English and Arabic Apposition: A Contrastive Study

Hasan Shaban Ali

جامعة تكريت/ كلية التربية

ABSTRACT

Apposition is a kind of coordination in which the absence of a firm cohesion between its elements is indicated by a pause and by intonation .Grammarians consider that linguistic units such as the clause and the sentence are elements of appositional structure in addition to noun phrases .They identify different kinds of apposition :loose apposition where the appositive noun follows the governing noun in a rather loose connection and close apposition ,the relation is also close between the appositive and its governing words ,they felt as compound .

The study falls into two main sections with an introduction and conclusions. Section one deals with apposition in English giving sufficient examples and views of different grammarians. Section two is about the apposition in Arabic which is called 'البدل'. The different types of apposition in Arabic are mentioned in this section in addition to adequate examples to clarify the idea.

The conclusion summarizes the main similarities and differences between English and Arabic.

1. Introduction

Traditional English grammars do not deal much with apposition. Curme (1947: 129) affirms that there is a relation of subordinate in the appositional structure and includes in the part of his book. He names their elements modifiers. Jesperson (1969) considers that apposition is a kind of coordination on which the absence of a firm cohesion between its elements is indicated by a pause and by institution. These grammarians do not restrict apposition to noun phrases, they consider that linguistic units, such as the clause and sentence, can also be elements of an appositional structure.

Apposition differs from both subordination and coordination. However, we can also observe a contradiction in this grammarian's definition, due to the fact that when he refers to the appositional elements, he speaks of head group and apportioned group which in a way implies subordination.

For Sopher (1972: 401) the elements in apposition constitute a functional unit. Both are on the same grammatical level. If we omit one element and leave only the other, the utterance in which they are inserted does not change.

Linguists, like Quirk et al (1985: 103) includes more semantic relations between the elements in apposition. Semantically, that relation according to Meyor, may be co-referential

(My father, John), hyponymous (a tree, an oak tree), synonymous (a priest, a man of the clergy and attributive (my sister, tax accountant).

Quirk et al put forward syntactic and semantic criteria in their definition of apposition : (1) each of the appositives can be omitted without affecting the acceptability of the sentence (2) each fulfils the same syntactic function in the resultant sentences .They consider that apposition has similarities with both coordination and subordination .Thus the complexity of the appositive elements is not only because there is an accumulation of determiners , premodifiers and postmodifiers but also because they consist of two or more noun phrases that are juxtaposed or coordinated .In other cases that complexity is due to the fact that there is accumulation of appositions :ex- His wife laughed scornfully ,knowing him to be burdened with responsibilities .The appositive elements are in most cases placed one after the other ;however ,the continuity of the elements is interrupted by the verbal predicate .on the other hand ,Arabic grammarians divide apposition into four kinds :antonym ,some-of-whole ,inclusion and dissimilation:

((إِنَّ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ مَفَازًا . حَدَائِقَ وَأَعْنَابًا)) (سورة النبأ: ٣١-٣٢)

[. Verily for the righteous there will be a fulfilment of (the heart's) desires. Gardens enclosed, and grapevines]

Apposition is a relation between two noun phrases which describe the same thing, person, etc. One of the phrases is a modifier of the other. Examples of apposition:

1. Niki, a former aerobics teacher, is keen to encounter all her former students.

2. I live in Aswan, a town in the south of Egypt.

3. The independent candidate, Pat, is losing support.

Note that the phrases in apposition are separated by a comma (,)

(Leech, 2001: 47-48)

Apposition is known (البدل) in traditional Arabic grammar. In this construction, two nouns will be placed side by side, both with the same syntactic function. The two forms must have the same case ending.

For example, in the phrase   "*My Friend Alice*."

The name *Alice* is apposition to *My Friend.*

Apposition can either be restrictive, or non-restrictive where the second element parenthetically modifies the first. In a restrictive appositive, the second element limits or clarifies the foregoing one in some crucial way.

For example in the phrase: *My friend Alice.*

Alice specifies to which friend the speaker is referring and is therefore restrictive. In English, a non–restrictive appositive must be preceded or set off by commas, while a restrictive appositive is not set off by commas. For example:

4. John and Bob, both friends of mine, are starting a band.

2. **Indicators of Apposition**

A number of expressions explicitly indicate apposition, then can be inserted between appositives, for example: namely in:

5. The passenger plane of the 1980s, namely the supersonic jet, will transform relations between people of the world.

The indicator expresses certain semantic relationships between the appositions and therefore cannot be used for all cases of apposition.

Common indicators are listed below, those marking the same or similar relationship being grouped together:

That is to say, that is, namely, to write in other words, or, or rather, or better, and, and as follows, for example, for instance, especially, such as, mainly.

(Quirk, 1985: 311)

Some of these indicators either precede or follow the second apposition:

6. The president of the United States, in other words, Richard Nixon, was on television last night.

7. Many people, my sister included, won't forgive him for that.

3. **Apposition markers**

Quirk et al (1985: 1307) mention that the structure for appositions needs a position for explicit apposition markers. They usually precede the actual apposition like *that is to say* and *for example* and others can also follow the actual apposition like *included*, which can only appear at the end.

For example:

8.a: A company commander, namely captain Madison, …

*8.b: * A company commander, captain Madison namely ….*

*9. a: * Many people, included my sister, ……*

9.b: Many people, my sister included, ….

Furthermore, the flexible position of the apposition marker needs some attention. Apparently, this marker has no fixed position, which makes the syntactic structure less clear. In this respect, the marker look like some initial coordinators, which are found in an unexpected position.

4. Predication

Doron (1994: 56)states that the meaning of appositions corresponds to that of predication to assume that appositions have an underlying sentential structure :

4.1 Sentential Adverbs

In identifying appositions, these adverbs are in complementary distribution with apposition markers. In attributive appositions, however, apposition markers and adverbs can co-occur. In attributive appositions the adverb follows the marker, whereas in inclusive appositions the adverb precedes the marker.Thus it is possible for sentential adverbs to occur in ordinary NP's(Klein ,1977: 50).

4.2 Paraphrases by Relative Clauses

 Though there is a clear relation between relative clauses and appositions, it is not always possible to paraphrase. An apposition by a relative clause.

*10. * Many people, who are my sister included, …..*

It is related to the semantic class of apposition. Attributive appositions can be paraphrased in this way :

Many people ,among which my sister is included ,….

4.3 Different Semantics and one Syntax

As mentioned above, the possibility of paraphrasing the apposition with the appositive relative clause depends on the semantic type of apposition. Therefore, a different syntactic structure for different types of appositions, imply a different syntactic structure of these types of predication.

5. A Structure for Appositional Constructions

5.1 Apposition and Coordination

Both coordinators and apposition workers can have unexpected other positions. It is more important that coordination and apposition sometimes use the same connectors. Coordinators *like and*, *or* and *but* occasionally appears as part of opposition markers as well.

For example:

11. The United States of America, or America for a short, …

12. John likes to eat everything, but especially ice cream.

In addition, coordination allows sentential adverbs in the second part of the construction too, though in apposition it is common.

12. John and <u>may be</u> Mary went to the store.

5.2 The Resemblance between Apposition and Coordination

Assimilation resembles coordination in linking units having grammatical affinity. But, in addition, for units to be appositives, they must normally be identical in reference or else the reference of one must be included in the reference of the other. For example:

13. A neighbour, Fred Brick, is on the telephone.

A *neighbour* is identified as Fred Brick. The relationship underlying apposition is therefore an intensive relationship.

13. Fredrick is a neighbour.

In many cases, the co-reference and grammatical similarity will permit the omission of either appositive unit with a resultant acceptable and synonymous sentence:

14. A neighbour is on the telephone.

15. Fred Brick is on the telephone.

This is true even when the appositives are discontinuous.

16.An unusual present awaited him.

17. A book on ethics awaited him.

In some of the attribution examples where the additional clause element is present in one of the units, it is not possible to meet the conditions.

18. Norman Jones, at that time a student, wrote several novels.

Nor it is possible in other instances when the apposition is only partial.

19.The reason he gave that he didn't notice the other car, was unconvincing.

where *the reason he gave was unconvincing* is not synonymous with that *he didn't notice the other car was unconvincing*.   The two appositives need not have the same grammatical form to meet this condition. Thus, in the following sentence one of the appositives is a noun phrase, the other a non-finite clause:

20. Playing football on Sunday, his favourite exercise, kept him fit.

5.3 Non-Restrictive and Restrictive Apposition

Appositives may be non-restrictive or restrictive. The appositives in non-restrictive appositions are in different information units, and the two appositives have different information value, one of them being subordinate in the distribution of information. Non-restrictive apposition is indicated in speech by separate tone units from the appositive and in writing by commas or more writing punctuation, with one of the appositives marked as parenthetic.

For example, the apposition is non-restrictive in:

21. Mr. Campbell, the lawyer, was here last night.

While it is restrictive in:

22. Mr. Campbell the lawyer was here last night.

(i.e. Mr. Campbell the lawyer as opposed to any other Mr. Campbell we know)

<div align="right">(Quirk: 1985: 311)</div>

Moreover ,a noun phrase which immediately follows another noun phrase of identical reference, the whole sequence behaving like a single noun phrase with respect to the rest of the sentence. Appositives are most typically non-restrictive; the reference of the first noun phrase is clear, and the appositive serves only to provide additional information. For instance:

23. Paris, the greatest city in France, is changing its face.

24. His newest book, the last one in the trilogy, concludes the saga.

Some appositives, however, are restrictive (required for identification of the reference of the first noun phrase), such as (Shelley) in the example:

25. I am writing a biography of the poet Shelley.

An appositive is said to be in apposition to the preceding NP. Appositive clause is another name for a non-restrictive clause.

<div align="right">(Trask, 1993: 19)</div>

Apposition is typically exemplified by noun phrases in non-restrictive apposition. The semantic relationship between the appositives are displayed below with one or two representative indicators or relation :

Equivalence (i.e. in other words)

appellation (namely: who/which + be)

Designation (where, which + be)

Identification (namely)

Reformation (or)

Attribution (who, which, be)

Inclusion   exemplification (for example)

Particularization (especially)

6. The Subcategories of the Additive

There are two types of relation which can be thought of subcategories of the additive. Both of these really relations on the internal plane- though, as always, they may have external implications.

The first is that of exposition or exemplification. This corresponds, structurally, not to coordination but to apposition. Among the items which occur frequently in function are: *in the expository sense, I mean, that is, that is to say, (or) in other words, in the exemplificatory sense, for instance, for example, thus.*

Note that the word or also occurs alone as a marker of structural apposition. Other items such as namely and the abbreviations i.e., viz, e.g., are likewise usually used as structural markers written sentence, although they may occasionally be found linking two sentences. Examples:

(a) I wonder whether that statement can be backed up by a adequate evidence – in other words, you don't believe me.

<div align="right">(Halliday et al., 1976: 248)</div>

7. Appositive Genitive

In several languages, the same syntax which is used to express such relations can also be used appositively. Examples include: "Appositive oblique", a prepositional phrase with *of* as in:

> *the month of December*
>
> *the sin of Pride*
>
> *the city of New York* .

The ending –'s as in "in Dublin's Fair city". This is uncommon.

8. The Apposition (البدل) in Arabic

Al–Badal (Apposition) idiomatically means a subordinate that has the same parsing case of what comes before (Mohammed, 1961: 193) The purpose of the apposition in language is to   clarify, remove confusion , remove the expansion and metaphor (Abdel Rahman, 1995: 264).

The apposition is one of the modifiers in syntax including : the apposition, coordination and emphasis, and adjectives, that is, the word that follows what precedes it in the parsing case (nominative, accusative, dative) and the appositive sentence consists of a word, (it is that which comes at the beginning) and the appositive that comes after. It is called badal (apposition) because it could be replaced by another word, or it can be deleted and the sentence still grammatically correct.

There are four kinds of appositions:

8.1 Correspondent Apposition : it is necessary to be a noun to be replaced by another noun . The pronoun cannon be replaced by another pronoun because if it is repeated , it will be emphasis, rather than an appositive as in (قمتَ أنتَ) the pronoun (أنتَ) is not an appositive to the pronoun (التاء) in (قمت), but it is an emphasis. The pronoun cannot replace a noun and the opposite is true, as in the following Ayah:

<div align="right">((وَأَسَرُّوا النَّجْوَى الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا...)) (سورة الانبياء: ٣)</div>

3. [.. the wrong–doers conceal their private counsels…]

<div align="right">((وأسروا (Pronoun) النجوى الذين (a noun) ظلموا))</div>

(Ibn Hisham, 1979: 404−5)

It is an appositive that corresponds and has the same meaning of the word that is used as an appositive to, as in:

مررت بأخيك زيدٍ

I have visited your brother Zaid.

(زيد) is an appositive to (أخيك) having the same reference and it cannot be a part of it. Look at the following example:

جاءني محمد أبو عبد الله

Abu Abdullah, Mohammed, came.

(أبو) is an apposite to (محمد). That is why it is in the nominative case, because the appositive is one of the subordinates that follow what precede them concerning the parsing case.

8.1.1 Proper nouns

It is possible for the proper noun to coordinated to the preceding noun functioning as an appositive, as in the following Ayaha:

((وَإِلَى عَادٍ أَخَاهُمْ هُودًا قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُمْ مِنْ إِلَهٍ غَيْرُهُ أَفَلَا تَتَّقُونَ)) (سورة الاعراف :٦٥)

65. To the 'Ad people, (We sent) Hud, one of their (own) brethren: He said: O My people! worship Allah. ye have no other god but Him will ye not fear ((Allah))?"

The word (هودا) can be used as an apposite which means that he is their brother in descent not in religion.   (Al−Samar'i, 1990: 207)

In the phrase (أخاهم هودا) there is a signal that the messenger whom God sent would be from the people, not being arrogant or a king but he is an ordinary man.

Also in the following Ayah we have the same reason:

ذِكْرُ رَحْمَةِ رَبِّكَ عَبْدَهُ زَكَرِيَّا ❀❀❀   (مريم: ٢)

8.1.2 Demonstratives

In the following Ayah:

((فَذُوقُوا بِمَا نَسِيتُمْ لِقَاءَ يَوْمِكُمْ هَذَا ...)) (سورة السجدة: ١٤)

14. [Taste ye then − for ye forgot the meeting of This Day of yours]

The word (هذا) instead of (يومكم), refers to the torment magnification and dramatize the situation

In the Ayah:

((وَلِبَاسُ التَّقْوَى ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ ذَلِكَ مِنْ آيَات اللَّهِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَذَّكَّرُونَ))(الأعراف: ٢٦)

26.. But the raiment of righteousness,− that is the best. such are among the Signs of Allah, that They may receive admonition]

(ذلك) can be used as a predicate or an appositive.

8.1.3 Relative Pronouns

The relative pronouns have the same functions concerning apposition, as in the following Ayah:

((شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنْزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآن هُدًى لِلنَّاسِ)) (البقرة: ١٨٥)

[185. Ramadhan is the (month) In which was sent down the Qur'an, As a guide to mankind,]

(Al-Tabari, 2001: 178)

8.2. Some-of-Whole Apposition in which the appositive is a part of the word that the appositive is used to. In the following Ayah:

((وَلِلَّهِ عَلَى النَّاسِ حِجُّ الْبَيْتِ مَنِ اسْتَطَاعَ إِلَيْهِ سَبِيلًا)) (ال عمران: ٩٧)

(من) is a relative pronoun meaning (الذي)

أكلتُ الرغيف ثلْثهُ.

I have eaten one third of the loaf.

Thus, (ثلث) is an appositive pronoun and it is a part of it not as a whole. Consequently, it is some of whole and there has to be a pronoun attached to the appositive that refers to the word that the appositive is used to as in the (هاء) attached to (ثلث) that refers to (الرغيف, loaf).

(Baha' Al-Din, 1951: 194)

8.3 Appositive of inclusion:

It means that the first is included in the second and not a part of it, that there is partial overlapping between the first and the second, as in:

أعجبني زيدُ علمه.

I liked Zaids' knowledge

The word (علم) is an appositive to (Zaid) and not a part of it Because the part can be separated from the total. Thus, (العلم) includes (زيد). This means that there is overlapping between (العلم) and (Zaid).

8.3.1 A noun for A noun Apposition

وَإِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ رَبِّ اجْعَلْ هَذَا بَلَدًا آمِنًا وَارْزُقْ أَهْلَهُ مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ مَنْ آمَنَ مِنْهُمْ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ   (البقرة: ١٢٦)

126. And remember Abraham said: "My Lord, make This a City of Peace, and feed its people with fruits,–such of them As believe In Allah and the Last Day." He said: "(Yea), and such As reject Faith,–for a while will I grant them their pleasure, but will soon drive them to the torment of Fire,– an evil destination (indeed)!"

8.3.2 A Pronoun as an appositive for a Noun

57. Those whom They call upon do desire (for themselves) means of access to their Lord, – Even those who are nearest: They hope for His Mercy and fear His Wrath: for the wrath of Thy Lord is something to take heed of.

(Al–Nahas, 1988: 428)

8.3.3 Demonstratives

Views of grammarians varied in what follows the demonstratives. It was told that the demonstrative refers to the word with the definite article, but some of the grammarians call the word that comes after the demonstratives as an appositive.

Consider the following Ayah:

[102. That is Allah, your Lord! there is no god but He, the Creator of all things: then worship ye him: and He hath power to dispose of all affairs.]

The word (الله) is used instead of the demonstrative (ذلكم) to clarify rather than ambiguity.

8.4 The Dissimilated Appositive

It is of three kinds:

a. An appositive for clarification:

It means that the word that is used as an appositive is mentioned deliberately without being negated , as in:

سافر في قطارٍ أو سيارةٍ

(سيارة) is a clarification appositive for (قطار) being in the dative case.

b. An appositive for Error

In this case, the second word is not used as an appositive for the first one, rather the speaker made an error and he wanted to correct it, and this is called an appositive to error or forgetting.

As in the following:

رأيتُ رجلاً حماراً.

I have seen a man , an ass.

So, the speaker wanted to say that he had seen an ass, he made an error and mentioned a man but later he corrected it by saying an ass after it immediately.

C. An Appositive for Forgetting

Here, the second word is mentioned intentionally in order to clarify and to mention the correct word, as in the following sentence:

صليتُ أمس العصرَ الظهرَ في البيت.

(العصر) is an object and (العصر) is an appositive for it. So, he wanted to mention the second word but it turned out that he forgot the time he did the prayer then he mentioned the correct word that is the appositive (الظهر).

Conclusions

At the end the end of the paper, the researcher has arrived at the following conclusions:

1. There are four types of appositives in Arabic: correspondent, inclusion, dissimilation, and some of-whole.

2. It is not required that there is a pronoun that refers to the word that we use the appositive for.

3. A verb may be a substitutive to a whole sentence whether some-of-all, inclusion or assimilation.

4. Some grammarians considered the appositive as an indispensable basis as it is used for certainty or clarification, as in the following Ayah:

5. It is a type of relation which is mainly found among juxtaposed noun phrases.

6. Noun phrases have the same function within the clause in which they are inserted.

7. Apposition is like predication in their meaning and also in some of their syntactic properties though they have no verb.

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