THE ROLE OF THE PARTICLES OF INTERROGATION, NEGATION, CONDITION AND ASSERTION IN THE SYNTACTIC AND SEMANTIC BEHAVIOR OF THE KERNEL SENTENCE IN ARABIC

BY

HASAN AHMAD GHARAIH

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of the Degree of Master of Arts (in Linguistics) at Yarmouk University

The Examining Committee

Prof. Muhammad Zughoul Chairman

Dr. Lutfi Abulhaija Member

Dr. Ali EL-Hamad Member

Dr. Abdulla A. khuwaileh Member

1999
ABSTRACT

This study aims at finding if the negation, condition, interrogation and assertion particles with the kernel sentence form a syntactic unit in Arabic that is similar to the notion of NP, VP, AP and VP in English. The writer argues that the particle is the lexical head, which relates the kernel sentence to the lexicon. The study is based on a theoretical examination of data derived from the Holy Qur'an, Arabic traditional grammar books and realistic situations. The study consists of six chapters. The first chapter includes a general introduction to the topic, statement of the problem, methodology, the significance of the study and review of related literature.

In chapters two to five the role of each type of negation, condition, interrogation and assertion particles is discussed in a separate chapter. The writer argues that the particle is the head of the kernel sentence since it has the precedence of the sentence. The lexical properties of the particle ensure that the particle projects on the structure of the kernel sentence. The particle is the syntactic head since it usually reverts and restricts the aspect of the tense. The particle is the semantic head since it identifies the style of the sentence. The sentence gains a meaning from the particle, which usually the other components of the sentence do not have. The particle usually causes a change in the structural case ending of the predicate and sometimes the subject as an indication of the new meaning and tense.

In chapter six the writer argues that since the particle is the head it is possible to put a lexical entry for the particle. The lexical entry shows the place of the particle within the sentence and the sub-classification and sub-categorization of the particle within the same class. Chapter six also includes a summary, the conclusion and some recommendations for further study.