



"Sentence Grammar" as "Text Grammar" in Arabic: The Function of "the Textual Sentence" in Arabic Grammar

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Abstract. The lack of interest in the textual studies in Arabic is associated with two essential factors. First, the dependence of Arabic linguistic thought on the Qur'anic text in the presence of common culture. This culture is based on a type of partial thinking which is concerned with the example more than the theory ⁽¹⁾. Second, reliance on "sentence grammar" is used as an alternative linguistic method for "text grammar" in text analysis. This research examines the function of "the textual sentence" in the Arabic text through these questions: What is the role of "sentence grammar" in Arabic textuality? Is "textual grammar" in Arabic linguistic studies a substitute for "text grammar" in the methodological approach?

Key words: "Sentence Grammar", "Text Grammar", "Textuality", "Textual Sentence".

1. Introduction

A text grammar seeks to state formal linguistic or semantic rules in a series of sentences which form a given text. As such, the communication process is a method or linguistic system for detecting these rules. As van Dijk (1971:46) argues, "[a] text grammar, like any grammar, is thus itself a theoretical model of conceptualized (abstract, ideal) systems." However, this model may be modified in accordance with the nature of a given language and the properties of its grammatical system. On the one hand, the features of Arabic text grammar are related closely to many concepts – particularly grammar sentence, and text. Furthermore, the properties of Arabic text can also reveal new elements which characterize the context of the Arabic language, distinguish it from other languages when we look for a form of Arabic text grammar, and cover the function of textual sentence which has a special role in the grammatical system in Arabic; it is the unit of speech and the basis of grammatical analysis.

2. The Arabic sentence: Definition and function

2.1. The lexical definition of the Arabic sentence and meaning

The Arabic sentence represents a convergence point for many different linguistic approaches. Therefore, most fields of Arabic linguistic study revolve the sentence grammar. This appeared clearly in their numerous works. Although the concept of "sentence" is not used explicitly in the book of *Sībawayh* (D.180 AH)

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(1) More details about this factor in my dissertation: "Text Grammar in Arabic Modern Poetry: A Textual and Analytic study of ' Amal Dunqul's Poetry", PhD, Germany, Freie Universität Berlin, 2013, PP.38-39, 34-44, 55-58. http://www.diss.fu-berlin.de/diss/receive/FUDISS_thesis_000000094879

who considers one of the best books in Arabic grammar, the implicit definition and the sentence applications were common. What makes it more exotic is when we find this word in the Qur'an, which is the primary text for the grammatical evidence *Šawāhid* in Arabic ⁽²⁾. We can also note that the phrase "a meaningful sentence" does not exist. It is also remarkable that we cannot find the word "sentence" except in *al-Muqtaḍab* by *al-Mubarrid* (D.285 AH) (al-Ḥāḡḡ Šāliḥ, 1993:8). Although this might appear a strange omission, it may be related to the following reasons:

- The dominance of the educational trend on the methodological approach in the study of grammar.
- The scientific instability in Arabic terminology.
- The prevalence of individual analysis in the study of grammatical issues.

All these factors were reflected in the general Arabic linguistic thinking, which can be described as lacking a terminology or methodology. Therefore, it would not represent the stability of grammar and some of its concepts. This does not neglect the existence of many other grammatical concepts, which are accurate and scattered in linguistics and grammar books of that era, such as: "addition" (*ʿIdāfah*); "condition" (*Šart*); "ellipsis" (*Ḥadf*); and "predication" (*ʿIsnād*)...etc.

Although these were the characteristics of the early stage in the linguistics and Arabic grammar history, it was considered a distinguished scientific phase to study variable grammatical issues in details. At the same time, these issues were a rich scientific sphere for a positive linguistic controversy to improve the linguistic sciences in Arabic. The analysis of the word "sentence" in Arabic, lexicologically, is revealing several connotations:

فَالجُمْلَةُ فِي الْمُعْجَمِ الْعَرَبِيِّ هِيَ وَاحِدَةٌ "الجُمْلَةُ" وَالجُمْلَةُ جَمَاعَةٌ الشَّيْءِ، وَأَجْمَلَ الشَّيْءِ: جَمَعَهُ عَنْ تَقْرِيقِهِ

"The sentence, in Arabic dictionary, is the singular of "sentences". The word "sentence" in Arabic refers to "a group", and the verb is (*ʿaǧmala*), i.e. he summarizes the thing or reunites something"

(Ibn Manzūr, 1981: 685-686).

From this lexicological meaning, the Arab grammarians derived the word "sentence": a compound of two words in which one is predicated on the other

(2) In the following verse : (الفرقان: ٣٢) " وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَوْلَا نُزِّلَ عَلَيْهِ الْقُرْآنُ جُمْلَةً وَاحِدَةً... " (الفرقان: ٣٢)

It means: " And those who disbelieve say: "Why is not the Qur' ān revealed to him all at once?" (al-Furqān, 32) (al-Hilali & Khan, 1999/482).The direct meaning, away the context, of "ǧumlatan wāḥ idah" is one sentence, but the contextual meaning here is *together*.

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(az-Zubaydī, 1997, 1/17). This lexicological definition, although it is general, concentrates on the idea of combination and correlation among the linguistic elements which form the sentence. Ibn Ğinnī (D.293 AH) added the element of "meaningfulness" (*ʿIfādah*) which is considered the positive correlation of the language units for the production of meaning:

"أما الكلام فكل لفظ مستقل بنفسه مفيد لمعناه، وهو الذي يسميه النحويون الجمل"

"As for the speech, it is an independent meaningful "term". It is what the grammarians call sentences".(Ibn Ğinnī, 2000, 1/17)

This meaning of "sentence" was emphasized by Ibn Mālik in the 7th century, viz. three centuries after Ibn Ğinnī. Ibn Mālik mentioned the concept of sentence as speech (*Kalām*), pointing to the generalization of the concept:

كَلَامُنَا لَفْظٌ مُفِيدٌ كَأَسْتَقِيمُ وَ اسْمٌ وَفِعْلٌ ثُمَّ حَرْفُ الْكَلِمِ

[Our speech is made up of meaningful elements or words, e.g. istaqim (go straight). Those elements are either nouns or verbs or prepositions.]

(ar-Raġaz) (Ibn 'Aqīl, 1980, 1/13)

Even the various explanations of (*ʿAlfiyyah of Ibn Mālik*) did not surpass the general definition of the sentence. Speech has become a general equivalent for the sentence (sentence = speech). Therefore, the speech or "sentence" is the independently meaningful vocalization (Ibn'Aqīl, 1980, 1/14). The general definition of both of them has become "every correlated structural term that achieves perfect comprehension". After Ibn Mālik, most Arabic language scholars were affected by this definition in the ancient times, so the sentence / speech became:

- "What is sufficient and meaningful when we finish it. It should consist at least of two words". (al-Ḥarīrī, 1991: 2)
- "The compound term, whether it is existent or hidden, that is meaningful in its position" (al-ʿIšbīlī, 1986, 1/45).
- "A dependent single saying. The "word" means- in lexical meaning- the perfect sentence"(as-Suyūṭī, 1998, 1/ 19).

2.2. "Sentence" between the Western and Arabic Thought

The Western definition of "sentence" combines the formal and semantic side more clearly than the Arabic concept; it is, perhaps, linked to focus on other

textual elements, such as reference, substitution, and correlative relations alongside syntactic form, so the sentence in the Western thought is:

- A structural pattern with specified formal constituents (Fries 1952:277).
- "A sequence of speech units followed by a pause" (Gardiner, 1962:207).
- The expression of a "complete thought" (Ivič, 1970:20).
- "A coherent word combination, expressing a complete thought" (Graffi, 2001:113).
- "A syntactic tree" (Booij, 2007:118)

Because of the attention of Arab linguists to the value of meaning in the sentence in the modern era, the concept of "sentence" (in Arabic) has, noticeably, incorporated aspects of the Western definition. For example:

- A sentence is the least amount of speech that conveys an independent meaning. (ʿAnīs, 1978:275)
- A sentence is, semantically and grammatically, a perfect or independent unit. (al-Mubārak, 2005:851)
- A sentence is an abstract structure that exists outside any context. (Binkirād, 2010:10)

The above definitions reveal a set of general characteristics of the concept of the sentence, as follows:

- An independent vocalization in itself (it is, perhaps, linked to other).
- A grammatical semantic structure.
- A completed meaningfulness and a distributed structure on (predicate and subject).

3. The Arabic Sentence as a Textual Communicative Unit

The standard or traditional sentence is more active when it moves to a textual context. It remains a partial communicative unit even if it combines smoothly with other units to form a text. This operation, which forms a text in Arabic, has been activated through several conditions, which make the sentence a special textual case, such as:

- Expansion in semantic relationships
- Requirements of context

- The dialogical element

3.1. Expansion in semantic relationships in the Arabic sentence

Although there are many kinds of sentences in Arabic, the prominent element of all sentence types is "the predicative structure" or "the predicative sentence"⁽³⁾. This represents the main semantic relationship, and contains the most forms of grammatical styles. Additionally, expansion in predicative structure is an intermediate stage between "Arabic sentence grammar" and "Arabic text grammar". In Arabic, there are three main types of predicative structures: simple, connected, and expanded. These types harmonize in the text according to the template and requirements of the context. Each type is distinguished by a different number of internal connectors. For instance:

A - Simple predicative structure (SPS). For example:

أنت الطبيب الفرد غير منازع فيما اقتصت به وأنت حكيم

- You are the only unique doctor, of what you are specialized in and you are wise.

(al-Kāmil) (Muṭrān, 1977, 3/19)

B- Connected predicative structure (CPS). For example:

العبقري حياته من صنعه لا صنع أسماء و لا أوصاف

-The genius makes his own life. It's not determined by names or characteristics.

(al-Kāmil) (al-Ġārim, 1990,2/ 403)

C- Expanded predicative structure (EPS). For example:

Which Arab nation is,

أَيَّةُ أُمَّةٍ عَرَبِيَّةٍ

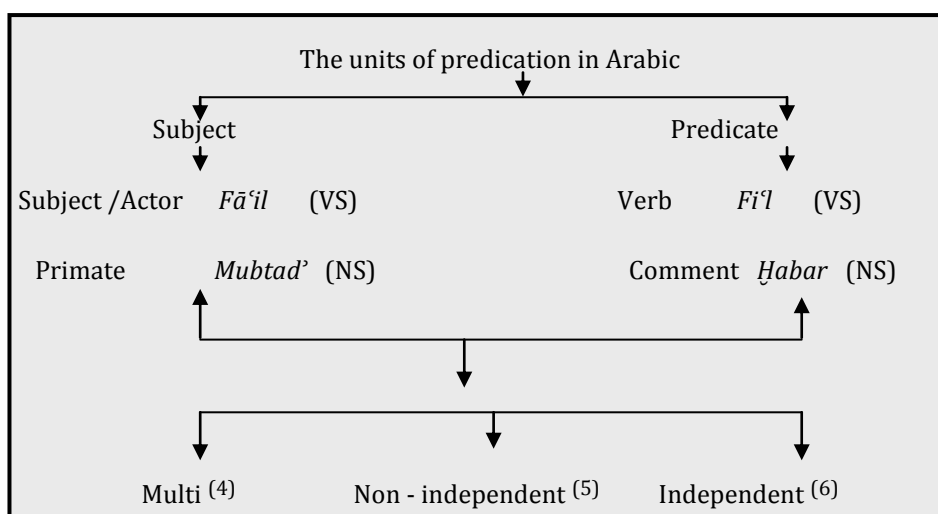
that assassinates the voices of nightingales?

تلك التي تغتالُ أصواتَ البلابيلِ؟

(al-Kāmil) Qabbānī, 2006,163)

These predicative structures may represent a separate unit in the context, or are independent. There is an independent structure that contains a mono predicative structure. As for the dependent predicative structure, it gathers two forms of a general and independent predicative structure at the same time, and the multi-structure gathers a general predicative structure and more than one independent structure (figure1):

(3)"The predicative sentence" is a relationship between two parties (Subject and Predicate); both are associated with each other closely (Sībawayh, 1988:1/23).



(Figure 1) Dependency and independency in the predicative structure in Arabic sentence

The expansion in the predicative structure in Arabic is considered a form of linguistic communication among sentences. This linguistic communication is accompanied by further semantic relations, because any change in the two parts of predication causes a justified linguistic deviation from the regular style (standard sentence), particularly with the existence of complex stylistic elements. Therefore, the Arabic sentence possesses means – such as the predicative relations – to increase the semantic relations. These means represent a general form of cohesion.

In Arabic, the relation between the predicative components is the most prominent semantic relation, and it is considered the main, common factor among the different classifications of Arabic sentence, whether in terms of quantity or function. As-Suyūṭī (D.911 AH) referred to the formal, quantifiable analysis of the ancient Arabic sentence. He said:

"وتنقسم - أيضا - إلى الكبرى و الصغرى، فالكبرى هي الاسمية، التي خبرها جملة، نحو: زيد قام أبوه، وزيد أبوه قائم، والصغرى هي المبنية على الجملة المخبر بها...."

(4) Such as: *Zaydun 'Aḥūhu ḡā'a* (Zayd, his brother came) and *Zaydun 'Aḥūhu 'Amru* (Zayd, his brother is Amr).

(5) Such as: *Zaydun ḡā'a* (Zayd came).

(6) Such as: *ḡā'a Zaydun* (Zayd came) , *Zaydun raḡlun* (Zayd is man), and *Fī al-Bayti Raḡlun* (Man is in the house).

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- "It is also divided into a long and short sentence. The long is the nominal sentence, whose predicate is a sentence, such as: Zed's father stood "Zaydun qāma 'Abūhu" and Zed's father is standing "Zaydun 'Abūhu Qā'imun". The short is the predicate such as sentence, by which is told ..."

(as-Suyūṭī, 1998, 1/51)

This traditional analysis of the sentence was prevalent in Arabic references and manuscripts, particularly in books of explanations and abbreviations, in which the sentence is mentioned. This methodology continues to the present day when studying the sentence grammatically (see: Ibn 'Aqīl, 1980, 1/13-22; al-'Azharī, 2000, 1/15-19, 33; aṣ-Ṣabbān, 1981, 1/56-57, 82-83).

Therefore, the predicative relation divides, generally, the components of Arabic sentences in terms of quantity or functions into two main categories, as represented in the following (figure 2):

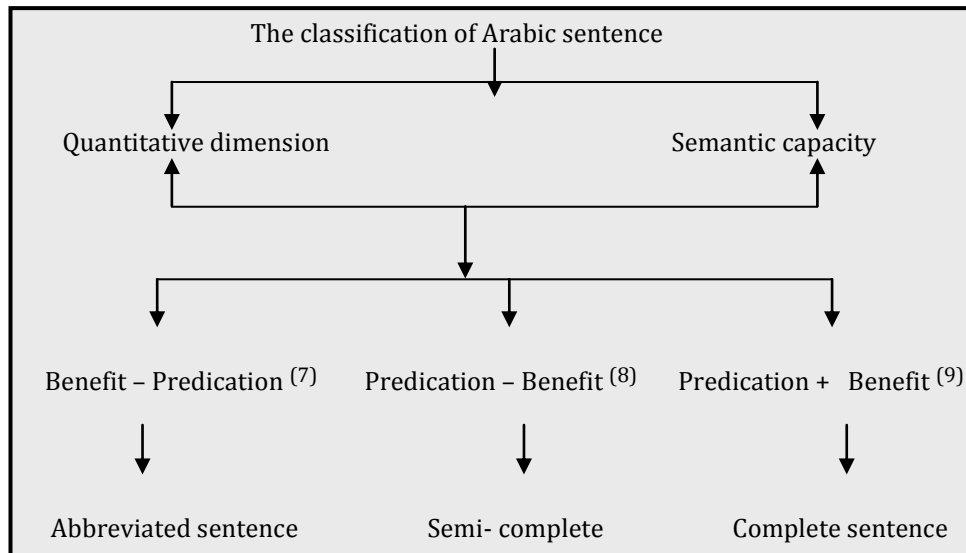


Figure (2) Classification of the Arabic sentence according to the relation of predication

These divisions of the sentence units, or its relationship with its parts, were a critical stage in the analysis of the Arabic sentence and its textual function. This function indicates the features of a developed system. It reveals, at the same time, the abstract sentence form which generates all possible and acceptable sentences in a language's grammar (az-Zannād, 1993). This analysis of the sentence also represents a crucial stage towards textual sentences that are actually achieved in

(7) Such as the call sentence "Nidā'" or the answer sentence "al-Ġawāb", for example: *Yā Zaydu*: Oh Zayd or? *Na'am / lā*? Yes /No

(8) Such as the sentence of verb's condition "*Fi'l aš-Šarḥ*", for example: *'In ya'ti Zaydun ...* If Zayd comes ...

(9) It's a standard or complete sentence in Arabic, whether on terms of nominal or verbal case, for example: *Zaydun ḡā'a* (N) *ḡā'a Zaydun* (V) Zayd came

the classification of Arabic sentence, reaching wider textual relationships among sentences.

Furthermore, the presentation of certain concepts – such as the connector (*Rābiṭ*) and the referential pronoun (*Ā'id*), as well as many other cases of the expansion in Arabic structure – is a key, from a theoretical perspective, to the transition from the traditional sentence to the “Para-sentence”. Thus, we would need to determine the formal and semantic rules for this new level of sentences in Arabic, without focusing on the standard sentence only.

On the practical side, the attention of Arab linguists has concentrated on the simplest unit of a text; it is the “standard sentence” that formed the pillars of the grammatical rules in Arabic. This seems clear in what was mentioned in the books of Arab grammarians under two main headings: "the chapter of primacy" (*al-Ibtidā'*) and "the chapter of subject" (*al-Fā'il*).

Despite the importance of all semantic relations in composing the sentence and text, linguists' attention was rarely on the other types of relation among sentences, or among the sentence's components. For example, some notions concerning the sentence's relations were presented by Arab linguists, such as the dependency issue (*at-Taḍām*), as evident in the following passage by Ibn Ğinnī:

"...بعض الجمل قد تحتاج إلى جملة ثانية احتياج المفرد إلى المفرد ، وذلك في الشرط وجزائه والقسم وجوابه.."

"Some sentences may need another sentence like the dependency of the singular on another singular such as the conditional sentence with its answer and the oath sentence with its answer..."

(Ibn Ğinnī, 2000, 3 /178)

These relations were presented as an explanation for expanded sentences, in which the condition of understanding depends on the complementary sentence, particularly in the case of stylistically ambitious sentences such as the saying (*Qawl*), the exclamation (*at-Ta'aḡub*), and conditional style (*Ṣart*). The poet says:

لعلّي إذا صادفتُ في القول راحة
نضحتُ غليلاً ما روته المشارع
لعمراً أبي و هو الذي لـو ذكرته
لما اختال فخارٌ ، و لا احتال خادعُ
لما نازعتني النفس في غير حقها
و لا نذلتني لرجال المطامعُ

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“Perhaps if I felt relief, by chance, in saying
I would exude wrath that couldn’t be relieved
I swear by the name of my father who if I mentioned him
The most pride wouldn’t be proud and no deceiver would deceive
And my soul wouldn’t be unfair
And my ambitions wouldn’t make me humble among men”

(aṭ-Ṭawīl) (al-Bārūdī, 1998/317- 318)

In this example, the conditional sentence may need a textual expansion to complete its two parts and the oath sentence as well. The conditional sentence ("If I felt ...by chance/'*idā šādaftu*") would not be meaningful without the answer ("I would exude/ *naḍaḥtu*..."). This textual expansion extends to the answer in the last verse ("And my soul wouldn't be unfair / *lamā nāza'atnī an-nafsu*") and is related to the phenomenon of prosodic implication (*at-Taḍmīn al-'arūḍī*), in which the meaningfulness of both sides of a structure depends on their distribution in two poetic verses or more (as-Simmān, 1986), such as the linkage between the verb in one verse and the subject in another. This is a common form in ancient and modern Arabic poetry.

3.2. The Contextual Sentence in Arabic

Context plays a central role in organizing the possibilities of meaning and obviating ambiguity in language. It is of great importance in comprehending the referents of words (Song, 2010). However, the function of context in the sentence is “weaker” than in the text, because the probability of meaning in a sentence is much lower than the text, Nevertheless, the context will always be a vital semantic element for both. The contextual sentence, which is a unit of text, interacts with the context according to the text properties, because the meaning potential of a sentence is determined by contextual factors. Therefore, the analysis of the Arabic sentence is presented in two styles:

- A type which determines this unit and its function in terms of form or content, or both, as mentioned above.
- A type that determines this unit in terms of context, or isolated from/related to it.

Therefore, the Arabic sentence has two forms, as follows:

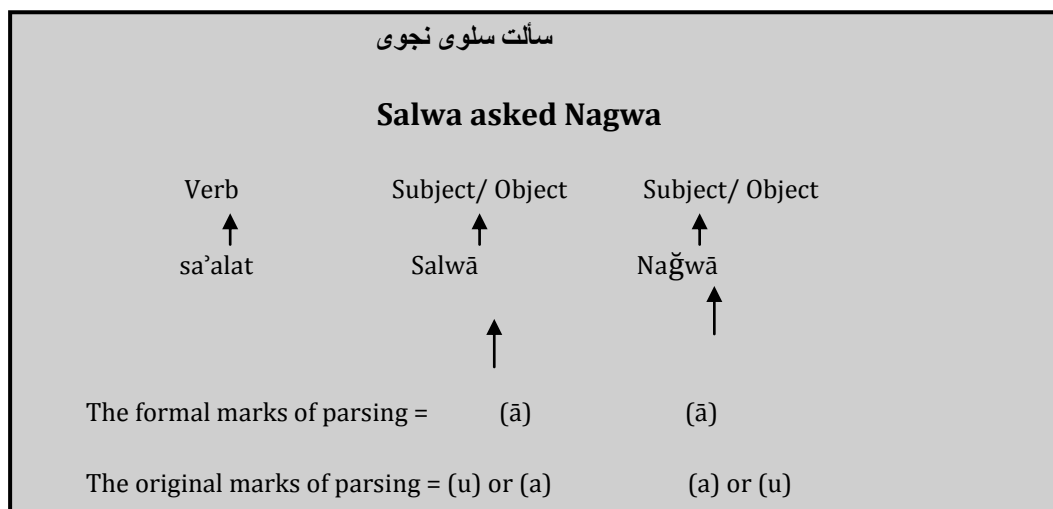
- a) A standard sentence (a suggested model for learning or making examples).
- b) A contextual sentence (an actual sentence in use).

This division includes all concepts of the sentence – from the sentence as a perfect idea of the sentence as a product of speech ending in a pause (De Beaugrande, 1981). The status of the sentence as an idea or product of speech is not activated without a context that makes the sentence surpass its standard form into a communicative form, even if it is only a partial unit

The context is an important element in increasing the effectiveness of a structure. The word obtains its meaning through context. It does not indicate any one thing alone (Ḥusām ad-Dīn, 2000). The function of context in a sentence increases particularly with difficult textual processes that contain non-traditional elements, such as:

- The difference in the meanings of words that are related to different sciences.
- The multitude of the contextual situations in which the word or meaning is used.
- The effect of the speaker and his psychological mood.
- The influence of some non-linguistic elements that are connected to the context, such as the historical background, the geographical zone, or the cultural background.
- The meanings of some words change when those words are moved from one semantic field to another. This creates a semantic conflict between both fields.

Additionally, in rare cases, the context is a crucial element in parsing (*al-I'rāb*) in Arabic grammar, either in the ineffectiveness of the case markers (*ʿAlāmāt al-I'rāb*) or in multiple meanings as in the following example (Figure3):



(Figure3) Ambiguity in Arabic grammar due to ineffectiveness of the marks of grammar analysis

When the case markers are not obvious , the context will be the determining factor of the sentence`s elements, such as subject (*Fā'il*) or object (*Maf'ūl*) in Arabic grammar (as in the previous example). The words "Salwa" and "Nagwa" may be a subject or an object, so we require further sentences or contextual evidence to determine the intended meaning, otherwise we will be forced to accept the standard order (subject (*Fā'il*) first in Arabic verbal sentence, and then object (*Maf'ūl*), If we want to identify the elements of sentence.

Furthermore, the problem of meaning in the Arabic sentence may be linked to special meaning of its words or the grammatical position of words in context. Here, the traditional context may not be crucial, but we need to understand the semantic evolution, the implicit meaning, and the position of words in the sentence.

Moreover, the text may contain unlimited meanings but it depends on a limited situation that is related to the age of the recipient and his circumstances. For example, this text, the poet speaks of modern scientific inventions, but in terms that are commensurate with his time:

زمان تسخر فيه الرياح
 و يغدو الجماد به منشدا
 و تعنو الطبيعة للعارفين
 بمعنى الوجود و سر الهدى
 إذا ما أهابوا أجاب الحديد
 و قام البخار له مسعدا

وطارت إليهم من الكهربا

بروق على السلك تطوي المدى

"It is a time when wind is tamed
The inanimate is singing for it
And the nature displays for who are knowledgeable
The meaning of existence and the secret of guidance
If they called, iron would reply
And the steam would stand for its help
And a thunder of electricity stream
Would run in a wire faster than the extent"

(al-Mutaqārib) (Ibrāhīm, 1987/262-263)

What is the meaning of the words "wind", "inanimate", "iron", and "steam" when they are presented to the Arabic recipient's mind in the 21st century? The recipient in this era cannot fully understand the metaphorical meanings and the circumstances of the poem creation. He will understand a different meaning from the text or some of its ideas.

The above issues reveal that "lexical meaning" is not sufficient in itself when we try to comprehend the sentence or text's meaning. There are some non-linguistic elements that play a great role in determining the meaning, but they are part of the speech's meaning, such as the speaker's and addressee's character, the relationship between them, and what surrounds the speech in terms of related circumstances and conditions (as-Sa'rān, 1997).

Therefore, the era (the time) itself, is considered an important contextual factor to discover the intended meaning of some sentences, particularly in the semantic evolution of words. Additionally, the element of metaphor is also crucial. With such elements, the author connects the language's "actual world" with the its "imaginative world" by using words in a different meaning from their original "concrete" meaning. Therefore, words are transformed, through metaphorical usage, into unlimited semantic fields that depend on the user's ability to locate the connection between the "actual" (original) referent and the transformed referent in the speech's context.

3.3. The sentence and dialogue in Arabic

The sentence is an organization, not simply a series. It cannot be reduced to a set of constituent words, but instead forms a new, original unit (Barthes, 2001) which does not depend on just general formation. The regular context and the connective elements in some sentences, such as in conversation or narrative, form new linguistic properties that support the predicative sentence, as in this poetic sentence:

هُمُ فِي ظِلَالِ الْحَقِّ جَمْعٌ مُوَحَّدٌ
وَعِنْدَ التَّقَاءِ الرَّأْيُ فَرْدٌ مَجْمُوعٌ

- "They are all in the shadow of righteousness as a united group.

- And when they agree on an opinion, they are one"

(aṭ-Ṭawīl) (al-Ġārim, 1990, 2/ 350)

In the previous example, the predicative sentence "they are..." (*Hum fī "ilāl*) differs in terms of its semantic capacity, when we transform it into several forms of predicative structure in Arabic, as follows:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| - They are in the shadow of righteousness. | - هم في ظلال الحق |
| - They are a united group. | - هم جمع موحد |
| - They are in the shadow of righteousness as a group. | - هم في ظلال الحق جمع |
| - They are all in the shadow of righteousness as a united group. | - هم في ظلال الحق جمع موحد |

Every form of this predicative structure is a complete sentence, and differs in its semantic capacity. Whenever the predicative structure acquires more demonstrative and descriptive elements, the semantic capacity increases, reaching a high level when these structures are inserted within the dialogue, without being just instructional sentences. Although the predicative structure does not contain all the communicative elements of a text, it is considered a communicative unit within the dialogue because the sentences represent the action itself at the moment of speech (Ricoeur, 2006), or the primary unit of speech which has both understanding and communication combined.

In particular, the communication between both sides of the communicative process depends on achieving clarity and comprehension in all sentences. A dialogue is an active environment, in which it is possible to move from the standard sentence to a contextual sentence. The poet uses a set of sentences in a conversational style that reveals that the communication is not complete until a

great number of partial units - or “predicative structures” - are connected in the case of interaction, as seen in the following:

.....” / نظر الليث إلى عجل سمين

قال للثعلب : / يا ذا الاحتيال / رأسك المحبوب أو ذاك الغزال

..... / فدعا بالسعد والعمر الطويل

....قائلا: / يا أيها المولى الوزير

“The lion looked at the fat calf /

He said to the fox: / O, master of cunning / Your beloved head or that deer

He wished him happiness and long life /

He said: O, my master minister

(ar-Ramal) (Šawqī, 1998, 4/138)

The dialogue then continues with simple sentences that play a motivational role for the text's events and control the cohesion of the text in order to reach the purpose or the end of the dialogue:

وحبا الثعلب منه باليسير

وهناك .. ابتلع الليث الوزير

فقداه كل ذي رأس كبير

سلم الثعلب بالرأس الصغير

- “There, the lion swallowed the minister, and the fox got a little bit

- The fox, which has a small head, survived, therefore, every animal with a big head defended him”

(ar-Ramal) (Šawqī, 1998, p. 139)

Although the dialogism is a textual element, we can make use of simple sentences to achieve perfect conversational communication. The sentence “He said to the fox” (*qāla liṭ-Ta‘lab*) or “the lion looked” (*naẓar al-Layṭ*) are simple sentences based on a communicative construction between both sides of the predication. This construction depends on its correlation with other sentences.

Conclusion and Results

Finally, there are some general notes, which uncover the relation between "the textual sentence" in Arabic and text grammar as follows:

- This scientific tendency in the study of Arabic sentence was a fundamental reason that made most of Arabic linguists lag behind to focus on the textual studies in Arabic for a long time.

- The Arabic linguistic studies in Arabic dealt with "the textual sentence" as a specific position, it is a model of textuality and a substitute for "text grammar" in general.
- There is no sentence in Arabic text that deemed an isolated unit from context; the sentence is associated with the textual context or the situation of text or together.
- Arab grammarians focused on the unit of sentence and its relations as a self-contained idea or a limited textual event, so a set of sentences may equal a text.
- The textual sentences in Arabic are the whole build of text. Therefore, the Arabic sentence performs many important linguistic functions like what the text can do, so "the textual sentence" in Arabic is:
 - The simplest contextual model (regular and irregular).
 - An educational structural unit.
 - A model for the relationship among the words.
 - A partial or primary connective unit.
 - An integrated structure discusses several grammatical issues.

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