

A Systemic Approach To The Study Of The Clause As Exchange In Imperative and Exclamative Clauses In English and Arabic

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الملخص

يهدف هذا البحث الى وصف وظيفة تبادل الادوار في الجمل الامرية والتعجبية في اللغتين الانكليزية والعربية. حيث تعتمد على نظرية الانظمة الوظيفية كما تناولها العالم اللغوي هاليداي (١٩٩٤). وتم القيام بمحاولة لدراسة وظيفة تبادل الادوار في نظام الصيغة. وتوصل الباحث الى نتيجة مفادها انه يمكن تطبيق منهج هاليداي الى حد ما على الجمل الامرية والتعجبية في اللغة العربية. ففي كل من اللغتين تظهر وظيفة تبادل الادوار في نظام الصيغة. كما تم تسليط الضوء على نقاط معينة في اوجه التشابه والاختلاف بين اللغتين.

Abstract

The aim of this paper is to describe the clause as exchange in English and Arabic imperative and exclamative clauses. The model adopted for this paper is Systemic Functional Grammar as presented in Halliday (1994). An attempt is made to study the interpersonal metafunction in the mood system. The paper draws a conclusion that the Hallidayan approach can be applied to some extent to Arabic imperatives and exclamatives. In both English and Arabic, the interpersonal metafunction is realized in the mood system. Certain points of similarity and difference are also highlighted.

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1. Introduction:

Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) is a grammatical model developed by M. A. K. Halliday in the early sixties. The model is systemic in the sense that it sees grammar as a non-arbitrary motivated network (system) of choices (Kress, 1976: 3). It is functional in the sense that it attempts to explicate the communicative implications (functions) of a selection with one of these systems. A system, then, is a list of choices, that is, a list of things between which is possible to choose (Berry, 1975: 143).

According to Systemic theory, a clause can be viewed as realizing several layers of meaning into a single linguistic constituent. The most important way to classify these layers is by referring to three metafunctions that language satisfies: ideational, interpersonal and textual (Halliday, 1978: 36; Bloor & Bloor, 2004: 10-11). Each of the three metafunctions is about different aspects of the world, and is concerned with a different mode of meaning of clauses (Muir, 1971: 91).

The ideational metafunction is about the natural world in the broadest sense, including our own consciousness and is concerned with clauses as representations. Meaning, here, is most clearly related to the transitivity systems. The interpersonal metafunction is about the social world especially the relationship between the speaker and the hearer, and is concerned with clauses as exchange. Mood, in this sense, is concerned with the speaker's roles (questioning, stating,

commanding), and is related to the mood system. The textual metafunction, however, is about the verbal world, especially the flow of information in a text, and is concerned with clauses as messages. Message, in this sense, is concerned with the distribution of information points and is clearly related to the theme system.

Each function of the clause belongs to one of these three metafunctions. Transitivity system belongs to ideational metafunction. Mood system belongs to interpersonal metafunction, and Theme system belongs to textual metafunction. In fact, this explains why each function can be independently studied of the other.

No attempt has been made to explain the clause as exchange in English and Arabic imperatives and exclamatives. This paper tries to study the clause as exchange in English and Arabic so that the points of similarity and difference can be shown.

2. English Clause as Exchange:

The interpersonal metafunction begins with defining basic speech roles: giving information, giving goods-and-services and demanding goods-and-services, respectively called statements, questions and commands (Halliday, 1994: 68).

The interpersonal meaning between the speaker and the hearer is expressed by choices between declarative, interrogative and imperative moods. The mood systems are choices between different roles which a speaker can select for himself and for his hearer (Berry,

1975: 166). Each mood type is basically associated with an illocutionary act: the declarative expresses a statement, the interrogative a question, the imperative a directive such as a command; and the exclamation an exclamation (Downing and Locke, 2002: 164-165).

The three main acts, however, are realized grammatically in the following way: the indicative is the grammatical category for the exchange of information, the imperative realizes a directive within the indicative, it is the declarative clause which expresses a statement and the interrogative a question.

Each clause chooses between indicative and imperative. Thus, the clause [She is happy] has chosen indicative, while [Close the window] has chosen imperative.

A clause which has chosen indicative makes a further choice between declarative and interrogative. So, [He comes early] has chosen declarative, and [Does he come?] has chosen interrogative (Berry, 1975:166; Matthiessen & Halliday, 1997: 2).

A clause which has chosen imperative makes a further choice between tagged [Open the 'door', will you?] [Close the door]. This can be shown below:

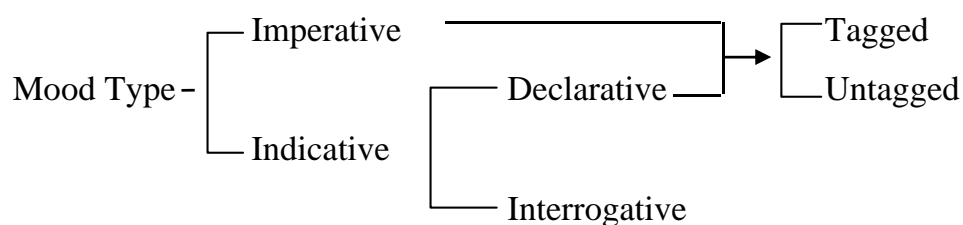


Fig. (1): Mood System
(after Matthiessen & Halliday, 1997: 3)

In the interpersonal metafunction, a clause is analyzed into Mood and Residue, with the mood element further analyzed into subject and finite (Halliday, 1994: 75). The subject, being a nominal group, constitutes what is necessary to form a proposition, something by reference to which a proposition can be affirmed or denied. The finite expresses tense, modality and as consequence, it can have temporal operators (past, present, future). Finiteness, then, is expressed by the simple present and past tense forms of the lexical forms. However, the residue consists of the predicator, the complement, and the adjunct of the clause.

It is worth noting, here, that the structure of the declarative, interrogative and imperative moods are shown by the presence or absence of subject and the order in which the subject and the finite occur in relation to each other. Examples of the structure of the declarative, interrogative and imperative clauses as exchanges are shown in the following figures:

Suha	has	finished	the job
Subject	Finite	Predicator	Complement
Mood		Residue	

Fig. (2): The structure of an declarative clause

Has	Suha	finished	the job
Finite	Subject	Predicator	Complement
Mood		Residue	

Fig. (3): The structure of a interrogative clause

Finish	your job
Predicator	Complement
Residue	

Fig. (4): The structure of an imperative clause

2.1 Clause as Exchange in English Imperatives:

2.1.1 Imperatives without a Subject:

In the unmarked form, the imperative clause has no subject simply because the most obvious recipient of a directive to carry out an action is the addressee, syntactically filled by the second person singular or plural (you). The imperative verb is the main verb in the base form (Quirk et al., 1998: 827; Downing and Locke, 2002: 194).

1. *Clean the room quickly.*

2. *Do your job.*

In the analysis, the unmarked positive has not Mood element, the verb form is the Predictor only, with no finite in it. This can be demonstrated below:

- Clean the room quickly.

Clean	the room	quickly
Predictor	Complement	Adjunct
Residue		

Do	your job
Predictor	Complement
Residue	

Fig. (5): Examples of imperative clauses as exchange with no mood elements

2.1.2 Imperative with a Subject:

The imperative clause explicitly implies that the omitted subject is the second person pronoun (you) which can be shown by the addition of a tag question (Quirk et al., 1998: 828).

3. *Open the door, will you?*

4. *Take the Parcel, will you?*

The stressed subject 'you' is used, however, to express strong irritation and to single out one person from a group of persons:

5. *'You be quiet.*

Also, the subject appears in negative directives:

6. *Don't you put your keys on the table.*

The imperative clause with a subject as exchange, however, has a mood element; this consists of Subject only 'you', finite only (do, don't), or finite followed by subject (don't you). Consider the following figures:

7. *You be reasonable.*

You	be	reasonable
Subject	Predicator	Complement
Mood	Residue	

Fig. (6): An imperative clause with the mood element with subject only

8. *Do write the paper.*

Do	write	the paper
Finite	Predicator	Complement
Mood	Residue	

Fig. (7): An imperative clause with the mood element with finite only

9. *Don't you forget this.*

Don't	you	forget	this
Finite	Subject	Predicator	Complement
Mood		Residue	

Fig. (8): An imperative clause with mood and residue

It should be noted, here, that every imperative clause can be followed by a mood tag, won't you? Will you? (Halliday, 1994: 88).

10. *Come early, will you?*

Come	early	will	you
Predicator	Adjunct	Finite	Subject
Residue		Mood	

11. *Do read loudly, won't you?*

Do	read	loudly	won't	You
Finite	Predictor	Adjunct	Finite	Subject
Residue			Mood	

Fig. (9): Imperative clauses with mood tags

2.1.3 Imperative with Let:

If the action is to be carried out by the speaker, or by the speaker and other participants, the imperatives can be formed by preposing the verb 'let' followed by a subject in the objective case (Quirk et al., 1985: 833).

12. *Let us have a walk.*

13. *Let me tell you the truth.*

As for the analysis of let's, it has the subject but no finite element (Halliday, 1994: 88), e.g.

Let's	have	a walk
Subject	Predicator	Complement
Mood	Residue	

Fig. (10): An imperative clause with let with no finite element

Similarly, this form can be followed by a mood tag. Consider:

14. *Let's go home, shall we?*

Let's	go	home	shall	We
Subject	Predicator	Adjunct	Finite	Subject
Mood	Residue		Mood tag	

Fig. (11): An imperative clause with let with a mood tag

2.2 Clause as Exchange in English Exclamatives:

Exclamatives express sudden and strong feelings such as surprise, wonder, pity or happiness (Biber et al., 2000: 219). These clauses resemble wh-questions in requiring the initial placement of an exclamatory wh-element (Eliot, 1974: 231; Quirk et al., 1985: 833; 1998: 833). However, there is no subject-operator inversion:

15. What a strange man he is!

16. How old he is!

The exclamative clauses have the wh-element, what or how. What conflates with a complement as in (Halliday, 1994: 84):

17. What beautiful she is!

What beautiful	She	is
Complement/Wh.	Subject	Finite
Residue	Mood	

Fig. (12): An exclamative clause with what

On the other hand, how conflates with an adjunct and we have subject preceding finite as in the figure below:

18. *How quickly he has run!*

How quickly	he	has	run
Adjunct/Wh	Subject	Finite	Predicator
Residue		Mood	

Fig. (13): An exclamative clause with how**3. Arabic Clause as Exchange:**

In Arabic, the interpersonal metafunction is realized by the system of mood. In an exchange, there are two producers, a speaker and a hearer. They each have a role, respectively: giving and demanding. The exchange can be of information or of goods and services. These four elements are the four speech functions: offer, statement, command and question. Thus, giving goods and services is an offer, demanding it a command, giving information is a statement, demanding it a question.

Each one of these speech functions provokes two answers: an offer can be completed with an acceptance or a rejection: A statement can encounter an acknowledgement or a contradiction. A command can be met with an undertaking or a refusal and a question with an answer or a disclaimer.

In Arabic, this interpersonal meaning is realized by the choice between declarative, interrogative and imperative clause types or

moods. The declarative clauses could either be nominal or verbal. The nominal clause has no verb while the verbal one has a verb. Thus, [ليلى طالبة] (Layla is a student) is a nominal clause, whereas [جاء محمد] (Mohammed came) is a verbal one. The interrogative clause may be either preceded by interrogative particles which could either be information questions such as كيف, من, or non-information questions such as (إ) or (هل). These basic clause types can be diagrammed as follows:

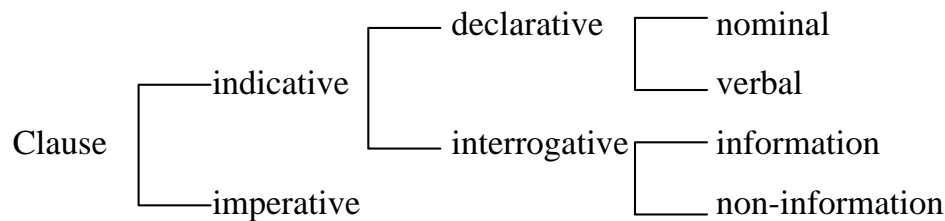


Fig. (14): The mood system in Arabic

As for the main elements in the clause as exchange, they are the Mood and Residue. The mood consists of the subject and the finite. The residue consists of the verb, the complement and the adjunct. The following examples show the different clause types in Arabic:

19. يرسمُ محمدُ اللوحةَ. (*Mohammed draws the picture.*) (declarative)

20. من رسمَ اللوحةَ؟ (*Who drew the picture?*) (interrogative)

21. ارسم اللوحةَ؟ (*Draw the picture.*) (imperative)

3.1 Clause as Exchange in Arabic Imperative Clauses:

In Arabic, the imperative clauses are used to give orders, commands and entreaties (Ibn Ya'eesh: 7/58; Al-Siyuti, 1324A.H.: 1/13). The imperative verb is in the second person and it is derived by omitting the prefix (ياء) of the imperfect form and replacing it by (i), if the second radicle has الضمة (dhumma), or الكسرة (kasra) or الفتحة (fatha). However, this prefix may not be used in verbs like قل (say), نظف (clean) (Aziz, 1989: 82):

22. **احضر حالاً** (*Attend at once!*)

23. **اذهب هناك** (*Go there!*)

Also, there is another form of the imperative verb* used after the particle ل (let) which is called (لام الأمر) (lam of command) and which is used in 3rd person and first person plural (Wright, 1971: 35; Al-Asterabathi, 1979: 2/252; Al-Ansari, 1/224; Al-Siyuti, 1327A.H.: 1/171; Al-Awsi, 1982: 146).

24. **لنكمل العمل** (*Let's complete the work.*)

25. **ليذهبوا بعيداً** (*Let them go far*)

* The imperative verbs have other forms like the nouns of the verb like (سماع) (Al-Samara'ee, 1986) which will not be considered here.

It should be noting, here, that in Arabic, there is the jussive mood with an imperative implication and specifically after the particle (لا) which is called (لا الناهية) (La of prohibition) (Aziz, 1989: 81):

26. لا تأكل سريعاً (Don't eat quickly)

If we want to apply the Hallidayan model to Arabic unmarked imperative clauses, we shall find that they have no mood element at all, the imperative structure consists of the residue only:

27. اكتب البحث بسرعة (Write the paper quickly!)

بسرعة	البحث	اكتب
Adjunct	Complement	Predicator
Residue		

Fig. (15): An Arabic unmarked imperative clause with no mood element

However, in the marked imperative clause with the subject, there is the mood element which consists of the subject only. Consider:

28. *سها نظفي المنزل* (Suha clean the house)

سها	نظفي	المنزل
Subject	Predictor	Complement
Mood	Residue	

Fig. (16): An Arabic imperative clause with the mood element

As for the imperative clause with (lam of command), it has the mood and residue. The mood consists of subject only. This can be shown below:

29. *ليعبوا بعيداً* (Let them play far)

ل	يلعب	وا	بعيداً
Lam of command	Predicator	Subject	Adjunct
		Mood	Residue

Fig. (17): An imperative clause with lam of command

The Arabic unmarked clauses with (la of prohibition), however, have the mood element with the finite and the residue. This is due to the fact that the finite element, in Arabic, is expressed by polarity. To make negative clauses, there are particles such as لم, لا, لن, e.g.

30. لا تتكلم بصوت عال (Don't speak loudly)

لا	تتكلم	بصوت عال
Finite	Predictor	Adjunct
Mood	Residue	

Fig. (18): An Arabic unmarked clause with (la of prohibition)

On the other hand, the marked clauses with (la of prohibition) have the mood and residue. The mood consists of the subject and finite:

31. علي لا تتكلم بصوت عال (Ali don't speak loudly)

علي	لا	تتكلم	بصوت عال
Subject	Finite	Predictor	Adjunct
Mood		Residue	

Fig. (19): An Arabic unmarked clause with (la of prohibition)

3.2 Clause as Exchange in Arabic Exclamatives:

In Arabic, exclamation is used to express surprise, happiness, pity, etc. (Hassan, 1964: 276). The exclamative clauses are expressed by two forms*: (ما افعل) and (افعل به) (Al-Siyuti, 1327A.H.: 2/91; Al-Ashmuni, 3/25):

* Exclamation can be expressed by certain forms which are not dealt with in this paper, like الله دره فارساً (What a knight he is!) (Al-Makhzumi, 1966: 214)

32. *ما اشجع زيداً* (How brave Zeid is!)

33. *أجمل بالطفلة* (What beautiful the child is!)

In the analysis, the exclamative clause with the form (ما أفعله) has the mood and residue element. The mood has the subject and the finite. The particle ما (ma) which is called (ما التعجبية) (an exclamatory ma) functions as subject (Hassan, 1964: 277):

34. *ما أجمل الوردة* (What beautiful the rose is!)

الوردة	أجمل	ما
Complement	Predictor	Subject
Residue		Mood

Fig. (20): An Arabic exclamative clause with the mood-residue order

It should be noted that ma, here, is مبتدأ (subject) and the verbal clause (أجمل الوردة) is (خبر) predicate to ما (ma) (Hassan, 1964: 277). Here, the normal order is mood-residue from the right hand.

On the other hand, the exclamative clause with the form (افعل به) has the mood and the residue elements. The mood element is made up the subject only with no finite. The subject, here, is formally in the genitive case (حالة الجر) while it is functionally in the indicative case (حالة الرفع) (Hassan, 1964: 279). The normal order is residue-mood from the right hand. Consider the example below:

35. *أجمل بالوردة* (What beautiful the rose is!)

بالوردة	أجمل
Subject	Predicator
Mood	Residue

Fig. (21): An Arabic exclamative clause with the residue-mood order

4. Comparison:

1. In both English and Arabic the interpersonal metafunction is realized by the mood system. The clause, here, is analyzed as an exchange. In an exchange, there are a speaker and a listener.
2. In both English and Arabic, the structure of the clause as exchange consists of the mood and residue.
3. In the unmarked imperative clause without a subject in English and Arabic, there is no mood element but residue alone. See examples (36) and (37) below:

36. *Phone the police immediately.*

37.

Phone	the police	immediately
Predicator	Complement	Adjunct
Residue		

38. *اصلاح المصباح المكسور* (Repair the broken lamp!)

المصباح المكسور	أصلح
Complement	Predicator
Residue	

Fig. (22): Examples of English and Arabic imperative clauses with no mood element

4. Similar to the English imperative clause with a subject, the mood element consists of the subject only. Consider examples (38) and (39)

39. *You explain your reasons.*

You	explain	your reasons
Subject	Predicator	Complement
Mood	Residue	

40. *ليلى زوري عمك غداً* (Layla, visit your uncle tomorrow)

غداً	عمك	زوري	ليلى
Adjunct	Complement	Predicator	Subject
Residue			Mood

Fig. (23): Examples of English and Arabic imperative clauses with the subject only

5. Unlike English, the Arabic marked imperative clause has no finite element at all. The English clause, however, has the finite (do, don't). This is due to the fact that Arabic has no subclass of auxiliary verbs.

41. Do open the letter cautiously.

Do	open	the letter	cautiously
Finite	Predicator	Complement	Adjunct
Mood	Residue		

Fig. (24): An English imperative clause with the finite element

6. Unlike English imperative clauses, Arabic clauses have no mood tags whatsoever. Every English imperative clause has a mood tag:

42. Enjoy the scenery, will you?

Enjoy	the scenery	will	you
Predicator	Complement	Finite	Subject
Residue		Mood	

43. Do put these papers here, won't you?

Do	put	these papers	here	won't	you
Finite	Predicate	Complement	Adjunct	Finite	Subject
Residue				Mood	

Fig. (25): English imperative clauses with mood tags

7. In English imperative clauses with “let” and Arabic imperative clauses with lam of command, the mood has the subject but no finite element. See examples (43) and (44):

44. Let's catch the train!

Let's	catch	the train
Subject	Predicator	Complement
Mood	Residue	

Fig. (26): An English imperative clause with no finite element

45. لنسقي النباتات (Let's water the plants!)

النباتات	نسقي	لن
Complement	Predicator	Subject
Residue		Mood

Fig. (27): An Arabic imperative clause with lam of command

8. English is different from Arabic as far as exclamative clauses are concerned. In English exclamative clauses, what conflates with the complement, while how conflates with an adjunct, resulted in the structure in which the subject precedes the finite:

46. *What clever she is!*

What clever	she	is
Complement/Wh	Subject	Finite

47. *How far he has gone!*

How far	he	has	gone
Adjunct/Wh	Subject	Finite	Predicator

Fig. (28): English exclamative clauses

In Arabic exclamative clauses, however, there are two forms (ما أفعل) and (أفعل به) in which the mood element consists of the subject only. This can be illustrated by examples (47) and (48) below:

48. ما أكرم خالداً (What generous Khalid is!)

خالداً	أكرم	ما
Complement	Predicator	Subject
Residue		Mood

49. *أكرم بخالد* (What generous Khalid is!)

بَخَالِدٍ	أَكْرَمَ
Subject	Predicator
Mood	Residue

Fig. (29): Arabic exclamative clauses

In (47), the mood precedes the residue. However, in (48), the residue precedes the mood.

5. Conclusions:

The approach taken for this paper and analysis is SFG. This analytical approach is mainly taken from the work of Michael Halliday, in particular the model of language set out in *An Introduction to Functional Grammar* (1994). This paper concludes that the Hallidayan model can be applied to the Arabic imperatives and exclamatives. It also concludes that there are certain points of similarity and difference which may be listed as follows:

1. In both English and Arabic, the interpersonal metafunction is realized in the mood system. Moreover, in the interpersonal metafunction, the clause is analyzed into mood and residue elements.

2. The grammar of both English and Arabic can be represented as a very large network of systems, an arrangement of options simultaneous and hierarchical relationships.
3. The imperatives are grouped within the choice of English and Arabic clauses into indicative and imperative mood.
4. In English and Arabic, the imperatives are utilized when the speaker asks the listener to do something or not.
5. Within the English and Arabic imperative clauses, there is no mood element but residue only.
6. English is similar to Arabic in that in the marked imperative clauses, the mood element consists of the subject only.
7. In both English and Arabic imperative clauses and particularly in English clauses with *let* and Arabic clauses with *la* of command, the mood element consists of the subject but no finite.
8. As for the English negative imperative clauses and Arabic clauses with “*la* of prohibition”, English differs from Arabic in that the finite element in the English clauses is the operator (*do*) or (*don't*), while in Arabic the negative particle (*la*) is the finite element. This is because Arabic has no subclass of auxiliary verbs.
9. Arabic is different from English in that Arabic has no mood tags which could be found in English imperative clauses.
10. English exclamative clauses are not similar to Arabic ones in that in English clauses, the *wh*-words like *what* or *how* conflate with

the complement or adjunct. In Arabic, however, exclamation is mainly expressed by two forms (ما أفعال) and (أفعال به).

11. In English exclamative clauses, the subject precedes the finite which is not the case in Arabic in which the mood element consists of the subject only.

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