The possibilities of belongingness of the adjective in Arabic to two or three preceding nouns with reference to translation into English

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Introduction

1.Statement of the Problem :

The present study is designed to address the recurring problems translators face in rendering the Arabic adjective which may belong to more than one preceding nouns into English .The most difficult areas that are going to be dealt with are :

 1.The syntactic system of Arabic is quite different from that of English as the former language is known to enjoy more flexibility in taking different cases of the adjective in the same text than the latter .This creates so many obstacles in the process of translating .

2.The Arabic adjective does not only , as most of translators believe   , agree in the case with only the direct preceding noun .Consider the following text which will certainly help to sum up the problem in some detail : هذا مدخل البستان الكبير

Concerning the SL above adjective (الكبير) , one can not determine which noun is modified by the SL adjective (الكبير) , Aziz (1989 : 134) points out that the noun phrase (مدخل البستان (الكبير) may be ambiguos because the adjective (الكبير) may belong to either of the preceding nouns (مدخل or البستان) . If . the adjective (الكبيرُ) occupies the nominative case , it belongs to the nominative noun (مدخلُ). The noun phrase becomes : مدخلُ البستانِ الكبيرُ) (the <u>big</u> gate of the garden .) . If the adjective (الكبيرِ) takes the genitive case , it modifies the genitive noun (البستانِ) .The noun phrase will change into : مدخلُ البستانِ الكبيرِ (the gate of the <u>big</u> garden .)

2<u>.Aims of the Study</u> :

The present study aims at :

1.Studying the syntactic and semantic aspects of the possibiliteis of belongingness of the Arabic adjective to the direct or indirect preceding nouns (with brief referenc e to some such adjectives utilized in Arabic as well as the Glorious Quran)

2.Analyzing the SL texts to identify the preceding noun that the adjective belongs to .

3.Proposing alternative renderings for the SL textsunder investigation.

3.Hypothesis :

1.Translators commit so many horrible mistakes in rendering such texts .

2.There is no one –to one correspondence between adjective in Arabic and English .

3.Formal translation is the most suitable one to be chosen to render the texts containing such type of Arabic adjective .

4.Procedure and Data Collection :

The procedure followed in this study consists of the following steps :

1.Some worksregarding the possibilities of belongingness of the Arabic and English are consulted so as to arrive at the most suitable understanding of belonging the Arabic adjective to the preceding nouns .

2.Analyses of the source language (SL) texts and their renderings are provided concerning thier form , function with respect of the Arabic adjective .

5.Scope of the study :

This study is confined to the syntactic and semantic possibilities of belonging the Arabic adjective to the preceding nouns .The researcher has attempted to be highly selective in choosing the texts to be investigated to cover as many aspects of belongingness of the adjective in Arabic as possible .

6. Model of the Study :

The model adopted in the present study is the Formal Equivalence by Munday (2012 : 74) which is related to the form and aesthetics of the text and includes wordplays and the individual stylistics features of the ST .It is referred to by others as ' expressive equivalence ' .

7.Value of the Study :

1.For students , this research is expected to be useful in providing them with some more knowledge about the possibilities of belongingness of the adjective in Arabic and improve their abilities in translating an English text and analyzing the translation .

2.For lecturers , this research is expected to be useful as an additional input in teaching translation .

3.For translators , this research is expected to be able to inspire them in their future researches related to this study to make them able to translate better .

8.Adjective in Arabic :

The adjective in Arabic has agreement with the noun head in case , definiteness , gender and number to show a certain feature of that noun head , e.g. مررت برجلٍ كريمٍ (I passed by the generous man .) .Here the adjective (كريمٍ) is utilized to state that the noun head (رجلٍ) is featured by generosity . (Al-Samarra'i ,2010 , Vol ,3 : 157)

Arabic adjectives are similar to nouns in almost every aspect . In their syntactic function , however , they are said to be توابع followers of the noun head , in that they agree with it in definiteness , number , gender and case . (Aziz , 1989 : 165) Consider the following Aya: (يَومئذٍ يُوَفِيهُمُ اللهُ دِينَهُمُ الحقَ) 25 : النور One can note that the adjective (الحق) has two Quranic forms of recitations .So , this can lead to two possibilities of belongingness of the adjective (الحق) to the preceding nouns (الله and دينهم) .When the adjective (الحقُ) is recited in the nominative case , it belongs to the nominative noun (اللهُ) .If the adjective(الحقَ) is recited in the accusative case , it modifies the accusative noun (دينَهم) . (Al-Saadi , 2010 , Vol ,3 : 115) .

9.Adjective in English :

An English sentence is an arrangement of words but in their capacity

as parts of speech . If we do not , as listeners or readers , grasp the identity of these parts of speech , we cannot understand with certainty the message being communicated . Consider , for example ,

They are *encouraging* reprots .

Here the word *encouraging* is the stumbling block . It may be a verb , so that the sentence means

They encourage reports

Or it may be an adjectival , giving the meaning of

These reports are encouraging .(Stageberg ,1981 : 219)

The most widely discussed type is grammatical (or structural) ambiguity . In PHRASE-STRUCTURE ambiguity , alternative

CONSTITUENT STRUCTURES can be analysed either as new [houses and shops] (i.e. both are new) or [new houses] and shops (i.e. only the houses are new) . In TRANSFORMATIONAL ambiguity , the sentence may have a similar BRACKETING on the SURFACE for both readings , but is related to more than one structure at a more abstract LEVEL of PRESENTATION . (Crystal , 2003 a : 21-22)

In English , adjectives are distinguished from nouns in that
(a) they have no number contrast (boy : boys , big : --) ,
(b) they have no case inflection (e.g. the boy's box : the big boy's box),
(c) they have a comparative and a superlative form (bigger , more careful ; biggest , most careful)
(d) and finally they can be premodified by 'very ' (very careful) .(Aziz , 1989 : 159)

Al-Sulaimaan (2010 : 2-3) states that syntactic ambiguity means that a certain syntactic or grammatical structure has more than one interpretation , e.g. New books and dictionaries . The interpretation is either books are new or both books and dictionaries are new .

 10 .Data Analysis :

 Under this heading , the SL texts will be analysed and discussed in some detail.Firstly , the adjective of three possibilities will be dealt with because it shows the problem of the study clearly , after that the adjectieve of two possibilities can be focused on .Each SL text contains proposed renderings in its own analysis .

SL Text (1) : طعن الغلام جانب الرجل/الأيسرِ

<u>SL Text Analysis :</u>

It is to be noted that the belongingness of the SL adjective (الأيسر)is quite ambigous , because it could function as an adjective of any of the preceding nouns (الغلامُ , حانبَ , الرجلِ) If .the adjective (الأيسرُ) occupies the nominatoive case , it belongs to the nominative noun (الغلامُ). The sentence becomes :
(طعنَ الغلامُ/الأيسرُ جانب الرجل) The boy who stands to the left has stabbed the side of the man .) . When the adjective (الأيسرَ) takes the accusative case , it modifies the accusative noun (جانبَ)

.Thus , the sentence changes into : طعن الغلام جانبَ الرجلِ الأيسرَ (
The boy has stabbed the left side of the man .) . In the case that
the adjective (الأيسر) is put in the genitive case , it qualifies the
genitive noun (الرجلِ). The sentence turns into : طعن الغلام جانب
الرجلِ الأيسرِ (The boy has stabbed the side of the man who stands
to the left .) (Al-Samarra'i , 2009 : 46)

Subjects' Renderings :

1.A boy has stabbed the man's left loin .
2.The boy stabbed the man on his left side .
3.The boy stabbed the left part of the man .
4.The child stabbed the man's left side .
5.The boy stabbed the man in his left part .
6.The boy stabbed in his left side .

Discuusion :

It is quite obvious that all translators have dealt with the
adjective (الأيسر) as if it belongs only to the direct preceding
noun (الرجل) . There must be a horrible mistake since the SL
adjective may belong to other nouns in the same text . In such
text , if allthe cases of the adjective are not known on the part
of the translators , they are advised to give more than one
rendering to cover all the possibilities of belongingness of the
SL adjective .

SL Text (2) : شاهد السائح شاطئ البحر الجميل

SL Text Analysis :

On closer inspection , one can note that the SL adjective (الجميل
) may hold belongingness to any of the nouns that come before
it . If the adjective (الجميل) occurres in the nominative case , it
belongs to the nominative noun (السائحُ) .The sentence means :
شاهد السائحُ الجميلُ شاطئَ البحرِ (The nice tourist saw the beach of
the river .) .When the adjective(الجميلَ) takes the accusative
case,it qualifies the accusative noun (شاطئَ).The sentence
becomes : شاهد السائح شاطئَ البحر الجميلَ (The tourist saw the nice
beach of the river .) . When the adjective (الجميلِ) stands in the
genitive case , it modifies the genitive noun (البحرِ). The
sentence gives the meaning of : شاهد السائح شاطئَ البحرِ الجميلِ (The
tourist saw the beach of the nice river .)

Subjects' Renderings :

1.The tourists saw the awesome sea shore .
2.The tourist watched the wonderful sea beach .
3.The tourist saw the beautiful beach of the sea .
4.The tourist saw the wonderful beach .
5.The tourist saw the beautiful beach .
6.The tourist saw the beautiful seaside .

Discussion :

It is believed that renderings (1 , 2 and 6) are ambiguous because in rendering (1) , one can not determine the belongingness of the TL adjectives 'awesome ' ' wonderful ' or ' beautiful ' to which nouns , since it could modify both of the preceding nouns . In renderings (3 , 4 and 5) , translators also commited a big mistake because they gave just one rendering as if the SL adjective (الجميل) can modify only one SL noun .

SL Text (3) : دخلت هند حجرة الفتاة المرتبة

SL Text Analysis :

It could be pointed out that the SL adjective (المرتبة) could belong to (هند , الفتاة , حجرة) . If the SL adjective (المرتبةُ) is placed in the nominative case , it belongs to the nominative noun (هندُ) .The sentence turns into : دخلت هندُ المرتبةُ حجرة الفتاة (Hind ,the neat , entered the girl's room .) .If the adjective (المرتبة) occurres in the accusative case , it modifies the accusative noun (حجرةَ) .Thus , the sentence turns into : دخلت هند حجرةَ الفتاة المرتبةَ (Hind entered the neat room of the girl .)When the adjective (المرتبةِ) stands in the genitive case , it qualifies the genitive noun(الفتاةِ) .The snetence turns into : دخلت هند حجرة الفتاةِ المرتبةِ (Hind entered the room of the neat girl .)

Subjects' Renderings :

1.Hind entered the tidy girl's room .
2.Hind entered the room of the clever girl .
3.Hind entered the room of the tidy girl .
4.Hind had entered the girl's arranged room .
5.Hind entered the firm room of the girl .
6.Hind entered an orderly room of the girl .

Discussion :

It seems that translators can not distinguish which noun is modified by the SL adjective (المرتبة) .Translators (1) utilized

the TL adjective ' tidy ' in a confusing position because one can not realize the tidy one ,i.e . girl or room .While translators (2 and 3) thought that the SL adjective can only belong to the noun ' الفتاة '. Other translators tackled the SL adjective as modifying the noun ' غرفة ' .

SL Text (4) : جاءني غلام زيد الظريف

SL Text Aanalysis :

In the above text , the adjective (الظريف) could belong to either of the preceding nouns (غلام or زيد) .The case of the adjective (الظريف) will help to disambiguate such noun phrase .If the adjective (الظريف) takes the nominative case , it belongs to the nominative noun (غلامُ) . So , the sentence becomes : جاءني غلامُ (الظريفِ) Zaid's nice boy visited me .(When (زيدٍ الظريفُ) occupies the genitive case , it modifies the genitive noun (زيدٍ) . Thus , the sentence conveys the following meaning : جاءني غلامُ زيدٍ الظريفِ) Zaid's, the nice , boy visited me .(Ibn Hisham , 2010 , Vol, 2 : 652)

Subjects' Renderings :

1.Zaid's cute boy has come to me .

2.Zaid's cute son came to me .

3.The handsome son of Zaid came to me .

4.Zaid's cute child had visited me .

5.Zaid's cute son came to me .

6.Zayed 's boy who is lovely came to me .

Discussion :

It is to be noted that the above renderings show that all of the translators believe that the SL adjective (الظريف) can only belong to the nominative noun (غلامُ) .In fact , no one of the translators renders the SL adjective as an adjective modifying the genitive noun (زيدٍ)

SL Text (5) : لقد كان يبصر قصر المتوكل العظيم   (Tantawi , 2008 : 169)

SL Text Analysis :

One can note that the above SL adjective (العظيم) may qualify (قصرor المتوكل) . If the adjective (العظيمَ) takes the accusative case , it qualifies the accusative noun (قصرَ) .Thus , the sentence turns into : لقد كان يبصر قصرَ المتوكل العظيمَ) He was

watching Al-Mutawakil's great palace .) .If the adjective (العظيمِ) occurres in the genitive , it belongs to the genitive noun (لقد كان يبصر قصر المتوكلِ. Thus , the sentence becomes : المتوكلِ) (المتوكلِ العظيمِ) He was watching the palace of Al-Mutawakil , the great.)

Subjects' Renderings :

1.He has been watching Almwtawkal great palace .

2.The great AL-motawakl palace was seen by him .

3.He was looking at Ak-mutawakl great palace .

4.He was watching AL-mutawakil's great castle .

5.He is seeing the great palace of AL-Motawakil .

6.He was seeing the great AL-Mutawkil's palace .

Discussion :

It is crystal clear that translators (1 , 2 and 6) can not raise the ambiguity of the SL text since even now one can not recognize the adjective (العظيم) to which noun it belongs ,i.e. to ' قصر or to ' المتوكل ' . Translators (3, 4 and 5) believe that the SL adjective (العظيم) could only qualify the SL noun (قصر) .They all could produce appropriate renderings if only they gave two renderings to cover all the possbilities of the belongingness of the SL adjective .

Al-) يجمع صفات اللغة الجوهرية وخصائص البلاغة الأصلية : (6) (SL Text Zaiyyat ,2006 : 54)

SL Text Analysis :

Viewing the above text , it is found that the adjective (الأصلية) may belong to any of the two preceding nouns (خصائص or البلاغة) .To identify the belongingness of such adjective , one must determine the case of the adjective . If the adjective (الأصليةَ) occupies the accustaive case , it belongs to the accusative noun (خصائصَ) .So , the sentence becomes : ... وخصائصَ اللغة الجوهريةَ ...) and the original characteristics of the rhetoric .) .When the adjective (الأصليةِ) takes the genitive case , it qualifies the genitve noun (البلاغةِ) .The sentence is : وخصائصَ البلاغةِ الأصليةِ...) ... and the characteristics of the original rhetoric

Subjects' Renderings :

1.It collects the the essential features with original rehtoric .

2.He has both essential charateristics of language and the original features of rhetoric .

3.It houses the essential features of the language and the properties of rhetoric .

4.He is collecting the substantial characteristics of the language and the original properties of eloquence .

5.It collects the Arabic essence objectives and the original rhetoric characteristics .

6.He is collecting characteristics of core language and the features of original rhetoric .

Discussion :

Considering the above – mentioned renderings , one can note that translators (1 and 6) dealt with the SL word (الأصلية) as an adjective belonging just to the SL genitive noun (البلاغةِ). While translators (2 , 3 , and 4) took the SL word (الأصلية) as an adjective modifying the SL accusative noun (خصائص) . Translator (5) can not disambiguate the noun phrase because the TL reader can not determine the noun (البلاغة or خصائص, i.e.) which is modified by the SL adjective (العظيم).

SL Text (7) : يعجبني شعر الرجل الطويل

SL Text Analysis :

The above text involves the adjective (الطويل) which could belong to (شعر or الرجل). When the adjective (الطويل) takes the nominative case , it belongs to the nominative noun (شعرُ) , i.e. the subject .The sentence becomes : يعجبني شعرُ الرجلِ الطويلُ (I admire the long hair of the man .) . If (الطويلِ) stands in the genitive case , it qualifies the genitive noun (الرجلِ). The sentence changes into: يعجبني شعرُ الرجلِ الطويلِ (I admire the hair of the tall man .) .(Aziz , 1989 : 134)

Subjects' Renderings :

1.I like a man's with a long hair .

2.I like a man who has a long hair .

3.I like the long hair of the man .

4.I like the tall man's hair .

5.I like the hair of the tall man .

6.a.I like the hair of the tall man .

   b.I like the tall hair of the man .

Discussion :

In these renderings , translators (1 , 2 and 3) believe that the SL adjective (الطويل) belongs only to the nominative noun (شعرُ). Whereas translator (5) thinks that the SL adjective (الطويل) could only modify the genitive noun (الرجلِ) . Translator (4) could not raise the grammatical ambiguity because if one reads the rendering (4), he can not understand which one is tall ,i.e. (man or hair) . Only translator (6) proved sucessful in rendering the SL text when he gave two renderings to cover the two possibilities of renderings of the SL text .

SL Text (8) : هذا صديقي , عرفان , ابن الوجيه الكبير (Tantawi , 2008 : 186)

SL Text Analysis :

Considering the above text , one can note that the adjective (الكبيرُ) may belong to (ابن or الوجيه) . If (الكبيرُ) occupies the nominative case , it belongs to the nominative noun (ابنُ) . So , the sentence turns into : (ابنُ الوجيهِ الكبيرُ) ... the sheik's old son .) . When (الكبيرِ) occurres in the genitive case , it qualifies the genitive noun (الوجيهِ) . So , the sentence changes into : ابنُ الوجيهِ الكبيرِ) ... the son of the old sheik .)

Subject's Renderings :

1.This my friend Arfaan , the son of the well-known arbitrator
2.This is my friend , Irphan , son of the great noble .
3.This is my friend , Erfan , the son of the great gentleman .
4.This is my friend , Arfan , the old sheik's son .
5.This is my friend , Erfan , the son of the big notability .
6.This is my friend , Arfan who is the son of chief's people .

Discussion :

It seems that all translators do not know who is modified by the SL adjective (الكبير) , i.e. (الوجيه) or (ابن) . Nothing can disambiguate the SL above noun phrase except the case of both the SL adjective and the SL two nouns (الوجيه and ابن) . As usual , translators can not achieve a deeper understanding of the SL noun which is modified by the SL adjective (الكبير) . Translator (1 , 2 and 3) understood that the SL adjective (الكبير) only qualifies the SL noun (الوجيه) . While translator (4) is not able to remove the ambiguity of the belongingness of the SL

adjective since in his rendering ' the old sheik's son ' one can not realize who is old .Whereas translators (5 and 6) rendered the SL text semantically , they believe that only the SL noun (الوجيه) is qualified by the SL adjective (الكبير).

-Al قرار جون الحكيم سبَبَ نجاحهم في هذا المشروع :(9) SL Text Sulaimaan , 2o1o :221)

SL Text Analysis :

The point in the above text is that the adjective (الحكيم) may hold belongingness to either of the preceding nouns (قرار or جون).One can decide the belongingness of such adjective through the case of the adjective (الحكيمُ).When (الحكيمُ) takes the nominative case , it belongs to the nominative noun (قرارُ). Thus , the sentence turns into :.... قرارُ جون الحكيمُ John's sound decision .) .If (الحكيمِ) is put in the genitive case , it modifies the genitive noun (جون).So , the sentence is : ...قرارُ جون الحكيمِ) John's , the wise , decision ...)

1.John's wise decision is ascribed to their success in this plan .
2.The wise decision of John was the reason behind their success in this project .
3.Johon's wise decision was behind their success in the project .
 4.John's wise decision caused their venture's success .
5.The wise decision of John has caused the success in the project .
6.The cause of their success in this project is a wise decision of John .

Discussion :

It seems that all of translators believe that only the SL noun (قرار) could be modified by the SL adjective (الحكيم) . They all forgot that (جون) also may be qualified by the adjective الحكيم) (depending on the case of both the SL adjective (الحكيم) and the two nouns (جون and قرار) . No one of the translators showed that the possbilitiy of the genitive noun (جون) could be modified by the adjective (الحكيم) .

Conclusion

The present study concludes the following :

1.According to their renderings , a large number of translators seem to be quite sure that the adjective in Arabic can only agree with the direct preceding noun .

2.Taking all of the possibilities of belongingness of the adjective in Arabic into consideration is a very useful input to help translators to translate far better .

3.Ignorance of formal markers , especially in Arabic , can lead to unacceptability of translating any piece of speech .

4.Raising translators' awareness of identifying the case of the adjective in Arabic is prerequisite in the process of translating .

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المستخلص

هذا البحث يهدف إلى تسليط الضوء على المشكلات التي تواجه المترجمين أثناء عملية ترجمة النصوص العربية التي تحتوي على الصفة التي تحتمل أن تعود (تصف) أكثر من اسم (موصوف) ممَا يسبب غموضا و لَبْساً في المعنى , وتجدر الإشارة إلى أنَ أغلب مواطن الصعوبة تكمن في النظام النحوي المختلف بين اللغتين وافتقار اللغة الإنكليزية إلى الحركات الإعرابية مما زاد الأمر صعوبة و تعقيدا . و أثبتت الدراسة أنَ هذا الموضوع واسع الإنتشار في القران الكريم و غيره من نصوص و لا سيما في أغلب النصوص العربية الحديثة .