Manner Adverbials in English And Arabic

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1. Introduction

The broad objective of this paper is to compare, albeit briefly and informally, manner adverbials in English and Arabic. Manner adverbials in the two languages will be compared according to the following parameters: (i) Realizations, (ii) Status (in clause structure), and (iii) Co-occurrence Restrictions.

The grammatical framework adopted in this paper draws heavily on Quirk, et. al. (1972): *A Grammar of Contemporary English*. In particular, we adopt the authors' method of representing clause structure functionally; i.e. by means of the functions of the immediate constituents of the clause. Thus, following Quirk, et. al. (1972), we recognize the following functions: (i) Subject (S), (ii) Verb (V), (iii) Object (O), (iv) Complement (C), and (v) Adverbial (ADV). Finally, in the course of this paper we shall borrow some of the examples cited in Quirk, et. al. (1972).

Before we proceed to compare manner adverbials in English and Arabic, it is expedient to draw attention to the fact that Arab grammarians (both traditional and contemporary) do not make a distinction between the function 'adverbial' and the category 'adverb' (as a word class). Secondly, they do not view the function adverbial as a grammatical function that has different realizations. This is due to the fact that, in their endeavour to classify language categories formally, in particular according to inflections, they group together elements/categories that are only superficially similar but functionally different. Another consequence of their reliance on inflections as a criterion for

classification was their inability to group together the different realizations which a certain function (e.g. adverbial) may have (see Section 3 below). However, in the course of this paper we shall avail ourselves of the insights of well-known Arab grammarians, notably, Sibawayhi, Ibn-Malik, Ibn-Hashim, Hassaan (1979), and Al-Makhzoumi (1966) (see References for details). We shall also make use of some of the examples they cite.

2.   Manner

Before presenting the details of English and Arabic units that express manner, it is expedient to explicate certain issues that   relate to adverbials in general and to manner in particular. First, manner adverbials characteristically modify the process/event referred to by the verb: that is, they clarify how a certain action/process is performed by an agent. Secondly, in some cases, a manner adverbial may refer to the state of the agent. Grammarians often refer to this type of manner adverb as 'subject adverb' or 'subject adjunct' (see Greenbaum, 1969; Close, 1975; Quirk et al., 1972; Swan, 1990). Arab grammarians, on the other hand, unanimously call this function **?alHa:l** (= the circumstantial expression).

As pointed out above, manner adverbials are primarily related to the manner of the action/process expressed by the verb. The following are some representative examples from both English and Arabic1 :

(1)   They began arguing **loudly**.
(2)   taqu:mu / bi?a9ma:liha / **bidiqatin**.
        (she does / her work   / carefully) =
        /She does her work carefully.

Subject-oriented adverbs, on the other hand, are primarily related to the state of the agent. Consider the following examples from English (cited in Quirk, et. al., 1972: 466):

(3)a. **Manfully**, they insisted the situation was too bad.(i.e. it was manfull of them to ...)
    b. **With great unease**, they elected him as their leader.(i.e. it was uneasy for them to ...)

Now consider the following Arabic examples:

(4)   a. na:ma   / **qari:ra ?al9ayni**.
        (he slept / comfortable eye) =
        He slept comfortably (i.e he was comfortable ...)
    b. yatakallamu / sami:run / **bi*th*iqatin**.
        (he talks / Sameer / with confidence)=
        Sameer talks with confidence. (i.e he is confident..)

There are some examples, however, where it is rather uneasy to ascertain with any degree of confidence the orientation of the adverbial. Consider, for instance, the following example from English:

(5)   He talked to me **frankly**.

This example could be interpreted in two different (but related) ways. First, it could mean that the agent was frank when he talked. Secondly, it could mean that the agent talked in a frank manner. Such adverbials (i.e. those that are susceptible to two interpretations) are widely used in both English and Arabic. Here are some more examples:

(6)   My father deals with the children **gently**
(7)   yataHada*th*u / ma9a / Tulla:bihi / **biluTfin**.
        (he talks   / to / his students / kindly) =
        He talks to his students kindly

In this paper we shall be concerned with manner adverbials that are action oriented, though the reader may encounter some cases where the adverbial may be susceptible to at least two interpretations (i.e. action oriented and subject oriented).

3.   Units Realizing Manner

Manner in English and Arabic is realized by similar structures in the two languages; namely, (i) one-word adverbs; (ii) prepositional phrases; (iii) noun phrases; and (iv) noun clauses

3.1.   Adverbs

The first form that is used in English and Arabic to express manner is the one-word adverb. One-word manner adverbs in English are

characteristically derived forms that end with one of the following suffixes: -*ly*, -*wise*, -*fashion*, and -*style*. On the other hand, one-word manner adverbs in Arabic, called ?alHa:l by Arab grammarians, are derived forms that assume only one morphological shape and always occur in the accusative case. The English examples in (8) below contain one-word manner adverbs, whereas those in (9) include Arabic sentences incorporating manner adverbs.

(8)   a.   He played the game **foully**
        b.   They left the country **peacefully**.
        c.   Jane ran **fast**.

(9)   a.   masha / **sari:9an**.
                (he walked / quick) =
                He walked quickly

        b.   na:ma / **ha:di?an**.
                (he slept / calm) =
                He slept calmly.

3.2.   Prepositional Phrases

Prepositional phrases are frequently used in both languages to express manner. The following examples from both languages incorporate manner prepositional phrases (in bold type):

(10)   a.   He talks to me **in a friendly manner**.
         b.   Jane accepted the proposal **without argument**.
         c.   She plays the piano **with great skill**.

(11)   a.   ?istaqbala / ?alxabara / **bisa9a:datin**.
              (he received / the news / with happiness) =
              He received the news happily.

        b.   yatHad*th*u / ?ilayya / **biTari:qatin wudiyyatin**.
              (he talks / to me / in a way friendly) =
              He talks to me in a friendly manner.

        d.   yana:mu / **ka?abi:hi**
              (he sleeps / like his father) =
              He sleeps like his father.

In most cases, English and Arabic prepositional phrases can be replaced by one-word adverbs without distorting the semantics of the sentence in which they occur. Consider the following examples:

(12)   She dances **in a professional manner / professionally**.

(13)   9adda / ?al?awra:qa / **biTari:qatin sari:9atin / sari:9an**.
       (he counted / the papers / in a way quick / with speed)
       He counted the sheets of paper in a quick way/quickly.

There are cases, however, where one-word manner adverbs cannot replace manner prepositional phrases. Consider the English examples in (14) below:

(14)   a.   I sleep **with my head under the pillow**.
       b.   They agreed **without much thinking**.

Similarly, the manner prepositional phrases in the following examples from Arabic have no corresponding one-word adverbs:

(15)   a.   yataSarafu / **biTari:qatin ghari:batin** .
            (he acts / in a manner strange) =
            He acts in a strange manner.
       b.   waqafa / da:Xilla / ?alghurfati / **bila Hara:k**.
            (he stood/ in / the room / without movement) =
            He stood in the room motionless.

3.3.   Noun Phrases

Noun phrases are used to express the concept of manner in English and Arabic. Arab grammarians call noun phrases that express manner "?almaf9u:l ?almuTlaq ?adda:l 9ala ?annaw9" (= the process modifier absolute object). The following examples from English and Arabic incorporate manner noun phrases:

(16)   a.   They eat rice **a strange fashion**.
       b.   She laughed **a different way**.
(17)   a.   sallama / **sala:man Ha:ran**.
            (he greeted / greeting warm) =
            He greeted (x) warmly / in a warm manner.
       b.   raja9a / ?alqa:?idu / **ruju:9a ?almuntasiri**.
            (came back / the leader/the coming back winner)
            The leader came back like a winner. (i.e victorious)

3.4.   Noun Clauses

One of the functions of noun clauses in English and Arabic is the expression of manner. In most cases, however, the concept of manner is accompanied by other shades of meaning, in particular "resemblance" and "comparison": cf.

(18)   a. She makes the cake **as I do**.
       b. Mary washes the dishes **as her mother does**.
(19)   a. taTbuXu/?ima:nu/?al?aruza/**tama:man kama ?af9alu**.
          (she cooks / Iman / rice / exactly as I do I) =
          Iman cooks the rice .exactly as I do.
       b. yusa:firu / **kama yusa:firu ?al9uSfu:ru**.
          (he travels / as travels the bird) =
          He travels as a bird does.

It should be pointed out in this context that Arabic clauses initiated by **ka?ana** are equivalent to **as/if**-clauses in English; and that both types of clause are used in Arabic and English respectively to express manner. Consider the following examples:

(20)   He talks **as if he is a lord**.
(21)   tataHada*th*u / ?ilayya / **waka?anani wa:lidatuha**.
       (she talks / to me / as if I was her mother) =
       She talks to me as if I am /were her mother.

The facts presented in this section demonstrate that manner in both English and Arabic is realized by a variety of structures/units in both languages. Such structures constitute a continuum with one-word adverbs at one end and clauses at the other. They also demonstrate that if a certain unit (e.g. adverb) is not available to signal a certain function (e.g. manner), language can exploit other units (e.g. phrases and clauses) to fulfill the specific communicative function.

In spite of the important similarities mentioned above, there are, as is expected, some differences between Arabic and English with respect to the types of units realizing manner. For instance, nouns can be used metaphorically to express manner in Arabic but not in English. Consider the following examples:

(22)   a.   istaqa:bala / ?ajjunu:da / **asadan**.

(he met / the soldiers / a lion) =
He met the soldiers as brave as a lion.

b.   masha / **Ta:wu:san**.
(he walked / a peacock) =
He walked as proudly as a peacock.

(23) a.   *He met them a lion.
    b.   *Jane walked a deer.

4.   The Status of Manner Adverbials

Manner adverbials in English and Arabic are typically optional elements in clause structure regardless of the linguistic units that realize the adverbial. Consider the following examples:

(24)   a. Mary washes the dishes **(as her mother does)**.
        b. She talks to me **(in a friendly way)**.
        c. They arranged their timetable **(precisely)**.
(25)   a. sharaHa / ?addarsa / **(wayada:hu fi juyu:bihi)**
        (he explained / the lesson/and his hands in his pockets)
        He explained the lesson with his hands in his pockets.
        b. na:mat / ?aTTiflatu / **(muHtadhinatan lu9bataha)** /
        (she slept / the baby / embracing her doll) =
        The baby slept embracing her doll.

A careful study of the English examples in (24) above and the Arabic ones in (25) shows that manner adverbials in English and Arabic are optional elements in clause structure. There are certain contexts, however, where manner adverbials in both languages are obligatory. Admittedly, it is not easy to define such contexts. Suffice it in this paper to show some examples where the deletion of manner adverbials is inadmissible, and to point to some factors that determine whether manner adverbials are optional or obligatory elements in clause structure.

One of the key factors that seem to determine whether a manner adverbial is optional or obligatory is the tense of the main verb. Notice the admissibility of the Adv-Deletion transformations in (a) and the inadmissibility of those in (c):

(26)   a. Bill slept quietly   ---> b. Bill slept.

        c. Bill sleeps quietly   -/--> d. ?? Bill sleeps.

(27)   a. na:mat / ?aTTiflatu / muHta<u>dh</u>inatan lu9bataha /   -->
        (she slept / the baby / embracing her doll) =
        The baby slept embracing her doll.
    b. na:mat / ?aTTiflatu.
      (she slept / the baby) = The baby slept.
    c. tana:mu / ?aTTiflatu / muHta<u>dh</u>inatan lu9bataha / -/>
        (she sleeps / the baby / embracing her doll) =
        The baby sleeps embracing her doll./
    d.   ?? tana:mu / ?attiflatu. (she sleeps / the baby)

Another factor that seems to determine the status of manner adverbials in both English and Arabic is "aspect", (whether the verb is progressive or non-progressive). Consider the following data from English:

(28)   a. Bill is talking with an Edinburgh accent   -->
       b.Bill is talking.
       c. Bill talks with an Edinburgh accent   -/-->
       d. ?? Bill talks.

The same observation seems to be true of Arabic. If the verb is interpreted in an intransitive, non-progressive sense, the manner adverbial accompanying it is obligatory. If, on the other hand, the verb is interpreted as referring to an action taking place at the time of speech, the manner adverbial is optional. Consider the following examples:

(29)   a. ?inna / ?al?aTfa:la / yal9abu:na / **biHa<u>th</u>arin** /--->
       (that /   the children / play / in caution) =
        The children are playing / play cautiously.
      b. ?inna / ?al?aTfa:la / yal9abu:na.
      (that / the children / play) =
        The children play/are playing.
      c. yusa:firu / 9aliyun / **waHaqi:batahu fi yadih** / -/-->
       (he travels /Ali / and his bag in his hand) =
        Ali travels with his bag in his hand.
      d. ?? yusa:firu / 9aliyyun. (he travels /Ali)

Finally, in some cases, the deletion of manner adverbial is not permissible regardless of the tense or aspect of the main verb. This is particularly so if the meaning of the verb is completed by the manner

adjunct. Consider the following examples cited in Quirk et. al., (1972: 464).

(30)   a. They live **frugally** -/--> b. * They live.
(31)   a. They treated his friend **badly** -/-->
        b* They treated his friend.
(32)   a. He put the point **well.** -/--> b. *He put the point.

The same observation applies to Arabic. Consider the following data:

(33) a. ta9i:shu / ?al9aila / **biTari:qatin mutawa:dhi9atin** /-->
        (lives/the family / in a way humble) =
        The family lives humbly.
     b. *ta9i:shu / ?al9a:ila. (lives / the family)
(34) a. yu9a:milu / Hasanun / ?aSHa:bahu / **bi?iHtira:min
        shadi:d** / -/-->
        (he treats / Hasan / his friends / with respect great)=
        Hasan treats his friends with great respect.
     b. *yu9a:milu / Hasanun / ?aSHa:bahu /
        (he treats / Hasan / his friends)

The conclusions that can be drawn from this section are:
(i) Like English manner adverbials, Arabic manner adverbials are characteristically optional elements in clause structure.
(ii) There are certain contexts where the deletion of manner adverbials is not admissible in both languages.
(iii) In both Arabic and English tense and aspect seem to be the most important factors that determine whether a manner adverbial is optional or obligatory.

5.   Restrictions

There are different types of restrictions on the occurrence of units realizing manner in both Arabic and English. In this section we shall be mainly concerned with areas of similarity since they remarkably outnumber areas of difference. In doing so, we hope to establish some semantic constraints which we assume to be applicable to other languages. Obviously, this is a claim that still needs to be substantiated through empirical research on other languages.

The constraints that operate on manner adverbials in both English and Arabic can be grouped into four major groups: (i) verb constraints, (ii) transformational constraints, (iii) negation constraints, and (iv) agent constraints. Below is a brief discussion of each of these constraints/restriction. Examples to substantiate our claims will be drawn from both English and Modern Standard Arabic.

5.1.   Verb Constraints

Since a manner adverbial is logically related to the main verb in the sentence in which the adverbial occurs; it is only reasonable to assume that the verb, which is a more basic element in clause structure, imposes restrictions on the occurrence of the manner adverbial. Evidence that this is the case has been provided in our discussion of the status of manner adverbials in section 4 above. In this section we shall present further evidence that the verb (in English and Arabic) does control the occurrence/ non-occurrence of manner adverbials.

The first restriction on the occurrence of manner adverbials is a function of the semantic class of the main verb; namely, whether the verb is stative or dynamic. First, manner adverbials (in English and Arabic) do not co-occur with stative verbs. The examples below are self-evident:

(35)   a.   * Bill *likes* Mary **skillfully**.
       b.   * He *owns* it **awkwardly**.
       c.   * Ali *knows* the answer **patiently**.
(36)   a.   * *?aHaba* / waTanahu / **biHatharin** /.
             (he loved / his homeland / cautiously)
       b.   * *yamliku* / ?arrajulu / ?albayta / **bimaha:ratin** /.
             (he owns / the man / the house / skillfully)
       c.   * *yushbihu* / ?aba:hu / **bisuhu:latin** /.
             (he resembles / his father / easily)

There is yet another type of restriction imposed on the occurrence of manner adverbials by the verb. In English, manner adverbials cannot co-occur with intensive verbs: cf.

(37)   a.   * Abdu *is* a teacher **skillfully**.
       b.   * Ann *looks* happy **carefully**.

The same restriction is operative on manner adverbials in Arabic. The following examples sound odd:

(38)   a.   * *?asbaHa* / Hasanun / mudi:ran / **bimaha:ratin.**
                (he became / Hasan / manager / skillfully)
         b.   * *ka:na* / ?aTTaqsu / jami:lan / **bisuhu:latin.**
                (it was / the weather / nice / easily)

Finally, verbless sentences in Arabic, known in Arabic grammar books as 'nominal sentences', cannot incorporate manner adverbials:

(39)   *?inna / ?aTTaqsa / jami:lun / **bisuhu:latin** /
         (that / the weather / nice / easily)

The example in (39) above provides further evidence that manner adverbials are logically related to the verb in clause structure.

5.2.   Transformational Constraints

One of the transformations that blocks the occurrence of manner adverbials in English is clefting. Manner adverbials cannot be the focus of cleft sentences (cf. Quirk et al., 1972: 464). Witness the unacceptability of the (b) examples:

(40)   a.   Susan dances **beautifully** -/-->
        b.   * It is beautifully that Susan dances.
(41)   a.   They cook **in the French style**. -/-->
        b.   ?? It is in the French style that they cook.

Acceptability seems, however, to increase if manner adverbials are modified by other adverbs. Notice, for instance, that (42.b) sounds more acceptable than (40.b) above:

(42)   a.   They argued so **very loudly** . --->
        b.   ? It was so very loudly that they argued.

Secondly, manner adverbials are possible in cleft sentences if the focal clause is interrogative or negative. The following examples are cited by Quirk et al., 1972: 446:

(43)   a.   ? Is it in the French style that they cook?
         b.   ? It is not in the French style that they cook.

The cleft English sentences in (40), (41), (42), and (43) above have no formal equivalence in Arabic, and hence, it is not feasible to force this type of constraint on Arabic manner adverbials. The closest semantic/functional equivalent involves adverb preposing, which we shall return to comment on below.

5.3.   Negation Constraints

This is another constraint that operates on manner adverbials in both English and Arabic. This constraint can be stated in the following way: Manner adverbials cannot appear initially in a negative declarative clause, though they can appear in a positive clause (ibid: 466). The following examples from English and Arabic are self-explanatory:

(44) a. **Quickly**, they *left* for home.
     b. ***Quickly**, they *did not leave* for home.
(45) a /wabiHatharin shadi:din/ *gha:dara* /?aHmadu /manzilahu /.
        (and in care great / he left /Ahmad / his house) =
        Ahmed left his house with great care
    b.   ***wabiHatharin shadi:din**/*lam yugha:dir* /?ahmadu
          manzilahu/
          (and in care great / not / leave / Ahmad / his house)

5.4.   Agent Constraints

Manner adverbials in both Arabic and English generally cannot co-occur with inanimate subjects. The following are some illustrative examples:

(58)   a. * *The door* opened **carefully.**
         b. * *The cup* broke **patiently**.
(59)   a. * dammarat / *?arriya:H u* / ?almadi:nata / **biHatharin/**
            (destroyed / the wind / the city / cautiously).
         b. * namat / *?ashajaratu* / **biSabrin** /.
            (grew / the tree / patiently).

6.   Concluding Remarks

The contrastive analysis incorporated in this paper points to the fact that manner adverbials in English and Arabic are remarkably more similar

than different. The conclusions that can be legitimately drawn from the preceding sections is that Arabic and English manner adverbials exhibit similarities in the following respects:

1. Manner in both English and Arabic is realized by a variety of structures/units which constitute a continuum with one-word adverbs at one end and clauses at the other

2. If a certain unit (e.g. adverb) is not available to express manner in a given context, the two languages make available other units (e.g. phrases or clauses) to facilitate communication and expression of meaning.

3. Like English manner adverbials, Arabic manner adverbials are characteristically optional elements in clause structure. However, there are certain contexts where the deletion of the manner adverbial is not admissible in both languages.

4. In both Arabic and English tense and aspect seem to be the most important factors that determine whether a manner adverbial is optional or obligatory.

5. The semantic/grammatical class of the main verb imposes restrictions on the occurrence of manner adverbials in both English and Arabic. For instance, manner adverbials cannot co-occur with stative verbs, nor can they co-occur with intensive verbs.

6. English and Arabic manner adverbials cannot occur initially in negative declarative sentences.

7. Generally, manner adverbials in both English and Arabic do not co-occur with inanimate subjects.

8. In both English and Arabic adverbs of manner are derived from other word classes, in particular adjectives.

Admittedly, there are, as we have seen above, some differences between Arabic and English manner adverbials. However, the similarities remarkably outnumber the differences. Further research is still needed in this area. Amongst the issues that specifically need research are the following:

1. Positions which the different realizations of manner adverbials typically assume in English and Arabic sentences

2. The susceptibility of manner adverbials to movement within different genres, particularly the process of 'topicalization'. Preliminary observation seems to suggest that narrative texts allow greater freedom for the preposing of manner adverbials in the two languages.

3. A comparison between Arabic and English manner adverbials in the spoken language.

Note

The following symbols are used in transcribing Arabic examples:

th	voiceless dental fricative	th	voiced dental fricative
H	voiceless phraryngeal fricative	X	voiceless uvular fricative
sh	voiceless palato-alveolar fricative	S	voiceless alveolar fricative
T	voiceless denti-alveolar stop /	dh	voiced interdental fricative
9	voiced pharayngeal fricative /	gh	voiced uvular fricative
q	voiceless uvular stop		

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