

# English Participial Adjectives and Arabic Agentive and Patientive Nouns

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**Abstract**—This paper is intended to conduct a fairly detailed contrastive linguistic analysis of the English participial adjectives: present participle and past participle, and their Arabic counterparts, namely, *ʔismulfaʔil*/ agentive noun or active participle, and *ʔismulmafʔul* / patientive noun or passive participle. The process of contrast will be based on morphological, syntactic and semantic criteria. The analysis carried out in the study aims at investigating and scrutinizing, and exploring and revealing any points of convergence and / or divergence in the linguistic behavior of both English and Arabic participials. The paper falls into three sections. The first section incorporates a detailed analysis of the English participial adjectives: present participle and past participle in terms of morphological, syntactic and semantic perspectives. The second section is concerned with their Arabic counterparts: *ʔismulfaʔil* / agentive noun , and *ʔismulmafʔul* / patientive noun in terms of the above mentioned perspectives . The third section is devoted to any possible conclusion that may be arrived at through an overall contrastive analysis of both English participial adjectives and their Arabic counterparts.

**Index Terms**—present participle, past participle, agentive noun, patientive noun, active participle, passive participle

## I. ENGLISH PARTICIPIAL ADJECTIVES

### A. Morphological Perspective

English makes use of two participle forms; the *-ing* participle, also known as the present participle, and the *-ed* participle, or alternatively, the past participle. The *-ing* participle is derived by adding the *-ing* suffix to the base form of the verb, that is, **base+ing**, such as: *interest* - an *interesting* story, *win* - a *winning* team ,and *tire* - a *tiring* exercise .The *-ed* participle, which is sometimes called the *-en* participle, is produced by adding the **(e)d** suffix to the base form of the verb, viz, **base+ed** such as :*interest* - *interested* applicants , *defeat* - a *defeated* army ,and *close* - a *closed* shop. On the other hand, the **-ed** suffix has a variety of morphological realization with irregular / strong verbs. This might be the reason why some linguists refer to it as the **-en** participle. Following are some examples of irregular past participles, which are derived by ablating: *break* - a *broken* window, *lose*- *lost* property, and *freeze*- *frozen* meat.

The greatest majority of English participles are deverbal, i.e, derived from verbs. However, a few are derived from nouns: *appetite* – *appetising* food, *neighbour* – *neighbouring* villages. See (Downing and Locke, 1995, P.515) and (Noonan, 1994, P.172).Moreover, it is not uncommon to derive the **-ed** participles from nouns, especially when there is no corresponding verb. Such participles are called denominal,and some of them are: a *cleft* - a *clefted* sentence, a *talent* - a *talented* child, and a *beard* - a *bearded* man. In addition, a few **-ed** participles can assume two different morphological realizations depending on whether the participle is used attributively or predicatively, (Close, 1979, P. 87). This can be seen in the following examples:

Attributive	Predicative
a <i>sunken</i> ship	The ship is <i>sunk</i> .
<i>molten</i> lava	The lead is <i>melted</i> .
a clean- <i>shaven</i> man	His beard is <i>shaved</i> .
the <i>drunken</i> men	The men are <i>drunk</i> .
my <i>blest</i> father	I am blessed if I <i>know</i> .

As regards compounding, some participles can occur compounded with an adverb, an adjective , a noun, or a preposition. These compound structures with participles are common before nouns as can be seen below (Swan 1996, P. 405):

a <i>well</i> – <i>built</i> road	= (adv + -ed participle)
a <i>fast</i> – <i>growing</i> tree	= (adv + -ing participle)
a <i>good</i> – <i>looking</i> boy	= (adj + -ing participle)
a <i>blue</i> – <i>eyed</i> girl	= (adj + -ed participle/ nominal)
a <i>home</i> - <i>made</i> cake	= (noun + -ed participle)
a <i>flesh</i> – <i>eating</i> animal	= (noun + ing participle)

the *above-mentioned* point = (prep. + -ed participle)

### B. Syntactic Perspective

(Quirk et al, 1991, P.402-3) mention the following four features as characteristics of adjectives: (i) free occurrence in attributive position, (ii) free occurrence in predicative position, (iii) intensification with “*very*”, and (iv) admissibility of comparison. See (Kaplan, 1989, P. 115), (Downing and Locke, 1995, P. 512-519), and (Aarts, 1997, P. 31). Now, to judge at the adjectival status of English participles, let us apply the above tests to two participles; *interesting* and *tired*:

- a. Attributive position:
  1. She told me an *interesting* story.
  2. The *tired* man went to bed early.
- b. Predicative position:
  3. Her story was *interesting*.
  4. The man seems *tired*.
- c. Intensification with “*very*”
  5. It was a very *interesting* story.
  6. He seems very *tired* when he came back.
- d. Admissibility of comparison:
  7. Her story was *more interesting than* yours.
  8. He was *more tired than* I expected.

As can be seen in the above examples, the application of the aforementioned tests shows that the participles *interesting* and *tired* achieve the full status of adjective, i.e. *-ing* and *-ed* participles can be used like adjectives (Swan, 1996, P.403). They function both as modifiers and complements. These participial adjectives can be graded. See (Downing and Locke, 1995, P. 514). However, with the participles *closed* and *missing*, some of the above tests do not apply. Consider the following examples:

- a. Attributive position:
  9. She could not find the *missing* jewels.
  10. They were arrested in a *closed* area.
- b. Predicative position:
  11. Her jewels are *missing*.
  12. The shop is *closed*.
- c. Intensification with “*very*”
  - 13.\* The jewels seem *very missing*.
  - 14.\* The shop is *very closed*.
- d. Admissibility of comparison:
  - 15.\* The jewels were *more missing than* she imagined.
  - 16.\* The shop was *more closed than* we thought.

The application of the above tests shows that some participles behave as fully-fledged adjectives, while others display some deficiencies. At the same time, the above examples show that any participle that admits of intensification with “*very*” admits also of comparison and vice versa. However, adjectives that reject intensification with “*very*” accept it once they are compounded with an adverb or adjective, but not with a noun. The following examples illustrate the point:

- |                                   |    |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------|
| 17.* <i>very boiled</i> eggs      | vs | <i>very hard-boiled</i> eggs        |
| 18.* a <i>very running</i> stream | vs | a <i>very slowly-running</i> stream |
| 19.* a <i>very growing</i> tree.  | vs | a <i>very fast-growing</i> tree     |

But it can be argued that it is the adverb rather than the whole compound adjective that is intensified by “*very*”. This relation can be shown in Figure (1) below:

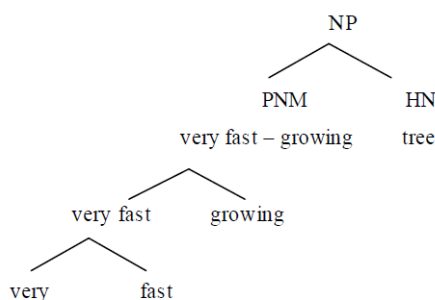


Figure (1)

NP: noun phrase, PNM: pronominal modifier, HN: head noun

Nevertheless, it might be possible to draw a hazy line of distinction between participles that admit of intensification with “very” and those that reject it. Such a line will enable us to call the former group “descriptive” adjectives and the latter group “classifying” adjectives, (Aarts and Aarts, 1988, P. 68).

Another syntactic feature of English adjectives in general is that they typically occur before the nouns they modify. This is also typical of participial adjectives in general. However, there are cases when an *-ed* participle must occur in postnominal position, (Quirk et al, 1991, P. 1329). This is the case when the *-ed* participle is followed by a by-agent/actor phrase or by other prepositional construction only post-modification is possible. See (Noonan, 1994, P. 172). Thus we have “the *defeated* army”, the *offended* man are acceptable but:

**20.a.** the soldiers *killed in the battle* [NOT: \*the in the battle *killed* soldiers]

**21.a.** the books *published by Longman* [NOT: \*the by Longman *published* books]

**22.a.** the man *offended by the policeman* [NOT: \*the *offended* by the policeman man]

But it is possible to think of these adjectives as remnants of reduced relative clauses. That means we often use participles after words in order to define or identify the nouns in the same way we use identifying relative clauses, (Swan, 1996, P.474) and (Roberts, 1998, P. 252).

**20.b.** the soldiers *who were killed* in the battle

**21.b.** the books *which were published* by Longman

**22.b.** the man *who was offended* by the policeman

In addition, some *-en* participials can occur in both pre-nominal and postnominal positions, but with a different meaning in either case, (Quirk et al, 1991, P. 1330). Consider the following examples:

**23. a.** the *teacher concerned* = the teacher in question

**b.** his *concerned* look = his worried look

**24. a.** the *jobs wanted* = the jobs wanted by individuals

**b.** the *wanted* man = the man wanted by the police

From a morpho-syntactic point of view, participial adjectives behave in a manner identical to that of adjectives proper. This is seen in the fact that the morphological form of a participial adjective is invariable regardless of the number, gender or case of the noun it modifies. This is illustrated in the following examples:

**25. a.** a *recorded* talk vs \*some *recordeds* talks

**b.** a *dying* man vs a *dying* woman

Another morpho-syntactic consideration related to participial adjectives has to do with the transitivity or intransitivity of the verb from which the participial adjective is derived. From the fact that an *-ing* participle has an active meaning, while the *-ed* participle has a passive meaning, (Quirk et al, 1991, P.413), it follows that the *-ing* participle can be derived from both transitive and intransitive verbs, whereas the derivation of an *-ed* participle is restricted to transitive verb. Or to put it straight, an intransitive verb typically yields an *-ing* participle, while a transitive verb can yield both *-ing* and *-ed* participle adjectives. Here are some illustrative examples:

**26. a.** The man is *dying* (vi) He is a *dying* man

**b.\*** He is *died* \*He is *died* man

**27. a.** The creature *lives* (vi) It is a *living* creature

**b.\*** the creature is *lived*. \*It is a *lived* creature

**28.** The tale *excited* the children (vt) It is an *exciting* tale.

The tale is *exciting*.

The *excited* children would not go to bed.

The children were *excited*.

But the above restrictions on intransitive verbs do not apply across the board. In fact, some intransitive verbs can yield *-ed* participial adjectives. In such cases, the passive interpretation is impossible, (Swan, 1996, P.404). The following sentences exemplify the point:

**29.** The prisoner *escaped*. (vi) the *escaped* prisoner

**30.** The flower *has faded*. (vi) the *faded* flower

**31.** The general *retired*. (vi) the *retired* general

**32.** A leaf *has fallen*. (vi) a *fallen* leaf

But this should not be taken to mean that such verbs do not yield *-ing* participial adjectives. In fact, they do, and in such cases, the *-ing* participial adjectives refers to process, while its *-ed* counterparts refer to a state or result. See (Downind and Locke, 1995, P. 454). This point is illustrated in the following examples:

**33. a.** The child is growing. It is a *growing* child. (process)

**b.** The events are coming. The coming events may be bad. (process)

**34. a.** The man has grown up. He is a *grown up* man. (state)

**b.** The leaves had fallen. They are fallen leaves. (result)

On the other hand, the *-ing* and the *-ed* forms do not always have an adjectival status. Very often, their status is verbal or nominal. For the *-ing* form the verbal status is unquestionable when the form is followed by a direct object, (Quirk et al, 1991, P.414). Thus the *-ing* forms in the following examples have a verbal function:

**35.** His remarks are insulting us.





77. يوم يكون الناس كالفرأش الميثوث (الفارعة : 4)

If the verb is hollow, it is changed into present form and the present marker (*yā?*) is changed into (*mīm*), e.g: *lām-a* (blame) becomes *malūm* (blameworthy).

78. فتلقى في جهنم ملوماً مدحوراً (الاسراء : 39)

If the verb is defective, it is also changed into present form and the present marker (*yā?*) is changed into (*mīm*) and the final vowel (*wāw*) is geminated, e.g. : *raj-a* (hope) become *marjū* ( the one who is hoped).

79. قالوا يا صالح قد كنت فينا مرجواً قبل هذا (هود : 62)

The two processes are shown in Figures (2) and (3) below:

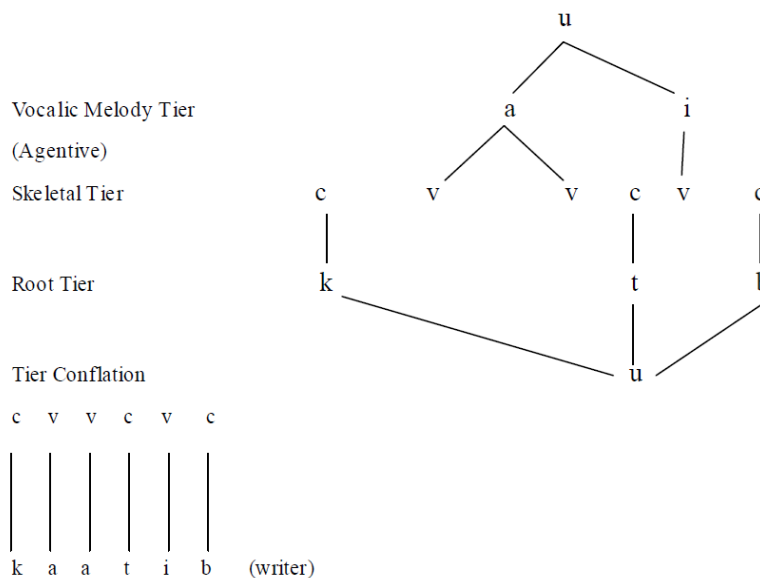


Figure (2)

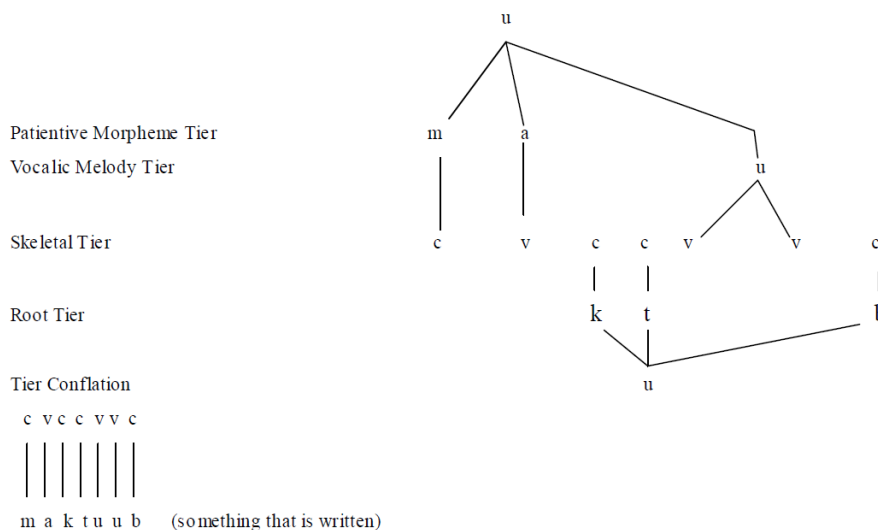


Figure (3)

Figure (2) represents the prosodic template for the the derivation of ?ismulfā9il (kātib) from the triconsonantal root (ktb). Figure (3) shows the prosodic template for the derivation of ?ismulmaf9ūl (maktūb) from the same triconsonantal root.

2. Verbs of multiliteral roots produce different morphological forms of ?ismulfā9il and ?ismulmaf9ūl. With such verbs the discontinuous agentive morph consists of /mu/ added before the first constant of the root, and /i/ inserted immediately before the final consonant of the root, e.g. ?axraj –a (brings forth) becomes muxrij (the one who brings forth).

80. والله مخرجٌ ما كنتم تكتمون (البقره : 72)

The patientive morph consists of /mu/ prefixed to the first consonant in the root, and /a/ inserted before the final consonant of the root, e.g. ?axraj –a (cast out ) becomes (muxraj) (be cast out).

81. قالوا لنن لم تنته يا لوط لتكونن من المخرجين (الشعراء : 167)

Figures (4) and (5) below illustrate this point:

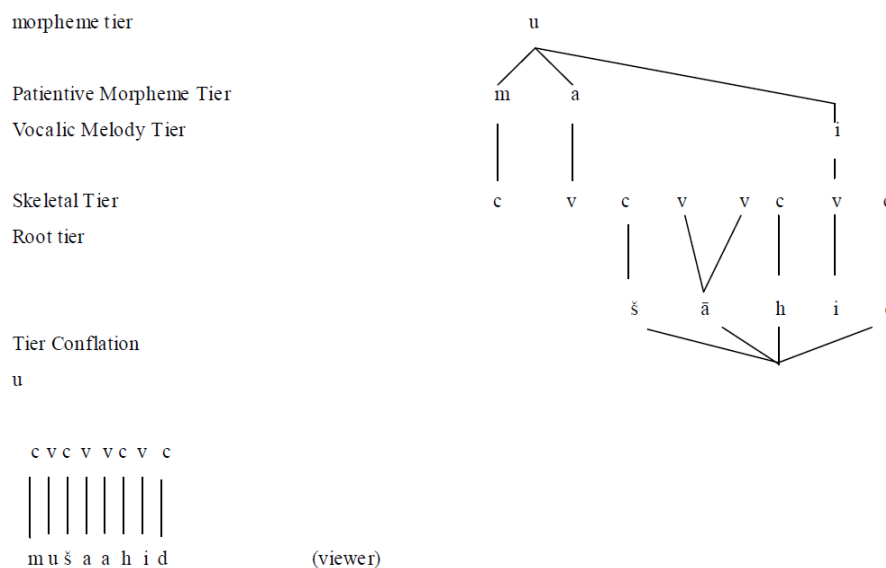


Figure (4)

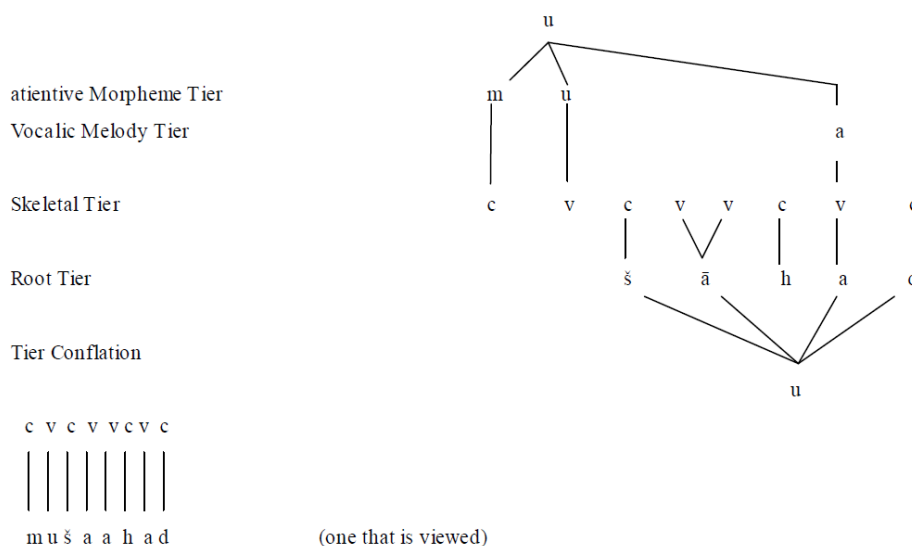


Figure (5)

Figure (4) shows the prosodic template for the derivation of *?ismulfā9il* (mušāhid) "viewer" from the quadriliteral root (šāhad-a), whereas figure (5) shows the prosodic template for the derivation of *?ismulmaf9ūl* (mušāhad) "the one that is viewed" from the same quadriliteral root.

With some verbs of multiliteral roots, both *?ismulfā9il* and *?ismulmaf9ūl* can assume the same morphological form, (Rajhi, A, 1973, P.83) and (Afaghni, S, 1081, P.198-208) The meaning can be recovered from the context. This is especially the case when the penultimate sound in the multiliteral root is /ā/ and the verb is transitive, as in the following examples:

82. ?ixtāra - muxtār : (lit) = chooser / something chosen

83. ?ightāba - mughtāb : (lit) = gossip / someone gossiped

With some triconsonantal verbs, it is possible, semantically, for *?ismulmaf9ūl* to have the alternative form *fa9īl*, as in the following examples:

84. qatala - maqtūl / qatīl - (killed)

85. jaraḥa - majrūh / jarḥ - (wounded)

### B. Syntactic Perspective

From a morpho-syntactic point of view *?imulfā9il* and *?ismulmaf9ūl* show full agreement in number, gender, case, and definition with their referents, especially when the referent is personal or non personal noun, (Humuz, 1993, P.68 – 84) and (Afghani, 1981, P.198-208) as the following examples illustrate:

#### • Agentive Noun:

86. a (هو الخالق البارئ المصور له الأسماء الحسنى (الحشر:24)  
(definite, nominative, masculine, singular)

- b. ولا يَأْب كَاتِبٌ أَنْ يَكْتُبَ بِمَا عَلَّمَهُ اللَّهُ (البقرة: 282)  
(indefinite, nominative, masculine, singular)
- c. وَالسَّارِقُ وَالسَّارِقَةُ فَاقْطَعُوا أَيْدِيَهُمَا جِزَاءً بِمَا كَسَبَا (المائدة: 38)  
(definite, nominative, masculine, singular)
- d. لَا عَاصِمٌ الْيَوْمَ مِنْ أَمْرِ اللَّهِ (هود: 43)  
(indefinite, nominative, masculine, singular)
- e. رَبَّنَا أَخْرِجْنَا مِنْ هَذِهِ الْقَرْيَةِ الظَّالِمِ أَهْلِهَا (النساء: 75)  
(definite, dative, masculine, singular)
- f. ثُمَّ تَرَدُّونَ إِلَى عَالِمِ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ (التوبة: 94)  
(indefinite, dative, masculine, singular)
87. a. وَالسَّارِقُ وَالسَّارِقَةُ فَاقْطَعُوا أَيْدِيَهُمَا جِزَاءً بِمَا كَسَبَا (المائدة: 38)  
(definite, nominative, feminine, singular)
- b. كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ (الأنبياء: 35)  
(indefinite, nominative, feminine, singular)
- c. مَا كُنْتُ قَاطِعَةً أَمْرًا حَتَّى تَشْهَدُونَ (النحل: 32)  
(indefinite, accusative, feminine, singular)
- d. يَوْمَ تَذْهَبُ كُلُّ مَرْضِعَةٍ عَمَّا أَرْضَعَتْ (الحج: 2)  
(indefinite, dative, feminine, singular)
88. a. إِذْ يَلْتَقَى الْمُلْتَقَانِ عَنِ الْيَمِينِ وَعَنِ الشِّمَالِ (ق: 17)  
(definite, nominative, masculine, dual)
- b. قَالُوا إِنَّ هَٰذَا لَسَاحِرٌ رَانٍ (طه: 63)  
(indefinite, nominative, masculine, dual)
- c. بَلْ يَدَاهُ مَبْسُوطَتَانِ (المائدة: 64)  
(indefinite, nominative, feminine, dual)
- d. وَسَخَّرَ لَكُمُ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ دَائِبَيْنِ (إبراهيم: 33)  
(indefinite, accusative, masculine/ feminine, dual)
- e. فَلَنْ لَمْ يَجِدْ فَصِيَامَ شَهْرَيْنِ مُتَتَابِعَيْنِ (المجادلة: 4)  
(indefinite, dative, masculine, dual)
89. a. وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ (البقرة: 5)  
(definite, nominative, masculine, plural)
- b. بَلْ هُمْ قَوْمٌ طَاغُونَ (الذاريات: 53)  
(indefinite, nominative, masculine, plural)
- c. وَكُنَّا نَحْنُ الْوَارِثِينَ (القصص: 58)  
(definite, accusative, masculine, plural)
- d. كُونُوا قِرَدَةً خَاسِنِينَ (البقرة: 65)  
(indefinite, accusative, masculine, plural)
- e. فَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ وَكُنْ مِنَ السَّاجِدِينَ (الحجر: 98)  
(definite, dative, masculine, plural)
- f. وَمَا هُمْ بِخَارِجِينَ مِنَ النَّارِ (البقرة: 167)  
(indefinite, dative, masculine, plural)
90. a. فَالْصَّالِحَاتِ قَانِتَاتٍ حَافِظَاتٍ لِلْغَيْبِ (النساء: 34)  
(definite, nominative, feminine, plural)
- b. هَلْ هُنَّ كَاشِفَاتُ ضُرِّهِ (الزمر: 38)  
(indefinite, nominative, feminine, plural)
- c. لِيَدْخُلَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتُ , جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ (الفتح: 5)  
(definite, accusative, feminine, plural)
- d. وَالنَّخْلُ بِأَسْفَلَاتِ لَهَا طَلْعُ نَضِيدٍ (ق: 10)  
(indefinite, accusative, feminine, plural)
- e. فَالْمُدْبِرَاتُ أَمْرًا (النازعات: 5)  
(definite, dative, feminine, plural)

#### • Patientive Nouns:

91. a. وَهَٰذَا كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ مِبَارَكٌ (الأنعام: 157)  
(indefinite, nominative, masculine, singular)
- b. وَقُلْ رَبِّي أَنْزَلَنِي مِنْزَلًا مِبَارَكًا (المؤمنون: 29)  
(indefinite, accusative, masculine, singular)
- c. إِلَى يَوْمِ وَقْتٍ مَعْلُومٍ (الحجر: 38)  
(definite, dative, masculine, singular)
- d. إِلَى قَدَرٍ مَعْلُومٍ (المرسلات: 10)  
(indefinite, dative, masculine, singular)
92. a. وَقَالَتِ الْيَهُودُ يَدُ اللَّهِ مَغْلُولَةٌ (المائدة: 64)  
(definite, dative, feminine, plural)



- (indefinite, nominative, feminine, singular)
- b. (60 : الإسراء) والشجرة الملعونة في القرآن  
(definite, accusative, feminine, singular)
- c. (8 : هود) ولئن أخرنا عنهم العذاب الى أمة معدودة  
(indefinite, dative, feminine, singular)
93. a. (12 : السجدة) إذ المجرمون ناكسو رؤوسهم  
(definite, nominative, masculine, plural)
- b. (53 : يس) وإن كل لما جميع لدينا محضرون  
(indefinite, nominative, masculine, plural)
- c. (49 : الأعراف) وترى المجرمين يومئذ مقرنين في الأصفاد  
(indefinite, accusative, masculine, plural)
- d. (10 : الأعراف) قال انك من المنذرين  
(definite, dative, masculine, plural)
94. a. (25 : النساء) والمحصنات من النساء  
(definite, nominative, feminine, plural)
- b. (25 : البقرة) ولهم فيها أزواج مطهرة  
(indefinite, nominative, feminine, plural)
- c. (50 : ص) جنات عدن مفتحة لهم الأبواب  
(indefinite, accusative, feminine, plural)
- d. (4 : القارعة) يوم يكون الناس كالفراش المبثوث  
(definite, dative, feminine, plural)

From a functional point of view, the two forms, *?ismulfā9il* and *?ismulmaf9ūl*, can realize three functions; modificational, nominal and adverbial, as follows:

a. Modificational: Here the two forms function as pre-nominal modifier and post-nominal modifiers typically following their referents:

95. (126 : البقرة) ربنا أخرجنا من هذه القرية الظالم أهلها pre – nominal modifier  
96. (6 : الفاتحة) اهدنا الصراط المستقيم past – nominal modifier

b. Nominal: Here the two forms are capable of realizing almost any function that is typically realized by noun:

97. (72 : البقرة) والله مخرج ما كنتم تكتمون (subject complement)  
98. (13 : الغاشية) فيها سرر مرفوعة (subject complement)

c. Adverbial: The typical adverbial function that the two forms can realize is that of manner adverbial; as the following examples show:

99. (39 : الإسراء) فلقى في جهنم ملوماً مدحوراً (manner adverbial)  
100. (49 : المائدة) فما لهم عن التذكرة معرضين (manner adverbial)

The two forms, *?ismulfā9il* and *?ismulmaf9ūl* can be derived only from verbs. The former can be derived from both transitive and intransitive verbs, whereas the latter is derived only from transitive verbs, as can be seen in the following examples:

101. (32 : النمل) ما كنت قاطعة أمراً حتى تشهدون  
102. (120 : النحل) إن إبراهيم كان أمة قانتاً لله حنيفاً  
103. (252 : البقرة) وإنك لمن المرسلين

With respect to complementation, *?ismulfā9il* and *?ismulmaf9ūl* behave in the same manner as their corresponding verbs. This means that *?ismulfā9il* that is derived from a transitive verb can have a direct object, and even an indirect object if the verb is ditransitive. Consider the following examples:

104. a. (26 : التوبة) انزل الله سكينته على رسوله وعلى المؤمنين  
b. (34 : العنكبوت) أتأمنون على أهل هذه القرية رجزاً  
105. a. منح المعلم الطالب وساماً  
b. المعلم مانح الطالب وساماً

In sentence (104.b) above, the underlined noun رجزاً functions as direct object of the italicized agentive noun تأمنون. In sentence (105.b) the underlined nouns الطالب and وساماً function respectively as indirect object and direct object of the italicized agentive noun مانحاً. This transitivity is not possible for those forms of *?ismulfā9il* that are derived from intransitive verbs. Such forms do not take any object, as can be seen in the following example:

106. a. هرب الطفل  
b. الطفل هارب

As far as *?ismulmaf9ūl* is concerned, it has the function of its passive verb. This means that *?ismulmaf9ūl* that is derived from a transitive verb can have a pro-agent :

107. ذلك يوم مجمّع له الناس (هود : 103)  
108. الخيّل معقود بنواصيها الخير (حديث شريف)

The underlined nouns in the above sentences function as pro-agents of the italicized patientive nouns, مجموع and معقود.

As pointed out above, *?ismulfā9il* and *?ismulmaf9ūl* agree with their referents in terms of number, gender and case. In fact, this statement needs some modification. Adjectives referring to qualities that are exclusively characteristics of females may not show agreement in gender with their referents. Consider the following examples:

109. سيدةٌ حاملٌ

110. امرأةٌ عاقرٌ

Notice that the two words *عاقرٌ* and *حاملٌ* are masculine in form although their respective referents *سيدةٌ* and *إمرأةٌ* are feminine. This is because the qualities of pregnancy and infertility are characteristics of women.

### C. Semantic Perspectives

When used as postnominal modifiers, *?ismulfā9il* and *?ismulmaf9ūl* display a high degree of semantic regularity. The former modifies a referent that is invariably the agent of the verb from which *?ismulfā9il* itself is derived. The latter, i.e. *?ismulmaf9ūl* modifies a referent that is the patient of the verb from which *?ismulmaf9ūl* itself is derived. In other words, there is a consistent agentive relationship between *?ismulfā9il* and its referent in the same way that there is consistent patientive relationship between *?ismulmaf9ūl* and its referent, (Zamakhshari, P. 230), (Ibn Ya'ish, 6, P. 80), (Al- Istrabadi, 1985, P.2: 203) and (Samaira'i, 1981, P. 59) These interpretations can be seen in the following examples:

111. السم قاتلٌ

112. الشبّاك مكسورٌ

In sentence number (111) the noun *السم* is transformationally the agent of verb *قاتلٌ* from which the italicized *?ismulfā9il*, (قاتل), is derived. Similarly, in sentence number (112) the noun *الشبّاك* is transformationally the patient of the verb *كسر* from which *?ismulmaf9ūl*, (مكسور), is derived. These distinctive semantic relationships holding between the above underlined head nouns and their postnominal modifiers, i.e. *?ismulfā9il* and *?ismulmaf9ūl*, are not influenced by the number of letters / consonants found in the root verb from which the postnominal modifier is derived. Whether the root verb is trilateral or multilateral, the semantic role played by the head noun towards *?ismulfā9il* is that of effecting agent, whereas the role played by the head noun towards *?ismulmaf9ūl* is that of effected patient. The above labeling of *?ismulfā9il* as agentive noun, and *?ismulmaf9ūl* as patientive noun may not be appropriate when these two forms are used in a modificational function. In fact, in such a function, it is certainly more appropriate to refer to *?ismulfā9il* as *agentive adjective*, and to refer to *?ismulmaf9ūl* as *patientive adjective*.

From another semantic point of view that has morphological correlations, there are a number of forms that are almost semantically equivalent to *?ismulfā9il* and *?ismulmaf9ūl*, but which have different morphological realization. One of these forms which is sometimes semantically equivalent to *?ismulfā9il* and *?ismulmaf9ūl* is known as *صفه مشبهة* (lit. likened adjective). Some of the adjectives that belong to *?ismulfā9il* are those that have the morphological forms *fa9lān*, *faglā?*, *fa9il*, and *fa9īl* :

113. ولما رجع موسى الى قومه غضبان اسفا ( الاعراف : 150 )

114. انها بقرة صفراء ( البقرة : 69 )

115. وشروه بثمن بخس (يوسف : 20 )

116. انه لفرخ فخور (هود : 10 )

117. وانبتت من كل زوج بهيج ( الحج : 5 )

Some of the adjectives that belong to *?ismulmaf9ūl* are some of those that have the morphological form *fa9īl*, such as *قتيل* (killed) and *جريح* (wounded). Other forms that may assume the semantic role of *?ismulfā9il* are known by the term *صيغة مبالغة* (lit. exaggerative form), ( Maghalseh, 2002, P.424) and (Afaghani, 1981, P.198-208). This class may assume various morphological forms, such as *fa9il*, *fa99āl*, *fa9ūl*, *mif9āl*, and *fa9īl*. The following are illustrative examples:

118. بل هم قوم خصمون (الزخرف : 58)

119. ان ربك فعال لما يريد ( هود : 107 )

120. وحملها الانسان انه كان ظلوماً جهولاً ( الاحزاب : 72 )

121. وارسلنا السماء عليهم مدراراً ( الانعام : 6 )

122. ان الله كان سمياً بصيراً ( النساء : 58 )

One more point that is worth mentioning is that *?ismulfā9il* and *?ismulmaf9ūl* indicate pastness, futurity, continuity and durability, (Samira'I, 1981 , P. 51), (Zamakhshari, 4, P. 189), (Zamakhshari , 2 , P.230 ), (Al-Badri,1404, P. 272 & 308) , (Al-Istrabadi , 1985 ,2, P. 198).

#### (a) Pastness:

123. في الله شك فاطر السموات والارض (ابراهيم : 10)

124. كل يجري لأجل مسمى (الرعد : 2)

The agentive noun *فاطر* in sentence (123) indicates pastness to mean *فطر* (created). Similarly, the patientive noun *مسمى* (-ed appointed) in sentence (124) indicates pastness to mean (-ed appointed).

#### (b) Futurity:

125. كل نفس ذائقة الموت (الانبيا : 35)

126. انا مرسلوا الناقة (القمر : 27)

127. ذلك يومٌ مجموعٌ له الناسُ و ذلك يومٌ مشهود (هود : 103)

The agentive noun *ذائقة* in sentence (125), and *مرسلوا* in sentence (126) show futurity to mean (Every soul shall have a taste of death) and (We will send the she-camel) respectively. The patientive noun *مجموع* and *مشهود* in sentence (127) show futurity to mean (a day for which mankind will be gathered : That will be a Day of Testimony).

## (c) Present time:

128. ما لهم عن التذكرة معرضين (المدثر: 49)129. أني مغلوبٌ فانتصر (القمر: 10)

By the same token, the underlined agentive noun معرضين and patientive noun مغلوب indicate present time to mean (They turn away from admonition) and (I am one overcome).

## (d) Continuity:

130. أن الله فالقُ الحب والنوى (الأنعام: 95)131. أصحاب اليمين ما أصحاب اليمين في سدر مخضود وطلح منضود وظل ممدود وماء مسكوب (الواقعة: 31-27)

The underlined agentive noun فالق in sentence (130) and the underlined patientive nouns مخضود, منضود, ممدود, and مسكوب in sentence (131) imply continuity to mean respectively: (It is Allah Who causeth the seed-grain) and (the date-stone to split and sprout), (He is that cleaveth the day-break from the dark), (They will be among Lote-trees without thorns, among Talh-trees with flowers piled one above another, in shade long-extended, by water flowing constantly).

## (e) Durability:

132. مالك يوم الدين (الفاتحة: 4)

133. فيها سررٌ مرفوعة واكوابٌ موضوعة ونمازقٌ مصفوفة وزرابىٌ ميثوثة (الغاشية: 16-13)

The underlined words in the above sentences indicate duration to mean respectively: (Master of the Day of Judgment. Therein will be couches of dignity raised on high. Goblets placed ready. And cushions set in rows. And rich carpets all spread out).

## III. CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS

The following contrastive analysis will be carried out on the three levels of linguistic analysis handled in the two foregoing sections, i.e. the morphological, syntactic and semantic levels. The ensuing contrastive analysis will reveal the extent to which English participial adjectives and their Arabic equivalents, namely *?ismulfā9il* and *?ismilma9ul* converge and / or diverge in relation to their respective linguistic behavior. However, for convenience, throughout the following sections, the terms *agentive noun* and *patientive noun* will be adopted to refer to the morphological forms of *?ismulfā9il* and *?ismulma9ul* respectively.

## A. Morphological Contrast

There is no similarity at all between the morphology of English participial adjectives and that of their Arabic equivalents. Whereas the derivation of English participial adjectives can be accounted for in terms of concatenative morphology, there is no way of describing the derivation of Arabic agentive and patientive nouns except by means of nonconcatenative morphology using prosodic template model. This is to say that the derivation of English participial adjectives is only a matter of suffixation that does not interfere with the internal phonological structure of the base. But when it comes to Arabic, the derivation of the agentive and patientive nouns relies heavily on vocalic infixation which may sometimes be accompanied by both consonantal and vocalic prefixation. Such a process involves the manipulation of the internal phonological structure of the base in such a way that concatenative morphological models cannot account for.

On the other hand, whereas English makes use of only two morphological forms of participial adjectives, namely, the *-ing* and the *-ed* participle forms regardless of the phonological structure of the base, Arabic is more variable in that it allows four different morphological forms of agentive and patientive nouns. In addition, in Arabic, the phonological structure of the base / root is the major factor that determines the morphological form of the agentive or patientive noun. This is evidenced by the fact that the morphological forms of Arabic agentive and patientive nouns that are derived from trilateral roots are completely different from those of their counterparts that are derived from quadrilateral or multilateral roots.

From inflectional point of view, Arabic agentive and patientive nouns / adjectives have to agree with their referents in terms of number, gender, case and definiteness / indefiniteness. In contrast, English participial adjectives have invariable morphological forms regardless of any concordial aspect.

From a morpho-syntactic point of view, Arabic agentive and patientive nouns are invariably deverbal, i.e. derived from verbs, whereas English participial adjectives are either denominal (derived from noun), or deverbal. From another morpho-syntactic perspective, in Arabic transitive verb can yield both agentive and patientive nouns, whereas an intransitive verb yields only an agentive noun. However, in English there are cases when the *-ed* participial adjective is derived from an intransitive verb, as in *an escaped prisoner* or *grown man*.

## B. Syntactic Contrast

Besides their modificational function, Arabic agentive and patientive nouns can realize the syntactic functions typical of nouns. English participial adjectives tend to display the same kind of behavior, except that they do not realize the function of manner adverbial. This can be seen in the following examples:

134. I don't like the *unknown*. (Od)135. The *unknown* is *interesting*. (S+Cs)136. I found him *interesting*. (Co)

For Arabic examples, see (95-100) above.

From a systematic point of view, Arabic agentive and patientive nouns usually postmodify their referents. English participial adjectives typically behave in the opposite manner. That is, they premodify their referents. The following examples illustrate the point:

137. قرأت رواية ممتعة.

138. We saw a roaring lion.

With respect to complementation / transitivity, Arabic agentive and patientive nouns behave like their corresponding verbs so that, by extension, Arabic agentive and patientive nouns can be described as transitive or intransitive, (cf -105 104 above). Contrastively, English participial adjectives that are compounded with nouns have these nouns transformationally as direct object even though the noun precedes the participle. This can be seen in the following example:

139. That animal eats *flesh*. It's a *flesh-eating* animal.

### C. Semantic Contrast

Arabic shows a higher degree of systemacity than English. All Arabic agentive nouns are active in meaning and governed an agentive relationship to their head nouns. Similarly, all Arabic patientive nouns are passive in meaning, and related patientively to the nouns they modify. In English, the situation is marred by some kind of confusion in the semantic roles of participial adjectives. It is sometimes possible for an *-ing* participial adjective referent to assume a patientive roles, and for the referent of its *-ed* counterpart to assume an agentive role although the reverse is the typical kind of relationship which each of them usually has with its head noun. The following examples are illustrative of this point:

140. a. We have lost the battle

b. It is *losing* battle

141. a. The tree has fallen.

b. It is a *fallen* tree.

In (142.b) the head noun *battle* is modified by an *-ing* participle although the noun itself is the patient of the verb *lose* from which the participle *losing* is derived. By the same token, in (141.b), the past participle adjective *fallen* is atypically used to modify the head noun *tree* which is the *agent* of the verb *fall* from which the participle itself is derived.

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