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Imperative in English and Arabic With Reference to The Holy Quran

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Dedication

To our dear parents for their patience ,understanding and support.

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Contents

Abstract

This paper is intended to shed some light on the semantic implications of the imperatives in English as well as Arabic. It has been divided into three chapters. The first one gives a description of the types of sentences in English while the second is concerned with those of the imperatives in English. The third part deals with imperative in Arabic   with reference to The Holy Quran.

The conclusions are summed up in the last part of the paper.

Chapter One

1.1 Types of Sentences

A sentence is used to say the feeling and thought of someone. The definitions of sentence according some experts are :

Frank (1972:220) maintains that sentence by function can be defined as "A full of predication containing a subject plus a predicate with a finite verb ."

Hornby (1974:777) writes" A sentence is the largest grammatical unit contains of phrase or clause used to express statement, question or command ."

Hurford(1983: 18 (admits that a sentence consists of a full group of words conveying a message and appropriate to the grammatical rule of a language .

Rozakis (2003:138) writes a sentence is a set of words that nominally has one subject and one predicate to express whole idea .

Warriner (1982:30-31) categorizes sentences based on purpose into four; declarative sentence, interrogative sentence, imperative sentence and exclamatory sentence. Similarly   idea with Frank (1972:220-221) suggests four types of sentence :

A. Declarative sentence :is a sentence that states an idea. It is ended by period

when in written form. Declarative sentence is also used more frequently than the other ones، for examples :

(١My mother went to Jakarta two days ago .

(٢Andi is a new student from Medan .

B. Interrogative sentence is a sentence that asks a question. It is ended by a question mark. The verb in interrogative sentence always arises before the subject (Frank ,1972:223). For examples:

(٣Where did she go last night ؟

(٤Are you a new student ؟

C. Imperative sentence : is a sentence that gives a command or request to the hearer and ends with period or exclamatory mark. The subject of imperative sentence is not stated. It expresses on verb or predicate)Ibid.).

For examples:

(٥Please, give me another piece of melon .

(٦Don't cross the line !

(٧Open the window !

D. Exclamatory sentence: is a kind of sentence that expresses someone"s emotion and feeling. It can begin with the exclamatory phrase 'what and *how* .In written form, it ends by exclamatory mark. For examples:

(^What a cute cat it is !

(٩How beautiful hair she has !

According to Quirk and Greenbaum (1990: 231), sentences may be divided into four major syntactic types. Their use mostly corresponds with four different discourctions functions:

1. Declaratives: are sentences in which a subject is present and precedes the verb. They are primarily associated with statements, defined later.

2. Interrogatives: are typically associated with a discretion function of questions that are used to seek information.

3. Imperatives: are sentences that normally have no grammaticical subject and whose verb has the base form. Their discourse function is primarily a directional which means that they are mostly used to instruct somebody to do something.

4. Exclamatives: are sentences which have an initial phrase introduced by what, how. They primarily express exclamations that show the amount to which the speaker is impressed by something.

With regard to the sentence types mentioned, a slight distinction between quality and price ads can be found mostly in the headings again from the linguistic point of view, it is the statement that serves to convey information. A statement represents a major sentence function and is mostly declarative in form. It is used to assert or report information (Crystal 1992: 367).

Chapter Two

2.1 Imperative Sentences

Imperatives are verbs used to give orders, commands and instructions. The form used is usually the same as the base form. The mood they have usually expresses an intention to influence the listeners' behaviour (Lyons, 1977:745.(

Imperatives are used mainly to express orders and commands .The two terms are often used interchangeably as a subclass of directives to express the addresser's intention that the addressee takes his expressed desire as a reason to act (Ibid..(

Searle and Vanderveken (1985:201),however, show that the main difference between commands and orders is that orders do not require an institutional structure of authority. One can order somebody to do something simply in virtue of one's position of power whether or not that power is institutionally sanctioned. The issuance of a command ,anyhow, requires that the addresser to be in a position of authority over the addressee. The two imperative sentences below are examples of an order and a command respectively:

(١٠)Make your bed at once.

(١١)An officer to his soldiers: Fire

According to Zwicky (1977: 440-441), the characteristics of imperative sentence in English are :

١. The absence of person pronoun .

Example: (You (*be quiet* !

.٢The possibility of *be, do, do not, don't* in combination with imperative sentence .

Example :*Don't be careless* !

.٣The presence of sentence-initial *please* in imperative .

Example :*Please, give me a glass of water* !

.٤The predicate is often expressed and stated in imperative without stating the subject. For example,, ‹*Go to the market .*'

Swan (2003:26) states that the imperative in English may take several forms:

A. Affirmative form (base form of the verb:(
.١٢Sit down, please.

B. Emphatic form (do+imperative verb:(
.١٣Do forgive me. I didn't mean to interrupt.

C. Passive form (get+ past participle:(
.١٤Get vaccinated as soon as you can.

D. Imperative form with subject:
.١٥Mary come here.

E. Imperative + tag question.
.١٦Wait here, will you؟

F. Imperative joined by coordinators:
.١٧Go and play outside.

2.2 Types of Imperative Sentence in English

2.2.1 Positive Imperative Sentence

A positive imperative sentence gets the hearer to do something. Hornby (1975:193) points out positive imperative sentence can be conveyed through various ways; command, prohibition, request, suggestion, invitation and giving advice. The subject of imperative sentence can be understood although the speaker does not mention it. For examples:

(١٨Keep silent !

(١٩Sit down, please !

When the speaker gives advice to the addressee, the copula *be* is used. It is placed at the beginning of sentence and followed by adjective, adverb or noun. For example :

(٢٠Be a good student !

(٢١Be careful !

Transitive and intransitive verbs can form positive imperative sentence as in

(٢٢Open the door! (transitive (

(٢٣Sit down please! (intransitive (

b. Negative imperative sentence

2.2.2 Negative Imperative Sentence

Negative imperative sentence provides a suggestion to the addressee no to

do something. It can be a prohibition or warning. The markers of this sentence are *don't, don't be, must not, let's not* ،and *no*.

 For examples:

(٢٤Don't throw the ball!

      Frank (1972:57) maintains that negative imperative sentence can be indicated by *let's not* for plural person. For examples:

(٢٥Let's not open the door .

(٢٦Let's not blame each other !

Conclusions

      The imperatives and declaratives in the Qur'an are loaded with meanings

other than the literal meaning .The divine words set the language of the Holy Quran which is the Arabic tongue. Any translation of it can't produce the same eloquence, depth and effect of the original .

The Analysis of the imperatives in both languages has shown that imperatives may correlate with different functions depending on important situational factors such as context and the relationship between the addresser and the addressee.

The variety of translations stands as confusing and that leads to misunderstanding and unsteadiness in learning the islamic teachings from an original text translated into multiple weak and strange versions. For example, when a non-Arab converts to Islam, he needs to realize the Islamic teachings accurately as mentioned in the original.

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