

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ARABIC AND ENGLISH: SIMILARITIES IN PHONOLOGY, MORPHOLOGY, AND SYNTAX

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ANNOTATSIYA. Ushbu maqolada arab va ingliz tillarining fonologiya, morfologiya va sintaksis sohalaridagi o‘xshashliklar qiyosiy tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot ikki tilning umumiy fonetik birliklari, so‘z yasash jarayonlari va gap tuzilishidagi o‘xshash tamoyillarni aniqlaydi hamda til o‘rganuvchilar uchun muhim bo‘lgan lingvistik omillarni yoritadi.

Kalit so‘zlar: Arab tili, ingliz tili, fonologiya, morfologiya, sintaksis, qiyosiy tahlil, o‘xshashliklar.

ABSTRACT. This paper presents a comparative analysis of similarities between Arabic and English in the domains of phonology, morphology, and syntax. Although the two languages belong to distinct language families, they share several structural features that facilitate language learning and provide valuable insights for linguists, teachers, and translators. The study highlights the shared consonantal inventory, comparable patterns of word formation, and parallel syntactic structures that contribute to cross-linguistic understanding.

Keywords: Arabic language, English language, phonology, morphology, syntax, comparative linguistics, similarities.

INTRODUCTION

Arabic and English originate from different language families—Semitic and Germanic respectively—yet they exhibit a number of noteworthy linguistic parallels. Identifying these similarities is essential for understanding how languages

function and interact, and it is particularly helpful for language learners and educators. While most comparative studies focus on differences, this research emphasizes **structural similarities**, offering a fresh perspective on cross-linguistic comparison.

The purpose of this study is to analyze phonological, morphological, and syntactic similarities between Arabic and English in a systematic manner. The findings contribute to linguistic pedagogy, translation studies, and language acquisition research.

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a **qualitative comparative method** based on descriptive linguistic analysis.

Primary data is sourced from standard Modern English and Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) grammar references. Secondary data comes from prior comparative research by Hamad (2014), Holes (2004), Ryding (2005), Mohammed (2023), and others.

The study compares the languages in three structural domains:

1. **Phonology** – similarities in consonants and phonetic patterns.
2. **Morphology** – shared principles of word formation.
3. **Syntax** – sentence structure, modification, negation, and questioning.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Phonological Similarities

Despite belonging to different phonetic traditions, Arabic and English share several consonant sounds such as **/b, d, k, t, f/** (Hamad, 2014). These shared phonemes help beginners acquire basic pronunciation more easily.

However, Arabic contains unique uvular, pharyngeal, and emphatic consonants (**/q, ʔ, ʕ, x, ħ/**), while English includes diphthongs and a rich vowel system not found in Arabic (Mohammed, 2023).

Both languages mark assimilation and connected speech, though in different ways:

- **English** uses linking sounds (w, j, intrusive /r/)

- **Arabic** relies on short vowels (fatḥa, ḍamma, kasra) to maintain phonetic flow (Mubarak & Rahi, 2022).

2. Morphological Similarities

Arabic morphology is based on a **root-and-pattern** system. A trilateral root such as *k-t-b* can produce words like *kitāb* (book), *kataba* (he wrote), *maktab* (office) (Ryding, 2005).

English morphology depends on **affixation**, forming words such as *write* → *writer*, *writing*, *rewritten*.

Both languages:

- modify word meaning through internal or external changes
- create plurals systematically
- generate new words to express new concepts

Although English uses regular plural -s, Arabic employs both **sound plurals** and **broken plurals** (Holes, 2004). Despite structural differences, both languages exhibit predictable morphological patterns.

3. Syntactic Similarities

English typically follows the **SVO** order: “The student reads a book.”

Arabic allows both **SVO** and **VSO** orders:

- SVO: الطالب يقرأ الكتاب
- VSO: يقرأ الطالب الكتاب

Both languages use modifiers—adjectives, adverbs, prepositional phrases—to specify nouns and describe actions.

Questions and negation also show parallels:

- English uses auxiliaries: *Did the student read the book?*
- Arabic uses particles: هل قرأ الطالب الكتاب؟

Both systems logically mark subjects, objects, and tense, making cross-linguistic predictions possible (Saeed, 2009).

CONCLUSION

The comparative analysis reveals that Arabic and English, despite their genealogical

distance, share significant structural similarities. Both languages exhibit overlapping consonant inventories, systematic methods of word formation, and flexible yet rule-governed syntactic patterns.

These similarities:

- facilitate second language acquisition,
- help predict learner challenges,
- and provide valuable insights for linguists and language educators.

Studying these parallels enhances our understanding of how languages operate and supports effective language teaching methodologies.

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