Syntactic Classes of the Arabic Active Participle and their Equivalents in Translation: A Comparative Study in Two English Quranic Translations

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0. Introduction:

This study attempts to provide an analysis of the syntactic classes of Arabic active 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 active 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 active participle in the two English translations of the Quran. For the phonemic symbols used to transcribe Arabic data, see Appendix (1) and for the symbols and abbreviations employed in the study, see Appendix (2).
1. **Syntactic Classes of the Arabic Active Participle:**

The active participle (AP) is a morphological form derived from a verb to refer to the person or animate being that performs the action denoted by the verb. In Classical and Modern Standard Arabic grammars, it is called /?ism-u l-faa9il/ 'noun of the agent' and it has two patterns; one formed from the primary triradical verb and the other from the derived triradical as well as the quadriradical verbs. The former has the form [Faa9iL], e.g. /9aabid/ 'worshipping' 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 /i/ if it is not already /i/. Therefore, the normal pattern would be in most cases [mu-...iC], e.g. /mukrim/ 'honoring'. In Gadalla (2000: 187-94), I gave a detailed analysis of the phonological and morphological processes involved in the derivation of AP forms. This study focuses on the syntactic classes of these forms and their English translations. These syntactic classes can also be called positional or functional classes. For the term "functional", I adopt Trask's (1993: 109) definition:

Pertaining to the grammatical purposes served by constituents, rather than to their form. For example, the functional category **adverbial** 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 AP 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 agentis" and calls the passive participle the "nomen patientis." In another place, he states that both of them are "verbal adjectives, i.e. adjectives derived from verbs, and correspond in nature and signification to what we call participles. ... These verbal adjectives often become ... substantives" (Ibid: 1/131). He further explains this as follows:

When formed from \([Fa9aL-a]\) and the *transitive* \([Fa9iL-a]\), these nomina agentis [i.e. APs] are not only real participles, indicating a temporary, transitory or accidental action or state of being, but also serve as adjectives or substantives, expressing a continuous action, a habitual state of being, or a permanent quality. ... But if from the *intransitive* \([Fa9iL-a]\) and from \([Fa9uL-a]\), they have only the participial sense. (Ibid: 1/131-2).

Other linguists (e.g. Thackston 1984) treat the AP as an adjective for two reasons. First, it behaves morphologically as an adjective, specially 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: “The active participle often functions, like the English present
active participle in -ing, as a verbal adjective for on-going action, or the durative aspect.” On the other hand, Kremers (2003: 145) distinguishes between verbal and nominal participles:

Verbal participles often have the value of a clause, either a main clause, a subclause or a relative clause. Such participles have verbal properties, e.g., in being able to assign accusative case. ... Nominal participles have the value of a noun or adjective, and .... they are not able to assign accusative case. Instead, they will use the genitive or the preposition li 'to, for' to license their objects.

Some Arab grammarians (e.g. Hassan 1980) define the AP as a noun and some (e.g. Al-Andalusi 1990) define it as an adjective. But there is agreement between them that it can sometimes do the work of a verb. Hassan (1980: 238) defines the AP as "a derived noun which denotes an absolute temporary action as well as its agent." Also, Al-Hashemi (2000: 310) defines it as "a noun derived from the verbal noun of the active verb to denote the person doing the action, with the meaning of renewal and incidence."

On the other hand, Radwan (1987: 19) defines the AP as "the adjective denoting an action, its incidence and its agent." Moreover, Al-Andalusi (1990: 70) asserts that the AP is "the adjective denoting an agent, corresponding in masculinity and femininity to the imperfect of its verb, and having its meaning or that of the perfect."
According to Hassan (1980: 239), the reference of the AP to a temporary action is related to the majority of cases only, since it may in a few cases refer to a permanent or permanent-like action. To give an example of its reference to a temporary action, he (Ibid: 240) states that Muhammad Al-Razi, in his book *Wonders of Quranic Verses*, mentioned the verse in (1a) and explained the reason of using /Daa?iq/ 'straitened' rather than /Dayyiq/ 'strait': "the straitness of the prophet's heart is temporary not permanent, as the prophet, peace be upon him, had the broadest heart of all people."

(1) a. wa-Daa?iq-un bi-hi Sadr-u-ka [11:12]
   and-straitening.msg-nom with-3msg heart-nom-2msg
   b. and thy heart feeleth straitened.
   c. and that thy breast should be straitened for it.

(In all the illustrative examples, "a" represents the Quranic example in phonemic transcription, its chapter and verse numbers between square brackets, followed by its glosses; "b" represents Ali's (1934) translation; and "c" represents Pickthall's (1930) translation, unless stated otherwise.)

Hassan (1980: 242) indicates that if the meaning of the AP form is not incidental, i.e. if it is permanent or permanent-like, one should bring up a syntactic or semantic context which shows that this form does not mean incidence, but permanence. One of the syntactic contexts is the annexation of the AP to its agent.
That is making it the first noun in a construct phrase and making its agent the second noun in that phrase, e.g. /raajih-u l-9aql-i/ 'having a mature mind'. He affirms that this annexation takes the AP out of its domain and puts it into the domain of the "resembled adjective." By this he means one that is made similar to the AP in form, but not in meaning.

One of the semantic contexts in which the AP means permanence is that of the attributes of Allah, e.g. /qaadir/ 'having power'. Hassan (Ibid: 244) asserts that the attributes of God such as dominance, creation and subjugation are not incidental, temporary or confined to a limited time, as this is not suitable for Allah. Hence, the AP forms referring to these attributes are "resembled adjectives" in their meaning and significance. They are not active participles, except in their morphological form.

In relation to the working of the AP as a verb, i.e. assigning the nominative case to its subject and the accusative case to its object, Hassan (1980: 246) states that "the AP does the same job of its verb and is similar to it in being transitive or intransitive, with details and conditions that are different in the cases of being defined by /?al-/ 'the' or not."

Al-Makoudi (2001: 181) indicates that the similarity of the AP to the verb can be evidenced by its suitability for being joined, by means of a conjunction, with a following verb, as in:
Do they not observe the birds above them, spreading their wings and folding them in?

b. Have they not seen the birds above them spreading out their wings and closing them?

In this example, the AP form /Saaff-aat-in/ 'spreading' is joined, by the conjunction /wa-/ 'and', with the following imperfect verb /ya-qbiD-na/ 'impf-fold'.

Although Halwani (1993: 247) admits the similarity between the AP and the imperfect verb in morphological significance, he speaks of a minute semantic difference between them: "The form of the imperfect verb signifies the renewal of an action and its happening little by little. But the form of the AP signifies the settlement of a quality in its agent, not its renewal or happening little by little." (translation is mine).

Al-Andalusi (1990: 76) gives as an example of the working of the AP having the meaning of the imperfect the following verse:
(3) a. wa-l-ḥaafiZ-iina furuuj-a-hum [33:35]
   and- the-guarding mpl. acc sexual parts acc-3mpl

b. for men ... who guard their chastity

c. and men who guard their modesty

In this example, the definite article /l-/ 'the' can be substituted by the relative pronoun /?allaðiina/ 'who (mpl)' and the AP form /ḥaafiZ-iina/ 'guarding' can be replaced by its imperfect verb /ya-ḥfaZuuna/ 'guard'. The noun /furuuj-a-hum/ 'their sexual parts' is placed in the accusative case because it acts as the direct object of the AP form.

If the AP that is undefined by /?al-/ 'the' is followed by a substantive object, this object can be placed in the accusative by virtue of objectivity or in the genitive by virtue of annexation (Al-Andalusi 1990: 83). The former can be exemplified by (4a) and the latter by (5a):

(4) a. wa-laa ?aamm-iina
   and-not heading to mpl. acc
   l-bayt-a l-ḥaraam-a [5:2]
   the-house acc the-sacred acc

b. nor the people resorting to the sacred house

c. nor those repairing to the Sacred House

(5) a. ?inna-ka jaami9-u n-naas-i [3:9]
   verily-2msg gathering msg nom the people gen

b. Thou art He that will gather mankind Together.
c. Lo! it is Thou Who gatherest mankind together.

It is obligatory to assign the accusative case to the object of the AP if they are separated (Ibid: 84), e.g. by a prepositional phrase, as in:

(5) a. ?inn-ii jaa9il-un fi-l-?arD-i
    verily-1sg creating.msg-nom in-the-earth-gen
    xaliifat-an [2:30]
    viceroy-acc

b. I will create a vicegerent on earth.

c. I am about to place a viceroy in the earth.

Hassan (1980: 257) closes his discussion of the AP by asserting that all the rules and conditions related to the singular AP apply steadily to it when it becomes masculine or feminine dual, sound masculine plural, sound feminine plural or broken plural.

2. Study Aim & Technique:

This research aims at analyzing the syntactic classes of the Arabic AP 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 Quran 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 AP 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 AP. A corpus of 300 examples has been randomly selected from the SL text, using Abdul-Baqi (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 AP forms and writing down the
chapter and verse numbers of each form until a list of 300 examples is complete. After that, the 600 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 AP form in each. The technique used in the analysis and assessment of the translations is the parallel texts technique stated in Hartmann (1980). This technique was first used in the contrastive analysis of languages, then later adapted to compare “translationally equivalent texts” (Ibid: 37). A frequency count of the various translations of the Arabic AP 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 AP 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 AP 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 (1)

English Syntactic Classes into which the Arabic AP 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. Nominals</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>36.3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Adjectivals</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>30.7 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Verbals</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>26.3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Adverbials</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>6.7 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>100 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table (1) indicates the English syntactic classes into which the Arabic AP is translated, the number of examples representing them in the corpus and their percentages. It reveals that more than one third of the examples representing the Arabic AP are translated into English nominals. Pickthall (1930) tends to use more nominal translations than Ali (1934). Less than one third of the AP data are rendered into English adjectivals. The number of examples representing them is the same in the two RL texts. About one fourth of the AP examples are conveyed into English verbals. Ali (1934) uses more verbal translations than Pickthall (1930). The least number of AP examples are transferred into
English adverbials and this number is the same in the two RL texts.

3.1. **Translating Arabic AP into English Nominals:**

According to Canada (2001a: 1), "nouns occupy various slots in English sentences: subjects, subject complements, object complements, direct objects, indirect objects, and objects of prepositions." 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) shows 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 AP examples selected from the SL text:

1. Lexical noun,
2. Noun / pronoun + relative clause,
3. Adjective / present participle + noun,
4. Nominalized adjective$^1$,
5. Noun / pronoun + prepositional phrase,
6. Noun / pronoun + infinitive phrase,
7. Noun / pronoun + present participle,
8. Infinitive, or
9. Gerund

The choice of one nominal 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 AP is translated into English nominals.
Table (2)

Arabic AP Classes Translated as English Nominals in the Two RL Texts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AP 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>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>20.1 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Predicate of nominal sentence</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>16.1 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Subject of verb</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>13.8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Object of verb</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>13.8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Noun in a construct</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>11.5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Subject of /?inna/</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9.1 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Subject of nominal sentence</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6.4 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Predicate of /kaana/</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4.6 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Predicate of /?inna/</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Subject of /kaana/</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>100 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table (2) presents the various AP classes that are rendered as nominals and the number of examples representing them in the two RL texts as well as their percentages. It reveals that one fifth of the Arabic AP 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). This can be illustrated by the following example:

(7) a. wa-llaah-u ma9a S-Saabir-iina [8:66]
    and-God-nom with the-persevering-mpl.gen
    b. for Allah is with those who patiently persevere.
    c. Allah is with the steadfast.

Nearly one sixth of the AP examples translated as English nominals have the syntactic position of the predicate of a nominal sentence in Arabic:

(8) a. ?am humu l-xaaliq-uuna [52:35]
    or they the-creating-mpl.nom
    b. or were they themselves the creators?
    c. Or are they the creators?

Nearly one seventh of the AP examples which are rendered into English as nominals act as subject of verb. Accepting predication, by being the subject of verb in a verbal sentence is one of the distinguishing characteristics of nouns according to Al-Hashemi (2000: 15):

(9) a. fa-?aððan-a mu?aððin-un bayna-hum [7:44]
    and-cry-pf.3msg crying.msg-nom between-3mpl
    b. but a crier shall proclaim between them.
    c. And a crier in between them crieth.
Also, nearly one seventh of the AP examples that are rendered as English nominals act as object of verb:

(10) a. laa ta-sma9-u fii-haa
    not impf.2msg-hear-indic in-3fsg
    laagiyy-at-an [88:11]
    speaking vainly-fsg-acc

b. Where they shall hear no (word) of vanity

c. Where they hear no idle speech

More than one tenth of the AP examples translated as nominals act as first or second noun in a construct phrase or a genitive construct. Being genitivized with the vowel /i/ as a result of annexation is one of the distinguishing qualities of nouns stated by Al-Hashemi (2000: 14).

(11) a. wa-min šarr-i gaasiq-in
    and-from evil-gen darkening.msg-gen
    ?iða waqab-a [113:3]
    when overspread-pf.3msg

b. From the mischief of Darkness as it overspreads

c. From the evil of the darkness when it is intense

Less than one tenth of the AP examples rendered as nominals in English have the function of subject of /?inna/ 'verily' and its sisters\(^2\) in Arabic:

(12) a. ?inna l-muslim-iina
    verily the-surrendering-mpl.acc
wa-l-muslim-aat-i [33:35] and-the-surrendering-fpl.acc

b. For Muslim men and women ...

c. Lo! men who surrender unto Allah, and women who surrender ...

As shown in Table (2), about six and a half percent of the AP examples translated as English nominals act as the subject of a nominal sentence. Accepting predication by being the subject of a nominal sentence is also one of the distinguishing qualities of nouns mentioned by Al-Hashemi (2000: 15). This can be seen in this example:

(13) a. wa-l-waalid-aat-u yu-rDi9-na
    and-the-giving birth-fpl-nom impf-suckle-3fpl

b. The mothers shall give suck to their offspring.

c. Mothers shall suckle their children.

About four and a half percent of the Arabic AP examples rendered as nominals in English have the position of the predicate of /kaana/ 'to be' and its sisters:

(14) a. wa-maa kun-ta 0aawiy-an
    and-not be.pf-2msg dwelling.msg-acc
    fii ?ahl-i madyan [28:45]
    in people-gen Madyan
b. but thou wast not a dweller among the people of Madyan.
c. And thou wast not a dweller in Midian.

Less than three percent of the Arabic AP examples translated as English nominals act as predicate of /?inna/ 'verily' and its sisters. This is represented in Ali (1934) by (15b) and in Pickthall (1930) by (16c):

   b. for that ye are Sinners.
   c. Lo! ye are guilty.

In this example, it can be observed that although Ali (1934) translates the AP form /mujrim-uuna/ 'sinning' as a nominal, Pickthall (1930) renders it as an adjectival.

(16) a. wa-?in-naa la-hu la-?aafiZ-uuna [15:9] and-verily-1pl for-3msg emph-guarding-mpl.nom
   b. and We will assuredly guard it (from corruption)
   c. and lo! We verily are its Guardian.

Though Pickthall (1930) translates the AP form /?aafiZ-uuna/ 'guarding' as a nominal, Ali translates it as a verbal.

The least number of AP examples rendered as English nominals act as subject of /kaana/ 'to be' and its sisters:

(17) a. wa-kaan-a l-kaafir-u and-be.pf-3msg the-disbelieving.msg-nom
9ala rabb-i-hi Zahiir-aa [25:55] against Lord-gen-3msg partisan-acc

b. and the Misbeliever is a helper (of Evil), against his own Lord!
c. The disbeliever was ever a partisan against his Lord.

3.2. Translating Arabic AP into English Adjectivals:

Dial (1998: 1) defines adjectivals as "words or phrases that modify nouns." Then, she 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. He also shows 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 AP examples chosen from the SL text in the two RL texts are:

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

Table (3) offers the various AP 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 AP Classes Translated as English Adjectivals in the two RL texts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AP Class</th>
<th>Ali</th>
<th>Pickthall</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Adjective</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>35.9 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Predicate of nominal sentence</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>23.9 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Accusative of condition</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>15.2 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Object of verb</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>11.4 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Predicate of /kaana/</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8.2 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Predicate of /?inna/</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5.4 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>100 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to Table (3), more than one third of the AP instances translated as English adjectivals act as adjectives in Arabic. Al-Hashemi (2000: 280) 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 agent, such as the active 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 AP acting as an adjective into English adjectivals:

(18) a. fii-haa 9ayn-un jaariy-at-un [88:12]
    in-3fsg spring-nom gushing-fsg-nom

    b. Therein will be a bubbling spring.

    c. Wherein is a gushing spring.

Nearly one quarter of the AP examples rendered as English adjectivals have the function of the predicate of a nominal sentence:

(19) a. wujuuh-un yawma-?iðin musfir-at-un [80:38]
    faces-nom day-that beaming-fsg-nom

    b. Some faces that Day will be beaming.

    c. On that day faces will be bright as dawn.

The accusative of condition occupies the third rank among the AP classes that are conveyed into English as adjectivals. 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 be a permanent adjective" (Ibid: 224).

(20) a. ya-nqalib-Ø ?ilay-ka l-baSar-u
   impf.3msg-return-juss to-2msg the-sight-nom
   xaasi?-an [67:4]
   weakening.msg-acc

b. (thy) vision will come back to thee dull and discomfited.
c. thy sight will return unto thee weakened.

A little more than one tenth of the AP instances that are translated as English adjectivals act as object of verb, particularly the second object of a ditransitive verb:

(21) a. wa-ta-ra l-?arD-a baariz-at-an [18:47]
   and-impf.2msg-see the-earth-acc emerging-fsg-acc

b. and thou wilt see the earth as a level stretch.
c. and ye see the earth emerging.

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

(22) a. fa-?aSbaḥ-uu fii daar-i-him
   and-enter upon morning,pf-3mpl in home-gen-3mpl
   jaaθim-iina [7:78]
   prostrating-mpl.acc

b. and they lay prostrate in their homes in the morning.
c. and morning found them prostrate in their dwelling-place.

The least number of AP examples conveyed as English adjectivals have the function of the predicate of */?inna/ 'verily' and its sisters:

(23) a. fa-?inna-hu ?aa0im-un qalb-u-hu [2:283]
    then-verily-3msg sinning.msg-nom heart-nom-3msg
b. His heart is tainted with sin.
c. verily his heart is sinful.

3.3. Translating Arabic AP 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 AP is sometimes translated as English verbals is that it sometimes has an aspectual meaning. Kharma (1983: 36) states that the AP seems
to add an aspectual meaning of continuity (in the three spheres of time). This line of reasoning may have been the one that led al-farraa? and other grammarians of the Kufa school to substitute for the traditional binary opposition a new tripartite division, adding the ism al-faa9il [=active participle] as the third form of the verb and calling it al-daa?im,
i.e. the permanent (most probably meaning: the continuous).

However, we have to resort to the context to know which point of time the continuous state of the AP refers to, as asserted by Wright (1967: 2/195):

To what point of time this lasting and continuous state of the agent ... 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 agentis [=AP] ... 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 AP examples chosen from the SL text are:

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

In Table (4), the various AP 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 AP 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:

and-verily the-hour-acc coming-fsg-nom

b. And verily the Hour will come.

c. And because the Hour will come ...

Nearly one third of the AP forms that are rendered as English verbals have the syntactic function 'predicate of nominal sentence.' Most of these forms refer to the present, historic present or futuristic present.

(25) a. wa-l-mala9at-ikat-u baasiT-uu  
and-the-angels-nom stretching out- mpl. nom

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AP 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>36</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>44.3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Predicate of nominal sentence</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>32.3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Predicate of */kaana/</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>19.6 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Accusative of condition</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>100 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
hands-gen-3mpl

b. the angels stretch forth their hands.

c. and the angels stretch their hands out.

About one fifth of the AP examples conveyed as English verbals act as part of the predicate of /kaana/ 'to be' and its sisters, especially /laysa/ and /maa/, both meaning 'not':

and-not you (msg) emph-believing.msg-gen to-1pl

b. But thou wilt never believe us.

c. and thou believest not our saying.

The least number of AP instances translated as English verbals belong to the 'accusative of condition' class. This is particularly resorted to when the accusative of condition emphasizes its verb, as in:

(27) a. ba9da ?an tu-walluu
after comp impf.2mpl-go away

mudbir-iina [21:57]

turning back-mpl.acc

b. after ye go away and turn your backs

c. after ye have gone away and turned your backs
3.4. Translating Arabic AP into English Adverbials:

Canada (2001c: 1-2) 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 AP examples chosen from the SL text are:

1. Prepositional phrase,
2. Present participle / participial phrase,
3. Past participle / participial phrase,
4. Lexical adverb,
5. Infinitive, or
6. Subordinate clause.

Examination of the twenty examples translated as English adverbials in the two RL texts reveals that in all of them the AP acts as an accusative of condition. This shows that the two translators agree that when the AP acts as an accusative of condition, the first priority for translating it should be given to the English adverbial.

    impf.3mpl-come to-3msg submitting-mpl.acc
b. they come to him with all submission.
c. they would have come unto him willingly.

4. Conclusion:

This paper provides an analysis of the syntactic classes of Arabic AP 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 AP forms can be translated into English nominals, adjectivals, verbals or adverbials, respectively. One has to know the syntactic class to which a certain Arabic AP form belongs so as to be able to choose its appropriate English translation.

Comparison of Tables (2) to (4) and careful study of section (3.4) uncover that the Arabic AP forms can be sorted into twelve classes according to their syntactic positions. It has been discovered that seven of these classes have one equivalent English syntactic class each, but the remaining five have more than one equivalent class each.

First, each of the following seven Arabic AP classes has one equivalent syntactic class in English, as follows:

1. The adjective is normally translated as English adjectivals. This is represented by 66 RL examples.
2. The object of preposition is usually translated as English nominals. This is represented by 44 RL examples.
3. The subject of verb is normally rendered as English nominals.
4. The first and second noun in a construct phrase are usually conveyed into English nominals. This is represented by 25 RL examples.

5. The subject of /?inna/ 'verily' and its sisters is usually transferred into English nominals. This is represented by 20 RL examples.

6. The subject of a nominal sentence is usually translated as English nominals. This is represented by 14 RL examples.

7. The subject of /kaana/ 'to be' and its sisters is translated as English nominals. This is represented by four RL examples.

Second, each of the following five Arabic AP classes has more than one equivalent syntactic class in English:

1. Object of verb,
2. Predicate of /kaana/ 'to be' and its sisters,
3. Predicate of nominal sentence,
4. Accusative of condition, and
5. Predicate of /?inna/ 'verily' and its sisters.

Third, comparison of Tables (2) and (3) indicates that the AP class 'object of verb' can have two English translations:

1. Nominals, represented by RL 30 examples, and
2. Adjectivals, represented by 21 RL examples.

Most of the examples translated as adjectivals act as second objects of ditransitive verbs.
Fourth, as revealed by Tables (2, 3 and 4), the AP class 'predicate of /kaana/ 'to be' and its sisters' can have three English translations:

1. Verbals, represented by 31 RL examples,
2. Adjectivals, represented by 15 RL examples, and
3. Nominals, represented by 10 RL examples.

Fifth, examination of Tables (2, 3 and 4) shows that the AP class 'predicate of nominal sentence' can have three translations:

1. Verbals, represented by 51 RL examples,
2. Adjectivals, represented by 44 RL examples, and
3. Nominals, represented by 35 RL examples.

Sixth, as indicated in Tables (3 and 4) as well as in section (3.4), the AP acting as accusative of condition can have three translations:

1. Adverbials, represented by 40 RL examples,
2. Adjectivals, represented by 28 RL examples, and
3. Verbals, represented by six RL examples.

Finally, careful study of Tables (2, 3 and 4) uncovers that the AP having the function 'predicate of /?inna/ 'verily' and its sisters' can have three translations:

1. Verbals, represented by 70 RL examples,
2. Adjectivals, represented by 10 RL examples, and
3. Nominals, represented by six RL examples.
Notes

1By 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).


3Some of the sisters of /kaana/ ‘to be’ are /Saara/ ‘to become’, /?aSba?ha/ ‘to enter upon morning’, /?aDhaa/ ‘to enter upon forenoon’, /?amsaa/ ‘to enter upon evening’, /Zalla/ ‘to remain’, /baata/ ‘to pass the night’, /laysa/ ‘not to be’, /maa zaala/ ‘to continue to be’ and /maa daama/ ‘to continue to be’.
### Appendix 1

#### A. Consonants of Standard Arabic

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<tr>
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#### B. Vowels of Standard Arabic

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### Appendix 2

**List of Symbols & Abbreviations**

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<td>juss, jussive</td>
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<td>/Ø/</td>
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<td>[ ]</td>
<td>morphological forms, elements or transcription</td>
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References


Last Visited Jan. 2006.


