', *kurūmūsūmāt* 'chromosomes',
al-maghnāthīsiyah 'magnetic', *al-ilikturūniyah* 'electronic',
al-kahrūmaghnāthīsiyah 'electromagnetic',
hīdirūkarbūnāt 'hydrocarbons', *al-biyūtīknūlūjiyā* 'biotechnology'.

Hamdi (2017), Hoffer (2005), and Khrisat (2014) have investigated the effort to adjust the loan elements to Arabic. This paper emphasizes on applying the agreement in sentences by focusing on the more frequent loanwords appear in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) sentences and those which indicate the existence of an agreement in several respects morphosyntactically. Phonological adjustments have been made, among others, by Bueasa (2015), a dissertation study on the adaptation of loanwords in Arabic.

The scope of Arabic morpho-syntax

Agreement is discussed in Arabic grammar within the scope of morphology (*sharf*) and syntax (*nachw*). These two spheres have very thin boundaries since they interact and complement each other. In this case, the condition of conformity can be seen from the aspect of the language structure, which describes the units to be seen in depth. In some ways, this concept can be seen from the side of *i'rāb* (case and mood), which is very important in Arabic grammar. The marker of a noun language unit in a sentence can be divided into some positions, such as *marfū'* (nominative), *manshūb* (accusative), *majrūr* (genitive), and for verb units there is no genitive but replaced by *majzūm* (jussive) (Watson 2006, 433) (Ryding 2005, 54; 167).

The fact on the agreement, that is, in the case, the number and gender in standard Arabic sentences (MSA) is obvious which differs from the simpler Amiah Arabic (Colloquial Arabic). Agreement in Arabic will appear dominant in nouns (*ism*) and verbs (*fi'l*). It occupies a large part of the Arabic word-class because the sentence is composed of the three elements of noun, verb, and particle. Nouns and verbs signify each other in a sentence in terms of case, number, and gender.

The data in this paper is taken from random use of loanwords in the Arabic edition of the "Nature" magazine. The use of loanwords was collected from publications from 2010 to 2018, which were documented in their digital electronic archives. The use of loanwords in these articles can be classified into nouns, phrases, and clauses containing loanwords. Sentences are described qualitatively by describing them structurally. Arabic grammar is elementary to analyze sentences with descriptions of *i'rāb* in a morphosyntactic review. This method is widely used in Arabic grammar to analyze Arabic sentences from the past until now. The *i'rāb* parsing in the old grammar is very detailed, but it can be taken generally by reducing the details for understanding purposes.

Discussion

The study of loanwords in Arabic usually looks only at phonological accordance. When the study is in a syntactic function, there is an expansion of the scope with the possibility of adjusting the language unit due to the position of the case. The loanwords phonological adjustment appears in the following example.

(1) *Nīkūtiyānā bīntsāmiyānā* (Ntr 3-10-2011)
'Nicotiana Benthamiana'

This example (1) is a foreign name used in an Arabic phrase. The morpheme of this phrase is not changed, it only follows its original sound. Thus, it is not easy to determine whether it has *wazan* (pattern) in Arabic nouns. It should be noted that the original Arabic nouns and verbs have many patterns collected in the *awzān asmā' wal af'āl* (patterns of nouns and verbs). In the phrase in the example (1), the two nouns are loanwords and become different with the following phrase.

(2) *Al-chuqūl almaghñāthīsiyah* (Ntr 3-10-2016)
def.field.pl def.magnetic
'Magnetic fields'

Example (2) here is composed of loanwords and the original Arabic noun. The original noun is *al-chuqūl*, while *almaghñāthīsiyah* is loanwords adjusted to Arabic grammar, namely the insertion of the *ta`rif al-* particle. The loanwords noun is the second nominal phrase. The main noun in the first place will determine the gender of the phrase, whether it is masculine or feminine phrase gender.

The gender will appear in the morpheme of verbs and nouns. The gender marker in the masculine noun is zero, which is considered the basic form. Therefore, if a noun does not have a gender marker, it means that this noun is considered a masculine noun, and conversely, a noun marked with a gender means that it is categorized as feminine gender. Moawwad (2006, 31) stated that there are three gender markers for females in Arabic, namely the suffix */-ah/*, */-ā/*, and */-ā'*. Changes can occur with certain noun variants. These markers only appear on the feminine nouns (*mu'annats*)

attached to the masculine noun (*mudzakkar*). These *ta'nits* markers are also reinforced by Al-Haq (2012, 248), which is a tracing result of old grammatical researches. Arabic grammar looks regular in gender designation. In this case, it can be said that Arabic has a grammatical gender because there is a feminine affix in the noun. Arabic also includes lexical gender such as the distinction of *umm* 'mother', *ab* 'father' *ibn* 'son' *bint* 'daughter' and its kind (Hellinger 2001, 7).

Numbers will also appear in nouns and verbs. It shows it is an agreement in numbers, gender, and cases in Arabic sentences. Noun cases are characterized by the nominative, accusative, and genitive positions. Verb cases are characterized by a nominative, accusative, and *jussive* position, for example, in the following example.

(3) *Tajma`u ulamā`u wa akādīmiyūn min jamā`i anchā`i l-ālam* (Ntr 27-01-2014)

gathers scholars.nom and academics.m.pl.nom from all over def.world

‘Scientists and academics from all over the world gathered.’

It appears in the nominative *akādīmiyūn* because it is the *fa`il* for the verb. The function of both the subject and *fa`il* occupies a nominative position in the sentence so that it must be marked with *marfu`*, in this case, it is marked with */-ūn/* at the end of the word. This signifier is the same as *dhummah* in the singular noun condition.

(4) *Istiqthābu achadu r-raqāqataini l-maghñāthīsiyataini*
polarize one def. chips.f.dual.gen def.magnetis.f.dual.gen

l-lataini tafshilu bainahumā thabaqatun āzilātun raqīqatun (Ntr 11 09-201)

the.f.dual.gen split.imp.3.f.s between-him.dual layer dielectric thin

‘Polarize one of the two magnetic sheets separated by a thin dielectric layer.’

In the example (4), *al-maghñāthīsiyataini* 'two magnetic sheets' is originally *al-maghñāthīsiyatāni* without the letter *ya'* in the nominative position. However, since the noun *achadu* precedes it as the main noun causing the

noun to be genitive, its case changes into genitive position. When it is a masculine type, the noun is not inserted by the sound, denoted by /t/ if the noun can be formed into the feminine gender. Based on grammar, these nouns can be masculine by eliminating the insertion sound, which is denoted by /t/ between *ya' nisbah* and *ya'- nun* at the end.

Ryding (2005, 57) states that there are two things that can be related to agreement or concord (*muthābaqah*). The first suitability includes inflection in the form of the suitability of gender, amount, persona for verbs and pronouns. Meanwhile, broader suitability consists of the gender, number or amount, definiteness, and case for nouns and their adjectives. Conformity reflects to the morphological change of a verb and the wider suitability in the scope between units in a sentence at the syntactic level.

Regarding agreement, the number affects the verb in the sentence; gender affects verbs and noun attributes. In several studies, such as Winchester (2019), the discussion can be extended to the definiteness that will appear in the phrase. Especially concerning the attributive phrase (*murakkab washfiy*). A noun affects other nouns at the phrase level; it is found in the phrase of *idhafiy*. This also shows that the grammatical rule of gender in Arabic is complex, as supported by the opinion of Alkohlani (2016, 29). It was stated that apart from being related to the agreement, gender grammar includes elements that could be verbs, adjectives, pronouns, determiners, among others. It is stated that verbs, nouns, adjectives, personal, demonstrative, and relative pronouns related to the noun in the sentence's syntactic structure show gender agreement (Alkohlani 2016, 32). Thus, that what is discussed in this paper is only a small part of all other parts appearing to be dominant in the sentence.

Verbs are influenced by the noun in the sentence. Conformity in verbs appears in number and gender. The verb does not follow the genitive case marker that the noun is owned but has a jussive case (*majzūm*). Simultaneously, particles (*charf*) are not influenced by nouns because they are parts that do not change or are indeclinable (*mabniy*). Some short nouns that have a specific task in the sentence also follow changes in adjustment, for example, *ism isyārah* (demonstrative) and *ism maushūl* (relative pronoun).

The definiteness appears in the phrase because it is often indicated by *al-ta`rif* and personal pronouns, as shown in the following phrase.

al-ilikturūnat l-mutacharrrikah 'moving electrons'
firusiyah muta`addidah 'various viruses'
at-tiqniyāt l-jinūmiyah 'Genomic technique'
fiziyā'iyah mukhtalifah 'diverse physics'

It can be seen that the conformity in the phrase appears in the gender, which is a feminine gender marker. In *al-ilikturūnat l-mutacharrrikah*, the main noun is formed by the form of the plural feminine salim (nonhuman), which is of the feminine gender so that the attribute is feminine gender. In *firusiyah muta`addidah* the main noun is a feminine *nisbah* generating a feminine gender attribute. The suitability of the definiteness appears in *at-tiqniyāt l-jinūmiyah* and *fiziyā'iyah mukhtalifah*. In attributive phrases, which mean trait, the suitability of definiteness always appears. If the main noun is definite, then the attribute is also definite, and if the main noun is indefinite, then the attribute is also indefinite.

The number is evident at the sentence level on human-singular and human-plural nouns. Commonly, feminine nouns are marked with *-al* and sometimes with prefix *al-* and suffix *-ah* when they are singular and with *-at* if plural. Some feminine nouns lack feminine markers, and some masculine nouns may have them. Masculine nouns are marked with *-al* when they are singular. In plurality, masculine nouns can be sound plural nouns and marked with the suffix *-ūn* (Alshammari 2015, 842), (Badawi 2016, 25).

Cases will certainly appear in sentences because cases involve the components of a sentence making up nouns, verbs, and particles. The details of compliance are shown in the following example.

(5) *Lam yadfa` al-akādīmiyīn lid-difā`i`*
not push.3.m.s def. academic.3.pl.nom for defend

`an istiqlālihim (Ntr 30-09-2016)
from independence-their.m

‘He did not push academics to defend their independence.’

Conformity in a sentence is not only seen from the parallel between two nouns side by side, but is more complex. Their position often causes accusative cases as a result of the particles that precede them. For example, the particle *inna* or *af`alu nāqishah* and its siblings cause a noun: the *ism* of *inna* and the *khobar* of *af`alu naqisah* in accusative case.

(6) *Wa yabdū anna s-sīnāriyū l-ladzī tarsumuhu*
and appears.imp.3m.s that def. scenario which draw.imp.2m.s-him

z-ziyādāt l-mutawaqqi`ah fī darajatil-charārah (Ntr 17-11-2015)
def. increases.f.pl def.expectation in temperature heat
‘It appears that the scenario you draw from the expected temperature increases.’

In quotation (6), there are three interrelated relations to the suitability of pronouns, gender, and quantities. The loan noun *as-sīnāriyū* ‘scenario’ is of a single masculine gender because it is not marked as a feminine noun. This gender and number are indicated by the conjunctive noun *l-ladzī* ‘which’ for the third person masculine singular. The other designator is the */-hu/* ‘his’ bound personal pronoun at the end of the verb *tarsumu* ‘paint’. It appears that the noun, conjunction, and pronoun indicate the suitability of gender and quantity.

(7) *at-tachaddiy t-tiqniy r-ra`īsiy* (Ntr 06-10-2011)
def. unit technical def.main
‘Main technical unit’

In contrast to example (8),

(8) *kāmīrā `āliyah s-sur`ah* (Ntr 13-08-2013)
camera high def.fast
'Lightning fast/advanced camera'

The phrases (7) and (8) each consist of three constituent nouns with a varied layout of the attribute and the backing nouns.

(9) *al-hurmūn al-munasy-syath* (Ntr 11-01-2017)
def. hormone def.growth
'activated hormone'

The phrase *al-hurmūn al-munasy-syath* 'activated hormone' from the example (9) consists of the first noun (N1), a borrowed element which is masculine gender, and the second noun (N2) is also masculine gender. The masculine gender is determined; after all, there are no markers for the feminine gender in the two nouns. By paying attention to the meaning and form, the phrase is a *washfiy* phrase. If it is in the form of a *washfiy* phrase, the two nouns that make up the phrase will show the gender with the addition of a marker in the two nouns, as shown in the phrase. Both are without a feminine gender marker, so the phrase is a masculine phrase. Meanwhile, if it is in the form of an *idhāfiy* phrase, not all of the nouns that make up the phrase appear a gender marker if the type is feminine, but only in N1 nouns. N2 nouns in *idhāfiy* phrase can be of different feminine or masculine gender from the *washfiy* phrase which must match the gender of noun N1. However, the *washfiy* phrase whose N2 noun has *ya' nisbah* letter often adjusts its gender.

(10) *istirātījiyat wathaniyat lish-shichah adz-dzihniyah fī Qathar* (Ntr 12-01-2014)
strategy.f national.f for the health def. mental in Qatar
'National strategy for mental health in Qatar'

Mubtadā' is a noun or combination of nouns that comes before a nominal sentence and functions as a subject. In example (10) *istirātījiyat* 'strategy' as *mubtadā'* which functions as a subject. Incidentally this noun is the

maushūf for the attribut *wathaniyat* 'national' noun. The term *mubtadā'* is a definite noun when the nominative is at the beginning of the sentence or ends due to certain circumstances. However, it appears that the noun above is not in the form of a definite. Its definition is indicated by the phrase *lish-shichah adz-dzihniyah* 'for mental health'. Every indefinite noun, when leaning on a definite noun will become definite. The part that becomes *khobar* or predicate function is the phrase *fī Qathar* which is behind it.

(11) *wa hiya l-jināt l-latī tal`abu dauran fī ktisyāfi l-maradhi* (Ntr 15-12-2011)

and she def.gen.f.pl who play.perf.3.f rounds.acc in uncovering def.pain
'He is the genes that participate in exposing the disease.'

In the example (11), there is the loan noun *al-jināt* 'gens'. Because of the noun is the feminine gender with the plural sign *mu'annats salim*, the pronoun is of the gender of noun, *hiya* 'she'. This marker is also followed by the conjunctive *allati* "which" is behind it which is a feminine gender. The opposing *hiya* pronoun is *huwa* 'he' while the opposite word *allati* is *alladzi* 'which (Masc)'. Here, it appears that the gender of the noun indicates a sentence by two-sentence units of the same gender as the noun.

Apart from pointing words, pronouns, and markers in the noun, it can also be seen from the example (11) that the implicit marker attached to the verb is *tal`abu* 'playing, participating'. The marker for this verb is /t-/ at the beginning of the verb *tal`abu*. This marker designates the feminine gender implied as the third person singular feminine. However, there is a similar form to the verb *tal`abu* which is the implied pronoun for the second person masculine singular. The way to tell the difference is to see the meaning of the sentence's context as a whole.

(12) *indhamma akādīmiyūna ilā l-malāyīna al-muchtajjīna*

Joined.perf.3ms academia.m.pl to def.million def.demonstran.m.pl.gen

fī syawāri`i Mishra fī rabī`i `ām 2010 (Ntr 26-01-2012)

in the way.pl Egypt in the spring of 2010

'Academics joined the millions of people protesting on Egyptian streets in the spring of 2010.'

In example (12) this sentence contains the element loan noun *akādīmiyūna* 'Academics'. This noun is a person's profession so that it can be plural as human (has a reason) with the addition (-ūna) if it is a nominative case and masculine gender or /-āt/ if it is feminine gender. The noun /-ūna/ is used as the masculine plural marker. The *marfū`* condition for the noun *akādīmiyūna* is due to him being the doer (*fā`il*) of the *indhamma* verb 'combined'. The origin of the noun is *akādīmiy* in the singular, entered into Arabic with the addition of *ya 'nisbah* /-y/ at the end word.

(13) *laisa d-diblūmāsiyūna wa l-muchallilūna faqath hum*
Not just def.diplomat.m.pl and def.analyst.m.pl just.m they

l-munsyaghilūna bil-isytibākāt l-musallachah (Ntr 14-07-2011)
def. busy.m.pl with-def. clashes def. Armed

"It is not just diplomats and analysts who are busy engaging in armed clashes."

The *laisa* unit 'no, -particle negation-' is a group of units having the same effect on the *ism* and *khabār* as the verb *kāna* unit. It means that it is a group of siblings with *kāna* so that in grammar, it is often called *akhwātu kāna* 'kana siblings.' This unit is basically a verb, but it is *nāqis* verb (incomplete declension). This group causes its *ism* to be nominative and its *khabar* to be accusative. In example (13), this sentence contains the element loan noun *ad-diblūmāsiyūna* 'diplomats.' A noun like in this example is nominative because it lies behind the *laisa* particle whose status is *ism laisa*. This noun is a person's profession so that it can be plural as human (has a reason) with the addition /-ūna/ if it is a masculine gender of a nominative case or /-āt/ if it is feminine. The morpheme noun /-ūna/ is used as the masculine plural marker. The condition of *marfū`* for the noun *ad-diblūmāsiyūna* is due to him being the *ism laisa*. This is because all the members of the *kāna* cause the *ism* to be the nominative case and the *khabār* to be categorized as the accusative case.

(14) *wa kāna min l-mu`taqadi anna l-fairūsaini kilaihimā*

and it is from def.estimate that def.virus.dual.acc each he.dual.gen

qad dzahara prefix ft l-khafāfisy (Ntr 10-07-2014)

has seen the first perf.3ms in def.bat.pl

"Both viruses are thought to have first appeared in bats."

In example (14), *al-fairūsaini* 'two types of viruses' are originally in the nominative position *al-fairūsāni*, but since they are preceded by *anna* particles which cause the noun to be accusative, its form changes into the accusative position. If it is feminine, the sign is inserted by a sound denoted by /t/ if the noun can be formed into a feminine gender. Meanwhile, the phrase *kilāihimā* is an encoded part (*mudhāf ilaih*) in the form of a *washfiy* phrase. The *kilāihimā* section shows that the noun is a strengthening noun (*taukid*) called *dual mutsanna* and is used to emphasize the noun in the previous phrase. It is indicated by the ending /-himā/ at the end of the noun.

The dominant part of a sentence can be categorized as a typological determinant of language. However, many research results need to be supported. If a study like this produces a lot of findings concerning language development, then the same and successive patterns can be made that will reinforce previously made theories. Thus the result will strengthen the typological characteristics of the Arabic language.

Conclusions

Loanwords appeared very quickly in Arabic during the recent era. This issue is concurrent with the development of science and technology. As a result of the increase in loanwords, Arabic must adapt these loan elements in order to adapt Arabic grammar. One form of such adjustment is an agreement in Arabic grammar. This agreement is found in gender, number, case, and definiteness. The loanwords agreement appears in cases at the syntactic level because cases involve the constituent sentence components of noun, verb, and particle. The number agreement appears in part of the sentence. The gender agreement appears in sentences, and definiteness appears in phrases and sentences.

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