

Embedded Complementizer Phrase Subjunctive and Features Checking: A Contrastive Study between English, Arabic and German

Dr. Atef Jalabneh*

Dr. Kirsten Abdellatif**

Abstract

The objective of this work is to examine the formal and informal universal features of complementizer in the mandative subjunctive structure used in English, Modern Standard Arabic and German with reference to Chomsky's (1981 and 1995) and Radford's (1988) views on Modern Linguistic Theory. This article is restricted to explaining such features of the category complementizer phrase which is selected by a verb and initiated by the complementizer 'that', *ʔan* 'that' and *dass* 'that' for the three languages respectively. The researchers prove that the formal features of the languages are tense phrase, noun phrase, verb phrase and complementizers that serve as mood-force indicators are universal. They also find out that there are informal universal features, namely, (i) the nominative case, (ii) the theta marking of complementizer phrase and (iii) agreement –subject. Both features are unpredictable; thus, they constitute problems to the grammaticality of the sentence if they are not checked properly at all levels of syntax. It is syntactically significant to Arabic in the sense that though Arabic is rich in morphological realizations; still, the embedded subject needs a case; the researchers found that the feature of empty tense is the only case assignor in subjunctive structures that made the sentence grammatical.

Keywords: complementizer phrase, tense phrase, noun phrase, verb phrase, spell-out, logical form, features, checking, subjunctive.

* Middle East University for Graduate Studies/ Amman - Jordan

** Applied Science University/ Amman - Jordan

1. Introduction

In grammar, the subjunctive mood is a universal concept which is almost available in all languages. The focus of the study in this work is only on the mandative embedded subjunctive in the three languages. This content structure expresses wishes, commands, emotion, possibility, judgment, opinion, necessity, or statements that are contrary to fact at present.

In the relevant literature in English, Lyons (1968) states that the subjunctive mood is a clause in which a verb is used in a dependent clause. It is sometimes referred to as the conjunctive mood because it often follows the conjunctive 'that' in that-clause in the complement position in English. However, the structure of subjunctive in relation to a conjunctive is different from language to another. Insofar as the inflection of the verb is concerned, the subjunctive verb sometimes behaves like the indicative tense in the sense that it is either realized by an inflection of the present or past tense or by modifying it by a modal as that of the putative 'should' of English. It is categorized as an unmarked set of structure that expresses a speaker's attitude towards what is going to be said in a simple statement form.

Culicover (1982) argues that subjunctive and imperative have similar structures as far as tense is concerned. They both have Aux-less because nothing can be put in Aux. He further illustrates that if an imperative lacks an underlying AUX, one cannot treat 'do' in imperatives as an underlying modal; likewise, one cannot posit 'should' in the underlying structure of subjunctive.

Greenbaum and et al (1990, p. 43-44) state that the subjunctive is not an important category in contemporary English and is normally replaced by other construction; it can be described in three separate statements (i) mandative in *that* -*clause* as in [I insist that he *reconsider* the council's decisions']. This subjunctive is introduced by a verb like *propose*, *suggest*, *recommend*, *move* (in the parliamentary sense), *demand*, or *mandate*, by an adjective like *imperative*, *important*, *adamant*, or *necessary*, or by a noun like *insistence*, *suggestion* or

proposal, (ii) the formalic as in [God *save* the queen] and (iii) the hypothetical were- subjunctive as in [if I were rich, I would buy a citadel]. However, the focus of this study is merely on the first.

As far as the mandative subjunctive in the Arabic relevant literature is concerned, it is called as in *al- mudāʾirī al- mansūb* 'the subjunctive of the imperfective'. Wright (1984) argues that this clause occurs in the embedded position of a transitive a verb and must be initiated by a conjunctive. Semantically, it means an act which is dependent upon that mentioned in the matrix clause, and future to it in point of time. It is exemplified as in ('iqtarah a zaydun ?an yalʿab-a (subj). 'Zaid suggested that he play').

Abdulhamid (1999) and Maghalsih (2007) state that the subjunctive of the imperfective normally occurs in a clause whose verb indicates (i) inclination or disinclination, (ii) order or prohibition, (iii) duty, (iv) effect, (v) effort, (vi) fear, (vii) necessity and (viii) permission. It is introduced the primary conjunction ?an 'that'⁽²⁾; which can be overt or covert.

In the German relevant literature, Peter Eisenberg (2006) argues that there are verbs that introduce *dass* 'that' in reported speech can be divided into two disjunctive categories; those which accept the subjunctive (i.e. non-factive verbs) and those which do not (i.e. factive verbs – the speaker is sure that the complementary sentence is true). For instance, (i) [*Er meint (glaubt, hofft, behauptet), dass sie kommen will / wolle* 'He thinks (believes, hopes, pretends) that she wants / want to come]. In (i), the truth of the complementary sentence is not necessarily a condition and one can put either the subjunctive or the indicative. Therefore, the use of subjunctive or indicative does not have any special function and can replace each other. (ii) [*Er weiß (entschuldigt, versteht, vergisst), dass sie kommen will / *wolle* 'He knows (excuses, understands, forgets), that she wants /*want' to come.]. The sentence (ii) is grammatical if one replaces the subjunctive *wolle* by the indicative *will*. (iii) [*Er sagt (erzählt, berichtet, teilt mit), dass sie kommen will / wolle* 'He says (tells, reports, makes us know) that she wants / want to come']. All the verbs of (iii) can be factive by using the indicative. The

speaker is sure of what one said or says. The indicative can signalize factivity but this is not necessary. Furthermore, (iiia) [*Er sagt (erzählt, berichtet, teilt mit), dass sie gekommen sei* 'He says (tells, reports, makes us know) that she have come. ']. The complementary sentence can be non-factive by using the subjunctive. The subjunctive signalizes non-factivity in (iiia). (iiib) [*Er sagt (erzählt, berichtet, teilt mit), dass sie gekommen ist* 'He says (tells, reports, makes us know) that she has come.']. If, in (iiib), the speaker uses the subjunctive, s/he does not comment the truth of the statement. The indicative as an unmarked modal category does not demand factivity, but it makes it possible. The speaker does not decide if things, which have been said, are true or not, i.e. in complementary sentences introduced by *dass* 'that'; subjunctive (one) is linked to non-factivity. It does not appear with factive words as in (ii); with non-factive words, the indicative can replace it without the meaning being changed as in (i). With verbs, which have a factive and a non-factive variant, the subjunctive marks the non-factive variant. In short: With factive verbs there is no subjunctive, with non-factive words there is no change of meaning when the subjunctive is replaced by the indicative, and with verbs having a factive and a non-factive variant, the subjunctive signalizes that the non-factive variant is meant. However, the present study focuses merely on the embedded subjunctive constructions of English, Arabic and German which are constituent- selected by a transitive verb in which the conjunctives 'that', '?an' and 'dass' are used respectively. Other types of subjunctive constructions are left for further research.

2. The Problem of the Study

It is evident that the mandative type of subjunctive is a universal property which is available in most languages regardless of the language family to which a language is affiliated. However, it varies from one language to another with regard to the formal features of the (i) tense phrase, (ii) the intrinsic features of a noun phrase, (iii) formal intrinsic features of a verb phrase and (iv) complementizer that serve as mood-force indicators and with regard to the informal features of (i) agreement features, (ii) the nominative case of the embedded subject and (iii) the theta role of the complementizer. These issues constitute problems

because they are not visible at the logical form and if they are not properly checked, they will cause the ungrammatical of sentence. Such difficulties are to be solved in the three different languages with reference to this approach; this approach makes the solutions possible though Arabic belongs to the Semitic language family group whereas English and German belong to the Indo-European family.

3. Objectives and Questions of the Study

The objectives of this study are to find out empirical solutions to the above listed problems in the three given languages with reference to the views of the Modern Linguistic Theory. To achieve the objectives, the following questions are posited.

1. How do formal features constitute problems in subjunctive constructions in the three languages?
2. How do informal features constitute problems in subjunctive constructions in the three languages?

4. Hypothesis of the Study

The researchers posit the hypothesis (1) to cover the above both questions.

1. X is a verb that selects an embedded complementizer phrase in which tense phrase, noun phrase, verb phrase and complementizer are formal features at all levels while the nominative case, theta role of complementizer phrase and agreement - subjects are informal features in the three languages.

The hypothesis (1) illustrates that there has to be certain verbs in the three languages that project a complementizer phrase in the subjunctive form whose head is filled with a complementizer at spell out but may or may not be deleted at the logical form depending on the specific properties of each language.

5. Theoretical Perspectives on Complementizer Phrase Components

Chomsky (1981, p. 18 and 1995 p. 349 -379)) argues that the distinction between indicative and subjunctive is related to the nature of tense, which has the value [\pm Tense], where [+Tense] stands for finite and [- Tense] for infinitival. Thus, the former consists of complementizer phrase and tense phrase while the latter has only tense phrase but without complementizer phrase. This complementizer phrase within X-bar syntax is projected to account for any moved argument outside the boundary of inflectional phrase and for the fronted wh/that-phrases, the complementizer 'for' and inverted auxiliaries that move to complementizer-node. A full clause is headed by a complementizer; hence, the structure is a complementizer phrase satisfying X-bar theory. A complementizer phrase may have a specifier; but, it must have a complement which is the inflectional phrase in which the verb phrase is the complement. A clause is typically has the structure [C^0 Spec [C^0 C [C^0 Spec [C^0 I V'']]]]. Specifier of [C^0 , C'''] is optional and it is a non argument position. The Extended Projection Principle states that the specifier position of the inflectional phrase is obligatory, and thus it is an argument position. The specifier position of complementizer phrase is meant either for moved wh-words, in situ wh-words, relative clauses or for available complementizers such as the English ones 'that', 'for' and 'whether'.

Strong features are narrowly limited in distribution and represented by the functional category tense, the substantive category of the noun phrase and verb phrase that head the major projections within the clause and complementizers that serve as mood-force indicators (Chomsky, 1995, p. 349 and 379). Such features are drawn from the lexicon for the numeration process. Insofar as the functional category agreement - subject is concerned, it does not exist and ϕ - features of a predicate phrase though [-interpretable], they are like the [+ interpretable] ϕ - features of nouns and they are a part of verb phrase in numeration; they are added optionally as verb phrases which are selected from the lexicon (Chomsky, 1995, p. 377). Other [-interpretable] features, namely, the nominative case and the theta role manifestations are checked

at spell-out but deleted at interface level because they are not parts of numeration in the computational channel.

Radford (1988, p 303-313) makes a tangible contribution to the analysis of tense phrase and complementizer phrase when he propagates Chomsky's (1981, p.18) views of the theory of inflectional phrase and further argues that the verb of the indicative of English can take the present tense -(e)s and the past tense -(e)d inflections in an appropriate context; whereas, the verb in the subjunctive cannot and must remain invariable. What makes the subjunctive structure different from the indicative is that the former does not contain any overt tense and agreement marking, and still it is regarded a finite clause. This claim is defended on both grounds: (i) Universalist and (ii) Particularist. On Universalist ground, it is argued that in languages which are rich in inflectional system other than English, subjunctive clauses do indeed turn out to be inflected. For instance, in Spanish, Romanian and Italian, the subjunctive verb is inflected in both tense and agreement features simultaneously. In other words, the feature 3rd person, singular present subjunctive is overt for the present form and the 3rd person singular past subjunctive is overt for the past form. As subjunctive clauses are clearly finite in nature in such languages, it is argued that on universal grounds it is possible to regard them finite in English also. On Particularist grounds, English subjunctive clauses are treated finite as they share certain morphosyntactic properties in common with indicative clauses which differentiate them from non-finite clauses. For instance, (i) neither subjunctive nor indicative clauses can be constructed with out overt or covert subjects; whereas, nonfinite clauses can indeed be subjectless at logical form. (ii) Both the clauses (unlike nonfinite clauses) must case-assign to the overt subjects they contain. The subject of either an indicative or the subjunctive is always assigned the nominative case by head inflection of the inflectional phrase. The question arises here is that: how is the nominative case assigned to the subject of the subjunctive without having the inflectional tense head constituent as per X-bar syntax?.

Theoretically, although a finite clause is overtly or covertly inflected for tense and agreement features, the nonfinite clause lacks such

features. It is also argued that finite clauses that contain an overt complementizer, in fact, must have tense; however, a clause that contains a nonfinite complementizer requires a nonfinite clause. But contradicted to the former logic is that the subjunctive clause in which there is a complementizer, it does not contain an overt finite tense. An assumption given by Radford (1988, p. 307) restated as "Any clause which contains a complementizer (C) contains a compatible tense". Thus, subjunctive clauses in English require an overt complementizer and any clause that contains a complementizer also contains tense phrase, then it follows that a subjunctive complement clause contains tense node. And since tense constituent does not appear overtly in such structures, the obvious solution to be followed over here is that the subjunctive complementizer phrases have an empty tense node. This assumption leads to a final universal conclusion that says all clauses that have tense phrase can either be filled by tense node if finite, by 'to' if nonfinite or left empty. The empty tense phrase helps to achieve the structural account of the nominative case checking. In other words, a noun phrase which is a sister of a finite tense phrase must assign the nominative case in accordance with the case-filter as well as the adjacency parameter as requirements of case theory.

The focus of this study is to discuss in detail all formal and informal features of complementizer phrases of the subjunctive embedded clause used in English, Arabic and German successively with reference to relevant Chomsky's (1981 and 1995) and Radford's (1988) theoretical views and examine the way in which the features help us guarantee the grammaticality of the sentence at all levels. The subjunctive mood is a finite clause and is related to tense at all levels whether tense is overt or covert. Complementizers are to be checked at spell-out whether they are optional or compulsory in the three languages. The researchers test whether a complementizer phrase of subjunctive bears a similar theta role in the three languages or not. Theta marking, of course, depends on the sub-categorization of the matrix verb used.

6. Results and Analyses: Feature Checking

There are a number of lexical verbs in the three languages that constituent- select the complementizer phrase structure in the subjunctive in the embedded clause. This work tries to account for the problems that might arise if the formal and the informal features in the three languages are not checked at spell-out to give correct sentences at the logical form. The researchers deal with the complementizer phrase as an essential regulator for the features whose head-position is occupied by the complementizers *that*, *an* and *dass* for the given languages respectively. The researchers start the analysis with English, Arabic and then German in piecemeal steps.

7. Formal and Informal Features of the Complementizer Phrase in the Three Languages

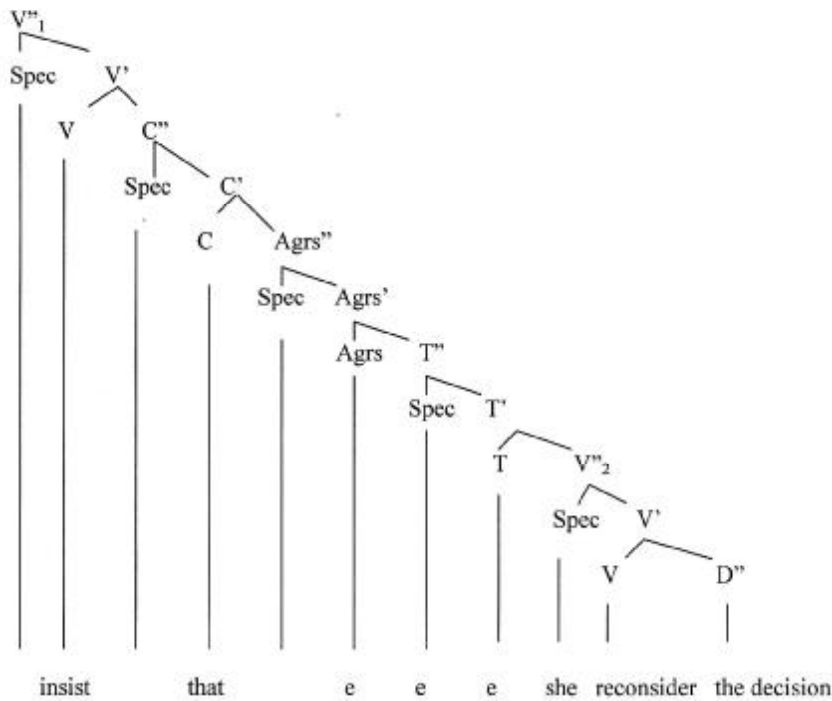
The formal features are represented by tense, noun phrase, verb phrase and complementizer while the informal features by the nominative case, theta marking and the agreements subjects; the former have [+ interpretable] power at all syntactic levels of syntax. However, the latter are necessary to be checked at the spell though they have [-interpretable] at the logical form. In English, the complement head of the complementizer phrase is occupied by ‘that’ if any of the suggest- type verbs such as [*recommend, demand, require, move, insist, ask, etc*] is used as in the specimen (2).

2a. I [_{V¹} insist [_{C¹} [_C (that) [_{T¹} she reconsider the decision]]]]].

(2b) is the spell - out true tree-diagram representation of V¹ only.

2b. Spell-out

2b. Spell-out



In (2b), the verb “insist” selects the maximal projection of the complementizer phrase in the subjunctive and whatever inside it. The first formal functional feature which is to be checked is the tense category. The subjunctive is a finite clause and it must contain tense whether overt or covert. A look at the structure (2b) illustrates that it has no overt tense marker even at spell-out. The absence of tense, of course, is a challenge to the structure in two ways: (i) the nominative case cannot be checked and thus the result is a direct violation to case- filter (c.f. Chomsky 1995, p. 111) and (ii) though the subjunctive constitutes an argument in constituent-selection but it cannot involve the nominal feature of a non finite clause, namely, the infinitive [- tense] in this structure. However,

the fact is that subjunctive is a finite clause, it must contain the tense node even if it is covert as in the tree diagram. This covert tense has the power of an overt tense of a finite clause (c.f. Radford (1988, p. 303-313). This category [e] is able to check the nominative case to with noun phrase 'she' after it move in an NP-movement to the position of [Spec, T"] as tense the head of the tense phrase is the case assignor of the subject position. The second lexical formal features to be checked are of the noun phrases 'she' and 'the decision'. The former checks the base generated intrinsic feature for being a noun in reference and checks the agreement – subject features of 3rd person, singular and feminine and the latter checks its intrinsic reference of the entity and the features of 3rd person, singular and neutral at all levels of syntax. The third feature to be checked is verb phrase as a maximal projection. This phrase is headed by the embedded verb 'reconsider' which is not inflected by any agreement subject features because English has weak overt agreement - subject system (c.f. Chomsky 1995, p.349-355). The agreement subject feature are not needed to guarantee the grammaticality of the sentence because the verb is in the base form. The verb checks the sub-categorization feature of being a substantive verb that syntactically selects an argument as its complement to guarantee the grammaticality of the sentence at all levels of syntax. The fourth [+ interpretable] feature that is to be checked is the functional category of the complementizer phrase. It is obvious that this maximal projection is headed by the complementizer 'that'. This category can be optionally deleted at spell-out; but, still it has strong interpretable features at the interface and logical form because the matrix verb 'insist' constituently-selects this complementizer phrase at spell-out and its position is booked for it whether 'that' is overt or covert.

In short, all the formal features are strong features and visible for interpretation at the logical form in English. Similar verbs that select the complementizer phrase whose content expresses commands, requests and suggestions are 'propose', 'suggest', 'recommend', 'move' (*in the parliamentary sense*), 'demand' and 'mandate'. If any other verb is used such as 'say'; for instance, the embedded complementizer phrase cannot be in the subjunctive but it will be in the indicative form as in the specimen [John said that he passed /*pass the exam]. Thus, the hypothesis (1) as far as English part is concerned proves to be correct

because there are verbs of certain nature that can subcategorize a complementizer phrase in the subjunctive though the head complementizer may be omitted at the logical form.

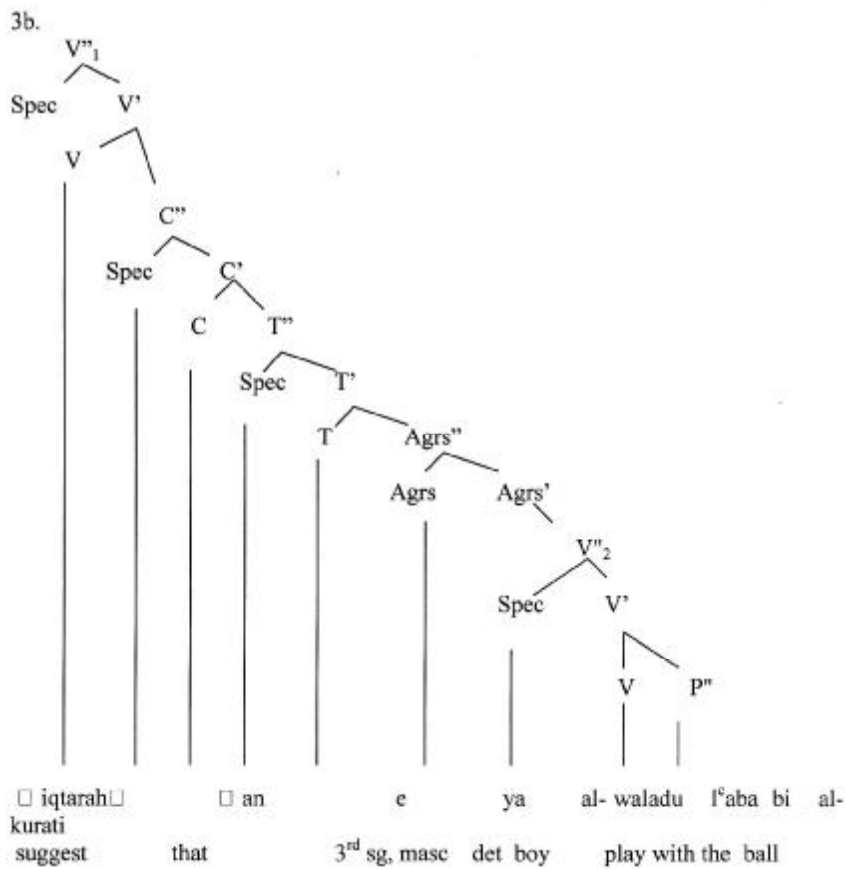
Not only the formal but also the informal features of subjunctive in English are checked in this approach. Such features are represented by (i) the nominative case, (ii) agreement subject and (iii) the theta role of complementizer phrase. They must be visible at spell-out to check the grammaticality of the structure though some of them are deleted at the interface level because they have [-interpretable] influence at the logical form. Thus, in (2b) above, the embedded subject ‘she’ of the subjunctive structure must move from the caseless position of [Spec, V’] to the case position of [Spec, T’] to check the nominative case by the empty [e] of tense under the maximal projection of [T’] at spell-out. Insofar the checking of agreement subject features is concerned, English does not have overt features to be checked at any level. The complementizer phrase ‘that she reconsider the decision’ is assigned the theta role of theme by the verb ‘insist’ of the matrix sentence. Thus, all the informal features are checked in an economic manner or else the sentence cannot be made grammatical at the logical form.

As compared to Arabic subjunctive, it is evident that Arabic originally has the word order of verb subject object (SVO) at the logical form. To apply the concept of government properly to check formal and informal features, the researchers deal with it as subject verb object (SVO) at spell-out level to maintain the directionality of the theory of X-bar syntax. The process of checking is done as in (3).

3a. □ iqtarah□ – tu [C’ [C’ [C □an ya I^{ab-} a al-
 Suggest I that 3rd sg.masc play subj det
 walad- u bi al- kurati]]].
 Boy nom with det ball.

‘I suggested that the boy play with the ball’

(3b) is the spell-out for (3a):



(c.f. Jalabneh, 2007, p. 176-196 for dealing with Arabic as (SVO) at spell-out and applying the Verb-movement to get the word order of (VSO) at the logical form)

In (3b), the verb □*qtarah*□ ‘suggest’ selects the maximal projection of complementizer phrase [□*an yala^cba al-waladu bi al-kurati* ‘that the boy play with the ball’] in the subjunctive form. The formal feature of tense is not overt since the embedded verb *l'ab* ‘play’ cannot show any sign of tense; thus, the slot of [T, T'] is filled by the category [e] as an empty tense. The absence of tense feature does not

affect the grammaticality of the sentence in Arabic syntax in this type of structure at the logical form. As subjunctive is a finite clause, it has the covert tense which can check the nominative case with the subject *al-waladu* ‘the boy’ in the derivation process. Relevant to the grammaticality of the sentence at this point, the verb *ʿab* is marked by the subjunctive feature [a] as an essential marker at all levels of syntax. Due to this syntactic fact, there cannot be a sentence as [* \square *iqtarah* \square *tu* \square *an yaʿab- 0 al-waladu bi al-kurati* ‘I suggest that the boy play with the ball in Arabic] in which there is no subjunctive marker. The question arises here is that: Does the subjunctive marker [a] alone render a grammatical sentence at the logical form without having the empty tense checked at spell-out? The answer is no. Though the subjunctive marker [a] is strong at all levels of syntax in Arabic, it does not have the same strong power of tense. Tense phrase is a compulsory syntactic feature in this complementizer phrase and it must check the tense feature whether overt or covert. The formal features of the noun phrases *al-waladu* ‘the boy’ and *al-kurati* ‘the ball’ are checked in this way. The former checks the base generated agreement features of 3rd person, singular and masculine and the latter checks the intrinsic features of 3rd person, singular and feminine with the overt feminine marker [t]. What makes Arabic different from English is that the verb *ʿab* is prefixed by the marker [ya] which is 3rd person, singular and masculine. It is evident that agreement subject is an informal feature which cannot be interpreted at the logical form; but, it is to be pre-attached to the embedded verb for all persons or else the sentence is ungrammatical as in [* \square *iqtarah* \square *tu* \square *an - ʿab- a al-waladu bi al-kurati* ‘I suggest that the boy play with the ball]. The formal features of the verb phrase are shown in the lexical verb *ʿab* ‘play’; it checks the intrinsic syntactic formal features of 3rd, person singular and masculine represented by [ya] pre-attached to it. As a lexical verb, it is an intransitive verb; it can enjoy the occurrence of the subject *al-waladu* ‘the boy’ in the sub-categorization system. The prepositional phrase *bi al-kurati* ‘by the ball’ is not essential to occur because it is an adjunct and cannot be a part of the theta grid of the same verb. The last formal feature to be checked is the complementizer phrase. It is obvious that this maximal projection is represented by the head complementizer \square *an* ‘that’. This category enjoys [+interpretable] power; thus, it cannot be deleted in this sentence at all levels of syntax, namely, spell-out,

interface and the logical form. Therefore, Arabic does not have a sentence like [\square iqtarah \square -tu ya-l'ab-a bi al-kurati 'I suggested the boy play with the ball']. The complementizer is not always overt at the logical form in Arabic syntax; for instance, it can be overt at the spell out but optional at the logical form. It is sometimes compulsory to be deleted at spell out; but, still, it has strong presence at the logical form. The researchers provide the readers with instances of the issues for the convenience of the analysis. For instance, in (4), \square an is overt at spell out but optional at the logical form if it occurs after the co-ordinate *wa* 'and' in the structure.

Logical form

4a. lā ta \square kul al- samaka wa [_C (\square an) pro tashrab- a al- labana
no eat you det fish and that you drink subj. det curd

Spell out

4b. lā ta'kul al- samaka wa [_C \square an tashrab- a al- labana
no eat you det fish and that drink you subj. det curd
(Abdullhamid, 1999, p. vol. 4, p. 17)

'Do not eat fish and that do not drink the curd'

It is evident that the complementizer \square an occurs at spell –out as in (4b) but it is optionally deleted at the logical form as in (4a). This phenomenon has its English counterpart whenever the complementizer 'that' heads the complementizer phrase that occurs in the object complement position. In both structures, their syntactic effects are visible at the logical form as complementizers. The difference is that, in Arabic, the verb remains without overt tense as it involves weak tense phrase but rich in having the subjunctive marker [a] and the agreement subject features; however, in English, not only is the verb weak in having weak tense phrase but it is weak in agreement subject features and also the subjunctive markers.

Arabic also involves examples in which the deletion of the complementizer \square an is compulsory at the logical form if it occurs after the preposition *h* \square atta 'until' as in (5).

Logical form

5a. sir- tu h□atta □adkhul- a al- qaryata.
 walked I until enter into I subj. det village

'I walked until I entered into the village'

Spell out

5b. sir- tu [c^o h□atta □an pro □adkhul- a al-
 qaryata].
 walked I until that I enter into subj. det village

'I walked until I entered into the village'

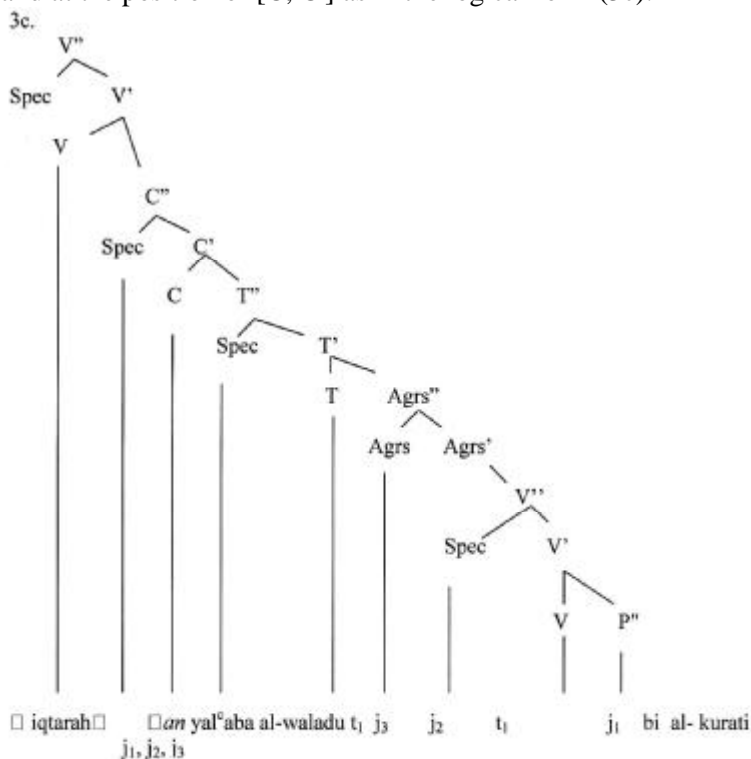
5c. *sir- tu [c^o h□atta □an □adkhul- a al-
 qaryata].
 walked I until that enter into I subj. det village

'I walked until that I entered into the village'

(c.f. Maghalsih, 2007, p. 67-71)

(5a) is the correct form of the sentence. In (5b), *h□atta* and *□an* can be overt at spell out because they are syntactically treated as one unit. Thus, *□an* cannot be overt if (5c) is dealt with at the logical form; thus, it is incorrect. Being overt in the sentence amounts repetition and makes the sentence ungrammatical in other similar examples in Arabic syntax. In short, all the formal features in Arabic are strong and visible for interpretation at the logical form whether the complementizer *□an* is overt or covert. Similar verbs that select a complementizer phrase in the embedded position are *yamīlu* 'incline', *yakrahu* 'disincline', *yajibu* 'must', *yuh□arramu* 'prohibit', *yakhāfu* 'fear', *yanwi* 'intend' etc. In case any other lexical verb of reporting nature is used, the subjunctive cannot occur as in [**qāla- □an -ahu yaqūma biwājib-ihī* 'he- said- that -he –perform- his duty']. The sentence can be made grammatical if the indicative is used instead as in [*qāla- □ann-ahu yaqūmu biwājib-ihī* 'he- said- that -he –performs- his duty']. Thus, the posited hypothesis in (1) regarding Arabic verbs proves correct.

The informal feature of the nominative case is checked as that, in (2b), the noun phrase *al-walad* 'the boy' has to move from [Spec, V''] to the case position of [Spec, T''] to check the nominative case by the empty [e] and becomes *al-waladu* 'the boy'. To get the correct logical form, the complementizer *?an* 'that' moves to the position of [Spec, C''] leaving a space to the verb *la'ib* 'play' to move. This verb must move in Verb-movement to the position of [Agrs, Agrs'] to check the marker [ya] and becomes *yal'aba* 'play'. Then, it moves to the position of [T, T'] to check the empty marker of present tense and becomes *yal'aba* 'play' though the subjunctive marker is visible because it has nothing to do with tense. In a final cyclic movement, it moves to the outside border of tense phrase to land at the position of [C, C'] as in the logical form (3c).

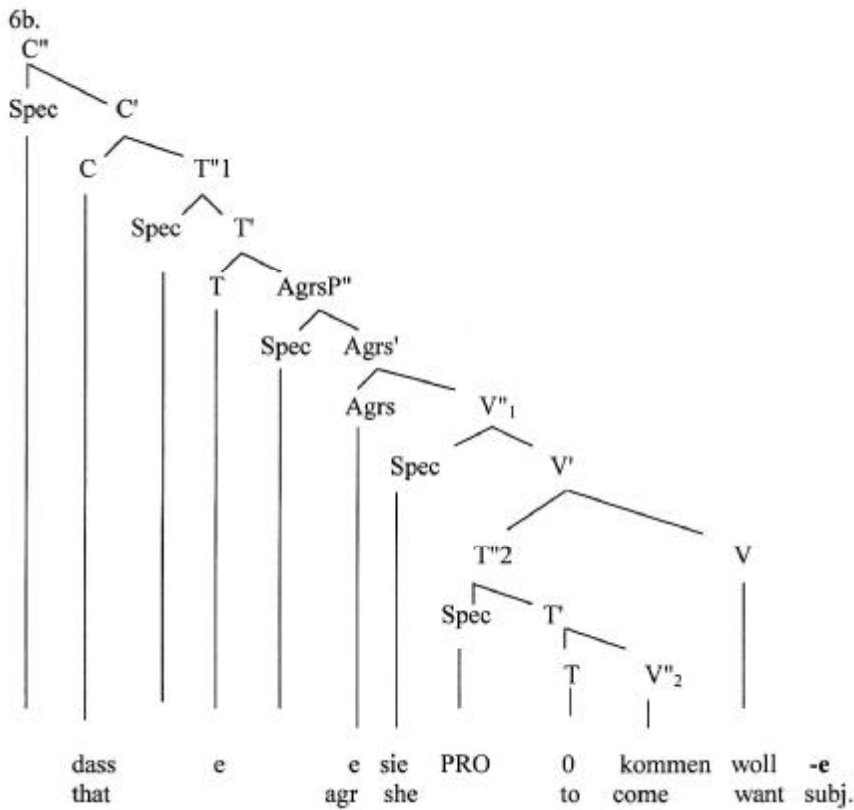


With regard to the informal agreement subject features, they are visible with the marker [ya] as 3rd, person and masculine; it has [-interpretable] power at the logical form. It is evident that Arabic has various agreement markers prefixed to the embedded verb of the subjunctive such: *□a-ktuba* 'I write' *na-ktuba* 'we write', *ya-ktuba* 'they (masc.) write', *ya-ktub-na* 'they (fem) write' and *ta-ktuba* 'she write'. Though all these features are visible at all syntactic levels but they cannot be interpreted because the verb can accept a visible subject and the markers are retained for confirmation as in [*□iqtarh□-tu □an ya-ktuba zaidun al-darsa* 'I suggested that Zaid write the lesson'] or it can accept *pro* 'he' as in [*?iqtarh□-tu □an ya-ktuba pro al-darsa* 'I suggested that he write the lesson']. As Arabic is a pro-drop language, the verb shows that subject is *pro* 'he' because of rich agreement subject pattern. Therefore, a linguist cannot interpret the same sentence for English as [**I suggested that 3rd, sg, masc. write the lesson*']. As far as the theta marking of the complementizer phrase is concerned, it is obvious that *□an yal^faba al-waladu bi-alkurati* 'that the boy play with the ball' is assigned the theta role of theme by the verb *□iqtarah□* 'suggest' in (3b).

As compared both of them to German, let us have a look at (6).

- 6a. Er behauptet dass sie kommen wolle.
 he pretends that she to come want.
 'He pretends that she want to come.'

(6b) is spell out tree diagram representation for (6a):



C''

In (6b), the complementizer phrase *dass sie kommen wolle* 'that she want to come' is constitutively selected by the verb *behauptet* 'pretends'. In it, the tense node is empty and filled with empty category [e] because the embedded verb *wolle* 'want' does not show any sign of tense markers. The absence of the head tense does not defy the grammaticality of the sentence at the logical form in German. The empty tense node is powerful and can assign the nominative case to the subject *sie* 'she' at spell-out. The verb *woll-e* is marked by the subjunctive feature [e] as an essential marker at all levels of syntax. Due to this syntactic fact, German cannot have a sentence as [**Er behauptet dass sie*

kommen wolle 'He pretends that she want to come']. In other words, the subjunctive marker [e] alone cannot serve syntactically to render a grammatical sentence without the help of the empty tense content. Thus, the tense phrase is a compulsory syntactic feature in the complementizer phrase in German. The formal features of *sie* 'she' and *PRO* 'she' as lexical noun phrases are checked at the base; they show 3rd person, singular and feminine for both of them at all levels. What makes German different from English is that though the verb *wolle* has a zero marker which is 3rd person, singular and masculine; still, German has overt agreement subject system. Different agreement subject features can be added to the embedded verb for most persons in German such as *woll-e-st* 'you, subj and sg', *woll-e-t* 'you, subj and pl', *woll-e-n* 'we and subj' and 'they and subj.'. This syntactic fact adds that German behaves like Arabic in having distinct subjunctive markers. The formal intrinsic features of the lexical verb *woll* 'want' are checked as 3rd, person and masculine; it also checks the other syntactic feature of being a transitive verb as it takes the infinitival clause *kommen* 'to come' to be its object argument. As far the formal features of the complementizer phrase in German are concerned, they are represented by the head complementizer *dass* 'that'; this functional category is overt at spell out but optional at the logical form. Thus, German behaves like English but not like Arabic because Arabic has instances in which the complementizer *?an* is compulsory at all level of syntax. Thus, German can have a sentence as [*Er behauptet sie wolle kommen* 'He pretends she want to come'] but it does not permit the verb to remain in the final position as in [** Er behauptet sie kommen wolle* 'He pretends she want to come ']. It has to move to a position before the [T"2] *kommen* 'to come' inside the V"2 as in [_V [V, T"2]. There are certain verbs of reported speech nature that take the complementizer phrase of the subjunctive nature which are *sagen* 'say', *meint* 'thinks', *glaubt* 'believes', *hofft* 'hopes', *behauptet* 'pretends/ or asserts' *erzählen* and 'to tell'. The propositions in such verbs is not necessarily a condition and one can put either the subjunctive or the indicative. Therefore, the use of subjunctive or indicative does not have any difference in function and content. Others verbs that show mandative sense are *darauf/bestehen* 'insist', *meinen* 'suppose'. In short, the complementizer *dass* in German is not always overt at the logical form. German is different from both Arabic and English in the sense that it involves verbs of reporting nature

that constitutently projecting propositions either of the subjunctive and / or the indicative in addition to the mandative verbs.

To check the nominative informal feature, in German, in (6b), the subject *sie* 'she' must move from [Spec, V"] to [Spec, T"]. In this position, the noun phrase is assigned the case nominative by the empty category [e] of the head tense. The agreement subject features are treated as that of Arabic. For instance, though the selected sentence does not show any type of subject markers; still, German is rich in them at all levels of syntax. For instance, it accepts markers such as *woll-e-st* 'you, subj and sg', *woll-e-t* 'you, subj and pl', *woll-e-n* 'we and subj' and 'they and subj.' to be suffixed to the embedded verb of the subjunctive. They do not have any interpretable power if interpreted to any other language. German is not like Arabic because the former does not accept *pro* to appear in the structure. With regard to the informal feature of the theta marking, the complementizer phrase *dass sie kommen wolle* 'that she want to come' has the theta role of theme assigned to it by the verb *behauptet* 'pretends' of the matrix sentence.

To sum up, though the occurrence of the subjunctive clause in a sentence is universal; still, its selection succumbs to certain restrictions with reference to the sub-categorization of the verbs in the three languages. For instance, in English, it is restricted to mandative type of verbs. However, in Arabic, in addition to verbs of the same category, there are other verbs that show inclination, disinclination', necessity, prohibition and fear as mentioned ahead before. In German, not only certain verbs of mandative but also verbs of reporting can select the subjunctive in addition to the indicative in the same sentence without having any kind of functional difference. In general, theory-wise, the subjunctives have similar kinds of structures in the three languages but with different parametric variations with regard to the occurrences of the complementizers. Problems of the study are solved with reference to views of the Modern Linguistic Theory. For instance, the centre problem in the three languages is the absence of tense at all levels of syntax. For this purpose, the researchers refer to theory of empty tense posited by Radford (1988); it is eligible to be applied to fill the slot at spell out for feature case- checking. Other problems are solved with reference to

Chomsky's view of Minimalist Program in deciding what formal and informal features are and how they are to be checked in syntax to come up with a grammatical sentence at the logical form. This study is of great significance to Arabic in the sense that though it belongs to different language family which made it different from the other two languages in this research, the researchers found that the empty tense is the only nominative case assignor in the absence of an inflection in such a language which is rich in morphological realizations. Moreover, the study made it very clear in the sense that the complementizer, in Arabic, is not always overt at the logical form; it can be overt at the spell-out but optional at the logical form or it is sometimes compulsory to be deleted at spell out; but, still, it has strong presence at the logical form; such features are not in English and German.

8. Conclusion

There are certain verbs that can project the complementizer phrase in the subjunctive in the embedded position. This maximal projection has specific formal and informal universal features that are examined in English, Arabic and German respectively. For this particular purpose, the researchers have referred to Chomsky's (1981 and 1995) and Radford's (1988) theoretical views in modern linguistic theory. They looked at various data from the three given languages and found that the formal features include tense phrase, noun phrase, verb phrase and complementizers that serve as mood-force indicators. However, the informal features are found to the nominative case, the theta role of the complementizer phrase and agreement subjects. For instance, tense phrase is covert in the three languages but it is strong because it does the same of function of the overt one as that of the indicative and it has [+interpretable] feature at the logical form. Regarding the features noun phrase and verb phrase, they are strong features checked at spell-out and retained until the logical form. The three languages proved to have complementizers for the embedded subjunctive of the mandative type; however, they vary with regard to feature checking. For instance, in English, the complementizer 'that' in (2b) may or may not be overt but it has [+interpretable] power at the logical form because of the position of [C, C'] is meant for it. In Arabic, there are situations in which *?an* 'that' can be compulsorily overt at all levels as in (3b), compulsory overt at

spell- out but optionally overt at the logical form as in (4) and compulsorily overt at spell out but compulsory deleted at the logical form as in (5). However, in all the instances, the complementizer and the relevant markers are strong at the logical form and liable for interpretation as they are also parts of numeration at spell out. In German, the complementizer *dass* 'that', in (6b), is overt at spell out but covert at the logical form with parametric variations. For instance, if *dass* 'that' is overt, the main verb of the embedded clause has to occur in the final position of the embedded clause [T''_2] in the position of [${}_V T''$, V]; however, if it is covert at the logical form, the same verb has to move before [T''_2] in the position of [${}_V V$, T''_2]. It is evident that, in both positions, the entity tense phrase is projected from [V'] but not from [V] according to the theory of X-bar syntax. Insofar as the informal feature of the nominative case in the three languages is concerned, it is checked in the position of [Spec, T''] by the empty [T] after the noun phrase moves from the position of [Spec, V''] as in (2), (3) and (6) respectively. Regarding the theta marking of the complementizer phrase, it checks the theta role of theme at the spell out position in the three languages in the same tree diagrams respectively. However, insofar as the agreement subject is concerned, it is proved to have [- interpretable] feature at the logical form though Arabic and German are rich in it in the same sentences.

The researchers conclude that Chomsky's (1981 and 1995) theories of X-bar syntax and the checking theory and the Radford's (1988) theory of empty theory are helpful to account for such unpredictable features among languages and come up with correct analysis of the subjunctive complementizer phrases at the logical form though they may or may not have the same configurational system of arguments in the three languages.

Abbreviations

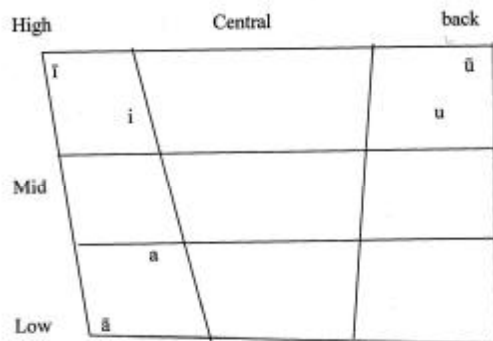
Agrs^{''}: agreement subjects phrase
Agrs[']: agreement subjects bar
Agrs: agreement subjects
Φ- Agr : Abstract agreement
C^{''} : complementizer phrase
C['] : complementizer bar
C^{''}: complementizer
Det : determiner
D^{''} : determiner phrase
D['] : determiner bar
D : head noun
E : empty
Masc. : masculine
P^{''} : prepositional phrase
Pl. : plural
Sg. : singular
Spec : specifier
subj : subjunctive
T^{''} : tense phrase
T: tense bar
T:tense
t₁ : trace 1
V^{''} : verb phrase
V[']: verb bar
V:verb

10. Transliteration Symbols of Arabic Consonants Phonemes

Arabic	Transliteration	Arabic	Transliteration
أ	□	ض	d□
ب	b	ط	t□
ت	t	ظ	z□
ث	th	ع	°
ج	j	غ	gh
ح	h□	ف	f
خ	kh	ق	q
د	d	ك	k
ذ	dh	ل	l
ر	r	م	m
ز	z	ن	n
س	sh	و	w
ص	s□	ي	y

Notice: the researcher has a reference to the transliteration symbols while writing the Arabic phonemic segments in the text.(c.f. Oxford Journal for Islamic Studies)

11. Transliteration Symbols of Arabic Vowels Phonemes



(c.f. Oxford Journal for Islamic Studies)

12. Standard Arabic Phonetic Symbols of Consonants as per IPA

Labial	Inter-	dental/	alveolar	palatal	velar	uvular	pharyngeal	glotal	
		Dental	plain	emphatic					
nasal	m	-	n	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stop vl	-	-	t	t ^h	-	k	q	-	ʔ
	v	b	-	d	d ^h	d ^ʒ	-	-	-
Fricative vl	f	θ	s	s ^h	ʃ	-	χ	ħ	h
	v	-	ð	z	ð ^h	-	-	ʕ	-
Trill	-	-	-	r	-	-	-	-	-
Lateral	-	-	-	l	-	-	-	-	-
Approximate w					j				

Notice: the researchers do not refer to the phonetic symbols but they used merely the transliteration ones while writing the Arabic specimens in the text. The phonetic symbols are listed only for knowledge (c.f, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_Phonology).

References

- Abdullhamed, M. (1999). *Sharh ibn Aqil^c ala alfiyat ibn Malik*. Cairo: Maktabat Dar Al-turath.
- Chomsky, N. (1981). *Lectures on government and binding*. Dordrecht: Foris
- (1995). *The minimalist program*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT press.
- Culicover, P (1982). *Syntax*. New York: Academic Press.
- Eisenberg, P. (2006). *Grundriss der deutschen Grammatik. Der Satz*. 3rd edition, .117-119. Stuttgart-Weimar, September,
- Fari, Sh and et al (2006). *An introduction to modern linguistics*. Dar Wael lilnashir. Amman: Jordan.
- Gerhard, Helbig and Joachim, B (1981). *Deutsche Grammatik. Ein Handbuch für den Ausländerunterricht*. Leipzig
- Greenbaum, S and et al (1990). *A student's grammar of English language*. England: Longman
- Jalabneh, A (2004). Agreement rules in Arabic: A minimalist approach *Jordan Journal of Applied Science: Vol, 10, No. 2: 59-79*.
-(2007). *The thematic relations in Arabic and English syntax: Minimalist Program*. Amman –Jordan: Al-Hadthih Lilnashir.
- Lyons, J. (1968). *Introduction to theoretical linguistics*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Maghalsih, M. ((2007). *Al.nahu al-shafi al-shamil*. Amman, Jordan: Dar Al-masirah.
- Radford, P (1988). *Transformational grammar*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Rug, W and Romaszewski, A (1993). *Grammatik mit Sinn und Verstand*. München, p.147-148
- Wright, W. (1984). *Grammar of the Arabic language*. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company

Received 8/6/1011