



“NEGATIVE CONSTRUCTIONS IN NOMINAL SENTENCES IN CLASSICAL ARABIC.”

KHALED ADEL ABDELHADY AHMED MOHAMED

Master’s researcher in the Department of Arabic Language and Literature

Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies

Scientific Supervisor

Dr. Hilola Yuldasheva

Associate Professor

Summary: The nominal sentence in Classical Arabic is one of the fundamental pillars of Arabic speech construction. It is defined as a sentence that begins with a noun or a pronoun and usually consists of two main components: the subject (mubtada) and the predicate (khabar). For a deeper understanding of this concept, let us explore the components of the nominal sentence in detail.

Keywords:

Grammar - Negation - Arabic language

Negation in Arabic: A Linguistic and Cultural Perspective

The Arabic language is one of the richest and most diverse languages in terms of its styles and grammatical structure. Among the central linguistic phenomena in Arabic studies, negation stands as a fundamental element that reflects the language’s ability to express a wide range of meanings. Negation not only indicates the non-occurrence of an action but also extends to convey social and cultural attitudes, highlighting the contrast between formal and colloquial linguistic usage.

Negation is a linguistic process used to define the boundaries of meaning, serving as a fundamental tool in constructing sentences that deny the existence of something or the occurrence of a particular action. The tools of negation in Arabic vary and are used differently depending on the context, allowing for multiple and complex interpretations.

Negation in Standard Arabic vs. Egyptian Dialect

Standard Arabic, as the formal and written form of the language, has specific negation tools used in official and literary contexts. In contrast, colloquial dialects, such as Egyptian Arabic, exhibit variations in methods and tools of negation, tending toward simplicity and clarity. This reflects daily life and direct social interactions among speakers.

Negation in the Egyptian dialect is an expression of cultural and social identity, appearing in everyday usage and various social contexts. Through this form of negation, one can understand Egyptian society’s values, orientations, and its way of interacting with the world.

This study aims to analyze the phenomenon of negation in Standard Arabic and Egyptian dialect,

focusing on their similarities and differences. The research will explore negation tools, their usage contexts, and the influence of culture on negation, examining how it manifests in daily communication.

Additionally, the study will investigate how negation contributes to meaning construction in both contexts, and how its impact differs in interpersonal interactions. The research will include a comparative analysis of grammatical and semantic negation patterns, demonstrating how these patterns reflect different cultural contexts.

Psychological and Social Dimensions of Negation

In this context, the study will address the psychological and social dimensions of negation, exploring how this phenomenon reflects human diversity in thought and expression. It will examine how negation is used to express emotions, reservations, rejection, and other psychological aspects that are embedded in language.

The Subject and Predicate: The Foundation of the Nominal Sentence

The Subject (Al-Mubtada')

The subject is the nominative noun that appears at the beginning of a nominal sentence. It is the primary element of the sentence about which something is stated.

Characteristics of the Subject:

- It is always in the nominative case.
- It is usually definite, but it can be indefinite in certain cases.
- It can be an explicit noun, a pronoun, or an implied (verbal) noun.

Examples:

- العلمُ نافعٌ (Knowledge is beneficial.) → “Knowledge” is the subject
- هو مجتهدٌ (He is diligent.) → “He” is the subject
- أن تقرأ مفيدٌ للعقل (Reading is beneficial for the mind.) → “That you read” is an implied subject

The Predicate (Al-Khabar)

The predicate completes the meaning of the subject and is also in the nominative case. It provides information about the subject.

Characteristics of the Predicate:

- It is originally nominative.
- It agrees with the subject in number (singular, dual, plural) and gender (masculine, feminine) in most cases.
- It can precede the subject in certain situations.

Examples:

- العلمُ نافعٌ (Knowledge is beneficial.) → “Beneficial” is the predicate

- الطالبان مجتهدان (The two students are diligent.) → “Diligent” is the predicate
- المعلمات حاضرات (The female teachers are present.) → “Present” is the predicate

Types of Predicate: Variations in Form and Function

The predicate in a nominal sentence comes in various forms, each with unique features and usage contexts. Understanding these types is essential to grasp how negation structures nominal sentences.

1. The Simple Predicate (Al-Khabar Al-Mufrad)

This is a single word that is neither a full sentence nor a prepositional phrase. It can be a derived or non-derived noun.

Examples:

- السماء صافية (The sky is clear.) → “Clear” is a derived adjective predicate
- الكتاب ورق (The book is paper.) → “Paper” is a non-derived noun predicate
- العلماء متفوقون (The scholars are outstanding.) → “Outstanding” is a derived adjective predicate

2. The Sentence Predicate (Al-Khabar Al-Jumlah)

The predicate can be a full sentence, which may be either a nominal or a verbal sentence.

A. Nominal Sentence as Predicate:

- الطالب أخلاقه حميدة (The student’s morals are good.) → “His morals are good” is a nominal sentence predicate
- المدرسة مبناهها جديد (The school’s building is new.) → “Its building is new” is a nominal sentence predicate

B. Verbal Sentence as Predicate:

- العصفور يغرد (The bird sings.) → “Sings” is a verbal sentence predicate
- الشمس تشرق من الشرق (The sun rises from the east.) → “Rises from the east” is a verbal sentence predicate

3. The Prepositional Phrase Predicate (Shibh Jumlah Khabar)

The predicate can also take the form of a prepositional phrase or an adverbial phrase.

A. Adverbial Phrase as Predicate:

- الكتاب فوق الطاولة (The book is on the table.)
- الاجتماع غدا (The meeting is tomorrow.)

B. Prepositional Phrase as Predicate:

- النجاح في الصبر (Success is in patience.)
- العلم في الصدور (Knowledge is in the hearts.)

Special Cases in Nominal Sentences

There are some special cases in nominal sentence structure, particularly relevant when constructing negative statements.

1. Multiple Predicates:

A subject can have more than one predicate.

Example:

- اللهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ قَدِيرٌ (God is All-Knowing, Wise, and Omnipotent.)

2. Omission of Subject or Predicate:

In some contexts, the subject or predicate may be omitted if the meaning is clear.

Examples:

- كَيْفَ حَالُكَ؟ جَيِّدٌ (How are you? Good.) → The subject “my condition” is omitted.
- مُحَمَّدٌ (Who won? Muhammad.) → The predicate “is the winner” is omitted.

3. Reordering the Predicate and Subject:

The predicate may precede the subject either optionally or necessarily.

Examples:

- فِي الْبَيْتِ رَجُلٌ (There is a man in the house.) → Prepositional phrase predicate before an indefinite subject
- زَيْدٌ كَرِيمٌ (Zaid is generous.) → Reordering for emphasis

Conclusion

Egyptian Arabic is an integral part of Egypt’s cultural identity, reflecting a long history of linguistic and cultural influences. Despite challenges, it remains a cherished linguistic form among Egyptians and Arabs alike.

References & Sources

1. Specialized books on Arabic dialects and Egyptian Arabic
2. Arabic Dialects: Their Origins and Development – Dr. Ramzi Baalbaki
3. The Philosophy of Language and the Secret of Arabic – Abu Mansur Al-Thaalibi
4. Egyptian Language: Features and Dialects – Dr. Ahmed Abdullah
5. Colloquial and Standard Arabic in Egypt – Dr. Anwar Al-Jundi