**Demonstratives in English and Arabic:**

**A Contrastive Study**

أسماء الأشازة "دراسة مقارنة باللغة العربية والإنكليزية"

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1.1 Introduction

This paper studies the demonstratives as deictic expressions in Standard Arabic and English by outlining their phonological, syntactic and semantic properties in the two languages. On the basis of the outcome of this outline, a contrastive study of the linguistic properties of this group of deictic expressions in the two languages is conducted next. The aim is to find out what generalizations could be made from the results of this contrastive study.

1.2 Demonstratives in Standard Arabic

1.2.1 Definition

Grammarians of Standard Arabic (henceforth, SA) classify demonstratives in the language within the word class of *names*, under the subset of (أسماء الإشارة = Names of Reference, or Reference Names). Their definition of a reference name is: 'Any name that denotes what is named and refers to it' (الفبمًٍ 73). Thus, a demonstrative noun is that which indicates a denominate. So, when demonstrating a person named Zaid, one says:

هذا زيدٌ (1)

(Howell, 1886: 563)
Here, (هذا) indicates the person (ذئب) and (هذا) is the demonstration of that person. This means that (هذا) functions as a pronoun for (ذئب). The definition above entails the following semantic distinctive features:

1. The demonstrative should be a linguistic lexical item of the class of Nominal.
2. This item must denote a meaning; i.e. is meaningful.
3. This item has also the feature of referring to that meaning that it denotes.

Only a visible object, near or far, is originally referred to by a demonstrative. Scholars of SA also classify demonstratives within the larger set of what is termed (المعرف = the defined nouns), in contrast with (النكرات = the indefinites). However, they are also termed (المجرد = ambiguous nouns) because of their generalized deictic function of reference to both animate and inanimate entities (الانصاري, I: 306).

1.2.2 Set Membership

The group of Demonstratives in SA includes basic demonstratives as well as marginal ones. Basic demonstratives are of greater frequency, both in speech and writing. In contrast, marginal demonstrative are rarely used; some of which are archaic, others are dialectal variants.

1.2.3 Primary Demonstratives

There are five basic demonstratives in SA. These are:

 ذا ، ذه ، ذي ، ته ، أولاء (2)

In the subset above, the first two items denote the singular "this", whereas the last three items denote the plural "those". There is also a specialization in their gender use; the first one (ذا) refers to males only, the second three (ذه ، ذي ، ته) to females only, whereas the last one (هؤلاء) has a global reference to both male or female referents (عيد، 1975: 158).
1.2.3.1 Morphological Features

1. All the demonstratives above are normally prefixed with the allocutuonal particle (ها)، whose final (ا) is pronounced in spoken forms, but is deleted in written forms. Thus, there are the usual allocutuonal forms of: (هذا، هذه، هذي، هاته، هؤلاء) (Howell, 1886: 563).

(3)

a. هذا كتاب نادر. (This is a rare book.)
b. هذه قصة قديمة. (This is an old story.)
c. هذي قبورنا تملأ الريحان. (These are our graves that span the wide earth.)
d. اشترى هاتين الدراجتين. (I bought these two bicycles.)
e. هؤلاء ضيوف. (These are my guests.)

In SA, demonstratives inflect for number (singular/dual/plural), gender (male/female), place (near/far), person (2\textsuperscript{nd}/3\textsuperscript{rd}) and case (nominative in contrast with the accusative/genitive) as shown in the following Table:

Table (1) Morphological Forms of Basic Demonstratives in SA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. Item</th>
<th>Inflected Forms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Single</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ذا</td>
<td>(هذا)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ذئ</td>
<td>(هذئ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ذئي</td>
<td>(هذي)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ذه</td>
<td>(هذه)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>اولاه</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The table above illustrates the following morphological properties about the demonstratives in SA:

1. They inflect with the suffix (أن) in the nominative, and (ين) in the genitive to indicate dual plurality.
2. Singular forms can also be used with the plurals.
3. There is a specialized collective plural form of (هؤلاء).
4. Both far entities and second person reference require the (كاف) suffix.
5. There are separate forms specialized for the male in contrast with female gender.

In addition to the above, there are the following specialized forms for the expression of plural females (Howell, 1886: 571):

(4)

ذآك > ذاك
ذآلك/ذآلكه > ذاك/ذاكه
أولنكن > أولنكنه وأولنكنه وأولنكنه

Moreover, demonstratives in SA have diminutive forms:

(5)

ذيًا > ذا
ذيآك > ذاك
تيًا > تا
كتيًا > تاك
ذيآن > ذان
أوليًآ > وليًآ

(Wright, 2005: 265-7)

1.2.4 Marginal Demonstratives

There are two marginal demonstratives in SA; the first is the form (أولي), clipped from (أولئ)، which is used in the language variety of the
tribe of Banu Tameem (عبد العبد 1975; 160). The other is the singular masculine (تالك) and feminine (تك).

To these demonstratives belong also the two collocatives (ذئت و ذئت = so and so) and (کیت و کیت = such and such things) (Wright, 2005: 268).

2.1 Demonstratives in English

2.1.1 Definition

Some grammarians of English term the demonstratives as pronouns of pointing since they are often accompanied by a pointing gesture (Jespersen, 1933: 156-7). Besides taking the place of a noun, they suggest the idea of a position with regard to the speaker (Eckersley and Eckersley, 1960: 110). Some of these pronouns are primary, others are marginal or archaic (cf. 2.1.2.2).

2.1.2 Set Membership

2.1.2.1 Primary Demonstratives

There are four primary demonstratives in English: This, that, these, and those. They can function either as pronouns or as determiners:

(6)

a. Oh you have to pay for these. (Greenbaum, 2000: 136)
b. I spoke to him this morning. (Alexander, 1988: 349)
c. That’s a nice pair of jeans. (Murphy, 1994: 156)
d. Those women knew what they wanted. (Leech and Svartvik, 1994: 59)

Primary demonstratives present two types of contrast. The first is a contrast in number: this and that are singular, these and those are plural. The second is a contrast in proximity. This and these indicate relative
nearness, *that* and *those* indicate relative remoteness. The proximity may be in space or time.

(7)

a. *But in the presence of a scattering material, the light has travelled a very convoluted path, perhaps three or four times the distance between this side of the bottle and that side.*

b. *Lewis, with a kind of half smile playing around his lips... and just dropping off his work rate a bit in this second round after that fast start to it.*

c. *They would set out what these policy areas would be, and then the foreign ministers of the twelve would implement those policies on the basis of majority voting.*

(Greenbaum, 2000: 136)

Jespersen (1933: 157) observes that the contrast in the vowel sounds in *this* and *that* agree with the general tendency in English (and in many other languages such as French *ici* and *la*) to denote "near" by high-front vowels, and "far" by lower and more retracted vowels as in the play of vowels in: *riff-raff, zig-zag, and tittle-tattle.*

*This* is also used in informal speech as an indefinite determiner, roughly corresponding to *a* or *some.*

(8) *And there was this Frenchman who went to a cricket match.*

(Alexander, 1988: 323)

Similarly, *these* may be indefinite, introducing new information rather than referring to something in the situational or linguistic context:

(9) *There's all these horror stories about it happening, but I've never actually heard of it. . actually happen to anybody.*

(Greenbaum, 2000: 136)
2.1.2.1.1 Morphological Features

2.1.2.1.1 Number and Gender

The singular demonstratives: *this* and *that* are used for both count and non-count meaning.

(10) *This* room/water is too cold. *That* loaf/bread is stale.

(Quirk et al, 1985: 372)

Both the singular and the plural pronouns can be used as pro-forms to substitute for a noun phrase:

(11)

a. *This* chair is more comfortable than *that*. (= that chair or that one)

b. *These* apples are sweeter than *those* (= these apples or these ones) (ibid.)

In addition, the pronoun can refer to some unspecified object(s):

(12)

a. *Come and have a look at this*. ['this thing', 'this substance', etc.]

b. *Have you heard this*? ['this piece of news', 'this joke', etc.]

c. *Leave that alone* ('that thing', 'that machine', etc.)

d. *Can I borrow these*? ['these books', 'these tools']

(ibid.)

It is worth noting here that some grammarians (e.g. Eckersley and Eckersley, 1960; 109; Alexander, 1988: 85) distinguish between two types of demonstratives: *demonstrative adjectives* and *demonstrative pronouns*. The former are always used with nouns:

(13) *I don't like this coat.* (Alexander, 1988: 85)

The latter are used without nouns:
This is what I want you to do.

Well, that's exactly what I did.

I believe you, but there are those who wouldn't.

This is my brother, and these are my sisters.

(Eckersley and Eckersley, 1960: 110).

The demonstrative this can be used to introduce something new in a narrative:

"I was walking along the street when this girl came up to me..." (= "a girl I'm going to tell you about")

(Leech and Svartvik, 1994: 60)

The singular demonstrative pronouns generally have only non-personal reference. The exceptions are when they are subject, and the speaker is providing or seeking identification:

This is my daughter: Felicity.

Is that Jane Warren?

(Quirk et al, 1985: 372)

Co-reference in the demonstratives depends on the context shared by speaker/writer and hearer/reader. Also, their use may be considered under the headings of situational reference (reference to the extra-linguistic situation) anaphoric reference (co-reference to an earlier part of the discourse) and cataphoric reference (co-reference to a later part of the discourse) (ibid.).

2.1.2.2 Other Demonstratives

Such may have a demonstrative sense (like that) as a pronoun or (more frequently) as a determiner:

1. (14)
   a. **This** is what I want you to do.
   b. Well, **that**'s exactly what I did.
   c. I believe you, but there are **those** who wouldn't.
   d. **This** is my brother, and **these** are my sisters.

   (Eckersley and Eckersley, 1960: 110).

   The demonstrative **this** can be used to introduce something new in a narrative:

   (15) "**I was walking along the street when this girl came up to me...**" (= "a girl I'm going to tell you about")

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   a. **This** is my daughter: Felicity.
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   2.1.2.2 Other Demonstratives

   **Such** may have a demonstrative sense (like **that**) as a pronoun or (more frequently) as a determiner:

   (17)
a. Do I understand you to be saying that in such an accident uh a passenger would be thrown uh first of all forward and then backwards?
b. He is entitled to such payments, subject only to the limited category of cross-claims which the law permits to be raised as defences by way of set-off in such circumstances.

Greenbaum (2000: 137)
c. If officialdom makes mistakes, officialdom deserves to suffer. Such, at least, was Mr. Boyd's opinion.

(Quirk et al, 1985: 376)

In (17a) above, the determiner such precedes the indefinite article. The former and the latter can also be regarded as demonstrative pronouns.

(18) The orchestra played two Beethoven symphonies, the Third and the Fifth; the former was played magnificently; the latter was not so well done. (Eckersley and Eckersley, 1960: 110)

In addition, the three archaic demonstratives: yon, yond, and yonder were used to indicate greater remoteness than that indicated by that and those, but these forms are obsolete now (Jespersen, 1933: 156).

3.1 Contrastive Analysis

On the basis of the outline above, the following points of similarity and difference between the membership of the two sets of demonstratives in the two languages can be identified.

3.1.1 Similarities

1. Demonstrative are found in both SA and English.
2. These demonstratives assume the same deictic functions of situational, personal, and non-personal co-reference.
3. In both languages there are basic, marginal, as well as archaic demonstratives.
4. In both languages the demonstrative precedes its antecedent.
5. Morphological contrasts (i.e. inflections) are made use of in both languages to mark nearness/remoteness, and to realize the grammatical category of number: singular/plural.
6. Strikingly, a large number of the demonstratives in the two languages begin with the initial similar sound of [ð], orthographically realized as (th) in English, versus (ة) in SA.
7. Demonstratives in both languages can function as nominal proforms with or without the nouns they refer to.

3.1.2 Differences

1. Many demonstratives in SA morphologically can realize duality in number, express contrast in sex (male/female), as well as case (nominative versus accusative/genitive) and person (2nd/ 3rd). Demonstratives in English do not realize such grammatical categories via morphological markers.
2. Because of the main difference in (1) above, there are more morphological forms of demonstratives in SA than in English.

4. Conclusions

Demonstratives in SA and English share far more syntactic and semantic features than one might think in the first place, given that the two languages belong to different, remote groups. The main difference between the two stems from the realization of certain grammatical categories (gender, case, etc.) in some of these forms in SA, versus the absence of such morphological contrasts in English.
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أسماء الأشارة "دراسة مقارنة باللغة العربية والإنكليزية"

بيداء عباس غبن

الخلاصة

يهدف البحث إلى دراسة أسماء الأشارة لتكون دراسة مقارنة في اللغتين العربية والإنكليزية وتحاول الباحثة مقارنة جميع الصيغ النحوية والصوتية والدلالية في اللغتين. صنف النحويين أسماء الأشارة في اللغة العربية إلى أساسية وثانوية وفي اللغة الإنجليزية إلى أساسية وثانوية أيضاً وآخر قديمة.

لقد تم تصنيف أسماء الأشارة في اللغتين من الناحية الدلالية والنحوية وقد اظهرت النتائج عددًا من اوجه التشابه بين اللغتين على سبيل المثال فان كل اللغتين متشابهتان من حيث امتلاكهما مجموعة من أسماء الأشارة بانواعها الرئيسية والثانوية بالإضافة إلى القديمة. وهي ذات وظائف متشابهة شخصية وغير شخصية وأخرى مكاني.

وتتمثل أسماء الأشارة الموقع نفسه في كل من اللغتين الإنجليزية والعربية حيث تسبق الاسم مشار الاية.

اما من الناحية الصرفية تستعمل كل من اللغتين العربية والإنكليزية الأشكال الصرفية (التصاريف) وذلك للتعبير عن القرب أو البعيد أو للإشارة إلى المفرد أو الجمع.

وتبدأ معظم أسماء الأشارة في اللغة العربية بالحرف (ذ) وهو الصوت نفسه الذي يبدأ به اسماء الأشارة في اللغة الإنجليزية والذي يعبر عنه باستعمال الحرفين "th" و/و عليه تستعمل اسماء الأشارة في كلا اللغتين بدائل اسمية وذلك للتعويض عن ذكر الاسم الذي تستعمل للإشارة به.

اما اهم اوجه الاختلاف بين اللغتين الإنجليزية والعربية فهو يتضمن اسماء الأشارة في اللغة العربية من الناحية الصرفية فمنها مايشير إلى المثنى، ومنها مايشير إلى المذكر والمؤنث ومايكون في حالة الرفع أو النصب أو الهجر حيث تتقترف اللغة الإنجليزية إلى العلامات الصرفية للتعبير عن مثل هذه الأشكال النحوية.

أسماء الأشارة في كلتا اللغتين العربية والإنكليزية الكثير من الصفات المشتركة التركيبية (ال نحوية) والدلالية على الرغم من الاختلاف الكبير الموجود بين هاتين اللغتين ولكن الفارق هو تعدد الأشكال النحوية منها (الجنس، حالة اسم الإشارة) لأسماء الأشارة في اللغة العربية على العكس من اللغة الإنجليزية التي تتقترف للاشكال الصرفية.