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Thesis Title:

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE SOURCES OF  
THE ENGLISH GENITIVE AND  
Al-'iDaafa in Arabic

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## ABSTRACT

The aim of this thesis is to find the sources (the deep structures) which underlie English genitive constructs, and to compare them to al-'iDaafa 'the annexation', (i.e. 'the construct phrase') in Arabic.

Chapter I is a review of the literature on the English genitive. It consists of a summary of the "Traditional" and "Descriptive" approaches to the field of the semantic and syntactic relationships implied in different kinds of genitive constructs.

Chapter II attempts to specify the deep structures which may underlie genitive constructs indicating different semantic relationships. Some tentative rules are suggested for transforming the underlying structures into genitive constructs.

Chapter III is a presentation of the different structures and meanings of the Arabic construct phrase as viewed by the Arab grammarians.

Chapter IV presents a comparative study of the English genitive constructs and the Arabic



construct phrase. The constructs of the two languages are compared for form, meaning, and expansion possibilities.

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## INTRODUCTION

### 1. The Problem

The English genitive constructs are highly neutralized, i.e., the syntactic relationships between the constituents of the constructs are not immediately visible. As an illustration of what is meant by "neutralized", consider the following examples of genitive constructs which imply different semantic relationships:

(i) genitive constructs	(ii) semantic relationships
"John's car"	"John has a car."
"John's defeat"	"John was defeated."
"John's suggestion"	"John suggested (something)"
"John's presence"	"John is present."

Obviously, different semantic relationships are implied in the constructs of column (i), (we have roughly indicated the relationships in column (ii)) yet there are no overt grammatical markers which may be taken to account for these semantic differences.

Transformational grammarians believe that such semantic differences are due to the different

syntactic relationships of the deep structures which underlie these constructs, i.e. the constructs are derived from different sources. One purpose of this study is to find the sources (the deep structures) which underlie the English genitive construct in order to account syntactically for the different semantic relationships inherent in this construct.

Furthermore a brief account of al-'iDaafa 'the annexation' i.e., 'the construct phrase' in Modern Standard Arabic will be given for the purpose of a comparative study with the English genitive constructs.

## 2. The Procedure

The procedure to be followed in finding the different sources of the English genitive construct will consist of:

- a. Finding the deep structures which may underlie genitive constructs implying different semantic relationships.
- b. Identifying the syntactic relationships inherent in the underlying structures,
- c. Suggesting some rules for transforming

the underlying structures into different genitive constructs.

The study of al-'iDaafa 'the construct phrase' in Arabic will be, more or less, a systematic presentation of the data provided by the Arab grammarians on the form, structural relationships, and meanings of the construct phrase.

Finally, the English genitive construct and the Arabic construct phrase will be compared for form, expansion possibilities, meanings, and structural relationships. The aim of this comparison is based on the assumption that some language learning problems are due to such linguistic factors as resulting from conflicts between the structure of the target language and that of the vernacular.<sup>1</sup>

### 3. Terminology

Following are the terms, the abbreviations, and phonemic transcription used throughout the study:

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<sup>1</sup>Robert Lado, Language Testing: The Construction and Use of Foreign Language Tests, McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York, 1964, p. 9.

a) The Terms

A Construct is any significant group of words  
(or morphemes).

The -'s Genitive (Nom's) is any nominal suffixed  
with the morpheme { -'s } of the genitive.  
In the following example, the underlined  
nominal is an -'s genitive

"John's leg"

The Periphrastic Genitive (of + Nom) comprises  
"of" (of the genitive) + a nominal. The  
underlined nominal in the following example  
is a periphrastic genitive:

"the leg of the table"

A Genitive Nominal can be an -'s genitive or a  
periphrastic genitive (Nom's or of + Nom)

The Headword of a Genitive Construct is the  
nominal which usually follows an -'s geni-  
tive or precedes a periphrastic genitive.  
In the above examples "leg" is the head-  
word of the constructs.

A Genitive Construct consists of a genitive  
nominal and a headword.

Neutralized Constructs are constructs in which  
the syntactic relationship is not immediate-

ly observable.

The Surface Structure is the immediately observable state of an utterance in which the syntactic relationships among the words (or morphemes) may not be immediately observable.

The Deep Structure is the underlying structure or the source of a construct which determines the syntactic relationships among the constituents of a construct.

Al-'iDaafa 'the annexation' or 'the construct phrase' in Arabic consists of two immediately adjacent nominals the second of which is suffixed with a kasra 'vowel -i' or any of its variants.

Al-muDaaf 'the annexed' is the first word of the Arabic construct phrase.

Al-muDaaf 'ilayhi 'the annexed to' is the second word of the Arabic construct phrase.

English examples will be put in inverted commas. Arabic examples will be underlined and followed by a literal translation. In case the literal translation does not indicate the English counterpart, another translation will follow which

will indicate the nearest English counterpart. e.g.

kitaabu al-waladi '(the) book (of) the boy'

'the boy's book'

The words in brackets are not indicated explicitly in the Arabic examples.

b) Abbreviations

IC - immediate constituents

Nom - nominal

VP - verb-phrase

S - subject

O - object

Vin - intransitive verb

Vt - transitive verb

Va - verb of activity

Ven - verb in the past participle

Det - determiner

Nml - nominalizing affix

Adj - adjective

Loc - locative

gen - genative

Sp - subject of a passive sentence

rel - relational

an - animate

in - inanimate

Hum - human

Adv - adverb



c) Symbols

- ⇒ - may be transformed into
- X - any word which may occur
- ( ) - indicate that what is in between is optional.

d) Phonemic Transcription

1. Consonants of Modern Standard Arabic

<u>Phoneme</u>	<u>Description and Examples</u> <sup>1</sup>
/b/	voiced bilabial stop <u>baab</u> 'door'
/t/	voiceless dental stop <u>tiin</u> 'figs'
/d/	voiced dental stop <u>diin</u> 'religion'
/T/	voiceless dental velarized stop <u>Tiin</u> 'mud'
/D/	voiced dental velarized stop <u>Darb</u> 'hitting'
/k/	voiceless velar stop <u>bakaa</u> 'wept'
/q/	voiceless pharyngeal stop <u>baqaa</u> 'stayed'
/ʔ/	voiceless glottal stop <u>'ab</u> 'father'
/f/	voiceless labio-dental fricative <u>fiil</u> 'elephant'
/θ/	voiceless interdental fricative <u>maθal</u> 'example'
/ð/	voiced interdental fricative <u>danab</u> 'tail'

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<sup>1</sup>Adapted from: Raja T. Nasr, The Teaching of English to Arab Students, Longmans, Green and Co., Bristol, 1963, pp. 15-18 and 28-29.

<u>Phoneme</u>	<u>Description and Examples</u>
/s/	voiceless alveolar fricative <u>sin</u> 'tooth'
/z/	voiced alveolar fricative <u>mawz</u> 'bananas'
/S/	voiceless velarized fricative <u>Suura</u> ' 'picture'
/D/	voiced velarized inter-dental fricative <u>Dil</u> 'shadow'
/s/	voiceless alveopalatal fricative <u>sams</u> 'sun'
/x/	voiceless velar fricative <u>xamr</u> 'wine'
/G/	voiced velar fricative <u>Ganam</u> 'sheep'
/H/	voiceless pharyngeal fricative <u>Huut</u> 'whale'
/9/	voiced pharyngeal fricative <u>9ala</u> 'on'
/h/	voiceless glottal fricative <u>hunaa</u> 'here'
/m/	voiced bilabial nasal <u>sum</u> 'poison'
/n/	voiced alveolar nasal <u>sin</u> 'tooth'
/l/	voiced alveolar lateral <u>layl</u> 'night'
/r/	voiced alveolar flap <u>rajul</u> 'man'
/w/	voiced nonsyllabic bilabial continuant <u>lawa</u> 'he bent'
/y/	voiced nonsyllabic palatal continuant <u>yawm</u> 'day'
/j/ <sup>1</sup>	voiced alveopalatal affricate <u>jamal</u> 'camel'

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<sup>1</sup>The phoneme /j/ is voiced alveopalatal fricative, i.e. /z/ in Syrian Modern Standard Arabic.

## 2. Vowels of Modern Standard Arabic

<u>Phoneme</u>	<u>Description and Examples</u>
/ii/	high front close unrounded <u>fiil</u> 'elephant'
/i/	high front open unrounded <u>min</u> 'from'
/a/	low front close unrounded <u>tal</u> 'hill'
/aa/	low front close unrounded <u>baab</u> 'door'
/uu/	high back close rounded <u>suuq</u> 'market'
/u/	high back open rounded <u>kun</u> 'be'

## CHAPTER I

### A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE ON THE ENGLISH GENITIVE

There is little disagreement among grammarians about the form and the distribution of the -'s genitive and the periphrastic genitive (of + NP)<sup>1</sup>. And since this area is not the main concern of this study, the writer will give only a brief account of the points which may be pertinent to the study of the syntactic relationships implied in genitive constructs. Two points will be discussed: (1) the form of the genitive and (2) the distribution of the -'s genitive and the periphrastic genitive.

#### 1. Form

There are two forms of genitive, namely, the -'s genitive (or the inflected genitive) and the periphrastic genitive (of NP).

a) The -'s genitive: The regular way of forming the -'s genitive is by adding the { -'s }

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<sup>1</sup>NP = Noun Phrase or Nominal.

ending with its three-fold pronunciation depending on the phonetic character of the sounds that immediately precede.

/-iz/ after sibilants, (s, z, <sup>ʃ</sup>s, <sup>ʒ</sup>z, t̃, d̃)  
/-z/ after other voiced sounds, and  
/-s/ after other voiceless sounds.

No { -'s } is added to plurals in { -s }, but in writing, the apostrophe is placed last. Thus, in speech, both the singular and the plural sound alike. This is, perhaps, why the genitive plural of words in which it is not distinct from the genitive singular, is used "very seldom indeed".<sup>1</sup> The nominal in the genitive is usually followed by another nominal (the headword) with which it forms the -'s genitive construct. In some cases, however, the headword does not follow the -'s genitive either because it is mentioned somewhere else in the construct or because it is familiar to the listener. In the following example, the word "arm" need not be mentioned after the -'s genitive because it is mentioned at the beginning of the

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<sup>1</sup>Otto Jespersen, Essentials of English Grammar, Henry Holt and Company, New York, 1933. p. 138.

sentence:

"She put her arm through her mother's (arm)".  
Similarly, when the designation is, more or less, familiar to the listener, the headword may be omitted. Thus a particular group of customers may speak of buying something "at the butcher's (shop)"; other may talk about a visit to "St. Paul's" or "Guy's".

If the genitive happens to be a word-group rather than a single word, the { -'s } is added to the last element of the word group<sup>1</sup>, e.g.:

"the king of England's property"

"at Smith, the bookseller's office"

"all the other people's opinions"

"the commander-in-chief's office"

"an hour and a half's talk" ... etc.

In the case of two nominals connected by "and", the { -'s } is appended to each unless the nominals "represent persons that are joined together in authorship, business or common activity".<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>R.W. Zandvoort, A Handbook of English Grammar, Western Printing Service, Bristol, 1957, p. 91.

<sup>2</sup>George O. Curme, A Grammar of the English Language, (Vol. III), Syntax, Heath and Co., Washington D.C., 1931, p. 78.

In Jespersen's words, "the { -'s } is added to the last element only, when the group of words forms a sense unit".<sup>1</sup> It is possible to say, for example, "Adam and Eve's children"; but an { -'s } is appended to each nominal when the referents are not joined in this manner, e.g.

Tom's and his brother's children.

b) The periphrastic genitive (of + NP):

Whereas the -'s genitive is placed before the headword of a genitive construct, the "of-phrase" occurs after the headword. Note that the object of the preposition "of" may be in the "common case", i.e. "unmarked", or may itself take an { -'s } in which case it indicates "possession" rather than any other meaning. (This will be discussed in more detail in Chapter II). For our immediate purpose, here are two examples:

(i) "a picture of the king"

(ii) "a picture of the king's"

Example (i) may indicate that "the king painted a picture", that "the picture represents the king", or that "he possesses it", whereas cons-

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<sup>1</sup>Jespersen, op.cit., p. 140.

tract (ii) can only indicate that "the king possesses a picture".

2. The Distribution of the -'s Genitive and the Periphrastic Genitive:

"Traditional"<sup>1</sup> grammarians agree, more or less, that the -'s genitive is associated with the idea of life, and that it is more frequent with proper names and human referents; e.g.

"John's father"<sup>2</sup>

"the boy's leg"

but "the leg of the table"

not ★"the table's leg".

The possible uses of the -'s genitive with non-human referents can be summarized as follows:

a. With domestic and well-known animals,

e.g. "an owl's nest", "a cat's paw",

"a fox's tail", "an elephant's trunk"...etc.

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<sup>1</sup>We will use the label "Traditional" for grammarians of the late 19th century and the early 20th century. It is interesting to note that most of those grammarians, (Jespersen, Poustma, Zandvoort, Curme, and others) were non-native speakers of English.

<sup>2</sup>"The father of John" is possible as well.



b. With personified inanimate referents,

e.g. "the ship's crew", "England's interests"

"the world's judgement", "duty's call"

Usually, only human beings "have interests" or "make judgements" or "calls". Note, furthermore, that words like "ship", "England" (or any other country) are treated as human beings in contexts other than the genitive; the ship is usually referred to as "she" and a country may be described as being "helpful", "aggressive", "strong", "weak", and the like.

This point of "personified inanimate objects" requires some consideration for it may account for many of the so-called "inconsistencies" or "exceptions" which are found in the use of the -'s genitive.<sup>1</sup> Consider the examples, "a pin's head," "a needle's eye", "at death's door", "to one's heart's content", and "at one's wits' (or wit's) end" which are listed by Zandvoort, Curme, and Jespersen as "exceptions" or "set-phrases." In most of these constructs, there is a word that refers to something which is thought of in asso-

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<sup>1</sup>Zandvoort, op.cit., p. 342, See also, Jespersen op.cit., p. 144.

ciation with human beings; in some cases, the whole phrase exhibits an indication of life, e.g. "out of harm's way".

The writer believes that it is possible to list such examples in a category of "personified inanimate objects".

- c. With words denoting measure, time, or value,  
e.g. "at a yard's distance," "a few hour's walk"  
"a moment's hesitation", "yesterday's party"  
"a shilling's worth" ... etc.

Here, again, the "Traditional" grammarians list a few examples which denote "measure" or "time" under the category of "idiomatic expressions" or "fixed phrases". Thus, "to keep a person at arm's length" (cf. a yard's length) or "a hair's breadth" are for no obvious reason not considered genitives of "measurement" which is how we would classify them.<sup>1</sup>

The periphrastic genitive is the general rule for inanimate objects. The distribution between living and lifeless things is, however, not closely observed, for constructs like "the

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<sup>1</sup>For the list of "exceptions" see Zandvoort, op.cit., p. 342.

father of the boy" or "the ocean's roar" are not uncommon. The following are the cases in which the use of the periphrastic genitive is obligatory.

- a. With adjectives used as collective nouns,  
e.g. "the views of the learned"  
not ★"the learned's views"
- b. With the so-called "material" or "partitive" genitive,  
e.g. "an idol of gold"  
but not ★"a gold's idol"  
"a piece of bread"  
but not ★"a bread's piece"
- c. When the use of the -'s genitive will produce a different meaning,  
e.g. "the king's English" (a certain kind of  
"correct" English)  
"the English of the king" (the one he  
speaks)
- d. When the noun in the genitive is qualified by a clause,  
e.g. "These are the clothes of the children  
who are bathing."  
but not ★"These are the children's clothes who  
are bathing."

The periphrastic genitive is, moreover, preferred in constructs like the following:

- a. When the use of the -s genitive would be too long and clumsy; "I am my friend's sister's second child's godmother" is hardly acceptable, while "I am godmother to the second child of my friend's sister" is quite acceptable.
- b. With plurals in { -'s }, especially in spoken English; "the husbands of my aunts" is more common than "my aunts' husbands".<sup>1</sup>
- c. With long combinations with conjunctions; e.g. "all the activities of myself and some vigorous friend", "for the sake of me and my wife."
- d. When the headword of the construct is "indefinite"; "we were pupils of Dr. Arnold's" means something like "we were some of Dr. Arnold's pupils", but "we were Dr. Arnold's pupils" indicates that "we are the pupils of Dr. Arnold".<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Jespersen, op.cit., p. 141.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 142.

Generally, the periphrastic genitive has tended to replace the use of the -'s genitive. Fries, in a study of letters written by Americans, found out that the periphrastic genitive was used in more than 96% of the cases.<sup>1</sup>

A genitive construct furthermore may consist of one of the so-called "possessive pronouns" and a headword. This kind of genitive construct, however, cannot be replaced by a periphrastic genitive, as is the case with regard to -'s genitive constructs which consist of two nominals. It is possible to substitute "the car of the boy" for "the boy's car", whereas it is wrong to say "the car of him" for "his car". One, however, may come across a construct like "the sight of him", but this is, evidently, not the periphrastic counterpart of "his sight". The two examples indicate different meanings which result from the different syntactic relationships implicit in each. In fact, as we will see later, the two constructs are derived from different underlying structures.

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<sup>1</sup>C.C. Fries, American English Grammar, Appleton, Century-Crafts, Inc., New York, 1940, p. 74.

### 3. Kinds and Meanings of Genitive

a) The "Traditional" Approach: The field in which "Traditional" grammarians differ most is the one that has to do with categorizing the kinds of genitive constructs, and specifying the meaning implicit in each kind.

Curme's treatment of the kinds and meanings of genitive is by far the most elaborate. Yet, like most Traditional grammarians, he does not provide enough lexical or formal clues which may account for the different meanings indicated by different genitive constructs. This fact leads him into making several general statements based mainly on semantic criteria, to which no obvious limits can be set. "Genitive of origin", for example, represents "a person or a thing as associated with another person or thing in the relation of source, cause, or authority".<sup>1</sup> Just how much can be allowed within the limits of this statement is shown by the following examples given under the heading "origin";

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<sup>1</sup>Curme, op.cit., p. 78.

"the king's son", "the deeds of the warrior"  
"Shakespeare's works", "the professor of  
poetry" etc.

Similar vague statements are made about the other classes of genitive, the possessive category which "has developed out of the general idea of 'sphere' of Old English" implies "possession, inherence, a belonging to, association with, or relation to".<sup>1</sup> It is obvious that this category can include all the examples which have been given under "genitive of origin". "The subjective genitive" represents a living being with an act in the relation of author (sic), while the "objective" genitive denotes "the object toward which the activity is directed";<sup>2</sup> the genitive of "material" denotes "that of which something consists"<sup>3</sup>; the "descriptive" indicates "characteristic" or "measure"<sup>4</sup>; while examples like "the gift of song" and "the art of printing" represent the "appositive" genitive; and finally,

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 81.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 82.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 84.

the "partitive" denotes a "whole of which only a part is taken".<sup>1</sup>

Evidently, all these are semantic definitions which require an intelligent native speaker of the language in order to be understood. Besides, the basis of classification is unique for each group and does not depend on any rule which applies elsewhere in the language. This, added to the vagueness of the generalizations made, renders the approach unsatisfactory for a description of the grammar of the English language.

Zandvoort divides all genitive constructs into two broad classes, namely, "the classifying genitive" and "the specifying genitive". The first indicates a kind of person or object; "sheep's eyes", for example, are not "eyes that belong to one particular sheep" but "a kind of eyes."<sup>2</sup> The same thing applies to constructs like "a giant's task" and "a summer's day". The second kind, "the specifying genitive", refers to "a particular person or thing",<sup>3</sup> and is further

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<sup>1</sup> Ibid., p. 85.

<sup>2</sup> Zandvoort, op.cit., p. 108.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., p. 108.



classified into: (1) possessive "my uncle's car", (2) subjective "the doctor's doing", and (3) objective "Caesar's murderers".<sup>1</sup>

Apart from this, Zandvoort believes that the number of possible relations between a specifying genitive and its headword is "practically unlimited" and that there is no class or label that will include constructs like "the king's son", "Shakespeare's works", "yesterday's mail"<sup>2</sup>...etc.

Here again, the criteria used are mostly semantic and allow a number of overlappings. The examples given by Zandvoort seem to be carefully chosen to fit in his "classes". It is not at all difficult to find examples which may be labeled "specifying" as well as "classifying" genitives; "the women's eyes" may indicate the eyes of "particular women" or "a kind of eyes". Furthermore, the task of a grammarian is not to collect data and describe it, as much as to attempt to find a system by which the data can be described, which Zandvoort does not attempt to do.

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 107.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 110.

The objections we have raised about Curme's and Zandvoort's treatment of the kinds of genitive constructs apply, more or less, to Jespersen's treatment of the subject. Jespersen uses the term "possessive" for a very broad class "indicating any kind of intimate relation"<sup>1</sup>. Examples given are "John's house, wife, son, servants, father, master, work, books (not only those he owns, but those he has written) pictures (which he has bought or painted), enemies, life, opinions, portrait (representing him), etc."

The "subjective" genitive is subclassified into "nexus subjectives", such as "the doctor's arrival", and "gerunds" such as "no chance of Frank's dropping in". The genitive is "objective" when the headword is an agent noun.<sup>2</sup> Other genitive constructs, like "death's arms", "an hour's walk" are called "fixed phrases" by Jespersen.<sup>3</sup>

After this brief review, it should be

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<sup>1</sup>Otto Jespersen, A Modern English Grammar, (Vol. VII), Bradford and Dickens, London, 1956, p. 311.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 312.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 325.

clear that the Traditional approach to the field of "the kinds and meanings of genitive constructs" falls short because of two essential defects which mark the "Traditional" approach to grammar. These are:

a. In the matter of subject, direct object, and indirect object, the "Traditional" grammar has approached the problem by seeking criteria of meaning content rather than of form or syntactic relations. The subject is usually defined as "that word or group of words of which something is said or asserted; the indirect object is "the person or thing indirectly affected by the action of the verb"; and the direct object is "the person or thing directly affected by the action of the verb." Consider, for instance, the sentence "the man gave the boy the money yesterday"; any one of the units can appear in the linguistic structure as subject.<sup>1</sup>

"The man gave the boy the money yesterday."

"The boy was given the money by the man yesterday."

"The money was given the boy by the man yesterday."

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<sup>1</sup>C.C. Fries, The Structure of English, Harcourt, Brace and Co., Inc., New York, 1952, p. 176.

"The giving of the money to the boy by the man occurred yesterday."

"Yesterday was the time that the man gave the money to the boy."

b. "Traditional" grammarians leave unexpressed many of the basic regularities of the language. This fact is particularly clear on the level of syntax, where no "Traditional" grammar goes beyond classification of particular examples to the stage of explicit rules on any significant scale.<sup>1</sup> As we will see in chapter II, there are basic regularities in the relationships implicit in different genitive constructs; yet no mention has been made of this fact by "Traditional" grammarians. For the time being notice the relationship between the "subjective genitive" and "the objective genitive" on the one hand, and the "active" and "passive" voice on the other:

active:

"John helped the boy."

passive:

"The boy was helped by John."

subjective:

"John's helping of the boy"

objective:

"The boy's being helped by John" ...

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<sup>1</sup>Noam Chomsky, Aspects of the Theory of Syntax, M.I.T., Massachusetts, 1965, p. 5.

### The Descriptive Approach<sup>1</sup>

"Descriptive grammarians", to the best of the writer's knowledge, have hardly touched on the field of the meanings or relationships inherent in genitive constructs. Probably this has been due to the fact that "they (Descriptive grammarians) were so concerned with describing the way language is that for a time they ignored the way language operates. That is ... they did not concern themselves with the distinction between states and operations."<sup>2</sup>

Moreover, their theory of "Immediate Constituents" (IC) which is supposed to account for the relationships among the constituents of utterances, may be adequate as an account of "surface structure" but it is certainly not adequate as an account of "deep structure".<sup>3</sup> As an illustration of this fact, consider the following examples given by Chomsky:

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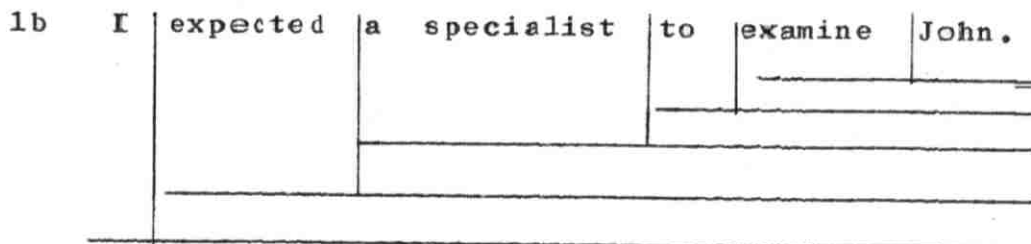
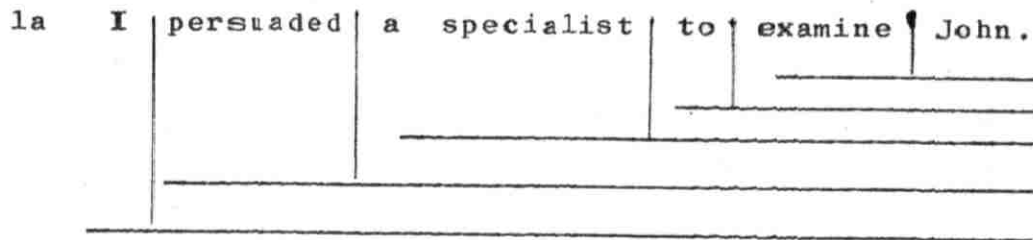
<sup>1</sup>The reference here is to the "linguistic" approach advocated by Bloomfield, Sapir, and their followers who sought to "describe" present-day English not as people think it should be, but as it actually is. They have tried to set a "scientific" method for describing language.

<sup>2</sup>Owen Thomas, Transformational Grammar and the Teacher of English, Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Inc., New York, 1965, p. 14.

<sup>3</sup>Chomsky, op.cit., p. 17.

1. "I persuaded a specialist to examine John."
2. "I expected a specialist to examine John."

Immediate-Constituent Theory would attribute the same structural analysis to both sentences.<sup>1</sup>



However, sentences "1" and "2" are not parallel in structure. The difference can be brought out by consideration of the passive transforms of the sentences:

- 2a    I persuaded John to be examined by a specialist.
- 2b    I expected John to be examined by a specialist.

The sentences (1b) and (2b) are "cognitively syno-

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<sup>1</sup>For a complete discussion of the theory of I.C. cuts, see Fries, The Structure of English, op.cit., pp. 256-273.



neutralized constructs<sup>1</sup> like the genitive constructs because the relationships between the constituents of such constructs are not explicit in the surface structure to which the theory of IC cuts confines itself.

Fries, for example, writes "when the modifier of a Class 1 word (noun) is a Class 2 word,<sup>2</sup> the meaning in the modification structure is usually identification".<sup>3</sup> In a footnote to this, however, he admits that the label "identification" is not a "satisfactory term for the somewhat diverse meanings generally signalled by this structure".<sup>4</sup> Actually, in his IC cuts, Fries does not distinguish genitive constructs from any other structure of "modification". Thus, a genitive construct like "the boy's car" will be cut in the following manner:

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<sup>1</sup>Constructs in which the syntactic relationships is not immediately observable, i.e., the relationships are not explicit in the surface structure.

<sup>2</sup>Fries applies this analysis to genitive constructs.

<sup>3</sup>Fries, The Structure of English, op.cit., p. 224.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 225.



1. the | boy's | car  
\_\_\_\_\_

cf. 2. the | boy's | illness  
\_\_\_\_\_

Obviously, the relationships in (1) and (2) are quite different, yet the theory of IC analysis cuts them in the same way, which implies that they reflect identical relationships.

No other attempts, that the writer knows of have been made by a "Descriptive" grammarian to identify the syntactic relationships implicit in genitive constructs.

## CHAPTER II

### THE SOURCES OF THE ENGLISH GENITIVE

#### A. The Approach

The meaning of a sentence (or any other utterance) is based on the meaning of its elementary parts (morphemes) and the manner of their combination (syntactic relations)<sup>1</sup>. Traditional grammarians tended to explain syntactic differences in semantic terms (actor, action, goal etc.). This, as we have shown, leads to several unwarranted generalizations and over-inclusive statements like "the genitive of origin represents a person or a thing as associated with another person or thing in the relation of source, cause, or authority". We have shown, furthermore, that the analysis of the surface structure alone may hide underlying distinctions of a fundamental nature, and hence, may fail to account, syntactically, for the native speaker's intuition or "internal grammar" by which

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<sup>1</sup>Chomsky, op.cit., p. 162.

he can distinguish (in most cases, unconsciously) the various relationships that underlie neutralized constructs, (i.e. constructs which may look similar or identical but actually imply a number of different relationships).

Transformational grammar attempts to give syntactic reasons for the different semantic relationships implicit in different constructs. It is based on the premise that some constructs, though similar in form, are actually transforms of different underlying structures. That is why, in order to understand the syntactic relationships implicit in such constructs, it is necessary to find their sources, i.e., the structures which underlie them.

The approach seems quite appropriate for dealing with the genitive constructs since they are highly neutralized. Consider the following examples which, though similar in the surface structure, imply different relationships:

Genitive Constructs	Relationship Implied
"John's defeat" -	goal - action
"John's arrival" -	actor-action
"John's murder" -	(ambiguous) - actor - action or goal - action

Genitive Constructs	Relationship Implied
"John's car"	- possessor-possessed
"John's intelligence"	- modification
"John's father"	- kinship
"Shakespeare's plays"	- actor - goal ... etc.

Before attempting to find the sources of such constructs, however, it is necessary to keep two points in mind. The first is that not all genitive constructs are derived from sentences; it is very difficult, for example, to find a sentence which may underlie a construct like "for Heaven's sake", for there is no such sentences as ★"Heaven has sake", ★"Heaven sakes", nor ★"Heaven is sake". The second point is that in certain cases, even the underlying structure (the source) will not show the direct correlation between the meaning and the syntax of the construct. Note, for example, that the constructs "John's shirt" and "John's friend" may both be derived from a sentence with a "middle-verb" like "have"; i.e., "John has a shirt" and "John has a friend"; yet the semantic relation between "John" and "shirt" is quite different from that between "John" and "friend". Consequently, it might turn out that some genitive constructs can only be

explained in semantic terms.

B. The Sources of Different Kinds of Genitive

Constructs:

In order to make the task of finding the sources of the English genitive easier and fairly systematic, we will divide the constructs roughly into three categories: (1) constructs in which the headword is a "nominalized verb", (V + Nml)<sup>1</sup>, (2) genitive constructs of "modification", and (3) genitive constructs of "possession".

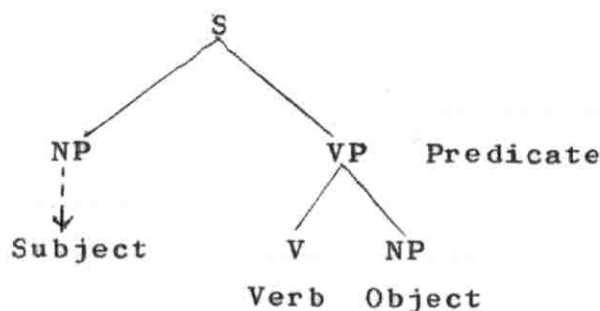
1. Genitive Constructs with (V + Nml) as Headwords: When the headword of a genitive construct is a "nominalized verb" (V + Nml), e.g. "hesitate-hesitation, kill-killing, state-statement"... etc., the semantic relationship implied may be one of the following: (a) actor-action, (b) action-goal, (c) ambiguous (actor-action or action-goal), (d) actor-goal.

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<sup>1</sup>"Nml" is any nominalizing affix that may be added to verbs.

e.g. "John's arrival" or "the arrival of John"                      actor-action  
       "the drinking of the milk"                                      action-goal  
       "John's murder" or "the murder of John"                      ambiguous  
       "John's killer" or "the killer of John"                      goal-actor

Since we will have to use terms like "subject", "verb", and "object" in our analysis of the syntactic relations underlying some constructs, it is better to be clear about the way in which these terms will be employed. For this purpose, we will use Chomsky's definitions of the terms<sup>1</sup>. Consider the following diagram:



The diagram defines the notions "subject", "predicate", "verb", and "object" in terms of the

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<sup>1</sup>Chomsky, op.cit., p. 71.

relationships among them which are as follows:

Subject-of: (NP, S)  
Predicate-of: (VP, S)  
Object-of: (NP, VP)  
Main-Verb-of: (V, VP)

"Thus 'Subject-Verb' can be defined as the relation between the Subject-of a Sentence and Main-Verb-of the Predicate-of the Sentence; and 'Verb-Object' can be defined as the relation between the Main-Verb-of and the Object-of a VP".<sup>1</sup>

The semantic relationships which these notions indicate will, to a certain extent, be determined by the kind of verb. If "verb to be", "linking verbs",<sup>2</sup> "verb-passive", and "middle verbs"<sup>3</sup> are not included, we will be left with what we will call "verbs of activity". With such verbs (verbs of activity), the relation "Subject-Verb-Object" will, in almost all cases, indicate

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<sup>1</sup> Ibid., p. 73.

<sup>2</sup> Verbs like "feel" "seem" "appear" ...etc.

<sup>3</sup> Verbs which cannot be followed by adjectives expressing quality. Examples of these are "have", "cost" etc.

"actor-action-goal"<sup>1</sup>

e.g.	Syntactic Relation	Sentence	Semantic Relation
	Subject-Verb	John went	actor-action
	Subject-Verb-Object	He killed her	actor-action-goal

Now that the notions "subject", "verb", and "object" are set, we will attempt to specify, as far as possible, the structures which underlie genitive constructs which reflect the semantic relations "actor-action", "action-goal", "ambiguous" (actor-action or action-goal), and "actor-goal."

a. Action-actor "John's arrival" or "the arrival of John".

When the relationship between the constituents of a genitive construct is that of "actor-action", the syntactic relationship underlying the construct may be "Subject-Verb". Note that the construct may be converted to a "Subject-Verb" structure but not to a "Verb-Object" one:

"John's arrival"

"John arrived"

but not ★"X arrived John".

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<sup>1</sup>Fries, The Structure of English, op.cit.



Such constructs may be transformed from a sentence which consists of a subject and an intransitive verb of activity:

$$\begin{aligned} (T1) S + V_a \text{ in } (+ \text{adv})^1 &\Rightarrow \text{Nom}_a + \text{gen} + \text{Vin} + \text{Nml } (+ \text{adv}) \\ &\Rightarrow \text{Det} + \text{Vin} + \text{Nml} + \text{of} + \text{Nom}_a (+ \text{adv})^2 \end{aligned}$$

"Nml" is any nominalizing affix which may be added to verbs (except the  $\{-er\}$  of the agentive)

"V<sub>a</sub>" verb of activity      "a" actor

Examples:

"John stayed (here)."  $\Rightarrow$  "John's stay (here)"

$\Rightarrow$  "the stay of John (here)"

"The plane departed!"  $\Rightarrow$  "the plane's departure"<sup>3</sup>

$\Rightarrow$  "the departure of the plane"...

"The man arrives(at noon)."  $\Rightarrow$  "the man's arrival  
(at noon)"

$\Rightarrow$  "the arrival of the  
man (at noon)"

"The boy went (to London)."  $\Rightarrow$  "the boy's going (to  
London)"

$\Rightarrow$  "the going of the boy  
(to London)"

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<sup>1</sup> Parentheses indicate that the word(s) is optional. The symbol " $\Rightarrow$ " means "may be transformed into".

<sup>2</sup> We are assuming here that every -'s genitive can be replaced by a periphrastic genitive. See Jespersen, Essentials of English Grammar, op.cit., p. 143.

<sup>3</sup> Though this construct is not common, it is grammatically possible.

"The ocean roars."  $\Rightarrow$  "the ocean's roar"  
 $\Rightarrow$  "the roar of the ocean"

We must, however, set one restriction on the use of rule (T1); this rule does not apply to "ergative nominals". The term "ergative" is used by Fillmore to include any nominal which exhibits the same semantic relationship when used as the subject of an intransitive verb or the object of a transitive verb. Note that the word "door" in both examples (i) and (ii) "undergoes" the action, though it is subject in the first and object in the second.<sup>1</sup> e.g.

- (i) "the door opened."
- (ii) "He opened the door."

If we apply rule (T1) to sentence (i), we will have a genitive construct which implies "action-goal" rather than "actor-action".

"the door opened"  $\Rightarrow$  "the door's opening"  
 $\Rightarrow$  "the opening of the door".

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<sup>1</sup> Charles J. Fillmore "A Proposal Concerning English Prepositions", Report of the 17th Annual Round Table on Linguistics and Language Studies, Georgetown University Press, Washington D.C., 1966, p. 21.

Thus it is better to set the "ergative" as an exception to our (T1) rule.

- b. Action-goal "the drinking of the wine" "the wine's being drunk".

The syntactic relationship underlying genitive constructs which imply an "action-goal" relationship may be "Verb-Object". Consider the transforms which a genitive construct like "the drinking of the wine" allows

"The drinking of the wine"

"the wine's being drunk"

"X drank the wine".

"The wine was drunk (by X)"

but not \*"the wine drank X"

Note that "the wine was drunk (by X)" is the "passive" counterpart of "X drank the wine". If we assume that the syntactic relationship "Verb-Object" of an active sentence is the same as "Subject-Verb" of a passive sentence<sup>1</sup>, it will be possible to derive genitive constructs which imply "action-goal" relationship from a "passive sentence" in the following manner:

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<sup>1</sup>Chomsky, op.cit., p. 22.



of the wine" may be converted into "X drank the wine" but not ★"the wine drank X". We will suggest a rule which may be applied for deriving the above constructs from a "Subject-Transitive Verb-Direct Object" sentence:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (T3) \quad S+Vt+O &\Rightarrow S_a + \text{gen} + Vt + Nm1 + of + O_g \\
 &\Rightarrow S_a + \text{gen} + Vt + ing + O_g \\
 &\Rightarrow Det + Vt + Nm1 + of + O_g + by + S_a
 \end{aligned}$$

"Nm1" is any nominalizing affix which may be added to verbs (except the {-er} of the agentive).

Examples:

"John killed the man."  $\Rightarrow$  "John's killing of the man"  
 $\Rightarrow$  "John's killing the man"  
 $\Rightarrow$  "the killing of the man by John"

"The boy saves the money."  $\Rightarrow$  "the boy's saving of the money"  
 $\Rightarrow$  "the boy's saving the money"  
 $\Rightarrow$  "the saving of the money by the boy"

"The army defeated the enemy."  $\Rightarrow$  "the army's defeat of the enemy"

but not  $\Rightarrow$  ★"the army's defeat the enemy"

$\Rightarrow$  "the army's defeating the enemy"

⇒ "the defeat of the  
enemy by the army".

Note that the second genitive construct of the last example would be wrong if we put it as "the army's defeat the enemy", yet "the army's defeating the enemy" is possible. In other words, the "ing" is the only suffix that can be added to the verb in this construct. This fact raises some doubt as to whether the "-ing" used in "killing", "saving", and "defeating" in constructs like "John's killing the man", "the boy's saving the money", and "the army's defeating the enemy" is a nominalizing affix<sup>1</sup> as the "ing" of "killing" in the construct "John's killing of the man". Compare the following examples:

(i) "the boy's saving of the money"

(ii) "the boy's saving the money"

"saving" in construct (i) may be preceded by any

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<sup>1</sup>Robert B. Lees calls the "ing", in this context, a "nominalizing suffix", and the word derived by the addition of the "ing" "a Gerundive Nominal". See Robert B. Lees, The Grammar of English Nominalizations, Indiana University, 1963, pp. 64-65.

adjective<sup>1</sup>, e.g.

"the boy's careful saving of the money",  
while this is not possible in the case of "saving"  
in construct (ii); it is wrong to say:

★"the boy's careful saving the money". It is  
possible, however, to modify the word "saving" of  
example (ii) by an adverb, e.g.

"the boy's saving the money carefully".

Since nouns may be modified by "adjectives",  
while verbs are usually modified by "adverbs", it  
is possible to say that "saving" in construct (i)  
exhibits nominal characteristics, while "saving"  
in construct (ii) is more like a "verbal". This  
is, obviously, a point which requires more research,  
but this will be outside the main concern of this  
study.

d. Ambiguous Constructs<sup>2</sup>: "John's murder",  
"the murder of John".

These constructs may indicate both "actor-  
action" or "action goal" relationships. This is

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<sup>1</sup>Thomas, op.cit., p. 109.

<sup>2</sup>"Ambiguous" implies that such constructs,  
when out of context, indicate two different mean-  
ings to the native speaker of the language.

due to the fact that these constructs may be transforms of two different sentences which imply different syntactic relationships. Consider the following constructs which imply different semantic relationships:

- (i) "the growling of lions" actor-action
- (ii) "the raising of flowers" action-goal
- (iii) "the shooting of the hunters" ambiguous

As we have shown, the syntactic relationship underlying constructs like (i) is "Subject-Verb"; it cannot be "Verb-Object" since "X growls the lions" is wrong. We have seen, furthermore, that the underlying relationship between the constituents of constructs like (ii) is "Verb-Object" since "X raises flowers" is possible, while "flowers raise X" is not. In the case of example (iii) above, however, it is possible to convert the construct into a "Subject-Verb" and a "Verb-Object" as shown in the following examples:

"the hunters' shooting"

"the shooting of the hunters"

"the hunters shot X."

"X shot the hunters."

"the hunters were shot (by X)."



Similarly "John's murder"

"the murder of John"

"John murdered X".

"X murdered John."

"John was murdered (by X)."

The fact that constructs like "John's murder" and "the shooting of the hunters" may be derived from two sources of different syntactic relationships, accounts for the semantic ambiguity of such constructs.

It should be noted that the headword of an ambiguous genitive construct is always a derivative of a transitive verb which may have animate nominals as its subject and as its object. This may be represented as follows:

S (+ An) - V - O (+ An)

Moreover, the genitive nominal of such constructs must be animate so that it may "perform" or "undergo" the action. These restrictions should be kept in mind when setting a rule for transforming ambiguous genitive constructs from an underlying structure. We will suggest the following rule for deriving ambiguous genitive constructs:

(T4)  $S_{an} + Vt + X$   
 $S_{an} + be + V + en$   
 $Nom + gen + Vt + Nm1 (+ X)$   
 $Det + Vt + Nm1 + Nom (+ X)$

where

$S_{an}$  = animate subject  
 $S_p$  = subject of a passive sentence  
 $V + en$  = The past participle form of the verb  
 $Nm1$  = any nominalizing affix which may be added to verbs (except the suffix  $\{-er\}$  of the agentive).  
 $Vt$  = a transitive verb which may take animate subjects and animate objects.

Examples:

"John robbed X."  
 "John was robbed." }  $\Rightarrow$  "John's robbery ..."  
 $\Rightarrow$  "the robbery of John..."

"The man killed X."  
 "The man was killed." }  $\Rightarrow$  "the man's killing ..."  
 $\Rightarrow$  "the killing of the man..."

"The cat chased X."  
 "The cat was chased." }  $\Rightarrow$  "the cat's chasing ..."  
 $\Rightarrow$  "the chasing of the cat ..."

e. Actor-goal "John's killer" "the killer of John."

Throughout the whole section on "verb derivative nominals" we have set aside the "agentive" nominalizing suffix  $\{-er\}$  as an exception.<sup>1</sup> This is due to the fact that this suffix changes the verb to an "agentive nominal", i.e., the agent or the actor, while other derivative nominals, i.e., nominals that are derived from verbs by adding nominalizing suffixes other than the  $\{-er\}$ , indicate "the names of the actions"<sup>2</sup> (which may be performed by different agents). In fact, the agentive nominal in a genitive construct can be said to imply both the actor and the action, while the genitive nominal is usually the goal. That is why it is not possible to add an "actor" or a "goal" to such genitive constructs as is the case with regard to other kinds of genitive constructs. Thus while it is possible to say "John's killing of (or by) somebody", it is not possible to have ★"John's killer of (or by) somebody".

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<sup>1</sup>The suffix  $\{-er\}$  has three seemingly morphologically-conditioned allomorphs which are  $/er \sim or \sim ar/$  as in "singer", "visitor", and "registrar".

<sup>2</sup>Lees, op.cit., p. 69.

In accordance with our assumption that the relation "Subject-Verb of activity-Object" usually implies actor-action-goal" relationship<sup>1</sup>, it is possible to assume that since the relationship in genitive constructs with agentive nominals as headwords imply actor-goal relationship, the syntactic relationship underlying such constructs may be "Subject-Object".

If we proceed on this basis, it may be possible to derive constructs which reflect" actor-goal" relationship from a sentence like the following:

"The teacher teaches the boy"  $\Rightarrow$  "the teacher of  
the boy"  
 $\Rightarrow$  "the boy's teacher"

Note that we have used the agentive nominal for both, the "action" and the "actor".

It should be kept in mind that it is not the purpose of this study to suggest "rules" for deriving genitive constructs. We are simply suggesting some tentative "rules" which may inspire

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<sup>1</sup>Supra., p. 25. This is further confirmed by the fact that "agentive nominals" cannot be derived from "middle-verbs", "linking verbs", or the "verb to be"; there are no words as ★"haver", ★"seemer", etc.

further investigation of the subject.

2. Genitive Constructs of Modification:

A genitive construct in which the headword functions as a "modifier"<sup>1</sup> of the genitive nominal may be one of the following:

- |                           |   |                                       |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| a. "John's being the boy" | } | Nom + gen + being + Comp <sup>2</sup> |
| b. "John's being a boy"   |   |                                       |
| c. "John's being smart"   |   |                                       |
| d. "John's being here"    |   |                                       |

- e. "John's smartness"      Nom + gen + Adj + Nm1<sup>3</sup>  
or "the smartness of John"

The transforms that all these examples allow are quite similar:

"John's being the boy"

"John is the boy."  
"The boy is John."

"John's being a boy"

"John is a boy."  
but not ★ "A boy is John."

"John's being smart"

"John is smart."

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<sup>1</sup>A modifier may be a "noun", an adjective, or an "adverb".

<sup>2</sup>A complement, may be a nominal, an adjective, or a locative.

<sup>3</sup>"Nm1" is any nominalizing affix which may be added to adjectives.

"John's being here"

"John is here."

"John's smartness"

or "the smartness of John"

"John is smart."

The complement which may exchange positions with the subject of a sentence, (as in the example "John is the boy" and "The boy is John") is called "the equative" on account of the fact that the syntactic relationship is the same(equal) in both sentences.

Thus, the semantic similarity among the constructs (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) is based on the fact that the underlying syntactic relationships of these constructs are almost identical.

It should be noticed that the complement of the sentence "S - be - Comp" usually "modifies" or "describes" the subject.<sup>1</sup>

The methods we are going to suggest for transforming "S - be - Comp" sentences into "genitive constructs of modification" are tentative and may require some modification.

Genitive constructs of the form "Nom + gen being + nominal, adjective, or locative" may be

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<sup>1</sup>Fries, The Structure of English, op.cit. p. 179.

derived from a sentence of the relationship "S -  
be - Comp" by applying the following rule:

$$S + \text{be} + \text{Comp} \Rightarrow S + \text{gen} + \text{be} + \text{ing} + \text{Comp}$$

$$\text{where Comp} = \begin{bmatrix} \text{Nom} \\ \text{Adj} \\ \text{Loc} \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \text{Nom} \\ \text{Adj} \\ \text{Loc} \end{bmatrix}$$

Examples:

"John is the boy."  $\Rightarrow$  "John's being the boy"

"Mr. Smith is the teacher"  $\Rightarrow$  "Mr. Smith's being  
the teacher"

"He is a lawyer."  $\Rightarrow$  "his being a lawyer"

"John was hungry."  $\Rightarrow$  "John's being hungry"

"They were insolent."  $\Rightarrow$  "their being insolent"

"She is ill."  $\Rightarrow$  "her being ill"

"It is ready."  $\Rightarrow$  "its being ready"

"They are here."  $\Rightarrow$  "their being here"

"I was there."  $\Rightarrow$  "my being there"

"It was nearby."  $\Rightarrow$  "its being nearby"

"Bill was outside."  $\Rightarrow$  "Bill's being outside"

N.B. There is no periphrastic counterpart for  
this kind of -'s genitive construct:

e.g. ★"the being of John hungry"

or ★"the being hungry of John"

However, genitive constructs which may also be derived from the sentence "S + be + Comp" by nominalizing the complement<sup>1</sup> (rather than the verb to-be) appear in both forms of the genitive, i.e. the -'s genitive and the periphrastic genitive. The rule for deriving such genitive constructs may be represented as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} S + be + Comp &\Rightarrow S + gen + Comp + Nml \\ &\Rightarrow Det + Comp + Nml + of + Nom \end{aligned}$$

where "Comp" is any "nomilizable adjective" or a common "noun" which may take an "abstracting affix" like "ship", or "hood".

Examples:

"The boys are friends."	$\Rightarrow$ "the boys' friendship"
	$\Rightarrow$ "the friendship of the boys"
"The men are partners."	$\Rightarrow$ "the men's partnership"
	$\Rightarrow$ "the partnership of the men"
"John is a child."	$\Rightarrow$ "John's childhood"
	$\Rightarrow$ "the childhood of John"
"This man is a hero."	$\Rightarrow$ "this man's heroism"
	$\Rightarrow$ "the heroism of this man"
"He is a baby."	$\Rightarrow$ "his babyhood" ... etc.

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<sup>1</sup>"Comp" refers here to Nominals and Adjectives alone since "Loc" cannot take a nominalizing affix.



"John is present."	⇒ "John's presence"
	⇒ "the presence of John"
"The judge is wise."	⇒ "the judge's wisdom"
	⇒ "the wisdom of the judge"
"The men are sincere."	⇒ "the men's sincerity"
	⇒ "the sincerity of the men"
"Women are jealous."	⇒ "women's jealousy"
	⇒ "the jealousy of women"
"The garden is beautiful."	⇒ "the garden's beauty"
	⇒ "the beauty of the garden"
"England is great."	⇒ "England's greatness"
	⇒ "the greatness of England"
"The country is free."	⇒ "the country's freedom"
	⇒ "the freedom of the country"

### 3. Genitive Constructs of Possession:

Probably, the most productive rule that generates genitive constructs is the one which transforms a "Subject + Middle-Verb (Have) + Middle-Object" into "Subject + gen + Nominal". Thus the source of a construct like "John's car" may be "John has a car". But, owing to the fact that the word "have" (as a main verb) conveys a number of different meanings and relationships, it is not of much use in determining the underlying relationship between

the constituents of the genitive. In other words, since the word "have" itself is neutralized to some extent, it will not be sufficient to reveal the deep structure of another neutralized construct like the genitive. A glance at the following examples will show the various relationships and meanings which "have" may imply:<sup>1</sup>

"John has a car (a watch, a book)." possessive	
"He has a son (a daughter, cousin)." kinship	
"The king has subjects (ministers, assistants)".	
"The subjects have a leader (a king)"	relative position
"The house has a tenant (a master, an owner)"	
	relational
"The man has two hands (one head, two legs)"	
"The house has a roof (a door, windows)"	inherent possessions
"He has a head-ache"	experience

In spite of this fact, some text-books, which are supposed to be based on a transformational approach, find it enough to say that the source of genitive constructs is a kernel sentence with

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<sup>1</sup>The meanings are taken from The Oxford English Dictionary, (Vol. V), p. 125.

"have" as a middle-verb.<sup>1</sup> This is, perhaps, why Thomas "is not satisfied with the analyses of genitives that have been published."<sup>2</sup>

This is not to suggest, however, that this study will account for all the semantic relationships implicit in genitive constructs which are derived by nominalizing sentences with "have" as a main verb. Our approach will consist of subjecting genitive constructs which imply different semantic relations to a number of transforms in order to find a correlation between the semantic relationship implicit in the construct and its deep syntactic structure.

Let us take the following examples which imply different semantic relationships:

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 "the man's car"    | "the car of the man"    |
| 2 "the man's son"    | "the son of the man"    |
| 3 "the master's dog" | "the dog of the master" |

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<sup>1</sup>See for example, Paul Roberts, English Syntax, Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 1964, pp. 143-160, and William Schwab, Guide to Modern Grammar and Exposition, Harper & Row, New York, 1967, pp. 94-95.

<sup>2</sup>Thomas, op.cit., p. 199.

- |   |                    |                         |
|---|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 4 | "the dog's master" | "the master of the dog" |
| 5 | "the car's wheels" | "the wheels of the car" |
| 6 | "a bread's piece"  | "a piece of bread"      |

All the above examples, except the last one, can be derived by nominalizing a sentence with "have" as a middle-verb; "The man has a car", "The man has a son", "The master has a dog", "The dog has a master", and "The car has wheels."

Consider (6) which does not allow the -'s genitive transform. Jespersen and Curme<sup>1</sup> list this example, along with those that resemble it, e.g. "a piece of chalk", "a piece of meat" etc., under the heading "partitive genitive" which includes examples like "the wheel of the car" and "the arm of the man". Now, even from a semantic point of view, "a piece of bread" should not be grouped with examples like "the wheel of the car" or "the arm of the man" because "bread" indicates the material of the piece, i.e. there is no indication whatsoever that the "piece" is a "part" of a larger portion of "bread".

This distinction between "genitive of

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<sup>1</sup>Supra, p. 21.

material" and "the partitive genitive" is reflected in the different sources of the two constructs and in the different transforms each of them allows; consider:

1. "A is made of (composed of) B"

"The idol is made of gold."	⇒	"an idol of gold"
A	B	⇒ "a golden idol"
		⇒ "the gold of the idol"
	but not ⇒	★ "the gold's idol"
	nor ⇒	★ "the idol has gold"
"The shirt is made of cotton."	⇒	"a shirt of cotton"
		⇒ "a cotton shirt"
		⇒ "the cotton of the shirt"
	but not ⇒	★ "the cotton's shirt"
	nor ⇒	★ "the shirt has cotton"

2. "A has B"

"The car has a wheel."	⇒	"the wheel of the car"
		⇒ "the car's wheel"
	but not ⇒	★ "the car of the wheel"
	nor ⇒	★ "the wheel's car"
"The man has an arm."	⇒	"the man's arm"
		⇒ "the arm of the man"
	but not ⇒	★ "the man of the arm"
	nor ⇒	★ "the arm's man"

"The house has a roof."  $\longleftrightarrow$  "the roof of the house"  
 $\implies$  "the house's roof"  
but not  $\implies$  ★ "the house of the roof"  
nor  $\implies$  ★ "the roof's house"

Thus the "genitive of material" may be "A of B", "the B of the A" and "B-adj<sup>1</sup> + A" but it does not take the -'s- genitive form. "The partitive genitive" allows both the -'s genitive and the periphrastic genitive transforms and may be derived from a sentence with "have" as "middle-verb". Thus these two examples cannot be classified together in one category.

Example (2) "the man's son" is called "genitive of origin" by Curme, "possessive genitive" by Jespersen, and "specifying genitive" by Zandvoort.<sup>2</sup> This difference in the labels used and the classification made, shows what can happen when the analysis of syntactic relationships is based on semantic criteria alone.

Let us take the same example and see what transformations it permits and how it differs from examples which look similar to it.

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<sup>1</sup>"adj" is an affix of adjectivalization. See Lees, op.cit., p. 84.

<sup>2</sup>See Supra, pp. 21-24.

"The man has a son."  $\Rightarrow$  "the man's son"  
 $\Rightarrow$  "the son of the man"  
 but not  $\Rightarrow$  ★"the son's man"  
 nor  $\Rightarrow$  ★"the man of the son"

We will refer to nouns which imply a "relation" by themselves, i.e., nouns like "son" "father" "wife" ... etc. as (+rel). This will make it possible to distinguish a genitive construct like "the man's son" from "the man's car"; "car" is (-rel), i.e. it does not imply "relation" by itself.

Let us reinvestigate the example "the man's son" in which the headword is (+rel). We have seen that it is not possible to have ★"the son's man", yet it is possible to have a construct like "the son's chair", but in the last example the word "son" does not imply the same semantic relationship with the word "chair" as it does with "man" in the construct "the man's son". We may assume that when the (+rel) noun is used as the headword of a genitive construct, the relation implicit in the construct will be determined by the (+rel) noun, while this is not the case when the (+rel) noun occurs as the genitive nominal of the construct. A genitive construct of two

(+ rel) nouns will make our analysis clearer.

Note that in a construct like "the son's wife" the relationship between the constituents of the construct is of "a man (the son) and his wife", while in the construct "the wife's son", the relationship is that of "a woman (the wife) and her son".

The same can be said of the examples:

- a. "The master has a dog."  $\Rightarrow$  "the master's dog"  
 $\Rightarrow$  "the dog of the master"
- b. "The dog has a master."  $\Rightarrow$  "the dog's master"  
 $\Rightarrow$  "the dog of a master"

In order to distinguish genitive constructs derived from sentences like (a) and those derived from (b), we will call the first "possessive genitive", since it usually indicates "possession"; whereas we will prefer to refer to genitive constructs derived from sentences like (b) as "relational genitive constructs". Note that it is possible to change the verb "have" of sentence (a) into "possess", while this is not acceptable in the case of (b) e.g.

"The master possesses a dog"  
but not ★"the dog possesses a master".



Examples which illustrate this difference are:

"The tenant has a house."  $\Rightarrow$  "the tenant's house"  
 $\Rightarrow$  "the house of the tenant"  
 "The house has a tenant."  $\Rightarrow$  "the house's tenant"  
 $\Rightarrow$  "the tenant of the house"  
 "The mother has a cat."  $\Rightarrow$  "the mother's cat"  
 $\Rightarrow$  "the cat of the mother"  
 "The cat has a mother."  $\Rightarrow$  "the cat's mother"  
 $\Rightarrow$  "the mother of the cat"

Finally, we will suggest rules for transforming both, the possessive and the relational genitive constructs:

Possessive:

Nom (+an  $\pm$  rel) have Nom<sup>1</sup> (-Hum - rel)

$\Rightarrow$  Nom + gen + Nom<sup>1</sup>

$\Rightarrow$  Nom<sup>1</sup> + of + Nom

+an = animate

$\pm$  rel = relational or non-relational

- Hum = non-human

- rel = non-relational

Nom<sup>1</sup> = possessed

Examples:

"The man has a car."  $\Rightarrow$  "the man's car"

$\Rightarrow$  "the car of the man"

"The boy has a dog."  $\Rightarrow$  "the boy's dog"

$\Rightarrow$  "the dog of the boy"

"The master has a gun."  $\Rightarrow$  "the master's gun"

$\Rightarrow$  "the gun of the master"

"The elephant has a house."  $\Rightarrow$  "the elephant's house"

$\Rightarrow$  "the house of the  
elephant"

Relational

Nom ( + animate - rel ) + have + Nom<sup>1</sup> ( + rel )

Nom + gen + Nom<sup>1</sup>

Nom<sup>1</sup> + of + Nom

rel = "relational"

Examples:

"The girl has a mother."  $\Rightarrow$  "the girl's mother"

$\Rightarrow$  "the mother of the girl"

"The dog has a master."  $\Rightarrow$  "the dog's master"

$\Rightarrow$  "the master of the dog"

"The house has a tenant."  $\Rightarrow$  "the house's tenant"

$\Rightarrow$  "the tenant of the house"

### Summary

We have tried in this chapter to identify the syntactic relationships underlying different genitive constructs. Here is a table of the kinds of genitive constructs we have attempted to analyze, their semantic implications, and the syntactic relationships underlying them:

Genitive Constructs	Semantic Relations	Syntactic Relations
"John's arrival"	actor-action	Subject-Verb <sub>a</sub> <sup>1</sup>
"the arrival of John"		
"John's drinking of the wine"	actor-action-goal	Subject-Verb <sub>a</sub> -Object
"John's drinking the wine"		
"the drinking of the wine by John"		
"the drinking of the wine"	action-goal	Verb <sub>a</sub> -Object or Subject <sub>p</sub> -Verb <sub>p</sub>
"the man's being killed"		
"John's murder"	ambiguous	Subject-Verb <sub>a</sub> or Verb <sub>a</sub> - Object
"the murder of John"		
"John's killer"		
"the killer of John"	actor-goal	Subject-Object

<sup>1</sup>"Verb<sub>a</sub>" is verb of activity.

<sup>2</sup>"Subject<sub>p</sub>" subject of a passive sentence.

Genitive Constructs	Semantic Relations	Syntactic Relations
"John's being the boy"	modification	Subject <b>be</b> Comp.
"John's being a boy"		
"John's being smart"		
"John's being here"		
"John's smartness"		
"the smartness of John"		
"John's father"	relational	S-have-Middle Object
"the father of John"		
"John's car"	possessive	
"the car of John"		
"John's arm"	partitive	
"the arm of John"		
"the piece of bread"	material	

Conclusions:

Five important conclusions may be deduced from the whole study:

1. It is wrong to use the terms "possessive" and "genitive" interchangeably. We have seen that the "possessive genitive" is actually one kind of "genitive".

2. Not all genitive constructs can be transformed from a sentence with "have" as a middle-verb.

3. Most of the semantic differences implied by different genitive constructs are based on fairly systematic syntactic relationships which are implicit in the deep structures which underlie genitive constructs.

4. The "Immediate Constituent" analysis of the "surface structure" of the genitive constructs is not sufficient to account, syntactically, for the number of different relationships inherent in genitive constructs.

5. Basing the classification of genitive constructs on meaning alone may result in a considerable number of overlappings and over-inclusions.

### CHAPTER III

#### Al-'iDaafa IN MODERN STANDARD ARABIC

The purpose of this chapter is to present a brief account of the different kinds of al-'iDaafa 'annexation' in modern Standard Arabic and the meaning implied by each kind. The data provided by Arab and foreign grammarians will be the main source for classifying al-'iDaafa constructs, but in the meantime the writer will try to present this data in a fairly organized fashion to make it appropriate for later comparison with the English genitive.

Before dealing with the kinds and meanings of al-'iDaafa, it is necessary to say something about the form of the construct, because the gloss may not always be adequate to reflect the exact structure of the construct.

#### 1. Form

Al-'iDaafa construct, the 'annexation construct' or 'the construct phrase', is composed of

two immediately adjacent<sup>1</sup> nominals or noun-type terms<sup>2</sup> of which the second term 'al-muDaaf ilayh 'the annexed to' i.e. 'the word in the genitive' is suffixed with a kasra, 'the vowel i (suffixed)', or any of its variants, depending on the class to which the word belongs. The following examples illustrate the use of the 'suffix i' and its variants to indicate that the word is the second constituent of al-'iDaafa construct.

a. The suffix-i (with words prefixed with al- 'the'):

kitaabu al-waladi '(the) book (of) the boy'<sup>3</sup> =  
'the boy's book'

kitaabu al-'awlaadi '(the) book (of) the boys' =  
'the boys' book'

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<sup>1</sup>In very few cases a word like wa-llaahi 'by God' may occur between the first and the second words of al-'iDaafa.

<sup>2</sup>The nominals and the noun-type terms which occur as the first or the second constituents of al-'iDaafa will be clear as the chapter proceeds.

<sup>3</sup>Most constructs can be rendered roughly in English by inserting "of" between the translated terms preserving the word order of the original. The construct may be translated into an "-s genitive" as well, but the word order will be the reverse of Arabic.

b. The suffix -in (Suffixed to words without the prefix -al 'the):

kitaabu waladin 'a book (of) a boy'

kitaabu 'awlaadin 'a book (of) boys'

c. The suffix -ayni (with the dual):

kitaabu al-waladayni '(the) book (of) the two boys'

kitaabu waladayni '(the) book (of) two boys'

d. The suffix -a (with non-Arabic names):

kitaabu ya9quuba '(the) book (of) Jacob'

e. The suffix -iina (with sound masculine plurals):

kitaabu al-muhandisiina '(the) book (of) the  
engineers'

f. A possessive suffix may be attached to a word. The possessive suffixes have fixed forms which indicate number (including dual), gender, and person. Furthermore, they are "inherently definite". That is why the term annexed to a possessive suffix is usually definite.<sup>1</sup>  
e.g. kitaabu + haa '(the) book (of) her' = 'her book'

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<sup>1</sup>A noun becomes "definite" when it is annexed to a "definite" noun. We will have more to say about this later.



kitaabu + hu '(the) book (of) him' = 'his book'

kitaabu + humaa '(the) book (of the two of) them' =  
'their book'

kitaabu + hum '(the) book (of) them' = 'their book' etc.

The first word of al-'iDaafa occurs usually without the prefix al- 'the', even when it is "definite". e.g. kitaabu Zaydin '(the) book (of) Zayd'. Moreover, a noun is shortened in its pronunciation by the omission of the tanwiin 'the suffixation of -n', or the terminations -ni of the dual and -na of the sound masculine plural when it is the first constituent of al-'iDaafa construct.<sup>1</sup> e.g.

a. Omission of tanwiin 'suffixation of -n'

'iṣṭaraytu kitaaban 'I bought a book'

'iṣṭaraytu kitaaba al-waladi 'I bought (the)  
book (of) the boy'

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<sup>1</sup>William Wright, A Grammar of the Arabic Language (Vol. 2), Fr. Nies, Leipzig, 1862, p. 133. Note that the al- 'the' and the tanwiin 'suffixation of -n' are in complementary distribution, i.e., when one of them occurs, the other does not. However, none of the two occurs with the first nominal of al-'iDaafa construct.

b. Omission of the termination -ni of the dual:

'iṣṭaraytu kitaabayni 'I bought two books'

'iṣṭaraytu kitaabay al-waladi 'I bought (the)  
two books(of) the boy'

c. Omission of the termination -ni of the sound masculine plural:

'ṣaahadtu al-muhandisiina 'I saw the engineers'

'ṣaahadtu muhandissii al-bayti 'I saw (the)  
engineers (of) the house'

2. The Origin of the kasra 'the vowel i (suffixed)'

Different schools of grammar give different reasons for the addition of 'the vowel i' (or any of its variants) to the second word of al-'iDaafa constructs.

The followers of the "Basrah School of Grammar" believe that "the vowel i (suffixed)" is an indication of a mentioned or understood preposition like li '(belong) to', fii 'in', or min '(made) of'. This idea is in line with the theory of the 9aamil 'grammatical agent' in which they believe. The theory claims that for a word to be inflected, there must be a "grammatical agent". Thus, according to their reasoning, HiSaanu zaydin

'(the)horse (of) Zayd' is another way of saying Al-HiSaanu li-zaydin 'the horse (belongs) to Zayd' except that the preposition li '(belong) to' is understood in the first and mentioned in the second. Similarly, ka'su dahabin 'a cup (of) gold' means the same thing as ka'sunmin dahabin 'a cup (made) of gold', and Sawmu aš-šahri '(the) fasting (in) the month' is aš-Sawmu fii aš-šahri 'the fasting in the month'.<sup>1</sup>

The followers of the "Kuufa School of Grammar", on the other hand, believe that the 'vowel i.(suffixed)' is the sign of al-'iDaafa, and that the so-called prepositions are remnants of nouns which used to be 'annexed' to the word that follows.<sup>2</sup> For this reason they follow the etymology of some of the prepositions in order to find their original shapes and meanings. They maintain, for example, that the origin of the preposition 9ala 'on' is the word 9alaa 'went up' or

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<sup>1</sup> Al-Galaayini, jami9 Aš-duruus Al-9arabiyya, (vol. 3), Al-9asriyya press, Beirut, 1952, p. 205.

<sup>2</sup> Mahdi Al-Makhzuumi, Fii An-nahu Al-9arabi, Al-maktaba Al-9asriyya, Beirut, 1964, p. 76. See also Siibawayh. Al-kitaab, (vol. I) Haroun (editor), Daar Al-qalam, Cairo, 1966, pp. 419-420.

'be over' which used to be used both as a verb and as the first word of al-'iDaafa construct.<sup>1</sup>

### 3. The Kinds and Meanings of Al-'iDaafa:

#### A. Foreward

In Chapter II, we saw that the English genitive constructs are highly neutralized.<sup>2</sup> This is not the case, however, in al-'iDaafa. The relationship between the first and the second words of al-'iDaafa is, in most cases, explicit in the surface structure. The main reason for this is the fact that the Arabic word appears in different forms and takes different suffixes which specify, to a considerable extent, its function in a certain construct. This is, perhaps, why the Arab grammarians rarely disagreed about the nature of the relationships, and hence, the meanings implicit in al-'iDaafa constructs. Moreover, in order to set some structural criteria for the semantic differences implied by al-'iDaafa constructs, the Arab grammarians, (especially the advocates of "the

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<sup>1</sup>Al-makhzuumi, op.cit., p. 80.

<sup>2</sup>The relationship between the constituents of the genitive construct may not be explicit in the surface structure.

Basrah School") change a given construct<sup>1</sup> into a sentence or a phrase in which the relationship among the units is indicated by the order of the words, their inflections, or by a certain function word, e.g.

- 1a. ḍahaabu al-waladi '(the) going (of) the boy'  
(action-actor)
- 1b. ḍahaba al-waladu 'went the boy' = 'the boy went'  
(verb-subject) or  
(action actor)

The relationship between the constituents of the constructs "1a" and "1b" are similar. However, the relationship is made structurally explicit in the second construct by the suffix u in al-waladu 'the boy' which indicates that the word is faa9il 'actor' in an active sentence.

B. "Meaningful" and "Verbal" 'iDaafa:

The followers of "the Basrah School of Grammar"<sup>2</sup> divide al-'iDaafa into two broad classes; the "real" or "meaningful" 'iDaafa and the "gram-

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<sup>1</sup>Especially constructs in which the relationship is not structurally indicated.

<sup>2</sup>We will use their classification of the different kinds and meanings of al-'iDaafa, because it is systematic and based on fairly definable structural criteria.

matical" or "verbal" 'iDaafa. As its name indicates, the "real", or "meaningful" 'iDaafa implies annexation, i.e. "definition" or "classification" which are the "real functions" of al-'iDaafa.<sup>1</sup>

The first word of "a real", 'iDaafa must be a noun and the second word may be a noun or a pronoun.

The following examples illustrate the two functions of the "real" 'iDaafa:

a) A noun is "defined" when a definite noun or a pronoun is annexed to it.<sup>2</sup> e.g.

Hikmatu al-qaaDi '(the) wisdom (of) the judge'

Mitaabu + haa '(the) book (of) her' = 'her book'

kitaabu zaydin '(the) book (of) Zayd' = 'Zayd' book'

b) The first noun of al-'iDaafa construct is "classified" when annexed to an "indefinite" noun.<sup>3</sup> Since the second noun of each of the following constructs is "indefinite" its function is to classify the first noun of the construct.

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<sup>1</sup>Ibin 9aqiil, SarH Alfiiyyat Ibin Maalik, Vol. II, editor M.M. Abdul-Hamiid, As-sa9aada Press, Egypt, 1960. p. 36.

<sup>2</sup>A word is definite either by the dint of the prefix al- 'the' or the fact of being a proper noun or a pronoun.

<sup>3</sup>"Classifying" indicates the attribution of a person, a quality, or a thing to a class of people or things rather than to a particular person. See al-Galaayiini, op.cit., p. 207.

Sawtu bintin 'voice (of) a girl = 'a girl's voice'  
malaabisu rijaalin 'clothes (of) men' = 'men's clothes'  
jildu šaatin 'skin (of) a sheep'  
kitaabu adabin 'a book (of) literature'

It is worth noting that the first noun of "the meaningful" or "real" 'iDaafa never takes the prefix al- 'the' regardless whether it is definite or indefinite.

Any 'iDaafa that does not imply "definition" nor "classification" is a "verbal" or "grammatical" 'iDaafa. The first word of such constructs is always one of three: (1) Active participle, (2) Passive participle, or (3) Adjective.<sup>1</sup>  
e.g.

1. The first word of the construct is an "active participle" qaatilu zaydin<sup>2</sup>, 'killer(of) Zayd', 'Zayd's killer'.
2. The first word of the construct is a "passive participle" qatiilu zaydin '(one) killed (by) Zayd'

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<sup>1</sup>M. Matar, Diraasaat fii Qawaa9id Al-luGa Al-9arabiyya, Al-'aadaab Press, Najaf, 1966, p. 120.

<sup>2</sup>The "active participle", the "passive participle", and the "adjective" appear in specific forms which make it possible to distinguish them.

3. The first word of the construct is an "adjective"

Hasanu al-wajhi 'handsome (of) the face' = 'one  
whose face is handsome'

The first word of each of these constructs is "indefinite" in spite of the fact that it is annexed to a "definite" noun. Thus, for the first word to be "defined" it should be prefixed with al 'the'. The al, however, cannot be added to the first word of a construct unless the second word of the construct is prefixed with al.<sup>1</sup> It is possible for example to say al-qaatilu ar-rajuli 'the killer (of) the man' but not ~~al~~-qaatilu zaydin 'the killer (of) Zayd' since the second word of the construct "Zayd" is not prefixed with al 'the'.

C. The Relationships Implicit in Verbal 'iDaafa constructs:

The relationship between the constituents of a verbal 'iDaafa construct depends on the form of the first word of the construct. Here are the

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<sup>1</sup>Ibin 9aqiil, op.cit., p. 39.



three kinds of the verbal 'iDaafa' along with the semantic relationship indicated by each:<sup>1</sup>

1. Active Participle + Noun

qaatilu zaydin 'killer (of) Zayd' 'Zayd's killer' the second word is the object of the active participle, i.e. Zayd is the goal and qaatilu 'killer' is the actor.

2. Passive Participle + Noun

qatiilu zaydin '(one) killed (by) Zayd' 'the one killed by Zayd'. The second word (the noun "Zayd") is the actor.

3. Adjective + Noun

Hasanu al-wajhi 'handsome (of) the face' = 'handsome of face'. The first word Hasanu 'handsome' modifies al-wajhi 'the face'.

D. The Relationships Implicit in Meaningful

'iDaafa Constructs:

We have said earlier that a meaningful 'iDaafa' construct consists of two immediately adjacent nouns.<sup>2</sup> It is time to point out that

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<sup>1</sup>Al Galaayini, op.cit., p. 209.

<sup>2</sup>The second word of the construct can be a possessive suffix as well. See supra., p. 70.

the first word of a meaningful 'iDaafa construct may be a maSdar 'root', i.e. 'verbal noun'<sup>1</sup> as well as a common or abstract noun. Consider the following constructs in which the first word is a 'verbal noun'.

1. qatlu zaydin '(the) killing (of) Zayd' =  
'Zayd's killing'
2. ḍahaabu al-waladi '(the) going (of) the boy' =  
'the boy's going'
3. ṣurbu al-Haliibi '(the) drinking (of) the milk'

The relationship between the constituents of (1) is ambiguous. qatlu zaydin '(the) killing (of) Zayd' may mean either that "Someone killed Zayd" (action-goal), or that "Zayd killed someone" (actor-action). Still the relationship implicit in constructs of this kind may be specified by expanding the constructs in different ways. In the following example the second noun Zayd does the action (1) qatlu zaydin li-aHmada '(the) killing (of) Zayd of Ahmad' 'Zayd's killing of Ahmad',

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<sup>1</sup>Verbal nouns' may be translated into present participles and/or gerunds.

whereas in the following example, "Zayd" undergoes the action. (ii) qatlu zaydin min-qibali aHmada '(the) killing (of) Zayd by Ahmad'.

In example (2), ḍahaabu al-waladi '(the) going (of) the boy', the second noun of the construct, al-waladi 'the boy', can only be the actor since the verbal noun ḍahaabu '(the) going' is derived from an intransitive verb, i.e. alwaladi 'the boy' cannot be the object of the verbal noun and, hence, it cannot undergo the action.<sup>1</sup>

The opposite is true in the case of example (3) Ṣurbu al-Haliibi (the) drinking (of) the milk'. The second noun of the construct al-Haliibi 'the milk' can only be the object of the verbal noun Ṣurbu '(the) drinking' because Ṣurbu '(the) drinking' is derived from a verb which requires an animate subject. Since al-Haliib 'the milk' is inanimate it cannot be the "subject" and, hence, the doer of the action.

The followers of the "Basrah School of Grammar", moreover, agree that when the first

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<sup>1</sup>We are using the words "subject" and "object" for the words Faa9il 'actor' and maf9uul bihi 'undergoer of action'.

noun of a "meaningful" 'iDaafa construct is not a "verbal noun", the relationship between the two constituents of al-'iDaafa depends on the 9aamil 'grammatical agent', i.e. 'the preposition which is understood between the two nouns'.<sup>1</sup> This understood preposition, moreover, may be inserted between the two constituents of al-'iDaafa, in which case the construct will be changed into a noun + prepositional phrase but it will continue to indicate the same relationship as the one implied by al-'iDaafa. Since only three prepositions may be understood between the constituents of this kind of 'iDaafa, three different relationships may be implicit therein.

1. The second noun of the construct "possesses" or "classifies" the first noun when the preposition li '(belong) to' is understood (and may be inserted) between the two nouns.<sup>2</sup> When the second noun is definite the relationship is that of "possession" e.g. kitaabu zaydin '(the) book (of) Zayd = Zayd's book'

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<sup>1</sup>Al Galaayini, op.cit., p. 206.

<sup>2</sup>"Possess" is used here in a broad sense which includes the "possession" of qualities, relatives, and things. "Classification" is the attribution of a quality or a thing to a class rather than to a particular person or thing.

Hikmatu ar-rajulii '(the) wisdom (of) the man' = 'the man's wisdom' whereas the relationship is usually one of "classification" when the second noun of the construct is "indefinite".

malaabisu rijaalin 'clothes (of) men' = 'men's clothes'. Note that it is possible to insert the preposition li '(belong) to' in any of the above constructs:

e.g. al-kitaabu li-zaydin 'the book (belongs) to Zayd'  
al-Hikmatu li-ar-rajuli 'the wisdom (belongs) to the man' i.e. 'the man has wisdom'.

2. The second noun indicates the "material" of the first noun when the preposition min '(composed) of' is understood between the two nouns.

e.g. baabu xaṣabin 'a door (of) wood' = 'a wooden door'  
siwaaru ḍahabin 'a bracelet (of) gold' = a golden bracelet'

malaabisu Suufin 'clothes (of) wool' = 'woolen clothes'. The preposition min '(made) of' can be inserted within any of these constructs. e.g.  
baabun min xaṣabin 'a door (made) of wood' etc.

3. When the preposition fii 'in' or 'at' is understood, the second noun indicates the place

or the "time" of the first noun.

e.g. qu9uudu ad-daari 'staying (at) home'

'usuudu al-Gaabi '(the) lions (in) the forest'

Harru aS-Sayfi '(the) heat (in) the summer'

It is possible to insert fii 'in' or 'at' between the nouns of any of the previous three examples.

e.g. al-'usuudu fii al-Gaabi 'the lions in the forest'

Although the examples given so far do not exhaust all the possible relationships inherent in al-'iDaafa, they do represent the most common constructs and relationships. Here is a summary of all the relationships we have illustrated:

1. The verbal 'iDaafa The relationship
  - a. qaatilu zaydin 'killer (of) Zayd' actor-goal
  - b. qatiilu zaydin '(one) killed  
(by) Zayd' goal-actor
  - c. Hasanu al-wajhi 'handsome (of)  
the face' adjective-noun
2. The meaningful 'iDaafa
  - a. qatlu zaydin '(the) killing  
(of) Zayd' ambiguous (action-  
goal or actor-action)
  - b. ḡahaabu zaydin '(the) going  
(of) Zayd' action-actor
  - c. ṡurbu al-Haliibi (the) drinking  
(of) the milk action-goal

- d. kitaabu zaydin '(the) book (of)  
Zayd'                      possessor-possessed
- e. mallabisu rijaalin '(the)  
clothes (of) men)      classifier-classified
- f. baabu xa<sup>v</sup>sabin 'a Door (of)  
wood'                      N-material
- g. qu9uudu ad-daari 'staying  
(at) home'                      N-place
- h. Sawmu as-<sup>v</sup>sahri '(the) fasting  
(in) the month'                      N-time.

## CHAPTER IV

### A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE ENGLISH GENITIVE AND Al-'iDaafa IN ARABIC

The purpose of this chapter is based on the assumption that:

"Individuals tend to transfer the forms and meanings, and the distribution of forms and meanings of their native language and culture to the foreign language and culture - both productively when attempting to speak the language and to act in the culture, and receptively when attempting to grasp and understand the language and the culture as practiced by natives."<sup>1</sup>

Implied in this statement, is the assumption that the constructs which are similar in both languages will be easier to learn because they may be positively transferred from the native language into the target, whereas the learning of dissimilar constructs may be more difficult since these will tend to be negatively transferred.

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<sup>1</sup>Robert Lado, Linguistics Across Cultures, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 1957, p. 2.



In Chapters II and III we have discussed the different meanings and syntactic relationships inherent in the English genitive constructs and in the Arabic 'construct phrase'.<sup>1</sup> In this chapter we will compare and contrast the constructs of the two languages for form, expansion possibilities, and meanings in order to arrive at the major similarities and differences between the two constructs.

#### 1. Form

A variety of formal devices may be used by different languages to signal grammatical meanings. The grammatical devices most pertinent to our study of the English genitive construct and the Arabic construct phrase will be: (a) word-order and inflection and (2) the "definite" article.

a) Word-order and inflection: We have seen that the word-order in the Arabic construct phrase is similar to that of the English periphrastic genitive except for the use of the preposition "of"

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<sup>1</sup>Henceforward we will use 'the construct phrase' for the term al-'iDaafa.

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between the constituents of the latter. This "of" may be correlated with the 'vowel i (suffixed)',<sup>1</sup> which marks the second constituent of the Arabic construct phrase.<sup>2</sup> e.g.

<u>English</u>	<u>Arabic</u>
"the car of the boy"	<u>sayyaaratu al-waladi</u> '(the) car of the boy'
"the window of the house"	<u>subbaaku ad-daari</u> '(the) window of the house'

The English -'s genitive, as we have pointed out, has the reverse word-order of the phrase construct in Arabic. It is possible, still, to correlate the { -'s } inflection of the English -'s genitive with the 'vowel i (suffixed)' of the Arabic construct phrase. Note that in the following example, the 'vowel i' and the { -'s } are suffixed to "the boy" and al-walad 'the boy' respectively.

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<sup>1</sup>It should be kept in mind that the "suffix i" has several variants like in, iina, and ayni.

<sup>2</sup>Note that the second word of the Arabic construct phrase is the counterpart of the genitive nominal in English.

<u>English</u>	<u>Arabic</u>
"the boy's hand"	<u>yadu al-waladi</u> '(the) hand of the boy' = 'the boy's hand'

b) The "definite" article: The major difference in the use of the "definite" article in the constructs of the two languages arises from the fact that the first constituent (the headword) of the Arabic phrase construct, though definite when annexed to a definite nominal, is not prefixed with al- 'the'. Thus, in a construct like baabu ad-daari '(the) door (of) the house', al- 'the' is prefixed to ad-daari alone, whereas "the" precedes both the genitive nominal and the headword of the English periphrastic construct. e.g.

<u>English</u>	<u>Arabic</u>
"the car of the boy"	<u>sayyaaratu al-waladi</u> '(the) car (of) the boy'
"the drinking of the wine"	<u>surbu al-xamri</u> '(the) drinking (of) the wine'

It is possible, moreover, to have one constituent of the English periphrastic genitive "definite", i.e., preceded by "the", although the

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It is possible, moreover, to have one constituent of the English periphrastic genitive "definite", i.e., preceded by "the", although the

other constituent may be "indefinite". e.g.

"the window of a house"

"a window of the house"

"a friend of John (or John's)"

This is, however, not possible in the Arabic construct phrase;<sup>1</sup> once a word is annexed to a "definite" nominal, it becomes definite, except in the case of "verbal annexation" where the first word of a construct phrase remains "indefinite" even when it is annexed to a "definite" nominal.<sup>2</sup>

e.g. qaatilu zaydin 'killer of Zayd' = Zayd's killer'

The case of the Arabic construct phrase, regarding the use of the "definite" article, is similar to that of the English -'s genitive, i.e., the article "the" precedes the genitive nominal regardless of whether it belongs to one constituent of the genitive construct or to the whole construct. Zandvoort maintains, for example, that the article "the" belongs to "king" in a construct like "the king's enemies", while "the" governs the whole

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<sup>1</sup>Constructs like these can be expressed in Arabic by the use of an NP+prepositional phrase like Sadiqun li-zaydin 'a friend of Zayd'.

<sup>2</sup>Supra, p. 78.

construct in a classifying genitive like "the women's eyes".<sup>1</sup> Whether the article "the" belongs to one or more of the constituents of a genitive construct, is not our main concern here. It is enough to point out that in the English -'s genitive construct, as well as in the Arabic phrase construct, the "definite article" precedes the genitive nominal alone. e.g.

<u>English</u>	<u>Arabic</u>
"the boy's car"	<u>sayyaaratu al-waladi</u> '(the) car (of) the boy' 'the boy's car'
"the man's education"	<u>ʿaqaafatu ar-rajuli</u> '(the) education (of) the man' 'the man's education'

## 2. Expansion Possibilities (Modification)

Four important points bear upon the possibilities of expanding the English genitive construct and the Arabic construct phrase;

- a) It is possible to insert a modifier between the genitive nominal and the headword of

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<sup>1</sup>Zandvoort, op.cit., p. 117.

an English genitive construct, whereas the constituents of an Arabic construct phrase are inseparable and, hence, it is not possible to insert a modifier between them.

b) Generally, the modifiers precede the English noun head, whereas in Arabic, the modifiers follow the noun head.

c) There are two forms of genitive in English, namely, the -'s genitive and the periphrastic genitive for which Arabic has only the construct phrase.

d) The Arabic modifiers are usually in concord with the noun head they modify, i.e., the modifier agrees with the noun head for case, number, and gender, while the English modifiers very rarely show such agreements. e.g.

#### English

- (i) "The clever boy is here."
- (ii) "The clever boys are here."
- (iii) "The clever girl is here."
- (iv) "I saw the clever boy."

The modifier "clever" in the above examples is the same although the noun head which it modi-



fies changes for number, gender, and/or case.

Now consider the following examples in Arabic:

- (i) al-waladu ad-dakiyyu 'the clever the boy'<sup>1</sup>  
'the clever boy'

Note that both, the modifier and the noun head are prefixed with al- 'the', and that they are both suffixed with u (the usual inflection for the subjective case).

- (ii) bintun dakiyyatun 'a clever girl'

In example (ii), the modifier dakiyyatun 'clever' has three suffixes: (1) -at 'feminine indicator' because the noun head bintun 'girl' is feminine, (2) -u 'subjective marker' because the noun head is in the subjective case, and (3) -n 'indefinite marker',<sup>2</sup> because the noun head bintun 'girl' is "indefinite".

The following table shows the main expansions which the English genitive constructs and the Arabic construct phrase may allow.

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<sup>1</sup>It is to be kept in mind that the modifier follows the noun head in Arabic.

<sup>2</sup>The tanwiin 'the suffixation of -n' is in complementary distribution with the "definite" article -al 'the'.

<u>English</u>	<u>Arabic</u>
a. It is possible to have two or more genitive constructs embedded within each other.	a. The second word of a construct phrase may be annexed to another word and that word may be annexed to yet another.
(i) "the brother of the king of England's wife"	(i) <u>zawjatu ra'iisi jumhuuriy-yati lubnaana.</u>
(ii) "Mary's father's car" <sup>1</sup>	'(the) wife(of) the president of the Republic (of) Lebanon'
b. The genitive nominal of an -'s genitive construct may be modified by a word, a phrase, or a clause.	b. The second noun of a construct phrase may be modified by an adjective, a phrase, or a clause.
(i) "the clever boy's car"	(i) <u>sayyaaratu ar-rajuli al-musinni</u> <sup>3</sup>
(ii) "the boy in the bar's car"	'(the) car (of) the old man'
(iii) "the boy who is there's car" <sup>2</sup>	

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<sup>1</sup>This kind of "double 's genitive construct" is quite rare.

<sup>2</sup>Examples (ii) and (iii) may be found only in colloquial English.

<sup>3</sup>The modifier occurs after the construct phrase whether it modifies the first or the second constituent of the construct.

English

Likewise, the of-genitive may be modified by a word, a phrase or a clause. e.g.

- (i) "the car of the clever man"
- (ii) "the car of the man in the bar"
- (iii) "the car of the man who came"

c. The headword of an '-s genitive construct or a periphrastic construct may be modified by a word, a phrase, or a clause. e.g.

- (i) "the boy's new car"
- (ii) "the boy's car in the garage"
- (iii) "the boy's car which he bought yesterday"

Arabic

Note that al-musinni 'the old' agrees with the noun head ar-rajuli 'the man' in gender, number, and suffixation.

- (ii) sayyaaratu ar-rajuli alwaaqifi hunaak '(the) car (of) the man standing there
- (iii) sayyaratu ar-rajuli alaladi jaa'a '(the) car of (the) man who came'

c. The first word of a construct phrase may be modified by a word, a phrase, or a clause, e.g.

- (i) sayyaaratu al-waladi al-jadiidatu 'the new car of the boy'

Note that al-jadiidatu 'the new' agrees with sayyaaratu 'car' in gender, number, and suffixation.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> sayyaratu '(the) car' is "feminine" and definite since it is annexed to a definite noun.

English

Arabic

(ii) sayyaaratu al-waladi al-  
waaqifatu hunaak' (the)

car (of) the boy parking  
there'

(iii) sayyaaratu al-waladi al-  
lati 'iṣṭaraaha 'ams

'(the) car (of) the boy  
which he bought yesterday'

d. A series of modifiers may  
modify each of the cons-  
tituents of an -'s geni-  
tive construct or a peri-  
phrastic genitive cons-  
truct. e.g.

(i) "every young boy's new  
white shirt"

(ii) "the new white shirt of  
every young boy"

d. A series of modifiers may  
modify one of the consti-  
tuents of a phrase cons-  
truct, e.g.

(i) sayyaratu ar-rajuli al-  
musinni al-kariimi '(the)  
car(of)the generous  
old man'

Two adjectives may occur  
one after the other after  
the construct phrase each  
of which may modify one  
of the nouns.<sup>1</sup> e.g.

sayyaaratu ar-rajuli al-  
musinni al-kābiiratu

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<sup>1</sup>There is no possibility, however, of having a  
series of modifiers modifying each of the constituents  
of a construct phrase.

English

Arabic

'the **big** car (of) the old man'. Note that al-kabiiratu agrees with sayyaaratu 'car', while al-musinni 'the old' agrees with ar-rajuli 'the man'.

e. If an adjective precedes an 's genitive construct ambiguity may arise as to which word the adjective modifies. e.g.

- (i) "the stout major's wife"  
The adjective "stout" may belong **to** "wife" or to "major", i.e., the construct may mean "the stout wife of the major" or "the wife of the stout major".

e. If an adjective follows a construct phrase and agrees with the two nouns of the construct phrase, **ambig-**uity may arise as to which word it modifies.e.g.  
sayyaarati al-binti aj-jamiilati 'the beautiful car of the girl' or 'the car of the beautiful girl' 'the beautiful girl's car'

### 3. Meaning

Quite similar semantic relationships are indicated by the English genitive construct and the Arabic construct phrase. The following are the most important meanings which may be implied in the constructs of the two languages. For the sake of convenience of presentation, we will use the following abbreviations:

C. : construct

SR. : semantic relationship

USS.: underlying syntactic relationship (for English)

S.: structure (for Arabic)

LT.: literal translation

NEC.: nearest English counterpart (for Arabic)

<u>English</u>	<u>Arabic</u>
a. C. "John's stay" "the stay of John"	C. <u>mukuuQu zaydin</u> LT. '(the) stay of Zayd' NEC. 'Zayd's stay'
SR. actor-action	SR. actor-action
USS. subject-verb	S. intransitive verbal + noun

<u>English</u>	<u>Arabic</u>
b. C. "the drinking of the wine"	C. <u>surbu al-xamri</u>
"the wine's being drunk"	LT. '(the) drinking (of)
	the wine'
	NEC. 'the drinking of wine'
SR. Action-goal	SR. action-goal
USS. verb-object	S. transitive verbal <sup>1</sup> +noun
c. C. "John's murder"	C. <u>qatlu zaydin</u>
the murder of John	LT. '(the) killing (of) Zayd'
SR. ambiguous	NEC. 'Zayd's killing'
(actor-action) or	SR. ambiguous
(action-goal)	
USS. subject-verb or verb-object	S. transitive verbal <sup>1</sup> + noun
d. C. John's killer	C. <u>qaatilu zaydin</u>
the killer of John	LT. '(the) killer (of) Zayd'
	NEC. 'Zayd's killer'
SR. actor-goal	SR. actor-goal
USS. subject-object	S. active participle + noun

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<sup>1</sup>The verbal is of the kind which requires an animate subject.

<u>English</u>	<u>Arabic</u>
e. C. "John's horse"	C. <u>HiSaanu zaydin</u>
"the horse of John"	LT. '(the) horse of Zayd'
	NEC. 'Zayd's horse'
SR. possession	SR. possession
USS. subject have middle-object	S. N+N ( <u>li</u> '(belong) to' is understood between the two nouns)
f. C. "the house's room"	C. <u>Gurfatu ad-dari</u>
"the room of the house"	LT. '(the) room of (the) house'
	NEC. 'the room of the house'
SR. partitive	SR. partitive
USS. subject have middle-object	S. N+N ( <u>min</u> 'of' is understood between the two nouns)
g. C. "John's father"	C. <u>waalidu zaydin</u>
"the father of John"	LT. '(the) father (of) Zayd'
	NEC. 'Zayd's father'
SR. kinship	SR. kinship
USS. subject have middle-object	S. N-rel <sup>1</sup> +N ( <u>li</u> '(belong) to' is understood between the nouns)

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<sup>1</sup>"rel" means that the nominal indicates kinship or a similar relationship.



<u>English</u>	<u>Arabic</u>
h. C. "John's intelligence" "the intelligence of John"	C. <u>dakaa'u zaydin</u> LT. '(the) intelligence of Zayd' NEC. 'Zayd's intelligence. SR. modification USS. subject be complement
i. C. "an idol of gold"	C. <u>Sanamu dahabin</u> LT. 'an idol of gold' SR. A is made of B S. N + N ( <u>min</u> '(made) of' is understood between the nouns).
j. no English genitive counterpart.	C. <u>gatiilu zaydin</u> LT. '(a man) killed (by) Zayd' NEC. 'the man killed by Zayd' SR. goal-actor S. passive participle + noun
k. no English genitive counterpart <sup>1</sup>	C. <u>Hasanu al-wajhi</u> LT. 'handsome (of) the face' NEC. 'one whose face is handsome' SR. modifier-modified S. adjective + noun

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<sup>1</sup>There are very few English genitive constructs of this kind, e.g. "keen of eye" and "straight of limb".

This comparison brings out two important points concerning the English genitive construct and the Arabic construct phrase.

1. The comparison of the constructs for expansion possibilities shows that the Arabic construct phrase allows fewer modifiers than the English genitive construct, especially the periphrastic genitive construct. This under-modifiability of the Arabic construct phrase may cause an Arab, writing English, to use as many constructs as the number of modifiers he wants to use. Further research in this area may correlate this fact to the relatively frequent use of parallel structures in Arabic.

2. The comparison of the meanings implied in the English genitive construct and the Arabic construct phrase reveals striking similarities of semantic relationships. A study of the syntactic relationships underlying the Arabic construct phrase, moreover, may give similar results. These similarities indicate that the teacher of one of the languages to the native speakers of the other may not have to emphasize the meanings implied in the construct as much as the form of the construct which

shows remarkable differences from one language to the other.

Finally, our conclusions about the meanings implied in the English genitive construct and the Arabic construct phrase may be very well taken to support the tendency of transformational grammarians to seek some universals among the languages of the world.

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