Announcements

• Any questions on homework 4?
• It is due Wednesday May 2nd in class, or by 5pm via e-mail.
• Please do come and talk to me about your ADAP during office hours. I should be able to offer some help, as we’re getting closer to the end of the semester.
• Today till 4:15 again, per our agreement.

Foreign borrowings and loan translations in Arabic

• Examples from my Arabic translation of the Word by Word Picture Dictionary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic (Arabic)</th>
<th>English (English)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>تلفة/إنتلفة</td>
<td>telephone/phone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>تلفة/إنتلفة إلكتركية</td>
<td>cordless phone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>لاسلكية</td>
<td>cell phone/cellular phone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>نقلة</td>
<td>battery charger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>برمجيا</td>
<td>answering machine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ندرجة</td>
<td>pager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>سهولة</td>
<td>PDA/electronic personal organizer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>الخيص</td>
<td>fax machine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>رقمي/موبايل</td>
<td>(pocket) calculator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>كودب/بطاقات الائتمان</td>
<td>adding machine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>كودب/بطاقة الائتمان</td>
<td>voltage regulator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Foreign borrowings and loan translations in Arabic

Today’s agenda

• Discuss the syntax and semantics of word order in Arabic.
• Discuss question-formation in CA and EA.
• Student-led discussions of the last sections of Holes’ Chapter 8: nominalizations and negativization; word order and time reference; and morphosemantic developments.

Word order
Basic word order in human languages

- Even though languages may allow several word orders in sentences, each language typically has one order that is used in “neutral” contexts. This is what is called “basic word order.”
- Consider English, for example: Which of these do you think represents the basic word order in English?
  
  Seafood I like. (OSV)
  Believe you me. (VSO)
  John plays the piano. (SVO)

Basic word order in human languages

- If we confine ourselves to transitive clauses with three elements: Subject, Verb and Object (S, V, O), then we should expect six possible basic word orders in human language:
  
  SVO, SOV, VSO, VOS, OVS, OSV
- Do we find these attested in natural languages?
  
  Actually, we do.

SVO and SOV

- SVO: English
  
  John loves Mary.

- SOV: Japanese
  
  John-ga Mary-o butta
  John-SU Mary-OB hit
  ‘John hit Mary.’

VSO and VOS

- VSO: Welsh
  
  Darllenais I y llyfr
  read I the book
  ‘I read the book.’

- VOS: Malagasy (Austronesian)
  
  manasa ni lamba ny vihavavy
  wash the clothes the woman
  ‘The woman is washing the clothes.’

OVS and OSV

- OVS: Hixkaryana (Carib)
  
  Kanawa yano toto
  canoe took person
  ‘The man took the canoe.’

- OSV: Nadëb (Maku)
  
  samũũ yi qa-wũh
  howler-monkey people eat
  ‘People eat howler-monkeys.’

Distribution of basic word order types in the world’s languages

- As it turns out, typological studies reveal preferences for certain word orders than others.
- Consider the frequencies reported in Tomlin’s (1986) language sample, for example:
Distribution of basic word order types in the world's languages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word order</th>
<th># of Languages</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOV</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVO</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VSO</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VOS</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVS</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSV</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The syntax and semantics of word order in Arabic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case and word order variation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The typical word order in CA is VSO. But, remember that nouns in CA inflect for case-marking, which means that change in word order does not affect our understanding of who did what to whom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>So, in principle, a sentence with S, V, and O, can have six possible grammatical permutations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In our discussion, we focus on these two commonly used word orders, and briefly on the less common VOS and OVS.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A point of terminology: VSCOMP and SVCOMP

- **Note**: Holes uses VSComp and SVComp, where COMP stands for complement that may range over a variety of phrases, including objects, adverbials, prepositional phrases, and clauses.

- On these slides, I will use VSO and SVO in discussing word order in Arabic, but the same patterns hold of other complements.

VSO

- The neutral word order in CA is VSO, where an event is reported with its participant(s).

- In reality, though, the two word orders (OSV and SOV) are quite uncommon, and are mainly used in literary texts.

- In Arabic traditional grammar, sentences are divided into two types:
  - those that start with a verb (VSO), called الجملة الفعلية, and
  - those that start with a noun phrase (SVO), called الجملة الاسمية.

- In our discussion, we focus on these two commonly used word orders, and briefly on the less common VOS and OVS.
SVO

- But CA also allows SVO structures:
  - الأولاد وصلوا
  - الطلاب قرأوا الكتب.
  - هذا أعطت عمّها كتابًا.

- SVO orders can be introduced with the emphatic particle إنّ, which marks the S as accusative
  - إنّ الأولاد وصلوا.
  - إنّ الطلاب قرأوا الكتب.
  - إنّ هنّ أعطت عمّها كتابًا.

Agreement asymmetry between VSO and SVO

- As you should have noticed, VSO structures are characterized by the absence of number of agreement from the verb. By contrast, SVO orders show full agreement in number and gender.
  - تخرج الطلاب. الطلاب تخرجوا.
  - بالجملة وفدوظان في المكتبة.
  - نشرت زميلتي في الحالة.

- Notice that this asymmetry does not exist with pronouns:
  - هم تخرجوا/خرجوا هم. نحن كتبنا الرسالة/كتبنا نحن الرسالة.

Semantic difference between VSO and SVO

- The main semantic difference between VSO and SVO orders is that in VSO orders the initial noun phrase functions as a topic for the discourse and represents ‘old information.’ In the VSO order, the focus is on the event with its participants, instead.

  - (event-oriented) ماذا حدث؟ - كسر ولدُ الباب.
  - (entity-oriented) ماذا فعل الولد؟ - الولد كسر الباب.

- This difference between the two orders is what Holes calls ‘event-oriented’ vs. ‘entity-oriented.’

VOS

- CA also allows VOS orders, obligatorily when the object is a pronoun, and optionally when the object is a noun phrase:
  - (VOS) أخذ حالك سيارتي
  - (VOS - optional) أخذ حالك سيارتي.
  - (VOS - obligatory) أخذها حالك.

- VOS is also typical when the subject is ‘heavier’ than the object:
  - (VOS) أخذ الطالب الألماني الطويل الشعر سيارتي.
  - (VOS) أخذ سيارتي الطالب الألماني الطويل الشعر.

OVS

- An object may occur initially in the sentence for contrastive emphasis, in which case it can be definite or indefinite.
  - الكتاب أخذ زيد، لا القلم.
  - رسالة كتب زيد، لا قصة.
Marking topics via dislocation

- CA, as well as today’s dialects, have topic-oriented structures, called dislocation in syntax (Holes calls it extraposition.).
- The topic occurs at the front of the sentence, and is associated with a resumptive pronoun within the clause, typically in object position.

Emphasis via Clefting in English

- Clefting is a grammatical structure to emphasize a phrase. In English, it takes the form of
  ‘It is [emphasized phrase] that …’
  It is John who broke the window.
  It is this woman who John likes.
  It is at this restaurant that Harry met Sally.

Clefting in CA

- In CA, clefting takes the form of
  [Emphasized phrase] huwa relative-pronoun …
  خالد هو الذي أكل البيتزا.
  (It is Khaled who ate the pizza.)
  بها هي التي يكلم خالد عنها.
  (It is Maha who Khaled is talking about.)
- This is a list of relative pronouns in CA:
  الذي التي اللين اللئان اللائي/اللاتي

Verbless sentences

- Both CA and the modern dialects are known for having verbless sentences, with منبتدا وخبر.
- The خبر is always a noun phrase, but the منبتدا can be a noun phrase, a prepositional phrase, or an adjective/participle phrase.

Predicate fronting in verbless sentences

- As in verbal sentences, indefinite noun phrases may not appear in first position in verbless sentences. In such cases, the predicate الخبر, which is typically a prepositional phrase in that case, has to be fronted.

Word order in the dialects

- With the loss of the case system from Arabic dialects, variation in word order is more restricted.
- SVO seems to be the unmarked (=normal) word order in many urban dialects today, with the VSO order being still in use, albeit less frequently.
- We discuss word order in EA here. In your ADAP project, you have to discuss the word order of your dialect in the syntax section of the report.
Word order in EA

• EA is for the most part an SVO language.

• VSO orders also occur, typically after certain adverbial particles like بعدما (=after), قبلما (=before), لمّا (=when), إذا (=if). When V is before the S, agreement in number is possible (unlike in CA). A clause such as “After the boys arrive…” can be rendered in three ways in EA:
  (VSO with obligatory number agreement)...
  (VSO without number agreement, as in CA)...
  (VSO with number agreement, unlike in CA)...

Dislocation in EA

• Like CA, EA makes extensive use of dislocation structures with resumptive pronouns.

الموضوع ده احمد كان بيتكلم معي عنه
(This issue, Ahmad was talking to me about it)

The syntax of question-formation

• Human languages differ in the way they form so-called *wh-questions* (information questions about who, what, where, when, etc.).

• Some languages like English form a question by fronting the wh-word:
  [What] did you see _?
  [Which book] did you read _?

• This type of languages is frequently referred to as *wh-fronting* languages.

Strategies of question-formation

• In other languages like Japanese and Chinese, the wh-word appears where other nouns appear:

  **Japanese**
  John-ga dare-o butta ka?
  John-Subj who-Obj hit Q-particle
  ‘Who did John hit?’

  • This type of languages is called *wh-in-situ* languages.

• In other languages like Japanese and Chinese, the wh-word appears where other nouns appear:

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• Human languages also use a third strategy for question-formation. We see that in Malayalam.

  **Malayalam (Dravidian)**
  aara aaNa nin-ne talli-(y)ata?
  who be you-ACC beat(Past) (ACC = accusative)
  ‘Who is it that beat you?’

  • This type of structure is called *wh-cLEFTing*, and is also available in languages like English, as the translation of the example shows.
**Question-formation in CA**

- The three strategies of question-formation are attested in CA and Arabic dialects.
- CA uses wh-fronting as well as wh-clefting. In the latter strategy, a resumptive pronoun is used to refer to the wh-word.

**Lebanese**

- Most modern Arabic dialects are like CA when it comes to question-formation. Consider Lebanese.

> منين شفت بالمطعم؟

(Who did you see at the restaurant?)

> منين يليلي شفت بالمطعم؟

(Who is it that you saw at the restaurant?)

**EA, the odd dialect out**

- Egyptian Arabic, however, is rather odd among Arabic dialects in disallowing wh-fronting. Instead, EA uses wh-in-situ and wh-clefting only.

**Wh-words in EA**

- This is a list of wh-words in EA:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wh-words</th>
<th>Arabic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>who</td>
<td>منين</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>what</td>
<td>أيه</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>which</td>
<td>أيّ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>when</td>
<td>امتي</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>where</td>
<td>فين</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>how</td>
<td>أزاي</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>how many</td>
<td>كام</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>how much</td>
<td>بкам</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Syntax issues for your ADAP**

- Syntactic issues you **HAVE TO** cover in your ADAP report:
  - Does the dialect have a free state structure (like بتاع constructions in EA)?
  - What’s range of word order variation? Which word order is unmarked? Is there agreement asymmetry between SVO and VSO orders?
  - What’s the negation system like?
  - What question-formation strategies does the dialect utilize?

**Next class agenda**

- Language level: Read Chapter 9, pp. 341-373.