Negation in English and Arabic: A Grammatical Contrastive Study

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Abstract

The present study sets out to investigate the phenomenon of negation in both English and Arabic languages. The problem of the study lies in that English and Arabic differ in the way they negate clauses and sentences. Further, they use various devices to achieve negation. The study aims at examining negation types in both English and Arabic languages. Secondly, looking at the negation of clause elements in both languages. Thirdly, bringing devices employed for expressing negation in each language to light. Fourthly, disclosing types of negation in both languages. Finally, observing the use of negative correlatives in each language. To achieve these aims, the study puts forward the hypothesis that there is a difference between the two languages concerning negation. As for the analysis of the data, the study has adapted Quirk et al. (1973). The study concludes that the two languages show some similarities and a lot of differences in the way they negate sentences.

Key words: Negation, Scope of Negation, Focus of Negation, Partial Negation, Double Negation.

النفي في اللغتين الإنجليزية والعربية: دراسة قواعدية مقارنة

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المستخلص

تستقصي الدراسة الحالية ظاهرة النفي في اللغتين الإنجليزية والعربية. إذ تكمن مشكلة الدراسة في أن الإنجليزية والعربية تختلفان في الطريقة التي تستعملان فيها نفي الجمل. فضلًا عن ذلك، فإنهما تستعملان وسائل مختلفة لتحقيق النفي. تستهدف الدراسة تقصي أنواع النفي باللغتين الإنجليزية والعربية. ثانيًا، النظر في نفي عناصر الجملة في كلتا اللغتين. ثالثًا: إبراز الوسائل المستخدمة للتعبير عن النفي في كل لغة. رابعًا، الكشف عن أنواع النفي في اللغتين. أخيرًا، تبيين النفي المترابط في كل لغة. ولتحقيق هذه الأهداف، تفترض الدراسة وجود اختلاف بين اللغتين في النفي. فيما يخص تحليل البيانات، تبنت الدراسة نموذج كويرك وأخرون (١٩٧٣). وقد تبين أن اللغتين تظهران بعض أوجه التشابه والكثير من الاختلافات في طريقة نفي الجمل.

1. The Concept of Negation

Alshargabi et al. (2022: 1149) have defined negation as a quite thought-provoking topic that has been intensively discussed and studied by linguists, specialists and researchers, probably due to its various uses, applications and most significantly its different syntactic representations. On her part, Muslah (2020: 110) says that negation is a complicated phenomenon, as it presents more stylistic and rhetorical effects than a positive scene might do in similar situations. The capacity to negate is the capacity to refuse, to contradict, to lie, to speak ironically, to distinguish truth from falsity. In the same vein, one of the few linguistic phenomena which seems to be universal in a very straightforward sense is negation. All human languages have means to explicitly refuse the truth of a proposition. However, languages differ in the ways they express negation.

In English, negation is radically different from that in many other languages, that is, the negation of a simple sentence is realized by inserting the particle (not) or its contracted form (n't) between the operator and the predication. Another unusual characteristic of English negation is that every element in the English sentence can be negated and negation can be presented by using only one explicit negative item per/sentence. In other words, the multiple negators are grammatically unaccepted in English (Mahjooba, 2005: 1-2). Regarding negation in Arabic, it is essentially achieved by specific particles placed before the negated item. These particles usually designate both time and negation. This means that in addition to the use of particles to negate the sentence, they certainly have other semantic implications (Aziz, 1989: 239).

2. Data Collection

Regarding English data, the current study depends heavily on Quirk et al. (1973), Greenbaum and Quirk (1990) and Aziz's (1989) examples with some modifications. As far as Arabic data are concerned, most of them have been collected from the Holy Qur'an, otherwise, they are Wright (1971) and Aziz's (1989). The reason behind relying on the Holy Qur'an is that its language is an unparalleled sort of discourse in Arabic. It, indeed, differs from everyday discourse and from standard Arabic in its highly dynamic fusion of the form and content (Himood and Ahmed, 2021: 548). It is worth-mentioning that sometimes other references, in addition to the five abovementioned resources, may be used and in doing so they will be documented.

3. Methodology

The present study is an attempt to throw light on the differences and similarities in a specific grammatical area, i.e. negation in both English and Arabic languages. Hence, a suitable model should be applied to achieve this purpose. On his part, James (1980: 36) says that a structural model can be used for contrastive purposes. He adds that such a model enables linguists, researchers and others to measure the dissimilarities and similarities in the grammatical structure and to establish the maximum differences or similarities between languages (Ibid.). Accordingly, Quirk et al.'s (1973) model will be utilized in this study. Quirk et al. (1973: 183) have argued negation from different points of view, namely, negation by particles, contraction, non-

assertive forms, partial negation, other kinds of negation, correlatives in negation, intensification of negation, scope of negation, focus of negation, negation of modal auxiliaries, negation of non-finite verbs and lastly double negation. These points will be illustrated in figure (1) bellow:
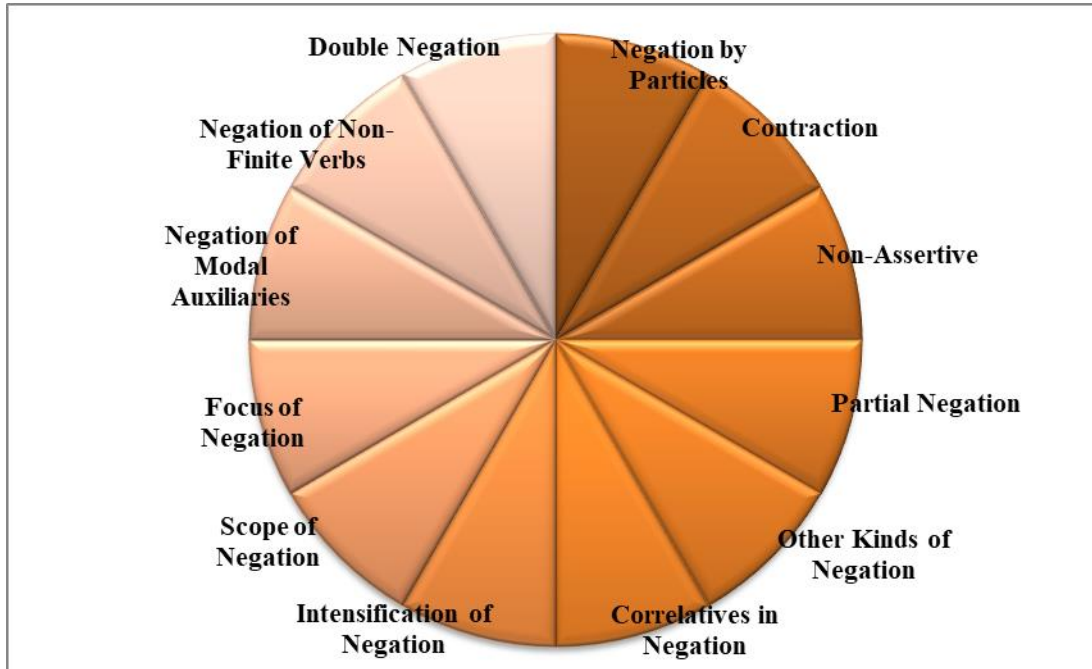

Figure (1) Quirk et al.'s (1973) Model of Negation

2. Negation in English

This section is devoted to discussing negation in English according to the adapted model.

2.1 Negation by Particles

The negation of English sentences is accomplished by using (not) immediately after the operator. The rule may be written as: (operator + not) (Aziz, 1989: 233). See the examples below:

1. The boy is sleeping → The boy is not sleeping.
2. Emma has been cleaning the dishes. → Emma has not been cleaning the dishes.
3. She may have finished the work. → She may not have finished the work.

In the same context, the lexical verb *'be'* functions as operator.

4. Your friend is clever. → Your friend is not clever.
5. Ava was a nurse. → Ava was not a nurse.

Further, *'have'* as a lexical verb functions in two different ways in British English:

a- As an operator when it means possession (Aziz, 1989: 233).

6. I have many friends. → I have not many friends.
7. They have enough money to buy the house. → They have not enough money to buy the house.

b- As an ordinary lexical verb (not operator), e.g., eating, drinking, experiencing, etc. (Ibid.). For instance:

8. We had our breakfast at 7 o'clock. (ate) → We did not have our breakfast at 7 o'clock.
9. The children had to stay at home. (were obliged) → The children did not have to stay at home.
10. I had a letter from him last week. (received) → I did not have a letter from him last week.

In American English *'have'* is always lexical. Thus the negation of (6) and (7) in (a) is:

11. I do not have many friends.
12. They do not have enough money to buy the house.

In the previous examples (6 - 12), there is a word in the positive sentences that can serve as operator. When there is not such a word, the auxiliary (do) is used and it, like modal auxiliaries, is followed by the bare infinitive (Quirk et al., 1973: 184). The following instances illustrate the process:

13. She sees me every week. → She does not see me every week.
14. They understood the problem. → They did not understand the problem.

3.1 Contraction

Contraction is a process by which two words can be reduced to constitute one word. In colloquial English, the forms of contracted negation are used, either the operator or the particle *'not'* is abbreviated. The particle *'not'* can be abbreviated to *'n't'* and attached to the preceding operator to form the contracted negative form (Cobuild, 1990: 209). For example:

15. I have not finished my study. → I haven't finished my study.
16. That is not true. → That isn't true.
17. It has not been a normal week. → It hasn't been a normal week.
18. They'd not even washed their hands. → They hadn't even washed their hands.

In example (18), the contraction ('d) is ambiguous, representing either **_had_** or **_would_** or sometimes **_did_**.

However, the intended meaning of these contractions can be clearly understood in the context (Biber et al., 2002: 241).

3.2 Non-Assertive Forms

Quirk et al. (1973: 184) state that there are numerous items that do not naturally occur outside negative, interrogative and conditional clauses. Some items are used only in non-assertive sentences as *any, anything, anybody, yet, either, anymore,* etc. For example:

19. We have seen some soldiers. → We have not seen *any* soldiers.
20. My brother has already finished. → My brother has not finished *yet*.
21. Her sister is a nurse, too. → Her sister is not a nurse, *either*.
22. The patient is somewhat better. → The patient is not *any* better.
23. They are still in the shop. → They are not in the shop *any more* (*any longer*).

In the same vein, more than one non-assertive word can be used in a sentence.

24. I have not seen **anyone yet**.

25. I have never traveled **anywhere** by air **yet**.

Table (1) below will be drawn to demonstrate the assertive and non-assertive words.

Table (1) Assertive and non-assertive items

Assertive	Non-assertive
Some	Any
Something	Anything
Someone (somebody)	Any one (anybody)
Somewhere	Anywhere
Already	Yet
Still	Any more, any longer
To some extent	At all
Somewhat	Any
As well, too	either

3.3 Partial Negation

There are several items which convey partial negative meaning; they may be contrasted with full negation realized by means of *'not'*, These are: *seldom, rarely, scarcely, hardly, barely, little* and *few* (Aziz, 1989: 236). See the following sentences:

26. He seldom comes here. (partial) → In fact, he does not come here at all. (full)

27. He can barely stand on his feet. (partial) → He cannot stand on his feet. (full)

28. There is little milk in that bottle. (partial) → There is not any milk in that bottle. (full) or there is no milk in that bottle.

29. They have few friends in this town. (partial) → They have not any friends in this town. (full)

The assertive (positive) forms of *'few'* and *'little'* are *'a few'* and *'a little'* which usually mean *'some'* (Ibid.).

30. There is a little milk in that bottle. (There is some.)

31. They have a few friends in this town. (They have some)

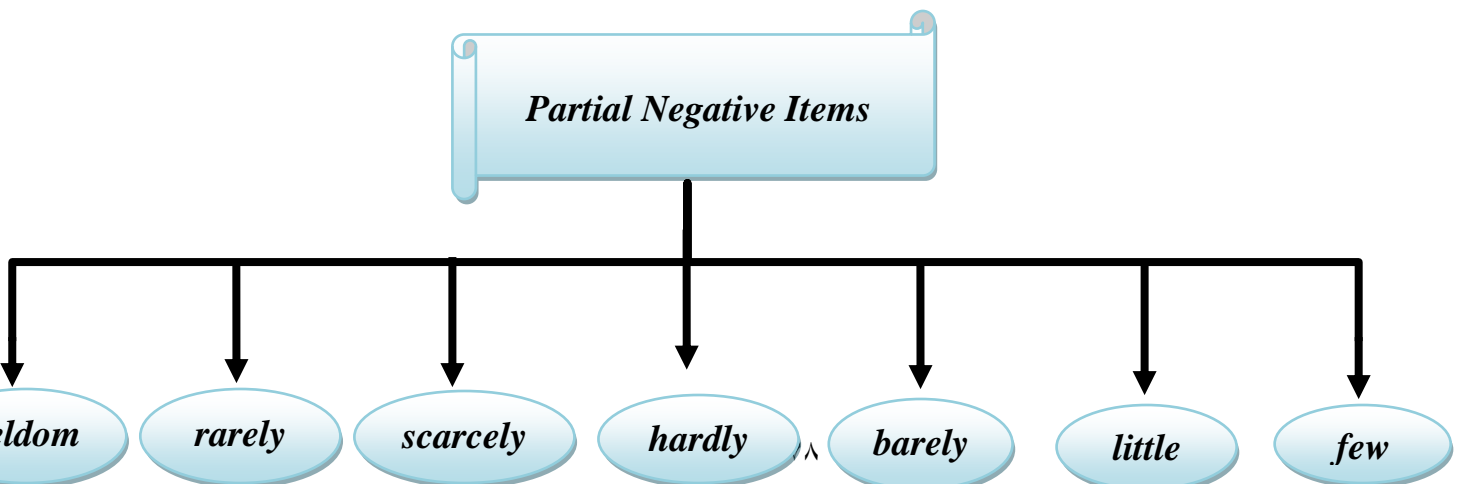Figure (2) bellow portrays the items utilized in partial negative sentences.

Figure (2): Partial Negative Items

3.4 Other Kinds of Negation

Besides verb negation, there are other ways through which negation is introduced into a clause. They are: the negative subject, the negative object, the negative complement and the negative adverbial (Mahjooba, 2005: 18). Below are examples which illustrate these kinds of negation:

32. ***No one*** came to the meeting. (negating the subject)

33. ***Nothing*** will happen. (negating the subject)

34. We speak to ***no one*** about it. (negating the object)

35. She has done ***nothing***. (negating the object)

36. He was ***nowhere*** to be seen. (negating the adverbial)

All these sentences are negative in meaning but affirmative in form. It should be noted that the adverb 'never' is also used to convey full negation. This adverb is regarded by some grammarians as non-assertive equivalent of 'sometimes' (Aziz, 1989: 235).

37. We go there sometimes. → We never go there.

3.5 Correlatives in Negation

A correlative pair ***'neither - - - nor'*** is normally used to negate more than one clause conjoined by the conjunction **'and'**. ***'Neither'*** introduces the first alternative of the pair, while ***'nor'*** introduces the second one (Najim, 1993: 41). For instance:

38. Alice reads a novel and listens to the radio.

   Alice does not read a novel and does not listen to the radio.

   Alice neither reads a novel nor listens to the radio.

39. Adam neither praised the show nor criticized it.

In the same context, 'neither' and 'nor' may be used in negative sentences without being correlatives (Ibid.). See the following:

40. John did not attend the conference, nor did Peter.

41. Peter does not speak French, neither does his brother.

3.6 Intensification of Negation

There are various ways of expressing a strong form of negation, some of them will be mentioned below (Aziz, 1989: 236).

a- By stressing the negative element (or the operator). In this case the element is not abbreviated.

42. He did **'not** say this.

b- By using certain words such as: a bit, at all, by any means.

43. I do not like it **a bit**.

44. We have not seen him **at all**.

c- By repeating **'never'** or by using it with other emphatic words.

45. He will **never never** see me again.

46. I have **never in all my live** seen such a sad sight.

3.7 Scope of Negation

Mahjooba (2005: 31) states that the scope of negation can simply be defined as the semantic influence of the negative item over the rest of the clause that follows it. It usually begins with the negative item and extends to the end of the clause, and it may or may not include the end placed adverbial. The scope of negation is achieved by means of stress and intonation. Below are some instances:

47. I did not see him.

48. I did not see him yesterday.

49. I did not see him yesterday.

The subject and any other item preceding the negative word usually fall outside the scope of negation. Thus, sentence (48) is equal to: *(yesterday, I did not see him)*. On the other hand, sentence (49) means: (*I did not see him yesterday but some other day*).

Within the scope of negation non-assertive words are normally used. Example (50) may be contrasted with example (51):

50. She did not meet any of the guests.

51. She did not meet some of the guests.

The scope of negation may include or exclude the subordinate clause, as in the following:

52. He did not go to the meeting because it was raining.

53. He did not go to the meeting because it was raining.

Sentence (52) means[1] *'It was raining, so he did not go to the meeting'*, whereas, sentence (53) implies the meaning that: *'He didn't go to the meeting not because it was raining but for other reasons'*.

3.8 Focus of Negation

Besides the scope of negation, the focus of negation needs to be identified. In the examples discussed so far the focus of negation is considered neutral or unmarked. The focus of negation is realized by a strong contrastive stress. The item bearing such a stress is negated, the rest of the sentence is implicitly understood as having a positive sense. In the following sentence any of the four elements (the subject, the lexical verb, the object or the adverbial) may bear the heavy contrastive stress and would therefore be considered the focus of negation (Greenbaum and Quirk, 1990: 188). See the instances below:

54. **'Harry** did not write the letter yesterday. (*somebody else did*).

   Harry did not **'write** the letter yesterday. *(He posted it.)*

   Harry did not write the **'letter** yesterday. (*He wrote something else)*.

   Harry did not write the letter **'yesterday**. (*He wrote it some other day)*.

   It is noteworthy that the focus of negation falls within the scope of negation.

3.9 Negation of Modal Auxiliaries

The negation of the modal auxiliaries may either negate modality or the main verb depending on the various meaning of the modal verb (Qurik et al., 1973: 189).

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1) In such sentences, the speaker's intonation plays a vital role in determining the intended meaning.

3.9.1 Negation of Modality

In this sort of negation, the meaning of the modal auxiliary is involved within the scope of negation (Mahjooba, 2005: 39). See the following sentences:

May not (= not permitted)

55. They may not leave the room. (They are not permitted…)

Cannot (= is not able; is not possible; is not allowed)

56. She cannot speak French. (she is not able to …)

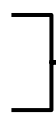57. This cannot be his handwriting. (It is not possible that…)

58. They cannot leave the country. (They are not allowed to…)

Need not (= is not necessary)

59. You need not pay the bill. (It is not necessary for you to…)

In this context, the form cannot (can't) is the negative form of either 'may' (possible) or 'must' (certain). See sentence (60/ a and b):

60/a- He may be at home.

(He cannot be at home).

 60/b- He must be at home.

3.9.2 Negation of the Main Verb

Here, the meaning of the modal auxiliary is eliminated from the scope of negation (Ibid.). See the sentences bellow:

May not (= It is possible… not)

61. The train may not arrive in time. (It is possible that the train will not arrive in time). Will not (won't), shall not (shan't) (in all the various meaning of these verbs).

62. The banks will not open today.

63. I shall not be there.

Must not (= obliged not to…)

64. You must not touch this button. (you are obliged not to…).

Ought not (= It is certain that…. not; it is necessary that ….. not)

65. She ought not to go there. (It is certain that she will not; it is necessary that she will not….).

3.10 Negation of Non-Finite Verbs

Non-finite verb phrases (not showing tense or mood but still capable of indicating aspect and voice) can simply be negated by using 'not' before the verb (Quirk et al., 1973: 17).

66. The chairman decided ***not*** to hold the meeting.

67. John kept silent ***not*** knowing what to say.

68. We are here to criticize the project ***not*** to praise it.

3.11 Double Negation in English

In old and middle eras, it was usual to use two or more than two negative items per-sentence for a specific purpose, namely emphasizing (Jespersen, 1917: 352). Moreover, Lamberts (1972: 345) explains that, sometimes, even six or seven negative items may be utilized per-sentence. See the following example:

69. "There haven't none of these days never do no harm to nobody nowhere" .

On the other hand, in modern English only one negative item is often used to give a clause negative meaning (Brown et al., 1958: 193). Contrarily, when two negative items are used for the same idea, for instance, 'not uncommon, not without, etc.' the result is always positive; because each of the two negative items works in opposite direction. Thus, they cancel each other[2].

4. Negation in Arabic

Like the English system, Arabic sentences are negated through their elements. Particularly, the two types of Arabic clauses verbal and nominal are negated through their elements (Najim, 1993:22). Negation in Arabic is mainly realized by certain particles placed before the negated item.

Wright (1971: Vol.II: 299) argues that the negative particles may, as in the Indo-European languages, deny any part of the sentence, the subject, the predicate, the object or the adverb, etc. The negative particle sometimes immediately precedes that part of the sentence which it denies, at other times is separated from it by some other part. For example:

70. لا يُكْرِمُ السَّخِيُ البخيلَ   (The generous man does not respect the niggardly).

71. ما هذا بَشَرًا   (This is not a human being).

4.1 Arabic Negative Particles

This section is dedicated to throwing light on the particles used in Arabic to carry negation. Such particles are:

٤.١.١ (لنْ ⟶ Lan) It is normally inserted before the imperfect subjunctive. It is also used to express negation in the future (al-Ghalayini, 2012: 335). For instance:

72. ﴿فإِنْ لَمْ تَفْعَلُوا وَلَنْ تَفْعَلُوا فَاتَّقُوا النَّارَ﴾   [البقرة:24]

"But if you do it not, and you can never do it, then fear the Fire (Hell)" (Hilali and Khan, 1996: 17).

73. ﴿لَنْ تَنَالُوا الْبِرَّ حَتَّى تُنفِقُوا مِمَّا تُحِبُّونَ﴾   [آل عمران:٩٢]

By no means shall you attain righteousness unless you spend of that which you love (Ibid.: 96).

74. لنْ يفهموا كَلاَمك (They will not understand what you say).

75. لنْ تصلَ الباخرةُ قبل الثالثة مساءاً (The ship will not arrive before 3 p.m.).

4.1.2 (لا ⟶ La) This particle is used with the indicative imperfect to express negation in the present or future relying on the context (Aziz, 1989: 239). For instance:

76. لا يدرسُ أحمدُ الدرسَ (Ahmed does not study the lesson).

77. لا يدرسُ أحمدُ الدرسَ حتى الساعة السادسة مساءاً (Ahmed does not study the lesson until 6 o'clock p.m.).

In (٧٦) "لا" expresses negation in the present , whereas in (٧٧) it refers to the future as indicated by the time-marker **'حتى'**. It should be taken into account that in either case "لا" conveys complete negation (Najim, 1993: 25).

78. "وَلَا تَجَسَّسُوا وَلَا يَغْتَب بَّعْضُكُم بَعْضاً* أَيُحِبُّ أَحَدُكُمْ أَن يَأْكُلَ لَحْمَ أَخِيهِ مَيْتاً"(الحُجُرات:١٢)

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2) In literary style, multiple negative words can be used instead of mere positive structures (Swan, 1995: 362). For example: " **Not a day passes when I don't regret not having studied music in my youth".**

"And spy not, neither backbite one another. Would one of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother?" (Hilali and Khan, 1996: 675).

In the same context "لا" is sometimes utilized with the perfect to indicate negation in the past, but this use is restricted to a pattern where " لا " is repeated twice (Aziz, 1989: 240). See the following example:

" فَلاَ صَدَّقَ وَلَا صَلَّى" (القيامة:٣١) . 79.

So, he 'the faithless' neither believed nor prayed!

4.1.3 (ما ——→Maa) The third particle is (ما = Maa). It is usually placed either before the perfect or the imperfect verbs, indicating negation at different times. (ما) before the perfect expresses negation in the past (not so far from the present).On the other hand, (ما) before the imperfect form conveys negation in the present (Najim, 1993: 26). Below are examples explaining these two ideas:

80. ما نشرمحمدٌ الروايةَ (Mohammad has not published the novel).
81. ما يكتبُ محمدٌ القصيدةَ (Mohammad is not writing the poem).

While "ما" in (80), negates the act of "publishing" in the past, that before the imperfect "يكتبُ" in (81) expresses negation in the present. Mention should be made of the fact that (ما) can also be used with nouns (Ibn Hisham, 1360: 230). For instance,﴿مَا هَٰذَا بَشَرًا﴾ [يوسف: ٣١] which means 'This is not a human being'; ﴿مَّا [المجادلة: ٢] هُنَّ أُمَّهَاتِهِمْ ﴾ which can be translated into 'They are not their mothers'.

4.1.4 (لَمْ ——→Lam) It is used with the jussive imperfect to express negation in the past with or without present relation. See the following:

82. ﴿ أَلَمْ تَعْلَمْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ﴾(البقرة:١٠٧)

"Know you not that it is Allah to Whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth?" (Hilali and khan, 1996: 32).

It is also utilized before the present verbs to express negation in the past with or without present relevance (Ibn Hisham, 1360: 148).

83. ﴿لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ﴾ [الإخلاص: ٣] "He begetteth not nor was begotten" (Pickthall, 1956: 696).
84. لم نقرا هذا القصيدة في الشهر الأول) We did not read this poem in the first month).

4.1.5 (لَمَّا ——→Lamma) Another negative particle is (لَمَّا) which is frequently used in formal style to mean 'not … yet'; it is placed before the jussive imperfect. In this case, negation is expressed in the past with present connection (Najim, 1993: 24). For example:

85. ﴿أَمْ حَسِبْتُمْ أَن تَدْخُلُواْ الْجَنَّةَ وَلَمَّا يَأْتِكُم مَّثَلُ الَّذِينَ خَلَوْاْ مِن قَبْلِكُم﴾ (البقرة:٢١٤)

"Or think you that you will enter Paradise without such (trials) as came to those who passed away before you?" (Ibid.: 56).

86. ﴿ بَل لَّمَّا يَذُوقُواْ عَذَابِ ﴾ (ص:٨)

But they have not got My anguish[3].

87. لمَّا تصلْ القافلةُ) The group of travellers has not arrived yet).

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3) The translations of the verses of the Holy Quran are documented, otherwise they are the researcher's.

4.1.6 (إِنْ ➝ In) This particle is utilized with a negative sense followed by (إِلَّا Illa). This use of (إِنْ) is rare in modern standard Arabic (Aziz, 1989: 240). For example:

88. ﴿ إِنِ الْحُكْمُ إِلَّا لِلَّهِ ﴾ (يوسف:٤٠).

The judgment is for no one except Allah.

89. ﴿ إِنِ الْكَافِرُونَ إِلَّا فِي غُرُورٍ﴾ (الملك:٢٠)

"The disbelievers are in nothing but delusion" (Hilali and Khan, 1996: 810).

90. ﴿إِنْ أَجْرِيَ إِلَّا عَلَى الَّذِي فَطَرَنِي ﴾ (هود:٥١)

"My reward is only from Him Who created me" (Ibid.: 323).

4.1.7 Negation is likewise accomplished by using the word (ليس Laisa), which usually negates nominal sentences; but is also found in verbal sentences (al-Ghalayini, 2012: 425).

91. ليس هذا القميص جديدًا (This shirt is not new).

92. ليس يهتم بالأدب العربي إلا محبوه (It is not interested in the Arabic art but its lovers).

4.2 Partial Negation in Arabic

Partial negation in Arabic is expressed by various means including certain nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs (Aziz, 1989: 244). For instance:

 a- (لا يكاد ➝ **barely, hardly.)**

93. ﴿ لَا يَكَادُونَ يَفْقَهُونَ حَدِيثًا ﴾ [النساء: ٧٨] (They barely understand a speech).

94. لا تكاد تعرف كلمتين من الإنجليزية (She hardly speaks two words of English).

 b- (يكاد ,قلما , يندر ➝ **seldom, rarely, hardly)**.

٩٥. قلما شاهدنا مثل هذا المنظر الحزين (We have seldom seen such a sorry sight.)

٩٦. يندر أن ترَ هذه الطيور في الشتاء (These birds are rarely seen in winter.)

٩٧. ﴿يكادُ البرقُ يخطفُ أبصارهم ﴾[البقرة: ٢٠] "The lightning almost snatches away their sight" (Hilali and Khan, 1996: 16)

 c- (قليل , ضئيل ➝ **little)**.

٩٨. ذلك الكتاب ذو فائدة ضئيلة (That book has little value .)

٩٩. المعرفة القليلة أمر خطر (Little knowledge is a dangerous thing.)

 Notice how 'little' is rendered into Arabic in (١٠٠)

100. She has little time to read poetry. (ليس لها متسع من الوقت لقراءة الشعر)

The nouns (قليل and ضئيل) may also be used to convey the sense of negative *'few'*.

101. ﴿ثُلَّةٌ مِّنَ الْأَوَّلِينَ وَقَلِيلٌ مِّنَ الْآخِرِينَ﴾[الواقعة: ١٣، ١٤] (A multitude of those will be from the first generations, whereas, a few of those will be from the later one) (Ibid.: 706).

102. الكتب القيمة في هذه المكتبة قليلة (There are few valuable books in this library.)

4.3 Correlatives in Negation

Two basic types of correlatives are employed to negate two (or more) clauses. The first type includes the patterns through which the first negative form is always repeated in the second (third , etc.) clause, normally preceded by the conjunction (و) (Najim, 1993: 42).

103. لمْ يقرأْ ولمْ يكتبْ (He did not read or write .)

104. لا يقرأُ ولا يكتبْ (He does not read or write .)

105. لنْ أبيعَ بيتي ولنْ أشتريَ بيتاً غيره (I will neither sell my house nor will I buy another .)

106. ‫ما ذهبتُ وما رأيتُ المعرضَ‬   (I did not go and never see the show .)

In the previous examples, the underlined correlatives normally conjoin clauses of independent verbs, i.e. independent ideas are expressed. However, the second type includes patterns through which the negative form (‫لا‬) preceded by (‫و‬) is always used in the second clause instead of repeating the negative form of the first clause. They include, for instances:

(‫ولا ......‬) ,(‫ما......ولا‬) or (‫لمْ......ولنْ‬) (Najim, 1993: 43). See the following sentences:

107. ‫ما أحب سلمى ولا أصدقائها‬   (I do not like Salma or her friends).

108. ‫لمْ يذهب إلى المدرسة ولا إلى البيت‬   (He neither went to school nor did he go home).

109. ‫﴿ لَّن تُغْنِيَ عَنْهُمْ أَمْوَالُهُمْ وَلَا أَوْلَادُهُم مِّن اللَّهِ شَيْئاً ﴾ (المجادلة:١٧)‬

Their kids and riches will benefit them nonentity against Allah.

4.4 Other Kinds of Negation

Aziz (1989: 241) argues that the particle (‫لا‬) is used to negate a generic subject in the indefinite form. It governs the subject in the negative. The particle is termed " ‫لا النافية‬ ‫للجنس‬". For example:

110. ‫لا احد في الدار‬   (there is no one in the house).

111. ‫لا رجل في الحديقة‬   (there is no man in the garden).

112. ‫لا كتاب خير من هذا‬   (there is no book better than this).

In the same vein, there is no generic (absolute) negation of the object in Arabic. The English sentence : ' I saw nobody / no one' has no equivalent and is usually rendered as: ‫'لم أر أحداً‬   (I did not see anyone). Further, the particle (‫لا‬) may negate other parts of the sentence, namely the object as in (113), the predicate as in (114) or the circumstantial adverb as in (105) (Ibid.: 242). See the following:

113. ‫اشتريت رواية لا مسرحية‬   (I bought a novel not a play).

114. ‫كان ماء الينبوع لا حاراً ولا بارداً‬   (the water of the spring was neither hot nor cold).

115. ‫بدا احمد لا حزيناً ولا فرحاً‬   (Ahmed seemed neither sad nor happy).

4.5 Intensification of Negation

Najim (1993: 38) states that a strong form of negation can be conveyed by Arabic clauses in four basic ways:

a) Intensification by the accusatives such as (‫مطلقاً , البتة‬ , etc.). See the following:

116. ‫لا أقول ذلك البتة‬   (I do not say that at all).

117. ‫لا أكلمهُ مطلقاً‬   (I don't speak to him whatsoever).

b) Intensification by the use of (‫"لا " النافية للجنس‬) which is usually used to negate and simultaneously intensify negation in that it denies the kind of things. For instance:

118. ‫لا ضُرَ في ذلكَ‬   (There is no harm in that).

119. ‫لا غرابةَ في ذلكَ‬   (There is nothing strange in that).

In the above examples, The negative particle (‫لا‬) denies the existence of any kind of either "harm" in (118) or " strangeness " as in (119).

c) On certain conditions, the negated ideas, which have already been showed by the basic negative form, can be intensified by means of so called "additional letters". Some of which will be explained below:

(لا): When it is preceded by the copulative (و), which is, in turn, preceded by a negative clause. For example:

120. لم يشاهد ماجد ولا زيد الفيلم (Neither Majid nor Zaid watched the film).

(ليس) 'the preposition Ba'): When it is inserted before the predicate of (حرف الجر الباء). For example:

121. ليس أحمدُ بشاعرٍ (Ahmed is not a poet-like). Many examples of this (باء → Ba) can be found in the Holy Quran, for example:

122. ﴿أليس الله بكافٍ عبده﴾ [الزمر: ٣٦] which means "Is not Allah sufficient for His slave" (Hilali and Khan, 1996: 605).

d) Lastly, negation can be intensified by certain adverbials which are not likely to be used in clauses without negative forms. They include: ('قط ' and 'أبدًا'). The first one (قط) differs from the second (أبدًا) in that it is only utilized to indicate past, whereas (أبداً) designates futurity (Najim, 1993: 40). See the following two sentences:

123. لم أكلمهُ قط (I never spoke to him).

124. لن أكتب لهُ أبداً (I will not write to him).

4.6 Scope of Negation

Similar to English, the scope of negation in Arabic is recognized by means of stress and intonation. It starts with the negative particle and extends to the end of the clause. Any adverbial element occurring in the end position may or may not be involved within the scope of negation (Aziz, 1989: 243).

125. لم أرَ أحداً من الضيوف (I have not seen any of the guests).

126. لم أرَ بعضًا من الضيوف (I have not seen some of the guests).

4.7 Focus of Negation

Another point to be highlighted here is the 'focus of negation'. The focus of negation is often marked by a heavy contrastive stress, but dissimilar to English, Arabic focus of negation may affect the order of elements in the sentence. It is therefore accomplished not only through stress and intonation but by means of syntactic changes as well (Ibid.). Examples (127) and (128) illustrate this.

127. لم اكتب الرسالة (I did not write the letter).

If the subject of this sentence is the focus of the negation, it is realized as a separate pronoun.

128. أنا لم اكتب الرسالة (I did not write the letter).

Or the subject alone may be negated by using the negative particle before it as in (129) below.

129. ما أنا كتبت الرسالة (I did not write the letter).

Undoubtedly, (ما) may also negate the verb. For instance:

130. أنا ما كتبت الرسالة (It is I who did not write the letter).

In all aforementioned sentences the implication is somebody else who wrote the letter. The focused subject is normally placed before the verb and functions as theme.

The distinction between (131) and (132) is realized by means of the nuclear (focal) stress. When the stress is on the negative particle, the process is negated.

131. لمْ يمدح الناقدُ المسرحيةَ (The critic did 'not praise the play).

If the contrastive stress is placed on the lexical verb, the verb becomes the focus of negation and its lexical sense is negated.

132. لمْ يمدح الناقدُ المسرحية (The critic did not 'praise the play, but criticized it).

In this regard, other elements of the sentence may be placed in the initial position when carrying the focus of negation.

134. ليس لهذا خُلقتَ (you were not born for this).

135. لستُ هذا اقصد (I do not mean this).

In the following example, the definite object is placed in the initial position as theme.

136. القصيدةَ لم أقرأها (The poem I did not read).

4.8 Double Negation in Arabic

Alshargabi et al. (2022: 1154) highlight that the idea of double negation in Arabic is "rarely introduced or discussed in grammar books" Like English, more than one negative item can be used in one sentence(as-Samara'i, 2000: 229). For example:

137. ما **ما** محمد نائم (It is not that Mohammad is not asleep). This sentence is an answer to a question like: (ما محمد نائم؟) (Is not Mohammad asleep?).

Moreover, this phenomenon is sometimes employed for particular purposes as: warning, praising, etc.

138. **لا لا** للمخدرات (No no for drugs). Here, the second negative word 'لا' is used to warn people against being addicted to drugs.

139. **لم ولن** نرَ مثل هذا المعلم (We have not and will not see such a teacher) or it can be translated as (Such a teacher will never be found like him). Here, the particle 'لن' is employed for a specific function, viz. for praising.

5. Comparison of Negation in English and Arabic

A) Negation in English is mainly carried by the operator and the adverbial particle 'not ', in Arabic , it is carried by the negative particle.

B) English makes frequent use of certain non-assertive forms including 'any'

140. I did not see any stranger.

On the other hand, Arabic customarily expresses this sense by using an indefinite noun.

141. لم أرَ غريباً (I did not see a stranger).

The sense in (141) is sometimes rendered by means of (أي → Ay) in modern Standard Arabic.

142. لم أرَ أيَّ غريب (I did not see any stranger).

The meaning of the Arabic sentence is expressed more emphatically by using the preposition (من)

143. لم أرَ من غريب (I did not see any stranger).

144. ﴿ وَمَا مَسَّنَا مِن لُغُوبٍ ﴾[ق:٣٨] "and nothing of fatigue touched Us" (Hilali and Khan, 1996: 680).

C) The Arabic particles express time as well as negation, e.g. لن (future) , لا (present or future) , لم (past). On the contrary, time reference, in English, is the function of the operator, often rendered more explicit by means of adverbials.

D) Partial negation in English is conveyed by certain words such as: *seldom, rarely, scarcely* ….etc. Similarly, partial negation is expressed , in Arabic, by various means including certain nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs as: ضئيل ,قليل ,يكاد , يندر , قلما,لا يكاد .

E) The scope and focus of negation is realized in both languages by means of stress and intonation. Though in Arabic it might also involve syntactic changes.

F) As far as double negation is concerned, both languages use double negation but English is more flexible than Arabic. In English, the study has observed seven negative words used per sentence, whereas in Arabic, only two negative words have been discovered.

6. Conclusion

After reviewing and comparing **'negation'** in English and Arabic, the study comes up with the following conclusions:

1- There are some areas which are common to both languages, and some others are restricted to one language rather than the other.

2- The two languages are extremely different in the form of **'negation'**. In English, the negative form is (operator + not), whereas, in Arabic, it is (particles), like ('لن , 'لم' --- --- etc.).

3- As far as partial negation is concerned, the two languages are similar in using special items. In English, the items are adverbs like (**seldom, rarely ,-------etc.**), while, in Arabic, they are (nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs like: لا يكاد , قلما، قليل **,-------etc.**).

4- Concerning the focus of negation, both languages are similar in using contrastive stress to mark the focus of negation, but in Arabic, the focus of negation may affect the order of sentence elements which could not be found in English.

5- Finally, this study has approved the claim of James (1980: 36) who says that a structural model is urgently needed when one intends to conduct a contrastive study. Accordingly, Quirk et al.'s (1973) model is applicable in both languages. All the areas of negation have been observed in both languages, but contraction, non-assertive forms, negation of modal auxiliaries and negation of non-finite verbs have not been used in Arabic.

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