

Examine I Syntax the Arabic the Modern the Standard: A Look Into Verb Raising, Negation, Definiteness, and Possession

Aspen Clark | Western Washington University | clarkm34@wwu.edu

Helpful definitions:

construct state – the morphological form taken by the first noun in a genitive noun-noun possessive phrase

fusional morpheme – a morpheme that carries multiple features, e.g., person and tense both being expressed on the same suffix

genitive case – marks a relationship between two words, usually both nouns. Possession is often considered a subset of this.

E.g., the English clitic, possessive suffix -'s is a marker of possession in the genitive case. In Arabic, this is marked on words that come after a preposition (حرف الجر), on the second word in an *iDaafa* construction, or on an adjective modifying a noun that is already in the genitive.

iDaafa – a possessive construct wherein the definite possessor noun is placed after the indefinite possessed noun, making the whole phrase definite (إضافة)

Table 1: MSA Transliterations

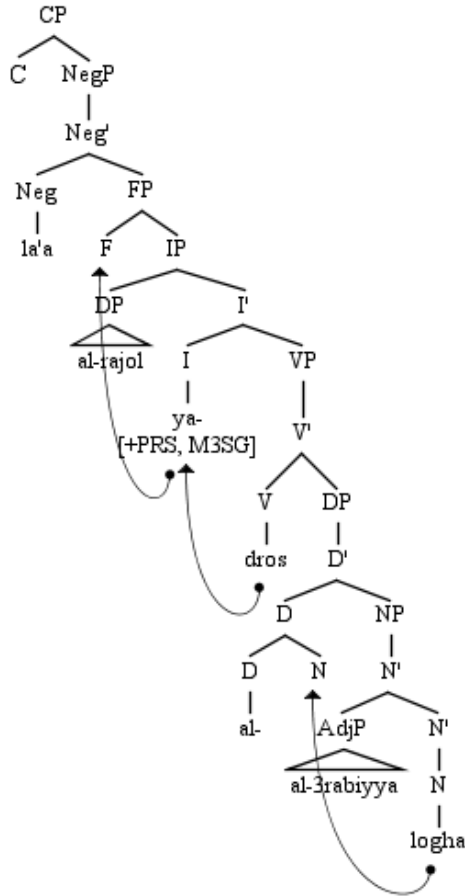
Transliteration	IPA	Arabic Letter
3	ʕ	ع
7	ħ	ح
kh	x	خ
gh	ɣ	غ
‘	ʔ	ء
S	s ^ʕ	ص
D	d ^ʕ	ض
dh	ð	ذ
T	t ^ʕ	ط
Th	ð ^ʕ	ظ

Trees central to the poster:

Functional Projection Hypothesis (Alburarabi 2015)

لا يدرس الرجل اللغة العربية

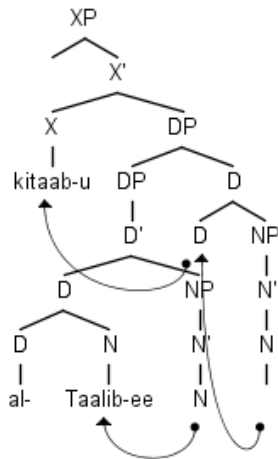
la'a ya-dras al-rajol al-logh-a al-3rbiyy-a
 NEG PRS.M.3SG-study the-man.M.SG the-language-F.SG the-arabic-F.SG
 'he does not study Arabic' (lit. 'he does not study the Arabic language')



Genitive -u as a Possessive Determiner (Beina 2013)

كتاب الطالب

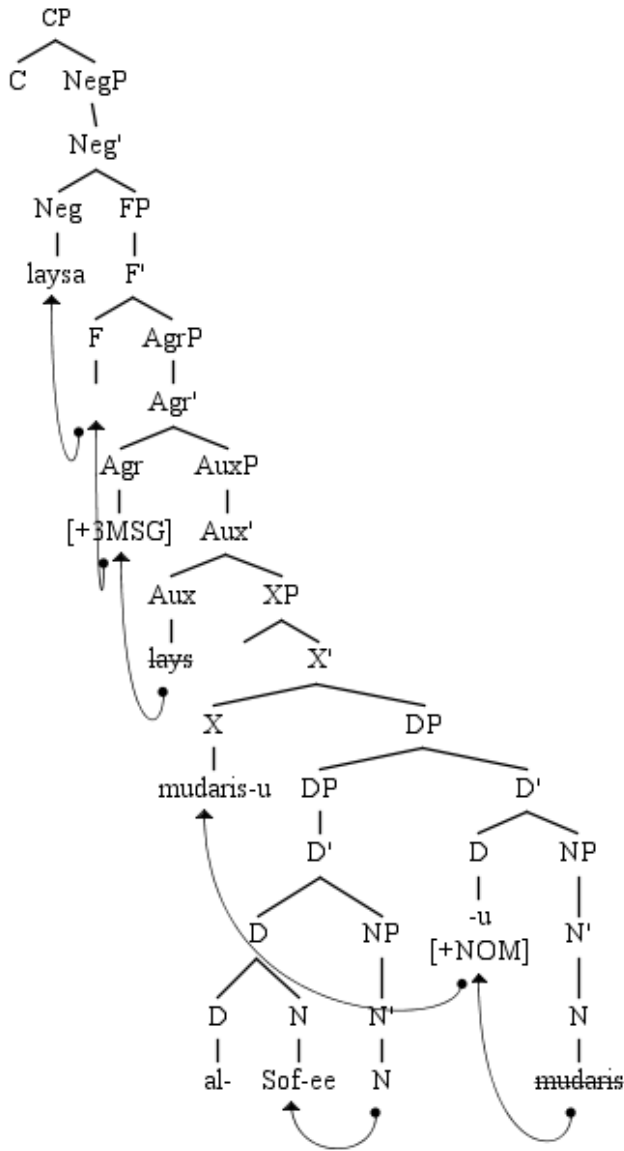
kitaab-u al-Taalib-ee
 book.M.SG-NOM the-student.M.SG-GEN
 'the student's book' (lit. 'book of the student')



laysa (nominal 'not' + copula) with *iDaafa*

ليسَ مُدَرِّسُ الصَّفِ

laysa mudaris-u a-Sof-ee
 NEG.M.3SG teacher.M.SG-NOM the-class.M.SG-GEN
 'he is not the teacher of the class'



Extra content for the syntax nerds:

Complementizer Phrases and the Functional Projection

a'aa-3rif 'inna-ni ra'aaei-t-ha

PRS.1SG-know that-I see-PST.1SG-her

'I know that I saw her'

