Syntactic Classes of the Arabic Passive Participle
And How they Should be Rendered into English

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0. Introduction:

The main concern of this article is to provide an analysis of the syntactic classes of Arabic passive participle forms and discuss their translations based on a comparative study of two English Quranic translations by Ali (1934) and Pickthall (1930). It starts with a brief introduction to the passive participle in Arabic and the Arab grammarians’ discussion of its syntactic classes. Then, it explains the study aim and technique. The third section presents an analysis of the results of the study by discussing the various renderings of the Arabic passive participle in the two English translations of the Quran. For the phonemic symbols used to transcribe Arabic data and for the symbols and abbreviations employed in the study, see the Appendix.

1. Syntactic classes of the Arabic passive participle:

The passive participle (PP) is a morphological form derived from a verb to refer to the person or thing that undergoes the action denoted by the verb. In Classical and Modern Standard Arabic grammars, it is called /Arwsm-u l-mafʕuul/ 'noun of the patient' and it has two patterns; one formed from the primary triradical verb, Form I, and the other from the derived triradical as well as the quadriradical verbs. The former has the form [maFʕuUL], e.g. /maʕLuuum/ 'known' and the latter is formed from the imperfect form of the verb by replacing the consonant of the imperfect prefix [yu-] with /m/ and replacing the vowel before the last consonant with /a/ if it is not already /a/. Therefore, the normal pattern is [mu-...aC]. Table 1 displays the patterns of the derived triradical verbs with examples.

These patterns undergo some phonological alternations in non-sound verbs, i.e. geminate, glottalized and weak verbs. Verb Forms VII and IX do not have a PP pattern because they are unaccusative by nature. There are other triradical patterns, such as [FaʕiiL, FaʕuuL, FaʕuuLah, FaʕL, FiʕL, FuʕLah and FaʕaL], but they are morphologically non-standard (See Al-Andalusi 1990, Al-Makoudi 2001 and Al-Afghani 1971). For quadriradical verbs the PP pattern is [mu-FaʕL1aL2], as in /mu-zaxraf/ 'decorated'.
Table 1. Patterns of derived triradical passive participles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Verb Form</th>
<th>PP Pattern</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>FaYaL</td>
<td>mu-FaYaL</td>
<td>mu-garrab ‘brought near’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>FaaYaL</td>
<td>mu-FaaYaL</td>
<td>mu-DaaYaaf ‘multiplied’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>?aYaL</td>
<td>mu-?YaL</td>
<td>mu-rsal ‘sent’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>taFaYaL</td>
<td>mu-taFaYaL</td>
<td>mu-tawaqqaYaaf ‘expected’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>taFaaYaL</td>
<td>mu-taFaaYaL</td>
<td>mu-tanaaqYaash ‘discussed’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>(?i)nFaYaL</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>(?i)FtaYaL</td>
<td>mu-FtaYaL</td>
<td>mu-muqtaDar ‘brought forward’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>(?i)FYaLL</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>(?i)staFYaL</td>
<td>mu-staFYaL</td>
<td>mu-staDYaaf ‘opressed’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In my book, Gadalla (2000: 194-99), I gave a detailed analysis of the phonological and morphological processes involved in the derivation of PP patterns. The present article focuses on the syntactic classes of these patterns and their English translations. These syntactic classes can also be called positional or functional classes. Trask (1993: 109) defines the term "functional" as:

> Pertaining to the grammatical purposes served by constituents, rather than to their form. For example, the functional category **adverbia**l may be realized by a lexical adverb, a prepositional phrase, an infinitival complement or a subordinate clause. 'Functional' in this sense contrasts with **formal**.

Syntactically, the PP performs a number of functions. It can be used as a noun, adjective or tense form (i.e. replacing verbs). Wright (1967: 1/109) considers it one of the "deverbal nouns", calls it the "nomen patientis" and calls the active participle the "nomen agentis." However, he states that "the nomina agentis et patientis are by their nature adjectives, but they have come to be used also as substantives".

Other linguists (e.g. Thackston 1984) treat the PP as an adjective for two reasons. First, it behaves morphologically as an adjective, especially in its inflection for gender and number. It makes its feminine, dual and plural by using regular adjectival suffixes. Second, although it can be used as a noun or verb, it often functions as an adjective. Thus, Thackston (Ibid: 41-2) asserts that the PP is used "purely adjectivally, like the English past passive participle."

Some Arab grammarians (e.g. Hassan 1980) define the PP as a noun and some (e.g. Al-BaBa & Al-Khuwayski 1988) define it as an adjective. But there is agreement between them that it can sometimes do the work of a verb. Hassan (1980: 271) defines the PP as "a derived noun which denotes an absolute temporary action as well as its patient." Also, Al-Hashemi (2000: 312) defines it as "a noun derived from the verbal noun of the passive verb to denote the person or thing affected by the action."
On the other hand, Al-Baba & Al-Khuwayski (1988: 101) define the PP as "an adjective derived from the verbal noun of the passive verb to signify the person [or thing] affected by the action. ... So, the passive participle is, in its reality, a description of the patient." Moreover, Al-Rajihi (1993: 457) affirms that the PP denotes "a description of the person or thing that undergoes the action."

In relation to the functioning of the PP as a passive verb, i.e. assigning the nominative case to its /nnaaʔib faaʕil/ 'subject substitute or passive subject' and the accusative case to its object, Hassan (1980: 275) states that if it is defined by /ʔal-/ 'the', it will work as a passive verb without any conditions. This can be exemplified by the PP in (1a) that has the same function of the passive verb in (1b); Both can have one translation in (1c):

1. a. ʔal-muhaan-u Dayf-u-hu makruuh-un
   b. ʔal-laʔi bi-haan-u Dayf-u-hu makruuh-un
   c. The person whose guest is insulted is hateful.

Hassan (Ibid) shows that if the PP is undefined by /ʔal-/ 'the', some conditions must be met to let it work as a verb, such as dependency, non-diminutivization, having the meaning of the present or the future or renewable duration. Ziyad (Al-Wajiiz) explains the meaning of dependency: "To depend on a negative, an interrogative, a noun that is originally a topic noun, a described noun or an adverb." He gives the following examples to illustrate these forms, respectively:

2. a. maa maʔmuud-un il-kaʔib-u
   b. Telling lies is not praised.

3. a. ʔa-maʔmuun-un ʔax-uua-ka
   b. Is your brother dispraised?

4. a. ʔanta maʔkuum-un ʔamaʁat-u ʔamal-i-ka
   b. You are deprived of the fruit of your work.

5. a. haʔaʔa miskiin-un mahduud-un quwwat-u-hu
   b. This is a poor man whose power is ruined.

6. a. waSal-ʔa l-faaris-u maksuurat-un qadam-u-hu
   b. The knight arrived with his leg broken.

The condition on the reference to the present or the future can be illustrated by this example:

7. a. ʔar-rajuʔ-ʔa musaafid-un ibn-u-hu
   b. The man's son has been/will be assisted.

If the PP achieves all the working conditions, it functions as its passive imperfect verb; thus it obligatorily requires a passive subject. The passive subject is sufficient for the PP if it is sufficient for its imperfect verb. For these reasons, the PP can be replaced by a passive imperfect verb with its meaning. Hassan (1980: 275) further explains that if the imperfect verb from which the PP is derived requires two objects and its subject has been deleted, one of the two objects will act as a subject substitute and will be put in the nominative case and
its second object will remain in the accusative and that applies to the PP. If its verb requires three objects, its subject has been deleted and one of the objects has become a subject substitute, the subject substitute will be put in the nominative and the other two objects will remain in the accusative and the same happens with the PP.

Ibn Aqil (2003: 2/113) explains the similarity between the PP and the passive verb: "The PP is similar to the passive verb in that it changes the object to a passive subject, putting it in the nominative case. If it has two objects, the first will be put in the nominative and the second will be put in the accusative."

According to Al-Raijih (1993: 459): "The PP is derived from the transitive verb. If we want to derive it from an intransitive verb, that is allowed ... provided that an adverb or a prepositional phrase is employed with the intransitive verb." He exemplifies that by /madhuub-un bi-hi/ 'gone with' and /maduur-un kawla-hul/ 'circled around.'

Regarding the working of the PP as an adjective, Wright (1967: 2/194) affirms that, "the nomina ... patientis [i.e. PP] ... designate[s] the person or thing, to which the verbal idea attaches itself as descriptive of it." This can be exemplified by:

(8) a. ?al-qur?aan-u kitaab-un mubaarak-un
   b. The Quran is a blessed book.

As for the acting of the PP as a noun, Hassan (1980: 275) shows that "the PP may be annexed to its passive subject, provided that its pattern is morphologically standard. Then, the passive subject will be a modified noun in a genitive construction, having the genitive case in form but the nominative in position."

This is illustrated by the following example from Ibn Aqil (2003: 114):

(9) a. ?al-wariʕ-u mahmued-u l-maqaaSid-i
   b. The pious person's aims are praised.

At the end of this brief discussion of the PP, I have to assert that all the rules and conditions related to the singular PP apply steadily to it when it becomes masculine or feminine dual, sound masculine plural, sound feminine plural or broken plural.

2. Study aim and technique:

This study aims at analyzing the syntactic classes of the Arabic PP and comparing two translations of the Quran to discover how they are rendered into English. One translation is that of Abdullah Yusuf Ali (1934) and the other is that of Muhammad Marmaduke Pickthall (1930). The Qur'an has been chosen as a source language (SL) text because it is the most perfect manifestation of the Arabic language. Ali’s translation has been chosen as one of the receptor language (RL) texts because it is "perhaps the most popular translation" and it stands as a
major achievement in this field. ... Yusuf Ali doubtless was one of the few Muslims who enjoyed an excellent command over the English language. It is fully reflected in his translation. Though his is more of a paraphrase than a literal translation, yet it faithfully represents the sense of the original (Kidwai 1987: 67).

Pickthall’s translation has been selected because he, as an English man of letters who embraced Islam, holds the distinction of bringing out a first-rate rendering of the Quran in English. ... It keeps scrupulously close to the original in elegant, though now somewhat archaic, English. ... It is one of the most widely used English translations (Ibid).

The study attempts to answer two questions: (a) Should we translate the Arabic PP into an English nominal, verbal, adjectival or adverbial? and (b) What are the factors that determine the choice of one translation or the other? So, it compares the two translations to analyze the different English translations of the Arabic PP. A corpus of 350 examples has been randomly selected from the SL text, using Abdul-Baqi’s (1986). This is a lexicon in which all words of the Quran are arranged alphabetically according to their consonantal roots and their chapter and verse numbers are recorded. I have gone through this lexicon picking up PP forms and writing down the chapter and verse numbers of each form until a list of 350 examples is complete. After that, the 700 RL translations of these examples have been brought from the Noble Qur’an web site. Then all data have been sorted into four long tables representing the four English classes stated above.

The two translations of all the examples are compared and analyzed in terms of syntactic and semantic features. All the examples chosen from the SL text are parsed to define the syntactic class of the Arabic PP form in each. A frequency count of the various translations of the Arabic PP is performed to explain the ways in which this form is rendered into English.

3. Analysis of the results:

This section analyzes the findings of the study. The examples representing the Arabic PP are sorted into four classes related to the various English classes into which these examples are translated. For each class, the English structures employed in translation are presented. Then, the PP classes that are rendered into a certain English class are presented with the number of examples representing them in the corpus and their percentages. After that, the contextual reference of each translation is studied and accounted for.

Table 2 indicates the English syntactic classes into which the Arabic PP is translated, the number of examples representing them in the corpus and their percentages.
Table 2. English syntactic classes into which the Arabic PP is translated in the two RL texts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Class</th>
<th>Ali</th>
<th>Pickthall</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Adjectivals</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>53.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Nominals</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>26.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Verbals</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>16.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Adverbials</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 reveals that more than half of the examples representing the Arabic PP are translated into English adjectivals. The number of examples representing them is nearly the same in the two RL texts. A little more than one fourth of the PP data are rendered into English nominals. Pickthall (1930) tends to use more nominal translations than Ali (1934). About one sixth of the PP examples are conveyed into English verbals. Ali (1934) uses more verbal translations than Pickthall (1930). The least number of PP examples are transferred into English adverbials and this number is the nearly same in the two RL texts.

3.1. Translating Arabic PP into English adjectivals:

According to Dial (1998: 1), an adjectival can be defined as "a word or phrase that modifies or describes a noun." She also asserts that "there are several different types of adjectivals, including adjectives, adjectival prepositional phrases, participial phrases, and relative clauses." On the other hand, Canada (2001b: 1) lists the types of adjectivals as: adjectives, appositive, infinitive, noun, prepositional phrases, participles, and relative clauses. Moreover, he reveals that "adjectivals generally appear in one of three places -- immediately before the nouns they modify, immediately after the nouns they modify, or after a linking verb." The various English adjectival structures adopted in translating the Arabic PP examples chosen from the SL text in the two RL texts, in order of frequency, are:

1. Past participle / participial phrase,
2. Lexical adjective,
3. Prepositional phrase,
4. Relative clause,
5. Present participle / participial phrase,
6. Adjective + prepositional phrase,
7. Infinitive phrase, or
8. Adjective + infinitive phrase.

The choice of one adjectival structure or another depends on various factors among which are the availability of a certain structure in the RL, the translator's
knowledge of this availability and his understanding of the SL text. More important here are the cases in which the Arabic PP is translated into English nominals.

Table 3 offers the various PP categories that are translated as English adjectivals and the number of examples representing them in the two RL texts as well as their percentages.

Table 3. Arabic PP classes translated as English adjectivals in the two RL texts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PP Class</th>
<th>Ali</th>
<th>Pickthall</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Adjective</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>65.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Accusative of condition</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Predicate of nominal sentence</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Predicate of /kaana/</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Second noun in a construct</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Object of verb</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Object of preposition</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Predicate of /?inna/</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Subject of nominal sentence</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Subject of verb</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>188</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to Table 3, nearly two thirds of the PP instances translated as English adjectivals act as adjectives in Arabic. Al-Hashemi (2000: 280-81) defines the Arabic adjective as "a post nominal modifier which denotes some qualities of its modified noun and completes it by referring to a meaning in it, ... or in something related to it." Then, he affirms that the adjective is basically derived and explains the term 'derived' as "that which refers to an action and its related person or thing, such as ... the passive participle ... etc." The adjective agrees with its modified noun in being nominative, accusative or genitive and in being definite or indefinite (Ibid: 281). The following example illustrates the translation of the Arabic PP acting as an adjective into English adjectivals. (In all the illustrative examples from now on, "a" represents the Quranic example in phonemic transcription, its chapter and verse numbers between square brackets; "b" represents Ali's (1934) translation; and "c" represents Pickthall's (1930) translation):

    b. and they have therein companions pure (and holy).  
    c. There for them are pure companions.
A little more than one tenth of PP examples rendered as English adjectivals have the function of the /ha'all/ 'accusative of condition.' This can be accounted for by the fact that some Arab grammarians consider the accusative of condition an adjective. For instance, Al-Hashemi (2000: 223) defines it as "a dispensable modifier which indicates the state or condition of its related person or thing at the time of performing an action." He also asserts that it is "basically a temporary adjective ... but it can sometimes be a permanent adjective" (Ibid: 224).

(11) a. wa-ya-nqalib-u /modal  qahl-i-hi  masruur-aa  [84:9]  
b. And he will turn to his people, rejoicing.  
c. And will return unto his folk in joy.

The predicate of a nominal sentence occupies the third rank among the PP classes that are conveyed into English as adjectivals:

(12) a. wa-kull-u  kafir-in  wa-kabiir-in  mustaTar-un  [54:53]  
b. Every matter, small and great, is on record.  
c. And every small and great thing is recorded.

The predicate of /kaana/ 'to be' and its sisters lies in the fourth rank among the Arabic PP classes that are rendered into English adjectivals:

(13) a. wa-kaan-a  fiinda  rabb-i-hi  marDiyy-aa  [19:55]  
b. and he was most acceptable in the sight of his Lord.  
c. and [he] was acceptable in the sight of his Lord.

About five percent of the PP instances that are translated as English adjectivals act as the second noun in a construct phrase, particularly that annexed to the negative noun /gaylor/ 'not', as in:

(14) a. qaalika  wa-il-a  qadr-ka  magluulat-an  ila  qunuq-ka  [11:65]  
b. (Behold) there a promise not to be belied!  
c. This is a threat that will not be belied.

Nearly three percent of the Arabic PP examples conveyed into English adjectivals have the function of the object of verb, particularly the second object of a ditransitive verb:

(15) a. wa-la-a  taj'al  yada-ka  magluulat-an  ila  qunuq-ka  [17:29]  
b. Make not thy hand tied (like a niggard's) to thy neck.  
c. And let not thy hand be chained to thy neck.

The least number of PP examples conveyed as English adjectivals have the functions of the object of preposition, the predicate of /?innal/ 'verily' and its sisters, the subject of a nominal sentence and the subject of verb.

3.2. Translating Arabic PP into English nominals:

Canada (2001a: 1) shows that "nouns occupy various slots in English sentences: subjects, subject complements, object complements, direct objects, indirect objects, and objects of prepositions." Then he defines a nominal saying: "any slot that can be filled by a noun, however, can also be filled by a nominal -- a word or
phrase that functions just as a noun functions in a sentence. English has three types of nominals: gerunds, infinitives, and noun clauses.” Gould (1998: 1) indicates that there are a number of different structures that can function syntactically as nominals. These structures include nouns (common and proper) pronouns (personal, demonstrative, interrogative, relative, and indefinite), gerund phrase, infinitive phrase, prepositional phrase and noun clause.

Careful investigation of the data reveals that the following English nominal structures are adopted in the two RL texts for translating the Arabic PP examples selected from the SL text, in order of frequency:

1. Noun / pronoun + relative clause,
2. Lexical noun / pronoun,
3. Adjective / present participle + noun,
4. Noun / pronoun + past participle,
5. Nominalized adjective,
6. Noun / pronoun + prepositional phrase,
7. Noun / pronoun + infinitive phrase, or

Table 4. Arabic PP classes translated as English nominals in the two RL texts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PP Class</th>
<th>Ali</th>
<th>Pickthall</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Object of preposition</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Subject of verb</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Object of verb</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Second noun in a construct</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Adjective</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Predicate of nominal sentence</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Subject of nominal sentence</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Predicate of /kaana/</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Predicate of /?mna/</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Excepted noun</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Specifying noun</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Accusative of condition</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 presents the various PP classes that are rendered as nominals and the number of examples representing them in the two RL texts as well as their percentages. The table uncovers that the greatest number of the Arabic PP examples which are translated as English nominals act as objects of prepositions. Being the object of a preposition is the first syntactic characteristic of nouns according to Al-Hashemi (2000: 14):
(16) a. fa-kaan-a mina l-mugraq-iin [11:43]
   b. and the son was among those overwhelmed in the Flood.
   c. so he was among the drowned.

More than one seventh of the PP examples that are rendered into English as nominals act as subject of verb or subject substitute. Accepting predication, by being the subject of verb is one of the distinguishing characteristics of nouns according to Al-Hashemi (2000: 15):

(17) a. wa-ʔiða l-mawʔuudat-u suʔl-at [81:8]
   b. When the female (infant), buried alive, is questioned.
   c. And when the girl-child that was buried alive is asked.

More than one tenth of the PP examples that are rendered as English nominals act as object of verb:

(18) a. wa-Saddaq-a l-mursal-iin [37:37]
   b. and he confirms (the Message of) the messengers (before him).
   c. and he confirmed those sent (before him).

Less than one tenth of the PP examples translated as nominals act as the second noun in a construct phrase, i.e. the modifying noun in a genitive construction. Being genitivized with the vowel /i/ as a result of annexation is one of the distinguishing qualities of nouns (Al-Hashemi 2000: 14).

(19) a. fa-saaʔa maTar-u l-munðar-iin [26:173]
   b. and evil was the shower on those who were admonished.
   c. And dreadful is the rain of those who have been warned.

Seven and a half percent of the PP examples rendered as nominals in English act as adjectives in Arabic:

(20) a. kutib-a ʕalay-kumu S-Siyaam-u ... ʔayyaam-an l-ʔuudaat-in
   b. Fasting is prescribed to you ... for a fixed number of days.
   c. Fasting is prescribed for you ... a certain number of days.

As shown in Table 4, a little more than three percent of the PP examples translated as English nominals act as the predicate of a nominal sentence:

(21) a. ʔulaaʔika l-mugarrab-uun [56:11]
   b. These will be those Nearest to Allah.
   c. Those are they who will be brought nigh.

Table 4 reveals that less than three percent of the Arabic PP examples rendered as nominals in English have the following syntactic positions: the subject of nominal sentence, the predicate of /kaana/ 'to be' and its sisters or the predicate of /ʔinnal/ 'verily' and its sisters. The least number of PP examples rendered as English nominals act as /mustaθnaa/ 'excepted noun', /ltamyiiz/ 'specifying noun' or /ʔaall/ 'accusative of condition.'

3.3. Translating Arabic PP into English verbals:

Stageberg (1981: 224-25) defines verbals as "those forms that occupy verb positions." Then he assures that "the kingpin verbal position is that of the main
verb" and that there are three non-finite verb forms: the present participle, the past participle and the infinitive.

The reason that the Arabic PP is sometimes translated as English verbals is that it sometimes has an aspectual meaning of continuity (in the three spheres of time). However, we have to resort to the context to know which point of time the continuous state of the PP refers to, as asserted by Wright (1967: 2/195):

To what point of time this lasting and continuous state of the ... patient ... is to be referred, can be deduced only from some other word in the sentence, which points to a specific time, from the nature of the thing or the character of the thought, or from the connection of the context. The nomen ... patientis [=PP] ... itself does not include the idea of any fixed time.

The various English verbal structures adopted in the two RL texts for translating the Arabic PP examples chosen from the SL text, in order of frequency, are:

1. Future simple,
2. Present simple,
3. Modal + verb,
4. Infinitive,
5. Present perfect, or
6. Past simple.

Table 5. Arabic PP classes translated as English verbals in the two RL texts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PP Class</th>
<th>Ali</th>
<th>Pickthall</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Predicate of /?inna/</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>39.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Predicate of nominal sentence</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Predicate of /?kaan/</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>16.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Object of preposition</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>13.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Adjective</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Subject of nominal sentence</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Accusative of condition</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Object of verb</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Table 5, the various PP categories that are rendered into English as verbals and the number of examples representing them in the two RL texts are provided with their percentages. The greatest number of PP examples that are translated into English verbals belong to the syntactic class 'predicate of /?inna/ 'verily' and its sisters.' Most of these examples refer to a future action:
(22) a. ʔinna-kum mab’suut-uuna min baʃd-i l-mawt-i [11:7]
    b. Ye shall indeed be raised up after death.
    c. Lo! ye will be raised again after death!

Nearly one fifth of the PP forms that are rendered as English verbals have the syntactic function 'predicate of nominal sentence.' Most of these forms refer to the present or the future:
(23) a. ʔið iZ-Zaalim-uuna mawquuf-uuna ʕinda rabb-i-him[34:31]
    b. when the wrong-doers will be made to stand before their Lord.
    c. when the wrong-doers are brought up before their Lord.

About one sixth of the PP examples conveyed as English verbals act as the predicate of /kaanā/ 'to be' and its sisters, especially /layyil/ 'not':
(24) a. ʔin kaan-a waʃd-u rabb-i-naa la-maf’uul-aa [17:108]
    b. Truly has the promise of our Lord been fulfilled!
    c. Verily the promise of our Lord must be fulfilled.

The object of preposition comes in the fourth rank among the Arabic PP classes that are translated into English verbals. Most of its examples refer to the future and are preceded by negation or emphasis.
(25) a. wa-maa hum min-haa bi-muxraj-iin [15:48]
    b. nor shall they (ever) be asked to leave.
    c. nor will they be expelled from thence.

A very small number of the PP instances translated as English verbals belong to the classes of adjective, subject of nominal sentence, accusative of condition or object of verb.

3.4. Translating Arabic PP into English adverbials:

Canada (2001c: 1) defines an adverbial as "a word or phrase that modifies a verb." Then he explains the types of adverbials as single-word adverbs, infinitives, nouns, noun phrases, prepositional phrases, participles and subordinate clauses.

The various English adverbial structures used in the two RL texts for translating the Arabic PP examples chosen from the SL text are, in order of frequency:
1. Prepositional phrase,
2. Subordinate clause,
3. Lexical adverb, or
4. Present participle/participial phrase.
Table 6 displays the various categories that are rendered into English adverbials and the number of examples representing them in the two RL texts as well as their percentages.
Table 6. Arabic PP classes translated as English adverbials in the two RL texts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PP Class</th>
<th>Ali</th>
<th>Pickthall</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Accusative of condition</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>31.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Predicate of nominal sentence</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>21.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Adjective</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Object of preposition</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Second noun in a construct</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Subject of nominal sentence</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examination of Table 6 reveals that nearly one third of the PP examples translated as English adverbials in the two RL texts act as an accusative of condition:

(26) a. ʔām-n-ii naḍār-tu la-ka maa fii baTn-ii mukarrar-aa [3:35]
    b. I do dedicate unto Thee what is in my womb for Thy special service.
    c. I have vowed unto Thee that which is in my belly as a consecrated (offering).

More than one fifth of the PP instances conveyed to English adverbials have the function of the predicate of a nominal sentence. In that case the whole clause acts as an accusative of condition, as in:

(27) a. la-nubið-a bi-Ifaraaʔi wa-huwa maḏmũm-’un [68:49]
    b. he would indeed have been cast off on the naked shore, in disgrace.
    c. he surely had been cast into the wilderness while he was reprobate.

A very small number of the Arabic PP examples that are translated into English adverbials belong to the classes: adjective, object of preposition, second noun in a construct phrase and subject of nominal sentence.

4. Conclusion:

This article provides an analysis of the syntactic classes of Arabic PP forms and discusses their English translations based on a comparative study of two Quranic translations by Yusuf Ali (1934) and Pickthall (1930). According to the results of the study, the Arabic PP forms can be translated into English adjectivals, nominals, verbals or adverbials, respectively. One has to know the syntactic class to which a certain Arabic PP form belongs so as to be able to choose its appropriate English translation.
Comparison of Tables 3 through 6 uncovers that the Arabic PP forms can be sorted into twelve classes according to their syntactic positions. These classes are given below with the number of RL examples representing their English translations between brackets.

First, the PP acting as an adjective can have the following translations, in order of frequency: adjectivals (246 RL examples), nominals (14), verbals (six) and adverbials (three).

Second, the object of preposition can have the following translations, in order of frequency: nominals (80), verbals (16), adjectivals (seven) and adverbials (three).

Third, the PP having the function 'predicate of /\annal/ 'verily' and its sisters' has three translations: verbals (47), adjectivals (six) and nominals (five).

Fourth, the PP class 'predicate of nominal sentence' has four translations: adjectivals (24), verbals (21), nominals (six) and adverbials (four).

Fifth, the PP acting as accusative of condition can have four translations: adjectivals (40), adverbials (six), verbals (three) and nominals (one).

Sixth, the PP class 'predicate of kaanah/ 'to be' and its sisters' can have three English translations: adjectivals (22), verbals (19) and nominals (five).

Seventh, the second noun in a construct phrase can have three English translations: adjectivals (18), nominals (18) and adverbials (two).

Eighth, the PP class 'object of verb' can have three English translations: nominals (21), adjectivals (11) and verbals (two).

Ninth, the subject of verb can have two English translations: nominals (25) and adjectivals (one).

Tenth, the subject of a nominal sentence can have four translations: nominals (five), verbals (four), adjectivals (two) and adverbials (one).

Eleventh, four examples representing the PP acting as an excepted noun are translated into English nominals. Finally, two examples representing the PP functioning as a specifying noun are also translated into English nominals.

Notes

1 Some of the sisters of kaanah/ 'to be' are Saaral/ 'to become', Sbaa/ 'to enter upon morning', Dbaa/ 'to enter upon forenoon', amsaa/ 'to enter upon evening', Zaalal/ 'to remain', baatal/ 'to pass the night', laysal/ 'not to be', maa zaalal/ and maa daamal/ 'to continue to be'.

2 The sisters of /\mnal/ 'verily' are inna/ 'that, surely', kaannal/ 'as if', laakinnal/ 'but, yet', laytal/ 'if only, would that', laatallal/ 'perhaps', and laal/ 'not' of nominal negation.
By the nominalized adjective, I mean that adjective which can function as a head of a noun phrase, e.g. "the treacherous." It is of three types: all adjectives qualifying personal nouns, some adjectives denoting nationalities and some adjectives having abstract reference (See Quirk et al, 1972: 251-3).

Appendix

A. The consonants of Standard Arabic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manner</th>
<th>Voicing</th>
<th>Bilabial</th>
<th>Labiodental</th>
<th>Interdental</th>
<th>Dento-Alveolar</th>
<th>Non-Emphatic</th>
<th>Emphatic</th>
<th>Palatal</th>
<th>Velar</th>
<th>Uvular</th>
<th>Pharyngeal</th>
<th>Glottal</th>
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</table>

B. The vowels of Standard Arabic

<table>
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<td>i</td>
<td>u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid</td>
<td></td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Symbols and abbreviations

PP = Passive Participle  
SL = Source Language  
RL = Receptor Language  
...-... = morpheme boundary  
/.../ = phonemic transcription  
[...]= morphological pattern  
F-ʕ-L = First, Second and Third consonants of the root, respectively.

References

Abdul-Baqi, Muhammad Foad. 1986. Al-Mu'jam Al-Mufahris Li-AlfaZ


**Abstract:**

The main concern of this article is to provide an analysis of the syntactic classes of Arabic passive participle forms and discuss their translations based on a comparative study of two English Quranic translations by Ali (1934) and Pickthall (1930). The study attempts to answer two questions: (a) Should we translate the Arabic passive participle into an English nominal, verbal, adjectival or adverbial? and (b) What are the factors that determine the choice of one translation or the other? So, it compares the two translations to analyze the different English translations of the Arabic passive participle. A corpus of 350 sentences has been randomly selected from the source text, together with their 700 translations in the target texts. The two translations of all the sentences are compared and analyzed in terms of syntactic and semantic features. The various English translations of the Arabic passive participle forms are presented with a count of the examples representing them in the corpus and their percentages. Then, the contextual reference of each translation is studied and accounted for.

**Résumé:**

Le souci principal de cet article est de fournir une analyse des classes syntactiques des formes passives arabes de participe et de discuter leurs traductions basées sur une étude comparative de deux traductions anglaises de Quran par Ali (1934) et Pickthall (1930). L'étude essaye de répondre à deux questions: (a) Au cas où nous traduire le participe passif arabe en nominal anglais, verbal, adjectif ou adverbiaire? et (b) quels sont les facteurs qui déterminent le choix d'une traduction ou de l'autre ? Ainsi, il compare les deux traductions pour analyser les différentes traductions en anglais du participe passif arabe. Un corpus de 350 phrases a été aléatoirement choisi parmi le texte source, ainsi que leurs 700 traductions dans les textes cible. Les deux traductions de toutes phrases sont comparées et analysées en termes de dispositifs syntactiques et sémantiques. Les diverses traductions en anglais des formes passives arabes de participe sont présentées avec un compte des exemples les représentant dans le corpus et leurs pourcentages. Puis, la référence contextuelle de chaque traduction est étudiée et expliquée.
About the Author

Hassan A. H. Gadalla obtained his B.A. in English Language and Literature, M.A. in Linguistics and Ph.D. in Linguistics from Assiut University, Egypt. One of his published books is *Comparative Morphology of Standard and Egyptian Arabic*. Munich: Lincom Europa (2000). One of his papers is “Translating English Perfect Tenses into Arabic: A Comparative Study of Two Translations of Pearl Buck’s Novel ‘The Good Earth’,” published in Babel 52:3 (2006). His work institution is Assiut University, Egypt. E-mail: hgadalla@yahoo.com.