CHAPTER III
A. SIMPLE PHRASE STRUCTURE RULES IN ENGLISH

The basic sentence structure in English consists of the following constituents:

1. The Noun Phrase (NP).
2. The Auxiliary (Aux.), and
3. The Verb Phrase (VP)

1. The Noun Phrase (NP)

The simple PS rules (rewrite rules) of the NP are as follows:

\[
S \rightarrow NP + Aux + VP
\]

\[
NP \rightarrow \{ (Art.) N (S) \}
\]

\[
Spec. \quad Art \rightarrow \{ Unspec. \}
\]

\[
\emptyset
\]

\[
Prop \ N. \ No
\]

\[
N \rightarrow \{ Pers. \ Pro. \}
\]

\[
Fem. \quad N \rightarrow \{ Masc. \}
\]

\[
Neut.
\]
No ----> { } PL.

Spec. -----> { The, this, that, these, those, possessive nouns and possessive pronouns, numbers}

Unspec. -----> {a/an, some, many, several, much etc.}

N -----> {man, boy, horse etc.}

N. prop. -----> {Marry, Mrs Smith, Mr Brown etc}

Pers. Pro. -----> {I, you, he, she, it etc.}

Examples are as follows:

(1) The girls

```
NP
  /   \
Art. N No
  /  \
Spec. The girl PL
    / \
   girls
```
(2) An apple

(3) The children
(4) Several women

(5) His uncle
(6) Some boys

2. The Auxiliary (Aux.)

Aux \[\rightarrow\] \{ T(M) (have-en) (be-en) (be-ing) \}

T \[\rightarrow\] \{ \}

M \[\rightarrow\] \{can, may, must, will, shall\}

Perf. \[\rightarrow\] \{have-en, be-en\}
     (past perf.) (pres.perf.)

Prog. \[\rightarrow\] \{be-ing\}

Examples are as follows:
(1) Ahmed sings

S

NP Aux VP

N.Prop. No T MV

Pres.

Ahmed Sing. -S Sing

(2) The girls smiled

S

NP Aux VP

Art. N No T MV

Sepc. Fem. PL

The girl -S past smile
(3) I may go

S

NP

Aux

VP

N

No

Pers. Pro.

I

Sing.

Pres.

May

go

-s

(4) She has gone

S

NP

Aux

VP

N

No

Pers. Pro.

She

Sing.

Pres have en

MV

-go

-S+have

-en+go
(5) They had left

(6) The singer is singing
(7) The work is done

(8) The lion was killed
(9) Ali was sleeping

(10) Salma has been dancing
3. The verb phrase (VP)

VP $\longrightarrow$ \{MV (NP) (NP) \}  
S

VP $\longrightarrow$ \{MV Comp. \}

MV $\longrightarrow$ \{ 
V preposition 

Comp. $\longrightarrow$ \{ NP (Adj.) \}  
NP (Adv.) 
NP (Prep.)

Adv. $\longrightarrow$ \{ Adv. of time  
Adv. of position  
Adv. of direction  
Adv. of manner 

P.P. $\longrightarrow$ \{ Prep. NP \}

Examples are as follows:
(1) Hasan leaves in the morning
(2) They went to Bombay

They PL. Past V NP (adv.of position)

to Bombay
(3) The baby cried madly.
(4) The girl ate the apple
(5) Salim is sad

```
S
  /  
NP  Aux  VP
  /    /    /
N  No  T  MV  NP
     /    /    /
   N.prop. Salim Sing. Pres. V N
      /    /    /    /
   -s  be  Adj. -s + be sad
```
(6) The train pulled into the station
(7) He is working in Delhi
(8) Ahmed had been living in India.
B. SIMPLE PHRASE STRUCTURE RULES IN ARABIC

The basic sentence structure in Arabic consists of three major constituents which are as follows: 20
1. Predicate of the sentence 'musnad (M)'.
2. Subject of topic 'Musnad ilayhi (MI)'.
3. Adjunct or all constituents which are neither (M) nor (MI). 'Fazlah' (F). The relation which holds among these structural constituents is called "?isna:d' (IS) i.e. 'configurational predication'.

"Arab grammarians distinguished two types of sentential structures: The first is called '?al-kala:m (K) i.e. 'independent sentence', the second is called '?aljumlah' (j) i.e. 'the pronouncable form of the language' which may or may not be a sentence. Thus every (K) must be a (j), because it consists of a complete syntactic and semantic form regardless of whether that structure is simple or complex. On the other hand, not every (j) would be (K) because (j) might or might not have complete syntactic and semantic form i.e. 'sentence'." 21

Arab grammarians, such as Ibin Hisha:m, analyzed the structures of (K) from a different perspective. They analyzed it according to (1) the nature of its initial constituents i.e. nominal or verbal, (2) its nature as
large or small, and (3) the nature of the functional role it plays i.e. the functional role of sentence or the declensional role of word.

The concept of (M), (MI), and (F) were the cornerstone of the basic sentence structure in the Arabic theory.

Arab grammarians considered the (MI) 'subject' to be a part of the (M) 'predicate' i.e. verb. The verb and its subject are dominated by (IS) 'predication'. The (IS) 'predication', however, is dominated by (K) 'sentence', only when the predication produces an independent meaningful sentence. The (MI) 'subject' might be overt or it might be covert. If the (MI) 'subject' is overt, it must be adjacent to the right of the verb. If it is covert, however, the (M) 'verb' must operate on resumptive pronoun which is either covert or overt. The structural relations of the sentence can be shown as follows:

(A)                          (B)  
  K                          K  
    \                        /  
     IS                      IS  
       / \                    / \  
      /   \                  /   \  
     M     MI (noun)          M     MI (covert, overt)
Examples,

/maːta zaydun/ 'Zaid is dead' (overt).

/ṣariba/ 'he drank' (covert). Here the verb operates on a resumptive pronoun referring to the 3rd person masculine singular /huwa/ 'he'.

Arabic language distinguishes two types of sentences which are as follows:

1. Nominal Sentence: Every sentence which begins with the subject is called by the Arab grammarians 'a nominal sentence', whether the following predicate be a noun, or preposition, and the word it governs (attaching and attached) or a verb, is a matter of indifferences, e.g.

/zaydun ḡaːmiscirun/ 'Zaid is a poet'
/zaydun fi-ṣ-ḥaqli/ 'Zaid is in the field'.

2. Verbal sentence: A sentence consisting of a verb which includes both subject and predicate is called by the Arab grammarians 'a verbal sentence' e.g.

/naːma zaydun/ 'Zaid slept'.
/qatala al-waladu ul-kalba/ 'The boy killed the dog'

P.S. Rules

The P.S. rules of Arabic basic sentences would be as follows:
K \rightarrow IS = /ʔisnaːd/ 'configurational predication'

IS \rightarrow \{ M \quad MI \quad F \} \\
\{ MI \quad M \quad F \}

M /musnad/ 'subject'
\{ VN = Verbal noun \} \\
\{ NP \} \\
\{ AP = Adjectival phrase \} \\
\{ PP = Prepositional phrase \} \\
\{ Adv.P = Adverbial phrase \}

M \rightarrow \{ S \} \\
\{ V \} \\
\{ VN \} \\
\{ NP \} \\
\{ AP \} \\
\{ PP \} \\
\{ Adv.P \}

F /Fazlah/ 'Adjunt'
\{ NP \} \\
\{ AP \} \\
\{ PP \} \\
\{ Adv.P \}

S \rightarrow \{ N (subj) \quad N (obj) \} \\
V \rightarrow \{ Vt + N + (N) \} \\
\{ Vi + N - N \} \\
V \rightarrow \{ Perf. \} \\
\{ Imper. \}

NP \rightarrow \{ Det.) + N + No \}

Det. \rightarrow \{ Def. /ʔal/ 'the' \} \\
\{ Indef. /-n/ 'nunation' \}

N \rightarrow \{ Masc. \} \\
\{ Fem. \}
Sing.
No -----> { Dual. }
    PL.
PL -----> { Sound PL. Masc. & fem.}
         Broken PL.

The order of the constituents of the basic nominal sentence would be as follows:

K -----> [ MI (NP) ... MI (NP) ... M(X) ]
K -----> [ MI (NP) ... M (V) ... (F)(X) ]
X = NP, Adp, PP, Advp.

The order of the constituents of the basic verbal sentence would be as follows:

K -----> M (V) ... MI (NP) ... F (NP) ..

The above mentioned rules are illustrated in the following examples:
Nominal Sentences

1. /alwaladu naši:tun/ 'The boy is active'.

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Nominal Sentences
1. /alwaladu naši:tun/ 'The boy is active'.
```
(2) /rajulun wasi:mun/ 'A smart man'.

```
(rajulun) / IS
    / MI
      / NP
        / N
          / Masc.
            / rajulun
              {nom.subj.}

(wasi:mun) / IS
    / M
      / No V
        / Pro. M
          / (huwa) NP
            / Sing.
              / yaku:nu
```
(3) /bintun gaçi:ratun/ "A little girl"
(4) /at-tiflu naːʔimun/ 'The child is sleeping'

* The /l/ of the definite article is assimilated to the following sun letter /t/
(5) /zaydun zaraba Ėamran/ 'Zaid beat Amr'

```
(5) /zaydun zaraba Ėamran/ 'Zaid beat Amr'

K ------ IS
       
       MI ------ M
       
       NP ------ IS
       
       N ------ No ------ M ------ M ------ F
       
       Masc. Sing. pro. NP
       
       zaydun zaraba Ėamran
       {nom.agent} {perf. {Acc.obj.} verb of 3rd.pers. masc.sing.}
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(6) /sufa:dun mari:zatun/ 'Suad is sick'

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{K} \\
\text{IS} \\
\text{MI} \\
\text{NP} \\
\text{N} \\
\text{Fem.} \\
\text{Su\text{f}a:dun} \\
\text{nom.subj.}
\end{array}
\quad
\begin{array}{c}
\text{No} \\
\text{Sing.} \\
\text{taku:nu} \\
\text{nom.subj.}
\end{array}
\quad
\begin{array}{c}
\text{V} \\
\text{Pro} \\
\text{mari:zatun} \\
\text{nom.pred.}
\end{array}
\quad
\begin{array}{c}
\text{M} \\
\text{IS}
\end{array}
\]

(7) /ar-rajulu yanayun/ 'The man is rich'

* The /l/ of the definite article is assimilated to the following sun letter /r/

** In the preceding nominal sentences the adjective is in full agreement with the noun it qualifies in number, case and gender.
Verbal sentences

(8) /katabat al-bintu ud-darsa/

'The girl wrote the lesson'

* The /l/ of the definite article is assimilated to the following sun letter /d/

* /t/ is a feminine suffix of the 3rd. person Sing.
(9) /Yahabtu ila-s-su:qi/ 'I went to the Market'

The agent is implied in the verb. The verb operates on a resumptive pronoun referring to the 1st person masc. Sing./?ana:/ 'I'.
(10) /qatala as-saya:du ul-?asada/

'The hunter killed the lion'
(11) /zaraba sa:limun zaydan/ 'Salim beat Zaid'

Diagram:

```
K
IS
M
V
NP
Det N No Det N No
Ø Masc Ø Masc Sing. Sing.
zaraba
{Perf. verb of the 3rd. pers. masc. Sing.}

sa:limun
{Nom. Agent}

zaydan
{Acc. obj.}
```
(12) /yašrabu ul-?atfa:lu ul-ḥali:ba/

'The children drink the milk

\[\text{yašrabu} \quad \text{ul-?atfa:lu} \quad \text{ul-ḥali:ba}\]

\[\text{Nom. Agent} \quad \text{Nom.} \quad \text{Acc. obj.}\]
(13) /jaː?a ?Ahmadun musriʔan/

'Ahmed came hurriedly'
(14) /na?kulu ul-lahma/  'We eat the meat'

* The 1st person masc. & fem. PL pronoun is implied in the verb. The verb operates on a resumptive pronoun referring to /nahnu/ 'we'.
(15) */qakal-um ut-tu:/a:ha/*

'You (masc. PL.) ate the apples'

* The verb operates on a resumptive pronoun referring to the 2nd person masc. PL. */qa-um/ 'you', which is implied in the verb and indicated by */-um/*.

** The */l/ of the definite article is assimilated to the initial sound */t/ '/at-tu:/a:ha/*
(16) /xadama al-Xa:dimu:na al-malikata/

'The servants (have) served the queen'
(17) /`a:lajat at-`tabi:batu u1-mar:i:za/

'The (female) doctor treated the patient'

* /-t/ is a fem. suffix of the 3rd person fem. sing. pro. connected with the perfect verb.
C. COMPARISON AND CONTRAST

Both the language, being genetically different from each other, exhibit a lot of differences at the grammatical level. By contrasting the structure of the two languages we realize that Arabic differs from English in many respects. The English basic sentence structure differs from that of English in the ordering of the constituents. The constituents order of English is 'SVO' while Arabic has a 'VSO' order.

English-Arabic (NP) Constituent

English distinguishes two kinds of articles: definite (specific) and indefinite (unspecific). Whereas Arabic has only one definite article /ʔal/ 'the'. The definite article when attached to a word used in isolation, the initial glottal stop will not be represented, and the remaining /ʔal-/ will be separated from the word it defines by a dash, e.g., /ʔal-waladu/ 'the boy' /ʔal-baytu/ 'the house'. This article when prefixed to a word beginning with one of the sun letters /t, θ, d, ṭ, ṡ, s, z, ž, t, d, l, n/, the /ʔ-/ of the article is assimilated to the sound it is annexed to. e.g. /ʔar-rajuʔu/ 'the man', /ʔas-, su:qu/ 'the market', /ʔas-samaʔu/ 'the sky'. This definite article is used for all cases, numbers and genders. There
is no indefinite article in Arabic, but the presence of the nunation /-n/ at the end of the noun indicates its indefiniteness, e.g., /waladun/ 'a boy', /ma:lun/ 'a money', /kalbun/ 'a dog', /kita:bun/ 'a book'. The definite noun or adjective loses its nunation when preceded by the definite article, e.g. /al-kita:bu/ 'The book', /al-wasi:mu/ 'The handsome' /aš-šamsu/ 'The sun', /al-faqi:ru/ 'The poor'.

Unlike English, Arabic Adjectives follow the nouns and are in full agreement with the nouns they qualify in number, case and gender.

English nouns show three gender distinction i.e. masculine, feminine and neuter. English gender as a grammatical device is defined solely in terms of the pronouns he, she and it. English does also have a common gender.

Arabic nouns, contrasting with English, are either masculine or feminine. There is no neuter gender in Arabic.

Again Arabic differs from English in the category of number. Arabic nouns adjectives and verbs have three numbers i.e. singular, dual and plural. The singular in
Arabic is unmarked. The dual is formed by the addition of /-a:ni/ in the nominative and /-ayni/ in the accusative and genitive, to the singular noun after the removal of case endings, e.g.,

/malikun/ 'A king'
/malika:ni/ 'Two king' (nom.)
/malikayni/ 'Two king' (acc. & gen.)

In addition to singular and dual, Arabic has two kinds of plural: sound plural of two types: masculine and feminine; and broken plural. Sound masculine plural of nouns and objectives is formed by the addition of the suffix /-u:na/ in the nominative case and /-i:na/ for other cases. e.g. /muza:ri^un/ 'a farmer', /muza:ri^u:na/ 'farmers' (nom.), /muza:ri^i:na/ (oblique). Sound feminine plural is formed by the change of the /-atun/ of the singular to /-a:tin/ in the nominative and /-a:tin/ in the oblique, e.g.,

/xa:dimatun/ 'a female servant'
/xa:dima:tun/ 'female servants' (nom.)
/xa:dima:tin/ 'female servants' (oblique)

The broken plural is made according to certain patterns. e.g.

/kita:bun/ 'a book'
Unlike Arabic, English has only two numbers i.e. singular and plural. The regular plural suffix is /-z/ which has three allomorphs /-s, -z, -iz/ which are phonologically conditioned.

**English-Arabic Auxiliaries**

English has two types of Auxiliaries i.e. primary and modal. Primary auxiliary is of the following forms:

- **Be**: is, am, are, was, were, being, been
- **Have**: have, has, having, had
- **Do**: do, does, did, doing.

**Modal Auxiliary forms**: can-could, will-would, shall-should, must, ought, used, need, dare, better, best etc.

Arabic, on the contrary, has only one auxiliary verb /ka:na/ 'he was'. The English capula 'am, is, are' is not expressed in Arabic. However, 'was' and 'were' are expressed by the perfect of the verb 'to be' e.g. /ka:na/ 'he was' which is conjugated as follows:

- /kuntu/ 'I was'
- /kunta/ 'you (masc. sing.) were'
- /kunti/ 'you (fem. sing.) were'
English has three tenses: present, past and future. Each of these tenses has four forms showing continuity or completeness of the action and of time. They are as follows: indefinite, continuous, or imperfect, perfect and perfect continuous. In fact English has no future tense in the sense of the word. It is merely expressed by prefixing of the model auxiliary to the indefinite verb.

Unlike English, Semitic languages are deficient in tense. Tenses do not have time significance as in Indo-European languages. Arabic verbs have three tenses which are as follows:

/ka:na/ 'he was'
/ka:nat/ 'she was'
/kunna:/ 'we were'
/kuntum/ 'you (PL. masc.) were'
/kuntunna/ 'you (fem.) were'
/kuntuma:/ 'you (masc. fem. dual) were'
/ka:nu:/ 'they (masc.) were'
/kunna/ 'they (fem.) were'
/ka:na:/ 'they (masc. dual) were'
/ka:nata:/ 'they (fem. dual) were'
(i) The perfect tense denoting a complete action (past) e.g. /kataba/ 'he wrote', or 'he has written'.

(ii) The imperfect tense (present or future) denoting incomplete action, e.g. /yaktubu/ 'he writes', 'he is writing', 'he will write'. The particle /sawfa/ 'will, shall' does express the future tense.

(iii) The imperative which is a modification of the imperfect. It denotes command to perform an action, e.g. /iśrab/ 'you drink', /?uktub/ 'you write'.

There is no verb in Arabic that plays the role of 'have' as an auxiliary or main verb. The present participle preceded by the auxiliary verb /ka:na/ plays the same role that the present participle plays in the formation of English continuous tenses. The imperfect form of /ka:na/ is generally represented by zero, e.g., /yalqabu/ 'he is playing'

/ka:na yalqabu/ 'he was playing'.

The agent in Arabic is always in the subjective case and properly placed after the verb, or a pronoun connected with the verb. In English the agent precedes the verb.

The comparison and contrast of English-Arabic phrase structure rules reveal the fact that both the languages employ a complete different set of rules for the generation
of the correct sentences. Rules along with complete sets of examples, displayed in tree-diagrams, have been given in detail in the third chapter under the heading of English-Arabic phrase structure rules.