

SENTENCE INITIAL PRE-VERBAL CONSTITUENTS IN ARABIC  
- A TEXT-BASED APPROACH

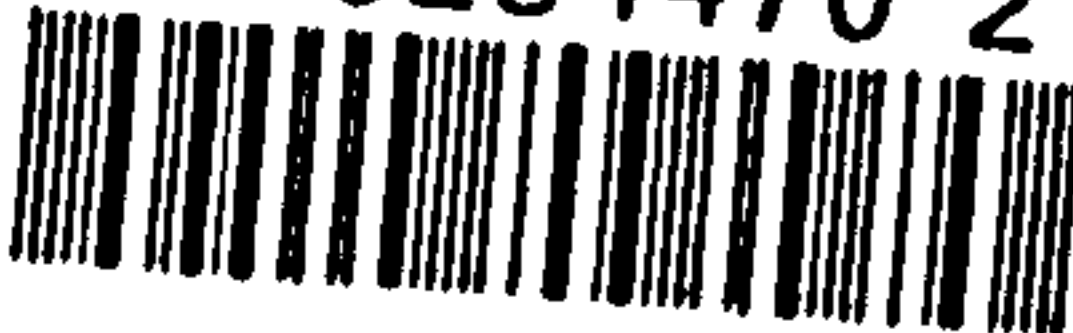
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## Abstract

Word order is a textual means available to text producers to arrange their messages in order to convey different communicative functions, the choice of sentence initial position being one of the strategies commonly used to relay pragmatic or textual functions such as emphasis or topic continuity.

In Arabic, the use of an initial pre-verbal constituent determines the difference between two types of sentences: the verbal sentence and the nominal sentence. Adopting the Prague School functional approach to grammar as a framework, this study argues that the position of the initial pre-verbal constituent is decided by textual and extra-textual factors. It examines the mechanism of this interaction and its consequences on word order.

Arabic word order however, has generally been studied within the transformational-generative framework using sentence-based grammar; even the few cases of functional studies favour this same type of decontextualized data. Very little work of any real significance has been undertaken that attempts to relate sentence type to context and/or text type. In response to this, the data used in this study is text-based and taken from a variety of sources, and the sentences are analyzed in context.

Chapter one outlines the aim of the study and reviews current trends in word order research with special regard to Arabic word order, and attempts to highlight the theoretical and empirical limitations of these approaches.

Chapter two gives a detailed presentation of the theoretical framework chosen for the analysis. It introduces the corpus used for the analysis, and explains the general method and principles which govern this analysis.

Chapter three is the text analysis proper. After a brief presentation of the source text, its general background and organization, each nominal sentence is analyzed textually, contextually, syntactically and functionally.

Chapter four discusses the results of the data analysis. The principles at work in word order organization in Arabic are determined, particularly of initial position, and therefore the difference between nominal and verbal sentences. The textual and contextual behaviour of the sentence initial pre-verbal constituent is examined allowing conclusions about the information structure of the Arabic sentence to be drawn.

## CHAPTER ONE

### Word order

#### 1.1 Aim of the research

This research examines the various functions of the initial pre-verbal element in the Arabic sentence. It is argued that the position of the initial pre-verbal constituent of a sentence is determined by specific textual and extra-textual factors and that the initial element has specific functions. Word order variations of the initial pre-verbal element are investigated with regard to the pragmatic factors which determine their choice.

The question is of significance because the presence or absence of a pre-verbal element marks the difference between two types of sentence in Arabic, the nominal sentence and the verbal sentence. The study attempts to shed light firstly on the difference between the two types of sentences and secondly on the textual and extra-textual factors which determine which is chosen, testing the hypothesis of a co-occurrence relationship between sentence type and text type. Thus, if not systematic, this relationship could at least be proved through the analysis, to be statistically probable.



## 1.2 The significance of word order

Every discourse - spoken or written - is an interaction, either multilateral (i.e. with more than one participant e.g. a dialogue), or with only one participant (e.g. when reading). This study will concentrate on written discourse as it approaches the initial pre-verbal element in the Arabic sentence with regard to the textual and extra-textual factors governing it, and with regard to the implications of these on text production. Thus, a text-based approach may be seen as most suitable to this end as it allows the study of the sentences analysed not as isolated units but as parts of texts and contexts.

Halliday (1974: 107) defines text in a general definition :

a text is an operational unit of language, as a sentence is a syntactic unit, it may be spoken or written, long or short, and it includes as a special instance a literary text, whether Haiku or Homeric epic. It is the text and not some super-sentence that is the relevant unit for stylistic studies; this is a functional-semantic concept and is not definable by size.

A text is produced by a language user whose intention is to communicate a purpose, thereby achieving a specific effect. This may be to inform, influence, express an opinion, provoke a reaction, etc. In every language the organization of discourse obeys specific rules and follows specific patterns which must be conformed to if the message is to be intelligible. In the case of a written

text, these principles and rules will guarantee the text is received and understood and ensure its 'textness', with qualities such as acceptability, textuality, etc. (Beaugrande and Dressler; 1981). Consciously or unconsciously, every text-producer organizes not only his texts with an organization of the type 'thesis-antithesis-synthesis' for instance, but also, at a lower level, his sentences, as for example in :

The sun rises in the East

where the order subject-verb must be respected in English. This is where word order intervenes. Word order will enable the text-producer not only to convey different sorts of communicative functions, for instance a question or statement, but it will also enable him to express them in certain ways to achieve specific effects. The rules governing these uses of word order may be optional as for example the position of the adverbial in the sentence :

He died suddenly

where suddenly can also be placed in initial position as in :

Suddenly, he died

but they may also be obligatory as in the case of the fixed position of where in :

Where did you go yesterday

which cannot be placed elsewhere in the sentence. This research will only investigate optional cases of pre-verbal initial element positioning because only in these cases can pragmatic factors be examined. Initial position is a position of thematic emphasis. One example is the difference between the two sentences :

- a. He, however, called the police
- b. However, he called the police

In a. however is backgrounded and it is rather the subject which is highlighted, whereas in b. However has to be stressed because it expresses contrast. In the case of a student of translation for example, it is very important to understand the difference between the two types of emphasis conferred to however in a. and the same element in b. if they are to be translated accurately. In Arabic the mechanisms which allow this have not yet been thoroughly examined, hence this study which will concentrate on the initial pre-verbal element.

### 1.3 Trends in the study of word order

Inspired and influenced by Weil's work in 1844, two tendencies emerged in the study of word order. The first, represented by Greenberg (1963) is interested in the classification of languages according to the order of the



three syntactic elements: the verb, the subject and the object. The main theoretical postulate is that every language has an underlying order and a surface order. Greenberg also argues that every language has only one underlying word order even if it allows more than one surface order. Three main language groups are determined on the basis of word order: SVO, VSO and SOV. Most studies about Arabic word order are within this framework with the aim of discovering the 'base' of the language or the basic order from which utterances are generated. The main concern is the determination of the underlying order which, some have argued, is nominal while others maintain that it is verbal.

The second tendency is that of the Prague School. Word order is treated as contributing to the information system which distributes information, and distinguishes between given and new as in the sentence :

I love chocolate

where I is given and chocolate is new. Within this framework, different word order principles are posited as determining word order in languages, the most prominent of which are :

1. The grammatical principle : it governs the syntactic order of elements in the sentence, as in The children/ are playing/ with the dolls where the SVO order cannot be turned into OVS as in \*the dolls/ are playing/ with the children.

2. The semantic principle : it organizes semantic functions. Thus the natural order of the functions 'actor' and 'specification', as for example in Paul runs fast is 'actor' before 'specification'.
3. The emotive principle: it is at work when the usual word order is departed from, as for example in Amazed he was.
4. The basic distribution of communicative dynamism (or C.D) : elements are ordered into an unmarked 'theme-rheme' sequence where the element carrying less new information appears before the element carrying more new information, as in the example :

John loves fishing.

theme                      rheme

Without going further into the theoretical approach of the Prague school and its approach to word order at this point, it suffices to say that it is fundamentally structuralist and functionalist i.e. language is conceived as a dynamic and structured system of systems where every element fulfils a particular function. Language is a tool with a social function and therefore must not be dissociated from the extra-linguistic reality it not only refers to but reacts to as well. This interest in 'language in use' and 'language in context' makes the functional sentence perspective framework (FSP) more appropriate for this research than the transformational-generative model more concerned with 'competence' i.e. the knowledge of language and its system of rules, than with performance i.e. the actual language in use, because the

study of word order and FSP were considered by the founders of the School (Firbas 1970: 104) :

to be one of the most important tasks of functional syntax.

This study will investigate, within the Prague School framework, what structures are at the disposal of the language user and what factors determine his choice as to the way he organizes his information. In Arabic, two main structures are used to this end - the nominal sentence which has an NP preceding the verb (conventionally a subject or adverbial), and the verbal sentence which has a verb in initial position.

This study will be mainly concerned with investigating the factors which determine the nominal order and sets the following assumptions :

1. Nominal sentences are more likely to occur in certain types of texts than in others. They will, for instance, be more numerous in concept-based texts through which personal attitudes are expressed, than in events-based texts centred on events and not on any attitude towards these events.
2. The verb always occurs in first or at most second position in the sentence. Examples of SOV or OSV orders are mentioned (Bakir, 1980; Thalji, 1982), but although they are syntactically correct, they are seldom found in communication.
3. Nominal sentences occur when a new sequence is introduced, the topic of which is the initial element



involved.

4. An initial nominal must always be known.

It can be argued that the Praguian functional approach allows such assumptions to be verified.

#### 1.4 Data and language analyzed

Before going on to analyze the data used in this study, it seems appropriate to introduce briefly the language used. Three varieties of Arabic are usually recognized :

- The Fusha
- Modern standard Arabic (hereafter MSA)
- Colloquial or vernacular Arabic, almost exclusively spoken, which varies from region to region and has informal features

Some other categories have been distinguished, (Badawi 1973; El-Hassan 1977; Kaye 1972; McLoughlin 1972; Mitchell 1978; Palva 1969; etc.), but the three varieties given above are comprehensive enough for the purposes of this study. 'Fusha' is canonized by the Koran and was first studied within its framework. The first grammars of Arabic were specifically written to protect the purity of the language from any distortion by the new converts who came from so many different linguistic backgrounds (Fück; 1955), thus prescribing 'nahw al-wadah' or 'the right way', (Menacere; 1989), which is still followed by modern day grammarians. MSA is the modern counterpart of the

'classical' language, and is selected for use in the analysis because it is the 'lingua-franca' of the Arab world today. MSA is, as described by Sa'id in McLoughlin (1972: 58):

that variety of Arabic that is found in contemporary books, newspapers and magazines, and that is used orally in formal speeches, public lectures, learned debates, religious ceremonies and in news broadcasts over radio and television.

The corpus used for the analysis includes twelve texts, some of which are from the Arab press and the remainder from different kinds of literature. They are taken from three newspapers of similar status :

1. Al Sharq Al Awsat
2. Al Madinah
3. Al Ryadh

which are of approximately similar standards, i.e. they are targeted at the same type of educated readership and the articles extracted deal with contemporary political and economic issues. The other remaining texts are composed of :

1. A historical account of the 8th century Abassid dynasty.
2. A literary description of Stockholm by M. Taymoor
3. A short story by M. Abood.

Both Taymoor and Abood are contemporary authors. The material is not uniform in that it consists of a variety of genres (short story, news items, historical reviews, etc.), but it can still claim enough consistency

especially regarding the type of readership and the level of the language used, to allow a consistent analysis of the language, and to draw some conclusions about the question of Arabic word order, more particularly the functional difference between verbal order and nominal order.

### 1.5 Review of word order theories

In the field of language studies there was no particular interest in the subject of word order until the second half of the 19th century, before which the focus of interest in the field was on other language aspects. 16th century grammars and their normative rules were followed in the 17th century by the rather philosophical 'Port Royal grammars'. Even the comparativists of the 18th century or the neo-grammarians of the 19th century did not include word order in their investigations (Crystal 1982; Ducrot and Todorov 1972; Sampson 1985;).

The earliest work on the subject was a study produced by Weil in 1844. At the origin of his interest in the question of word order was a reflection on the contrast between the relative lack of flexibility of modern European languages in comparison with the flexibility of some of their predecessors such as Latin, for example (Tomlin; 1986). For him, word order reflects the order of ideas which is subjective, or speaker-oriented. He distinguishes it from the syntactic order which is objective, or text-oriented, and considers that the former



determines the latter. Thus he divides the sentence into two parts: a 'point of departure' and a 'goal of discourse', and argues that the same fact can be communicated in different ways, depending on the order of the elements, or their distribution through the two parts (Contreras, 1976; Firbas, 1974).

### 1.5.1 Greenberg's universal typology

Weil's work inspired two tendencies in the approach to the study of word order. One is represented by Greenberg who attempted to set up a universal typology of languages on the basis of the surface ordering of the three syntactic constituents, the verb, the subject and the object. He argued that three of the combinations allowed - VSO, SVO and SOV - characterize types of languages. These syntactic formulae, which he called 'basic order', constitute the dominant structure of a language. This does not exclude the possibility of other structures but means that it is the order which recurs regularly even if the other orders are sometimes found.

The contribution of transformational grammar can be placed in this framework as it introduced a new notion, that of the underlying order, often called basic order in the literature, but different from it in the sense that it does not concern the surface order as such but "the linear order of constituents produced by the base rules." (Heinamaki: 1976). The basic or surface order of a language may be different from its underlying order. In



Contreras (1976), the questions dealt with by transformationalists regarding the subject of word order are summed up in two points: first, whether the base structure is ordered or unordered and second, how the problem of stylistic reordering should be treated, i.e. which rules can deal with it since they are not rules of grammar.

### 1.5.2 The functional approach

The other tendency which emerged under Weil's influence is that of the Prague School (Daneš and Vachek 1964; Vachek 1966; Williams 1987), which this study adopts as a framework. The landmark in the existence of the School is a meeting of the 'Cercle Linguistique de Prague' on the 6th October 1926 at the end of which the participants agreed to meet on a regular basis. It is these meetings, the joint thesis prepared by the members, and their participation in international conferences, that established the foundation of what came to be known as the Prague School, a name associated from the beginning with Mathesius, one of the founders of the School. He successfully synthesised the linguistic trends prevalent since the 19th century. The two major trends which helped to shape the theoretical basis of the Prague School are two different, if not opposed, currents of 19th century linguistic thought. The first is diachronically oriented, mainly represented by comparativists like Bopp and the Neogrammarian School. The second, represented by Humbolt

and Misteli (Vachek 1966; Sampson 1985; etc.), is synchronically oriented. Followers of the first trend tried to go back as far as possible in the history of particular languages to study the origin and development of individual sounds and word forms. Working within the 19th century philosophical tradition about thought and language as a vehicle for it, they considered that language was a mirror of the structure of thought. Weil, a comparativist himself, reoriented the debate by discussing instead, the structures of ideas and not those of thought.

It can be argued that among the drawbacks of this trend is that it concentrated too much on the physical side of language. They also overlooked one of the fundamental postulates of the Prague School, the structural nature of language. They equated linguistic study with philology. However, their major achievement, particularly of the Neogrammarian School, is that they introduced positivist principles in their field, with the focus on explanation, precision and accuracy in their methods of analytical procedure, which they developed and which the Prague School adopted.

The second trend is mainly represented by Humboldt, also a comparativist, who focussed on the synchronic nature of language and used non-historical methods of analysis. Also within this trend, language is not considered as a system, but simply as isolated units. Although they did not develop any scientific methodology of analysis, their main achievement was their characteristic methodical ability to detect and study the finer features of a language.

Mathesius laid the foundation of the Prague School on the basis of a synthesis of what he saw as the best methodological and theoretical principles of the two currents. The principle tenets of the School are :

- 1 - to develop accurate methods of discovery and analytical procedure
- 2 - to adopt a synchronic approach i.e. focus on language in its present state not on its historical evolution
- 3 - to emphasise the dynamic nature of language considering language as a 'creative process'
- 4 - to consider language as a 'system of systems'
- 5 - to consider that the different levels of language must not be separated
- 6 - to approach language in terms of function, hence the introduction of a functional level of analysis within the sentence and later within the text as a whole.

Later still, this functional understanding was extended to also include the extralinguistic function of language which explains the School's concept of alternative systems, registers and styles of language. One practical application of this was their interest in the aesthetic and literary aspects of language use.

### 1.5.3 Prague School methodology

Concerning the Prague School methodology, the works of Firbas and Daneš, whose contributions are complementary, will be focussed on. It was seen that some linguists dealt with the division of the



discourse/utterance into different functional parts, as in Weil (1844) who recognized a 'point of departure' and a 'goal of discourse' in every utterance. Firbas (1974) says that in the last quarter of the 19th century, notions like theme/rheme/functional perspective, etc., were dealt with by German scholars. It is these notions, which Mathesius found incomplete, that served as the basis on which he established the concept of Functional Sentence Perspective (FSP), a functional level of analysis which was further developed by other Prague School linguists (Beneš 1968; Daneš 1970). He divided the utterance into two parts: the 'theme', or what the sentence is about, which conveys known information, and the 'rheme', or what is said about it and conveys unknown information. These notions were later elaborated by Firbas who in particular did not agree with Mathesius' assimilation of the theme with known information. He justified his view citing the case of context independent sentences where even the theme is new, in other words unknown, e.g. :

A man bought a car.

He held the view instead that every element in the sentence brought a certain amount of information thus contributing differently to the overall development of information in the utterance. He called this process the 'degree of communicative dynamism' (C.D) set on a scale which goes from the lowest degree (the theme proper) to the highest degree (the rheme proper) (Firbas: 1964a, 1971).

Another important definition of theme is that found in systemic grammar (Halliday 1985; Lyons 1970; Morley 1985). Language is viewed as a system of three functions :

- 1 - the ideational function, subdivided into :
  - a. the experiential function, referring to persons, objects, circumstances, etc.
  - b. the logical function, relating ideas to each other through coordination, subordination, implication, etc.
- 2 - the interpersonal function, serving as a means of expressing opinions, influencing others, etc.
- 3 - the textual function, the role of which is to 'create' texts.

Each of these functions determines one of the parameters of register :

- field or 'subject matter' is determined by the ideational function
- mode or the medium, written or spoken, used for the expression of discourse, is determined by the textual function
- tenor or the degree of formality determined by the social roles and status of participants, is determined by the interpersonal function

Theme is viewed as a system of the textual function. Halliday (1985: 313), argues that the following elements make up :

the 'textual' component in the grammar of English:

A. structural :

1. thematic: theme and rheme
2. information structure and focus: given and new expressed by intonation

B. cohesive :

1. reference
2. ellipsis and substitution
3. conjunction
4. lexical cohesion

Within the structural component, a distinction is clearly made between word order and the notion of given and new. Theme is studied within the clause system. The clause is viewed as being structured as a message. It has a 'thematic structure' and is divided into two parts; the theme, indicated in English by initial position, and the rheme. For example

John     ate his dinner  
           th                    rh

Thus, English being an SVO language, the subject is theme in unmarked structures, for example :

John received a letter

as are conjunctive and modal adjuncts (therefore, probably, etc) and conjunctions and relatives (and, while, etc.)





assimilates different functional elements into the same (functional) category as in (idem) :

If winter comes / can spring be far behind?

th

rh

which a more refined FSP analysis would parse as follows:

If winter comes / can / spring / be / far behind

td

tr

th

trp

rh

This also demonstrates the fact that the different functions of theme (contrastive and continuative) are not taken into consideration.

The analysis of an Arabic SVO sentence :

و الابتسامه لا تفارق أفواههم  
rh th

T(12)

(Line11)

and its VSO equivalent:

أفواههم .  
rh

و لا تفارق الابتسامه  
th

demonstrates the limits of the model for this type of analysis.

The functional model of grammar in which word order is a way through which emphasis is expressed, constitutes the framework of this analysis. Daneš' three-level approach to syntax (1964, 1968, 1971), also dealt with by

Novak (1966), is taken as a model for sentence analysis by this study. Every utterance is seen as having three levels:

1. The level of grammatical structure

Categories are established on the basis of syntactic form (subject, verb, etc.) Relations between the different members of these categories are dependence relations on the preceding sentence or succeeding elements.

2. The level of semantic structure

This is the level of linguistic generalizations of concrete lexical meanings with abstract word categories and the relations effected by them. These relations - actor/specification, for instance - realize the semantic structure. These relations may also be causal, circumstantial, etc.

3. The level of the organization of utterance

It refers to the distribution of elements in the utterance according to their information content and to their relations with the extra-lingual reality to which they refer. This level is dynamic while 1. and 2. are static.

This model is central to this analysis for two main reasons. Firstly, it is FSP which will, depending on the extra-linguistic reality, determine the distribution of information hence determining the form of the message. Secondly, and this point is related to the first, one of the most important means which serve to implement FSP is

word order, and it is mainly in the framework of FSP that word order has been approached by the Prague linguists who looked at it as one of the principles among others which determine the degree of communicative dynamism. For them FSP is the result of a hierarchy of word order principles.

For Firbas (in Jones: 1977) for instance :

a small set of principles satisfactorily describes the word order of sentences in all languages. Four of these word order principles seem to be more important than others for all languages:

1. the grammatical principle
2. the semantic principle
3. the emotive principle
4. the basic distribution of C.D

- 1 - The grammatical principle determines word order according to syntactic form e.g. the subject/verb natural order in English as an unmarked order.
- 2 - The semantic principle determines the order of elements according to semantic meaning. Hence action will naturally appear before goal.
- 3 - The emotive principle - also called the principle of emphasis - in English lies in deviation from the grammatical order e.g. obj/sub/verb.
- 4 - The basic distribution of C.D determines the appearance of the theme before that of the rheme in an unmarked order.

Among the other principles that may be mentioned are:

- the situation or the effect of context
- intonation



It is argued that for each language, these word order principles constitute a different hierarchy. The familiar comparison cited to this effect by the Prague linguists is between Czech and English (Firbas: 1964b). In Czech, the position of an element in the sentence is determined by the amount of C.D it carries. The syntactic order is relatively free and it is its function as thematic or rhematic that will determine whether it is placed at the beginning or at the end of the sentence. The basic distribution of C.D is therefore the determining word order principle in Czech. As for English, where the position of an element in the sentence is determined by its syntactic function and the elements are not free to appear in any position in the sentence because the word order is not so flexible e.g. the subject must precede its verb, it is the grammatical principle which may be said to be dominant.

Bubenik (1979) argues that :

the requirement of the normal sequential theme/rheme is more easily met in Arabic than in English.

This is somewhat surprising considering that the most common syntactic function of the thematic element is 'subject', and that the unmarked order in English is SVO, whereas the most frequent sentence structure in Arabic is the VSO structure which realizes a 'transition - theme - rheme' thematic structure. As Williams (1987) confirms :

the most common word order of Arabic, VSO is not in accord with the basic distribution of C.D

The three main principles dealt with correspond to Daneš' three levels of syntactic structure and will be considered in that sense. There are, then, three different structural levels in any utterance. Take for example this sentence and look at it at the said levels :

	John	published	a book
1.	S	V	O
2.	actor	specification	
	quality bearer	quality	specification
3.	theme	transition	rheme

The subject and the theme in this example coincide. However, it may happen that the elements of both levels act counter to each other resulting in certain deviations, which will be seen, and which the Prague linguists dealt with at two levels - the functional and the grammatical level.

a. deviation from the FSP order

In all the languages studied by the Prague linguists, the usual order of elements at the functional level is theme/rheme, though this is by no means a general rule and some languages may not conform to it. However, Arabic belongs to the former type. This theme-rheme order is called the objective order. The reverse order, rheme-theme is called the subjective order :

	John	published	a book
objective order	theme	transition	rheme
subjective order	rheme	transition	theme

b. deviation from the grammatical order

The other kind of deviation is that of the emphasis/emotion principle coined by Firbas and which is seen as a deviation from the grammatical word order :

neutral order	John	published	a book
	S	V	O
emotional order	the book	John	published
	O	S	V

It is possible for deviations from either or both of the grammatical and FSP orders to occur in the same sentence. The possible cases mentioned by the Prague linguists are :

1. a sentence with an objective order and an emotional colouring e.g. (Williams, 1987:69) :

This lesson	/	time	/	will teach	/	to all alike
diatheme		theme proper		transition		rheme

2. a sentence with a subjective order and an emotional colouring e.g. Chocolate she loves

O	S	V
Rh	th	



3. a sentence with a subjective order and no emotional colouring e.g. A man answered the phone

S            V            O  
Rh            th

These changes in the functional and syntactic structures of the utterances are determined by another FSP principle which is that of context. Firbas argues that the effect of context on the organization of the utterance may vary in its importance, hence the two types of sentence described in FSP (Firbas; 1979):

1. The first instance level sentence which is subdivided into two types -

- a. the basic instance level sentence

This level contains sentences which are completely independent from context, and which are therefore considered as not concerned with it. The example commonly cited is that of text initial sentences.

- b. the ordinary instance level sentence

The sentences found at this level are only partly independent from context. Only some of their constituent parts are context dependent. The sentences found at this level form the majority of cases in a text.

2. The second instance level sentences

In these sentences only the contrasted elements are context independent. All the others are context



dependent. These sentences are usually found in cases where only one element is contrasted or clarified, as in for instance : "I like it without milk."

These two types of sentences reveal the degree of interaction of the sentence elements with context, a basic tenet in the Prague School's concern for the relation of form and function. Firbas (1967: 144) argues in this sense that :

The fact that owing to the operation of the context practically any element can become theme proper or rheme proper within second instance proves that in producing FSP, context is in the end superior to semantic structure. It is through context that the semantic and the grammatical structures of the sentence are introduced into the act of communication, i.e. into speech (parole).

It is important to stress at this stage that the functional level has been sufficiently developed and although it is true that it is sometimes difficult to distinguish a theme from a diatheme, or a rheme from a diatheme, Adjemian's criticism (in Combettes, 1983) of the notion of C.D on the grounds that it is extremely vague and almost impossible to utilize in a rigorous linguistic description is considered extreme, as Svoboda's model (1981, 1983) is considered as helpful. The much elaborated scale he suggests has the following elements :

1. ellipted theme proper (Tp)
2. theme proper Tp

3. theme proper oriented theme T(p)
4. diatheme oriented element T(d)
5. diatheme Td
6. transition Tr - ellipted transition (Tr)
7. transition proper Trp - ellipted trans. proper (Trp)
8. rheme R
9. rheme proper Rp

This scale completes the one suggested by Firbas :

1. theme proper
2. rest of theme
3. transition proper
4. rest of transition
5. rheme
6. rheme proper

The utterance is now divided into two distinct functional parts: the thematic sphere and the rhematic sphere. With the elements with a lower degree of C.D in the former, and those with a higher degree of C.D in the latter, functional status is not fixed. An element can be shifted from the thematic sphere to the rhematic sphere, a movement called 'dynamization' (or 'intensification', Svoboda; 1981) and the opposite movement is called 'dedynamization'. One very interesting feature is Svoboda's identification of communicative function with grammatical form, position and/or semantic function :

	Position in word order	Semantic function	Grammatical function
1. ellipted theme proper	not definite	quality bearer or setting	A strong tendency to express the subject. Not definite.
2. theme proper	1st/2nd	idem	Subject most often. Has a higher proportion of objects than No.1
3. theme proper oriented theme	last		Object most often
4. diatheme oriented element		introduce circumstantial elements, mostly as setting, rarely as quality bearer	Adverbial (most often conjunct)
5. diatheme		qualities and specification or quality bearer	Time/place/manner adverbial Relative pronoun, subject, object
6. transition			
7. transition proper			
8. rheme			
9. rheme proper			



## 1.6 Word order theories in Arabic

The tri-dimensional aspect of the structure of the sentence as suggested by the Prague School linguists has already been discussed, distinguishing :

- the grammatical level
- the semantic level
- the functional level

Word order in Arabic has very often, if not exclusively, been studied at the first level, and even when dealing with the functional categories such as 'theme' or 'topic', these studies have focussed on the syntactic aspect of the question. Thus, VSO is generally recognized as the basic word order for Arabic (Russel 1977; Thalji 1986) on the basis of the universal criteria established by Greenberg (1963), such as neutrality, frequency, unrestricted use, etc. Although it is pertinent that the 'unmarked' VS+ is established, however the 'marked' order SV+ has not been sufficiently studied particularly in functional terms. The subject of word order has been quasi-systematically assimilated with the dichotomy of verbal vs. nominal sentence which can be translated, in terms of syntactic structure, into verb-subject vs. subject-verb. Studies about word order in Arabic can be divided into two different chronological periods and consequently two different theoretical trends:

1. the classical approach
2. the modern linguistic approach

which contributed with different methodologies, models and theories.

### 1.6.1 The classical trend

This can be divided into the ancient, purist Arab grammarians and the Arabists who produced purely descriptive grammars of the Arabic language (Cowan 1955; Monteil 1960), just as those of the Arab grammarians which were also predominantly prescriptive since they were originally written to preserve Arabic from the poor usage and corruptions introduced by new converts to Islam. These grammarians have certain common points concerning word order :

- they distinguish two types of sentences, the verbal sentence and the nominal sentence, but do not go further in the explanation of the difference between them, even when they recognize that they serve two different purposes. Al Jurjani (Husein, 1981) for instance who argued that the verbal sentence expresses occurrence and happening ( الحوادث ) while the nominal sentence expresses substantiation and assertion ( الثبوت ). The difference is seen rather in prescriptive terms.
- word order was not studied by them as an independent subject but in relation to other linguistic questions such as the problem of agreement between the verb and its subject in VS and SV orders, again from a purely syntactic angle. In this case, the review by Levin (1985 ) can be cited concerning the difference between nominal and verbal sentences according to the

Arab grammarians , where he relates their arguments as to whether the nominal predicate ( المبتدأ ) is the subject of the verb following it in the sentence in NP + V structures, or whether the subject can only be that which follows the verb or that for which the verb is marked by case. It may be useful to note here for those unfamiliar with Arabic that when it is in initial position, the verb is not marked for subject e.g.

( الرجال / جاء )

Subj. pl                      sing

'came the men / the men came'

except for gender, unless the latter is not mentioned independently as in

( البارحة جاؤوا )

'came them yesterday / they came yesterday'

### 1.6.2 The modern period

Most modern linguistic studies about Arabic word order were undertaken within the framework of transformational generative grammar, and the main concerns were :

- to determine the basic word order in Arabic
- to describe alternative word orders
- to formulate transformation rules for the various word orders

Although in Arabic a word's function is partially designated by its case, word order is not completely free. Two types of sentence are recognized by Arabic



grammarians: the verbal sentence and the nominal sentence.

The first order is generally called the 'unmarked' or 'neutral' order and the second one the 'marked' order, a view which is not supported unanimously. Thus if the verbal sentence is agreed upon as that which starts with a verb, there are cases where what is a nominal sentence for one theorist is considered as a verbal one by another as long as it contains a verb. Such is the case in Abdo (1983) and Bakir (1980) where sentences containing a verb are considered as verbal even if their initial element is nominal, as the subject or the object for instance. For the purpose of this study the nominal is considered as any sentence which has an element other than verbal in initial position. This study will attempt to shed some light on the problem of which order is marked or unmarked, or indeed whether both are unmarked and, in which case, what deviations could result from such unmarked orders.

Deviations from the unmarked order are generally considered as syntactic or stylistic (Fleish; 1956). An example of stylistic difference was seen in the difference between 'happening/ حدوث' and 'assertion/ ثبوت'. As for the syntactic difference, debates are centred around the question of the status of an initial subject NP, considered as topic by some and subject by others. In his review, Levin (1985) argues that an initial subject NP will determine the sentence as nominal, not because it is preposed to the verb but because of a factor called (الابتداء) or initiating factor, superior to the factor 'subject'. Therefore, the initial NP is a (صبتداً) or 'inchoative' not a subject considering that the subject of

a verb can be only that which is affixed to it or appears after it as in

the sun.set /	الشمس	غابت
	S	V

According to Levin ( 1985 ; 122):

the verb [for the grammarians] cannot simultaneously govern both a noun and a pronoun referring to this noun.

Therefore, an initial NP which takes the nominative case like the subject will be a ( مبتدأ ) 'inchoative' whereas it is the pronoun affixed to the verb which will function as subject. It is noteworthy that both inchoative and subject take the nominative case and therefore cannot be differentiated on syntactic grounds, which makes some of these grammarians (particularly the Basra school) reject the idea of subject preposing because of the structural ambiguity entailed. For these grammarians, a verb cannot govern two subjects. However, with these purely grammatical considerations, the grammarians in question do not develop the question and study any consequent difference of function of this agent NP, which is an inchoative when it precedes the verb, and a subject when it is affixed to it.

In Bakir (1980), sentence types are studied with a particular view to the grammatical processes involved in word order variation. Two different orders are established for the sentence. The basic order is determined on the

basis of :

- frequency
- neutrality
- great syntactic distribution
- unrestricted use

The fact that questions about the general state of affairs like :

What happened?

are invariably answered by a VSO order, are mentioned as further support that it is the dominant order. In fact, this does not prove anything except that a question in which the 'event' or 'happening' is focussed will call for an answer in which the same 'event' is focussed, hence the VS order for the answer. The basic order is distinguished from the underlying order, defined as the 'linear ordering of constituents in the deep structure', also VSO in Arabic. Although deviations from this order are interpreted in pragmatic terms, it is clearly stated that focus, for instance, does not determine the sentence structure although it is acknowledged that "pragmatic considerations may make use of the availability of a certain structure configuration." (Bakir 1980: 52). Thus, instead of being considered as 'determining' structure, pragmatic considerations are seen as simply and passively 'making use' of these structures. This still implies the idea of choice and consequently that there is a functional reason as well as a structural one. It is argued that there are two ways to mark focus in Arabic - stress and



position. Focus is then divided into two types :

(pp = prepositional phrase and P = participial complement)

1. focus of contrast	VOS
	VAS
	VppS
	VPS
2. new information	OVS
	AVS
	ppVS
	PVS

The first is used in contrastive contexts to contradict a previous assertion. The contrasted element is placed post-verbally as in VOS. The second type of focus consists of pre-verbal position of the focussed element. The categories mentioned to illustrate pre-verbal position are the object, the adverbial and the participial complement. No cases of subject pre-posing are treated until a later independent section where subject pre-posing is argued against because of (Bakir; 1980: 84) the :

problems of structural ambiguity that sentences with preposed subjects exhibit if pre-posing is allowed to apply to subject.

Bakir also supports the traditionalist Arab grammarians' view that an initial NP e.g. SVO, cannot be a subject but a topic on the basis that subjects do not precede their verbs. The subject appears after the verb. It is the clitical pronoun affixed to it. However, if VSO is seen as the unmarked order, and SVO is argued against, stress would seem to be the only means available to focus the

subject either for contrast or new information. The examples cited in this regard are somewhat confusing. Thus, (Bakir, 1980; 130) :

- the subject 'Mohamed' / محمد in  
Mohamed left Irak / محمد غادر العراق

is considered as 'new', whereas

- the subject 'Mohamed' / محمد in  
Mohamed bought a book / محمد اشترى كتابا

is known and analysed as 'topic', the sentence being considered as a topic/comment structure. This study does not argue against the possibility of a 'known' pre-verbal subject, but it does not agree with its assimilation with topic. Thus the treatment of the subject as topic, when the same subject is not followed by the resumptive pronoun characterizing topics in topic/comment structures, is called into question. Furthermore, no pragmatic argument - such as the contextual factor - is put forward to justify the different treatment given to the two sentences.

These contrastive orders (VAS, VOS) will be compared within the data analysed in this research to confirm whether this is actually the order used in Arabic in cases of contrast. Bakir also argues that if an element carrying focus of the new is typically placed to the left of the verb e.g. AVS, contrastive focus may also appear to the left of the verb as in an OVS order, for instance, or even in unmarked order, e.g. VSO where the O is contrasted.

This is seen as a consequence of the independence of structural position from the pragmatic function of focus. This perhaps explains why the two processes are examined by Bakir from a structural point of view only. The analysis will also clearly refute the claim made by Bakir that VSO is the only order that appears in discourse initial sentences as the data reveals that almost only the news-reports had verbal sentences in initial position.

Thalji (1982) like Bakir posits VSO as the basic order, again on the basis of such pragmatic principles as:

- neutrality or 'unmarkedness'
- frequency
- the fact that in the absence of morphological or semantic information, the only order possible is VSO as in 'saw Moussa Issa / رأى موسى عيسى' for instance.

- the grammatical principle of syntactic distribution.

Thalji, like Bakir, also subscribes to many of the traditionalists theories, for instance:

- he recognizes two types of sentences, verbal and nominal, the latter being assimilated with topic-comment sentences.
- he distinguishes between topic-comment structures and left dislocation on the basis that the initial NP is known in the former and new in the latter.
- he argues against the rejection by Arab grammarians of subject fronting but nevertheless deals with SVO structures with topic/comment sentences, for example the topic/comment sentence (1982: 175):



The children came back home / الأولاد راجعوا الى المنزل

It is interesting that he also deals with the verb, and as those who dealt with it in functional terms, calls it theme because of the conception of theme as initial element of the sentence. It is argued that the verb can be focussed with the use of the particles ( قد ) and ( لقد ) its variant, and also with the use of what is called the 'absolute object' as in the example

' ضربه ضربا / he beat him a good beating'

Thalji argues that the answer to :

What did Zayd do? / ماذا فعل زيد؟

where focus is on the 'action', is :

Zayd hit Amr / زيد ضرب عمرا

a SVO sentence. He mentions the VSO sentence :

hit Amr Zayd / ضرب زيد عمرا

as a possible answer to the verb, but adds that the SVO order 'is marked i.e. typically occurs as an answer to the question.' This in no way explains why one order is more likely to occur than the other, nor does it explain the functional difference between the two sentences. It also contradicts Bakir's argument that VSO appears in answer to

general order questions.

Arabic word order is also considered in other studies primarily devoted to some specific aspects of it, such as the similarity between topic-comment structures and relative clauses in Lewkowicz (1971) and Koch (1982). In the latter, the shift of a post-verbal subject to a pre-verbal position is a process called topicalization. It is linked to the use of the particle ( **إِن** ) "a kind of speech marker in that it often signals argumentative theses". It is argued that initial position gives the subject more presence. Nominal sentences, those with an SV order, are considered as 'thematic variants on unmarked, verb first, word order' but no factors determining this process are mentioned apart from the resulting thematic emphasis the preposed element acquires.

Another study of word order still within the framework of T.G. grammar is that of Abdo (1983). This time, however, SVO is posited as the basic order for Arabic, and although details of the arguments put forward to sustain the conception of an SVO order will not be given here, an interesting hypothesis put forward, and which will be considered again later, is that of neutrality of both VS and SV structures, focus being indicated by stress. Abdo argues that the answer to :

What is the boy doing? /

ماذا يفعل الولد ؟

is a SV sentence and not a VS sentence because the continuous present tends to appear after the subject. This argument which is not justified, is seen as a possible

explanation for SV orders in titles. It is noticed, however, that titles are generally verbless, or have a VS order in news reports where, by definition, events are focussed. On the other hand, Thalji, as was seen earlier, also posits SV as a 'typical' order in answers to questions of the type :

'What did Zayd do? / ماذا فعل زيد ؟

where the verb is in the past tense. Therefore even a past tense question is said to call for an SV order.

Two studies of word order were made in a different framework than generative grammar; one, (Parkinson; 1981) is socially oriented; the other, (Hatim; 1987) is made within a 'text-typological' framework. Parkinson argues that word order is determined by certain constraints of which he mentions several types - sociological, which he calls pragmatic, ideological, synchronic, personal, etc. He also argues that whereas VSO structures are more detached and therefore more numerous in news reports, SVO structures, which denote warmth and are close to colloquial, are more numerous in emphatic texts. The SV order is indeed more frequent in colloquial Arabic, and in Maltese, which developed from North-African vernacular Arabic, the unmarked order is SV. Thus it is argued by Kalmar and Agius (1980) that the marked order VS is possible if the subject has the highest degree of C.D, and despite the difference between Maltese and Arabic concerning what is acknowledged as the unmarked and the marked order, in Maltese too (i.e. as in Arabic) VS cases



are characteristic of news reporting.

The conclusion arrived at is that the use of either order will be proportionate to the importance of the constraint, for example, a modern text vs. a classical one or a leftist one vs. a conservative one. However, as interesting and useful as these comparisons may be, the actual mechanism of the relation of constraint to form is overlooked in favour of more general considerations. No analysis of how information is organized according to these different constraints is made. One of the conclusions arrived at, which the data in this study confirms, is that the verb tends to appear in second position at least.

The particle (  $\bar{\text{ا}}$  ) is considered from the point of view of its incidence vis-a-vis SVO structures. It is argued that the higher the proportion of the particle in the text, the lower the proportion of SVO structures will be and vice versa, the lower the number of (  $\bar{\text{ا}}$  ) the higher that of the SVO structure will be. This, interpreted in the author's own terms, means that in 'emphatic' texts, the proportion of (  $\bar{\text{ا}}$  ) will be lower than in 'detached' texts like news reports. This contradicts completely the results arrived at by Koch (1981; 123) who says about (  $\bar{\text{ا}}$  ):

It is clearly a topicalizer which shifts the subject from post-verbal position (in verbal sentences) to the beginning of a clause, and that it seems also to be a kind of speech-act marker, in that it often signals argumentative theses.

Therefore, if the particle is considered as the signal for thesis to be substantiated, it will be more likely to be found in texts where such processes are encountered than in texts like news reports which by nature are more inclined to report facts than analyse them. In the data analysed in this thesis, only 5 cases of clauses introduced by ( إِنَّ ) occur. They allow the following observations:

- the elements topicalized belong to different syntactic categories
- they have varying information status
- they introduce different types of structures

These sentences are :

1. Text 8 (l 15)

- و اذا كان اختيار الشعب السوداني لممثليه في الجمعية التأسيسية قد جاء انعكاسا لما طرحته الاحزاب السودانية من برامج سياسية ، و اقتصادية فان المرحلة التي تلي تشكيل الحكومة تعني بداية المسؤولية الحقيقية أمام هذه الاحزاب لترجمة برامجها الى واقع .

2. Text 10 (l 23)

- فقال له : " إِنَّ أخاك أبا طالب كثير العيال ، و قد أصاب ما ترى من هذه الازمة ... "

3. Text 11 (l 48)

- ... فان فيها جانبا عظيما من التماثيل .

4. Text 12 (39; 10 ل)

(a) - و هكذا قل عن عمال المخزن ، فانهم في شغل دائم و الابتسامه  
لا تفارق أفواههم .

(b) - و من هؤلاء الافذاذ الذين صمدوا للامه المستر ه . ك .  
فانه ظل متمتعاً بالثقة حتى عام أول .

- The element shifted to the beginning of the clause is the subject everywhere except for one case T(11) where it is adverbial.
- The shifted elements do not all have the same information status. Some are 'given' (3), the remaining ones are 'new'.
- They either introduce a new element on the scene T(8), reintroduce a previous element on the scene T(10), or maintain an element on the scene by introducing it on the thematic sphere after it was used as rheme in the preceding sentence.

Thus ' إِنَّ ' introduces different types of clauses:

- relative T(8)
- topic/comment T(10,11,12b)
- nominal i.e. with pre-verbal constituent T(12a)

The fact that these ' إِنَّ ' clauses occur only in 'concept-based' texts - none occur in the news-reports analysed - does not corroborate Parkinson's conclusions (1981), although it may not of course constitute sufficient evidence against one case or the other.

The study which comes nearest to the approach adopted by this research is by Hatim (1987) in which a



'redefinition of theme and rheme' is suggested. The review of 'current conceptions of theme and rheme' is restricted and could have gained from studies such as those by Svoboda who works with a more elaborated thematic scale including notions like diatheme, rheme proper etc. (see table). It is for example stated that "in terms of C.D, there is little to distinguish sentences A and B" (1987: 54):

A. Much credit flows to the state of Israel for the vigour of the Kahan commission's enquiry and the rigour of its conclusions

- سيل من عبارات الشناء ينهال على دولة اسرائيل...

B. Several consequences flow from this new proposal.

- و يترتب على هذا المقترح الجديد نتائج عديدة .

but there is in fact a difference in the distribution of C.D in the two sentences. The two sentences belong to two slightly different instances of context. Sentence A is a basic instance level sentence. Sentence B which has at least one context bound element, the demonstrative pronoun 'this', is an ordinary instance level sentence. A has an objective order (theme/rheme), whereas B has a subjective order (rheme/theme). Hatim justifies the choice of nominal structure for the translation of sentence A by the fact that (1987; 60) ;

the thematic status is assigned to an 'agent' and not a 'doer'. As a result the degree of gravity of the

contextual act, i.e. the event to be attached to the agent is no longer retrievable from a context already constructed (the narrative event) but in a context 'to be constructed' (the argumentative act). This establishes a 'forward' directionality giving rise to a transition-rheme nexus ('flows to the state of Israel') with the aim of maximally dynamizing the rheme, thus qualifying it to occupy a thematic slot in a subsequent sentence and thereby creating the turbulence required by argumentation. In responding to these commitments, the translator opts for a nominal clause type which, being an unmarked form in Arabic, ensures that the potential theme-transition nexus is severed and that the transition is made to contribute an added communicative thrust to the rheme.

It is not considered, however, that had sentence A started with a verb, ( بينه ال ), the effect would have been that the focus would have been rather on the action or image semantically transmitted by the verb. In this particular case, it is a very physical image, that of 'pouring', which is left in initial position and would create an expectation for further information, physical or material. On the other hand, it is not made clear how these "contextual values from the various domains must be conflated" (1987: 56). Furthermore, it is a general and widely agreed principle that beyond its topic, theme or subject, each text has a particular intention which may be to inform, to influence or to compel.

The difference between the two orders (nominal and verbal) in sentences A and B would be better expressed in terms of focus, and it should be seen in terms of which is the more important element, the process expressed by the

verb or that expressed by the subject. It is indeed interesting and beneficial to link the type of sentence with the type of text in which the sentence is found. An area worth developing - with a much bigger corpus - is the investigation of whether SV sentences are a measure of the evaluativeness of text. This in turn can be linked to another important area of investigation, whether text types have specific dynamic patterns, as for example the 'zigzag' pattern in argumentative texts.

The data in the present study shows that nominal sentences do not exclusively appear in argumentative texts. On the other hand, the degree of argumentation in a text may vary from  $-\infty$  to  $+\infty$  which makes some categorizations less easy. Again, a verb in initial position does not mean that the verb in question has a 'thematic status'. Its transitional status remains unchanged. It is rather vis-a-vis the subject that the change occurs through an increase or decrease in its degree of C.D depending on whether it is in pre-verbal or post-verbal position.

Within the Prague school framework, Aziz (1988) approaches 'theme-rheme organization and paragraph structure in standard Arabic'. Two sentence types are identified :

- the verbal sentence which realizes a VSO pattern
- the nominal sentence which realizes the S/C pattern

The thematic analysis followed is similar to the one adopted in the present research but whereas this study concentrates on sentences with a pre-verbal constituent in initial position, only one such structure occurs in Aziz's



data, a narrative text where 16 sentences out of 19 are verbal.

The tendency for thematic elements to appear at the beginning of the sentence is observed by Aziz, and cases of marked thematic order considered, for example :

Zayd wrote the poem /	القصيدة	كتب	زيد
	Th	tr	rh

as an answer to the question :

Who wrote the poem? /	من كتب القصيدة ؟
-----------------------	------------------

for which another contextually similar answer is suggested, the topic comment sentence :

The poem was written by Zayd	زيد	كتبها	القصيدة
(The poem wrote it Zayd)	rh	tr	th

The analysis, however, falls short of handling the subtle difference between the two structures, in terms for instance of the thematic 'behaviour' of the elements 'Zayd' and 'poem', e.g. whether they reappear in the subsequent discourse, whether they do so in the same way, etc. Aziz (1988: 121) argues that :

in a language like Arabic where the word order is relatively free, it is not possible to tie thematization arrangement to any one fixed order.

This is mainly due to the fact that thematic status is determined by the amount of C.D an element carries, which may vary according to context. This process is dynamic, whereas the syntactic category is static. It is therefore impossible to establish rules of the kind :

In such and such a language :-

- subjects are always theme
- subjects always have a lower amount of C.D than adverbials

The type of tying mentioned above has not been attempted for any language.

Another approach to Arabic word order is Moutaouakil's studies (1985, 1987) of focus in Arabic within the functional framework inspired by Dik (1978). Focus is considered as a pragmatic function determined by context. A difference is established between :

1. The nature of focus :
  - a. focus revealing the quality 'new'
  - b. contrastive focus
2. The scope of focus :
  - a. focus of a constituent
  - b. focus of a whole sentence

VSO and VSA, the 'unmarked' order, are used to illustrate cases of 'focus of the new'. It is argued that a new element is emphasized through tonic accent. As for contrastive focus, it is realized through different word orders of which only those with a pre-verbal constituent are considered :

(OVS)	شايًا شرب خالد
(AVS)	البارحة عاد زيد

This seems to imply that the quality 'new' is systematically expressed through a VS order plus tonic accent and that pre-verbal position is reserved to contrastive focus. In other words, the unmarked order is the only order mentioned for cases of focus of the 'new'. In this study, again, the main weakness is that the data consists in decontextualized, 'made-up' sentences.

In conclusion, most recent studies of Arabic word order were carried out within the framework of T.G. grammar. The common pattern is, from a sentence-based data, to find confirmation for the order posited as the underlying order for Arabic, either VSO (Bakir 1980; Thalji 1982) or SVO (Abdo 1983; Awwad 1973; Killeen 1966; Lewkowicz 1971; Snow 1965) or VOS (Anshen and Shreiber 1968). These studies have a lot in common :

- they are sentence-based and do not deal with text
- they have an exclusively syntactic concern
- they deal with certain fixed word orders and this excludes any notion of choice on the part of the sentence producer
- they deal with individual sentences often unrealistic and decontextualized
- even when reconstructed, the context remains artificial
- they deal with the question of whether the inchoative ( مبتدأ ) is subject or not
- they consider sentences of the type ( مبتدأ / خبر. س/ع ) as topic/comment
- they generally include AV sentences in the verbal type



- they suggest PS rules which generate the underlying structure
- they suggest the surface structure produced by the application of transformational rules to the deep structure.

In the light of these shortcomings, the approach adopted by this study, which is more context-conscious, attempts to offer a more appropriate framework for the study of word order.

## CHAPTER TWO

### Methodology and Data

As this study argues, in every language, word order is influenced and even governed by different internal and external factors. What follows is an attempt to investigate those factors which determine word order in the Arabic sentence with particular emphasis on initial pre-verbal position. The factors are of different types: phonetic, syntactic, semantic, pragmatic and stylistic. Whereas the first three are fixed, the last two may be said to be determined by choice, thus the focus will be on the pragmatic factor i.e. the element of choice, and how much it intervenes in determining the position of the initial constituent of a sentence.

#### 2.1 Word order

In general terms, linguists agree that word order can be defined as the linear arrangement of the lexical and grammatical elements in the sentence. Enkvist (1976: 9) describes it as :

a linguistic mechanism [which] contributes to the expression of different linguistic functions.

He characterizes these functions clearly as being :

- to provide cues for the basic interpretation of syntactic structures to distinguish between the canonical forms of major modes of statements such as interrogation, statement, etc.
- to contribute to marking the difference between different clause types such as main or subordinate clause.
- to distinguish between the different functions of sentence and clause constituents
- to signal the scope of grammatical and lexical elements, adverbials, modifiers, etc.
- to signal the arrangement of information in the clause.

This thesis attempts to investigate a general framework for the study of word order variations of the initial pre-verbal constituent in the Arabic sentence, within a general framework. For this purpose, it is assumed that the sentence is the basic unit of analysis. A brief review of the different types of sentential structures in Arabic will be followed by an examination of the relations, both internal and external, held by the different elements of these structures. The central element is the verbal element in relation to which these positions will be studied, in terms of what precedes it or succeeds it i.e. pre-verbal and post-verbal position. These elements are, in order of frequency and importance, the subject and the adverbial. The sentences analysed will be considered within their textual environment. They will be examined within and in relation to their context of occurrence as



it can be argued that it is only then that the pragma-textual interaction can be observed.

## 2.2. The sentence as a linguistic unit

Before dealing with the definition of the Arabic sentence, a definition of the sentence in general is pertinent, as is a consideration of whether this concept is universal. A problem encountered in the course of the analysis, and which was of considerable importance considering that the unit under analysis is the nominal sentence, was to establish the boundaries of the sentence unit. Although the Arabic 'jumla' or sentence is often mentioned, an exact account of the nature of this unit is nowhere to be found. This is not due, as one might be tempted to believe, to a theoretical gap in Arabic grammar, but more probably to an attempt to apply to it criteria which, although they are appropriate in so many languages, particularly Indo-European languages, are not so easily applicable to Arabic. This in itself, however, is not new and Arab authors started long ago to use punctuation under the influence of other languages, though not always appropriately.

Most definitions of the sentence appear within the framework of studies comparing, and sometimes opposing, sentence grammar to text grammar (Bertinetto 1979; Longacre 1979; Segre 1979; etc.) where the two units (sentence and text) are more often than not compared to each other and defined by what they are not. Consequently,

all these definitions appear to be incomplete, their focus not being on the sentence itself. The most concrete definition of the sentence seems to be that of traditional grammar. It is a formal definition which sets the beginning of the sentence at the capital letter with which it starts and/or the full stop of the preceding sentence and it marks its end with the following full stop. The most frequently mentioned characteristics of the sentence (Allerton 1969) are that it is :

- an independent structure
- meaningful
- semantically complete

### 2.3. The Arabic sentence

In Arabic, punctuation is borrowed from Indo-European languages and as there are no typographical markers such as capital letters or full stops, markers are different. The non-formal characteristics are naturally the same as in other languages i.e. meaningful and complete enough to be autonomous, and the sentences analysed by this study are defined on this basis. The punctuation of the texts in the corpus was on occasions not taken into account where it was found to be used inconsistently. In Arabic, the function of punctuation between sentential units is fulfilled by the use - which any literal translation would make sound like an abuse - of the conjunction 'wa/and'. This avoids any halting effect that the absence of punctuation would produce. Besides these formal

differences, there is a more subtle one which is well defined in Williams (1984: 48-49) who says :

It is evident that Arabic and Biblical Hebrew frequently use more than one independent clause to express only one complete thought (and presumably the same goes for the whole family of semitic languages) whereas N.T Greek uses one clause group consisting in this case of one independent clause plus a number of dependent clauses, often signalled by participial constructions, to convey a number of statements - and those who have studied classics at school will have memories of the lengthy sentences typical of classical Latin and Greek.

This confirms one important thing: the basic textual unit in written Arabic is the clause just as it is the sentence in written English. However, to say for instance that Arabic is exclusively expressed in clauses is overlooking some important aspects of the problem. This unit in Arabic may be considered as closer to the clause by its usual length and closer to the sentence by its independence. In fact, it is neither a clause nor a sentence but may fit the description of either of them in some cases.

#### 2.4. Arabic word order

In Arabic, the function of a word is designated by its case. Two types of sentences are generally observed in written discourse :

- the verbal sentence with a verb-subject order
- the nominal sentence which does not have a verb but a



noun in first position and is also often assimilated to verbless sentences or equative sentences, also called S/C (Subject/Complement) sentences in the literature, e.g. : the boy (is) ill / الطفل مريض

Nominal sentences can in turn be divided into two main groups:

1. sentences where an element other than the verb appears in first position (subject, adverbial, object) and where the verb is usually in second position. The sentences under analysis in this study belong to this category. It is noteworthy that they are sometimes classified as verbal sentences (Bakir; 1980).
2. topic-comment sentences e.g.

- سعاد التقى بها أنور البارحة

These sentences differ from sentences with a pre-verbal constituent in initial position in different ways :

- a. they contain a returning pronoun in the comment part which is co-referential with the topic
- b. this topic is invariably in the nominative case
- c. it presents given information
- d. it is definite

A further sentence type was found in the data analysed. The sentences in question generally contain a verb but it is never in first position, therefore they cannot be called verbal sentences. They generally contain a verbal element and are therefore not subject/complement sentences. The question remains then whether they are nominal sentences in the sense adopted by this study. In

these sentences, the order is not subject to choice but is determined rather by other elements such as the syntactic factor or the stylistic factor for instance. They are 'fixed order sentences'. These fixed order sentences occur in all the texts studied. They do not have a particular pattern of textual distribution such as the beginning or the end of a section or text. The data reveals that they may be as frequent, if not more so, than nominal sentences (text 12, for example). The most obvious and common cases are the interrogative and exclamatory sentences such as this example in text 6 : (ل 4)

اذ ماذا يعني أن تقضي ساعات و ساعات في شراء مقاض و احتياجات ...

Other cases include the use of certain syntactic structures such as :

1. the comparative ' كما /as' used with parallel structures, for example in text 11 : (ل 1)  
و كما ترورك في هذه المدينة كثرة حمامات السباحة ، ترورك وفره الحدائق العامة .
2. the conjunction ' قلما / rarely ' used as a verb modifier in text 11 : (ل 80)  
و قلما يخلو هذا العرش من جالس .
3. the concessive ' غير أن /although' used in text 6 :  
(ل 5) غير أنه يتحول بقدرة قادر بالنسبة لك الى ذهب .
4. other cases of fixed expressions such as ولا شك أن  
in text 8 : (ل 19)  
ولا شك أن الحكومة الجديدة تعلم تما ما قدرة المسؤولية المطلقة على عاتقها .

## 2.5. Analytic concepts

Sentence initial position, thematic status, known or unknown element, the difference between 'subject' and

'topic', are all important notions for the description and analysis of the initial element, though studies relating to them rarely deal with them separately. The three main questions generally treated are :

1. whether the initial element is subject or topic and the difference between the two notions.
2. the function of the sentence initial element, a question related to the status of the 'theme'.
3. other notions closely related to the first issues: the degree of recoverability and givenness, both related to the problem of word order in the sentence in so far as they determine such order.

#### 2.5.1. Subject or topic

This question is considered in a book edited by Li (1976). It is treated from different angles and the difference between the two notions is mainly seen in terms of level (also Dik; 1981). The 'subject' has a syntactic function and the 'topic' a pragmatic one. The pre-verbal NP is also considered as combining the two functions - subject and topic - whereas a post-verbal NP can only aspire to the first one. This raises the questions about why a post-verbal element cannot have a pragmatic function and whether the pragmatic function is a function mainly ascribed to the sentence initial element and assimilated especially to the subject. Subjects, however, are not the only sentential constituents to appear in initial position. In fact, the term 'topic' covers two distinct



notions. The first one is general and is defined by Keenan and Schieffelin (in Li, 1976: 338) as a discourse notion:

to refer to the proposition (or set of propositions) about which the speaker is either providing or requesting new information.

The second notion is defined by Li and Thompson (in Li, 1976: 464) as :

the center of attention [which] announces the theme of the discourse

which they contrast with the subject, adding that

it can be characterized as providing the orientation or the point of view of the action, experience, state, etc., denoted by the verbs.

#### 2.5.2 The status of the initial element and the difference between topic and theme

The functions of the initial element are summed up in four points by Lowe (1987: 7), and the data in this study confirms, that

the function of the point of departure element is :  
either

1. to set the spatial, temporal, situational or individual framework, within which the ensuing discourse holds (experiential component)

or

2. to give the direction in which the next part of the argument is going to go (logical component) such as with conjunction

or

3. to give interpersonal information on the ensuing discourse, such as indicating its illocutionary force (i.e. whether statement, question, command, etc.) or giving an evaluation of the importance or reliability of the information in the ensuing discourse

or

4. some combination of the above.

These functions are generally fulfilled by temporal and locative adverbials, conjunctions and subject NPs. Fries (1981) divides studies about theme in English discourse into two groups :

1. those who assimilate the concepts of theme and that of the distribution of information between given and new, such as Daneš and Dahl.
2. those who distinguish between the two systems.

For both groups, given information tends to appear at the beginning of the sentence but whereas the former identify theme as the least unknown element or the element with 'the lowest amount of communicative dynamism', the latter, particularly Halliday (1985), assimilates it with sentence initial position, although he later changed his position by keeping the label 'theme' for the initial element in the sentence and attributing another one, that of 'topical theme' to the ideational element within the theme, as in the example cited in Halliday (1985: 56) :

a. literal or congruent interpretation

b. metaphorical

I		don't believe		that pudding		ever will be cooked	
theme		rheme		theme		rheme	(a)
interpersonal (modal)				topical			(b)
				theme		rheme	

### 2.5.3 Given vs. new information

The notion of given vs. new information, proved difficult to determine in analysing many cases in the data, so other complementary notions such as 'recoverable vs. unrecoverable' and 'predictable vs. unpredictable' (Kuno; 1972) were of help.

Fries (1981) establishes the difference between the notions of 'new vs. given' and 'previously known vs. not previously known'. Tomlin (1986: 4) distinguishes two components in old information :

1. shared information
2. thematic information

Two other notions cited by Firbas (1966: 246) concern the degree of familiarity illustrated by the use of the article :

1. ... the notion conveyed by the noun accompanied by a definite article may be known, well determined, familiar, and yet in regard to the narrow, ad hoc scene, it may appear unknown, new, contextually independent ...
2. substantives with definite articles convey notions that may be considered familiar in the fullest



sense of the word, i.e. both in regard to the common knowledge of the speaker and the listener and in regard to the narrow scene.

#### 2.5.4 Predictable vs. recoverable information

A recoverable element is an element whose omission does not prevent the comprehension of a message. The terms 'predictable' and 'recoverable', however, are not identical. In Lashley (1951) predictable elements are recoverable but the converse is not always true.

As for the notion of given, it is of course determined by context, and again context must be considered in all its different layers. Thus an element is considered within the sentence in which it appears, the section of text, the whole text and finally the extra-textual context. Reference may be direct, through repetition for instance, or indirect through, for example, the use of synonymy.

The quality 'new' is also seen as having two aspects (Daneš; 1974) :

1. 'new' in the sense of 'not mentioned in the preceding context'
2. 'new' in the sense of 'related as rheme to a theme to which it has not yet been related'

These notions, as mentioned in the presentation of the theoretical approach of the Prague school, were studied at the level of the sentence and its relations with context through the notions of :

- first instance level
- second instance level
- basic instance level

## 2.6. General method of analysis

The Prague School of functional grammar was chosen as a framework for this analysis because, as seen earlier, it emphasizes the importance of the interrelation between context on the one hand and structure and texture on the other. It is because of this principle that this study analyses authentic texts because they are the only entities in which the relation between extra-textual and textual phenomena can be appreciated. This conforms to text-linguistic models whose principal postulate is that language analysis must be approached through text (Kassaï 1976; Slatka 1975; Wirth 1985).

### 2.6.1 Sentence grammar vs. text grammar

The primary difference between the proponents of sentence grammar and those of text grammar is the unit of analysis, which in the first case is the sentence and in the second, the text (Dascal and Margalit 1974; Dressler 1978; Gray 1978; Hasan 1979; Hendricks 1967; Petöfi and Reiser 1977). The second difference resides in the fact that only in text-linguistics is the importance of the environment of the unit emphasized. This 'environment',

'situation' or 'context' has been approached from different angles, socio-cultural, pragmatic, etc., and accordingly divided into different constituents or layers. The major principle is, as Giulianiet al (1979: 177) puts it, that :

the parameters which enable one to characterize sentences are linguistic, whereas those which enable one to characterize texts are non-linguistic.

One way of modelling context is found in Firbas's hierarchical layers of context (Palkova and Palek; 1978) :

- a. the context of experience shared by the speaker and listener. (In this study this has been the criterion determining the choice of the corpus of which the texts share a certain homogeneity regarding their source, register and intended audience.)
- b. the ad-hoc context of immediate experience contributed to by the situation at the moment of utterance.
- c. the ad-hoc verbal context preceding the sentence: the text or utterance.

The importance of context is stressed by Seung (1980: 91) who argues:

Of course, it is impossible to establish any textual meaning without a contextual nexus, because a text gains its meaning only in context.

Other divisions of context can be found in Brown and Yule (1983), Downes (1984) and Kress (1976).



Not purely linguistic, context governs, at least to some extent, the realization of texture and structure. For this reason, it is considered by this study to be a determining element in the choices, syntagmatic and paradigmatic, made by a text producer. Regarding the corpus and subject of this study, it allows the following hypothesis to be made : it is context which in Arabic determines the choice of the nominal vs. verbal structures. For this reason, this study will investigate the surface level relations that sentential elements of text hold among themselves, and will do so in terms of word order with a particular view to pre-verbal position which always corresponds to initial position in Arabic.

## 2.7 The corpus

As stated in the introduction, the corpus is composed of 12 samples of texts from different sources. Texts one to nine are political texts, with a written mode and a formal style. Put in functional terms, they share the same 'contextual construct' (Hasan; 1979). A closer look, however, reveals at least one major difference among them. The first group 'A' (texts 1-5) are news items whose primary function is to narrate events. By contrast, the second group 'B' (texts 6-9) are short editorials more concerned with commenting on the consequences of particular events rather than on the events themselves which, as a general rule, have already been the topic of other event-centred articles in the same issue. Only

group 'B' will be dealt with in the analysis as one main characteristic of group 'A' is that the texts do not contain any nominal sentences. The three remaining texts analysed were chosen from different sources to enlarge the scope of the analysis through the introduction of other text types. They cover different fields but have a similar mode and tenor. The first is geographical, the second biographical and the third historical.

Concerning the two different groups of news articles, the following points were not taken into consideration :

1. differences such as punctuation which is borrowed from European languages and is used inconsistently.
2. graphetic and graphological differences which have to do with presentation.
3. the titles, which in themselves constitute an area of extensive research.
4. lexical differences.

The analysis will focus on grammatical differences such as the type of sentences, the order of sentence constituents, etc.

A systematic classification of these texts into specific text categories is beyond the scope of this study, for although the definition of text types is an old concern (Bain 1866; Christensen 1967; Faigley and Meyer 1983; Rocas 1964; etc), no theory or unified description of text types is available to date. Only general descriptions of particular genres are available (Aston 1977; Crystal and Davy 1969; Van Dijk 1988)

### 2.7.1 Length of texts analysed

One basic problem was the length of the texts in the corpus which is not standard. The newspaper articles (texts 1-9) are much shorter than the rest. The news items of group 'A' are shorter than the editorials of group 'B', which in turn are shorter than texts 10-12. The news reports, 'A', (texts 1-5) are only of interest in so far as they allow the highlighting of particular characteristics of the editorials 'B', (texts 6-9). They are sufficiently representative of their type as may be confirmed by a cursory look at other front page news reports of the same or different newspapers. As for the editorials, the problem of length is resolved by the choice of all four texts from the same column. For texts 10 and 11, it proved difficult to find shorter, complete texts in the same registers. They are of sufficient length to allow conclusions to be drawn and self-contained enough to constitute independent texts in themselves, although they were extracted from longer texts. No such problem arose with text 12 which is a complete short story.

### 2.7.2 Some differences between group A and group B texts

These differences can be divided into different categories :

- a. lexical
- b. structural
- c. stylistic



a. Lexical differences :

1. in group A the use of a certain category of verbs with no real semantic content such as 'to say/ قال ' 'to add/ أضاف ' can be noticed.
2. time indicators are also much more precise in this category than in group B, for instance ' 1981/ماي/ May 1981', ' البارحة/yesterday', ' غدا /tomorrow', etc.
3. related to 1., there is a greater use of quotations in 'A' than in 'B'.

b. Structural differences

1. Sentence types : statements with VS order form the majority of sentences in group A whereas in group B they share it with verbless sentences and nominal sentences.
2. Inter-sentential coordination : the only connector used in group A whether at sentence level or between sections, is the additive 'and/ و '. Group B has a much more varied use of connectors which may be contrastive e.g. 'as for/ أما ', resumptive e.g. 'this/ وهذا , or explanatory e.g. 'because/ ولأن '. Repetition is also used as a cohesive device through coordination.
3. Sentence complexity : sentential structures are straightforward and simple in group A, generally of the type VS(A)(C). In group B, longer and more complex structures are used. Thus, whereas the most common type of sentence relation is coordination, there are numerous cases of subordination in group B.

4. Position of adverbial : this point is partly answered if it is considered that the sentential word order in group A is VS in all cases. It is only in group B that one may find cases of initial adverbials. In both groups, adverbials also appear in middle and final position.

## 2.8 The analysis proper

After some textual information about the source texts and the nominal sentences analysed, the nominal sentences will be discussed at three levels :

- a. the syntactic level
- b. the functional level
- c. the semantic level

### 2.8.1 Text analysis

The focus of the analysis is, as was said earlier, the study of sentential structures with a pre-verbal element. Such a study, however, requires that the sentences be replaced in their textual context and this will be done through an overall presentation of the texts from which the sentences are extracted. Thus, before analysing each nominal sentence, each text is described from different points of view i.e. content and context :

- the general topic and ideas
- the main sections of the text

- the semantic relations between these sections
- the distribution of the nominal sentences in the different sections

Texts are divided into different sections. A diagram of the overall organization of these sections is presented for each text in the analysis, as well as some information about their content. The determining element for their division is their semantic content. The position of each nominal sentence is examined considering its position :

- at the beginning of a section
- in the middle of a section
- at the end of a section
- in the first section, the last one, etc.
- in the section itself (1st position, 2nd position, etc.)

Its semantic relation with the preceding and/or succeeding text is examined in regard to such questions, for example, as whether it :

- confirms the preceding statement
- contrasts the preceding statement
- answers a preceding question, etc.

### 2.8.2 Nominal sentences analysis

An approximate translation in English is given for each sentence to show the order of constituents in the Arabic sentence.



a. The syntactic level

This is the level of organization of elements determined by syntactic form. Sentences are examined from the point of view of the alignment of their syntactic constituents, such as SVO or AVS for instance. The syntactic categories used in the analysis (Leech, 1983; Scott 1978; Winter 1982) are :

- the verb
- the subject
- the object
- the complement
- the adverbial

The two main categories of adverbials observed in the data are the temporal adverbial ( $A_t$ ) and the locative adverbial ( $A_l$ ). However, numerous cases are not easy to determine as there are so many syntactic functions in Arabic which could tally with the English adverbial. When sentences are complex they are divided into :

- $\alpha$  for the main part
- $\beta$  for secondary parts

for example in text (7)2 : (25)

فيعد ساعات من الغارة الجوية الوحشية الثانية التي شنتها الطائرات الإسرائيلية على مخيم عين الحلوة قرب صيدا بجنوب لبنان والتي استشهد واصيب فيها العشرات من نساء وأطفال المخيم، تعرضت مستعمرة «نهاريا» بشمال فلسطين المحتلة لقصف صاروخي/ كما شهدت مستعمرة «كريات جات» بالضفة الغربية المحتلة انفجار عبوة ناسفة ادت لاصابة ستة من الاسرائيليين.

The effect of the reordering of the sentence elements is examined in terms, for instance, of the differences entailed by a change from AVS order to VSA order.

b. The functional level

The FSP structure, or the thematic ordering of the sentence constituents is analysed and so are the functional changes resulting from the reordering of the sentence initial element. The sentence is divided into two main functional parts :

1. the theme - what the sentence is about
2. the rheme - what is said about it

These form what is termed by Svoboda (1981) as :

1. the thematic sphere
2. the rhematic sphere

The two parts are further divided, and their elements identified along the lines followed in Williams (1987), into the following categories :

1. ellipted theme proper
2. theme proper
3. theme proper oriented theme
4. diatheme oriented theme
5. diatheme
6. transition
7. transition proper
8. rheme
9. rheme proper oriented rheme
10. rheme proper

The distribution of these elements is relative to their information content, mainly determined by context. Thus every element makes a different contribution to the overall information content of the sentence. This is

defined in terms of communicative dynamism (C.D). The degree of C.D of an element will be in relation to whether the element is completely new, whether it is old, etc. The functional changes involved by 'dedynamization' and 'dynamization', will be examined.

c. The semantic level

The configurations realized by the various semantic categories will be studied. These Firbasian semantic scales (Firbas; 1975) are as described in Svoboda (1981) as:

- scene
- appearance on the scene
- phenomenon
- quality bearer
- quality
- specification

For example:

	In December	starts	winter
A -	scene	appearance on the scene	phenomenon
Q -	Tom	is	a teacher
	quality bearer	quality	specification

These elements realize 'semantic scales' which are divided into two (Svoboda 1981) :

1. the Q scale realized by 'quality bearer - quality - specification - further specification'



2. the A scale realized by 'scene - appearance on the scene/existence - phenomenon'

However, as Svoboda (1981: 79) argues, there may be interferences as:

the A scale reflects the change in the quality of the scene... The new element becomes part of the [new] scene, hence changing its [old] quality. In this sense, scene is also a quality bearer which is ascribed a new quality and A scale is also a Q scale. Conversely, the quality bearer at the Q scale is ascribed a new quality [including specification(s)], which means that a new quality appears on the scene.

### 2.8.3 Problems involved

The analysis of these nominal sentences involves questions such as :

1. Is the element completely new?
2. Was it mentioned before?
3. Is it only retrievable from the preceding context ?
4. Does it reappear later in the text?
5. If the answer is yes, then how many sentences or sections later does it appear?
6. Does it reappear under the same form or under a different one?
7. What are the alternative reorderings possible of the sentence constituents?
8. How different in meaning are the sentences obtained

from the original nominal sentences?

9. What contextual differences do the changes entail?
10. What functional changes such as 'dynamization' and 'dedynamization' of the sentence initial element does the reordering entail?

The answers to all these questions will allow certain conclusions, if not generalizations, about Arabic nominal sentences in general and the pre-verbal element in these sentences in particular. The most important will be :

1. the most likely syntactic functions of the initial element
2. the most likely functional status of these elements
3. the degree of coincidence of syntactic elements with the elements of functional perspective
4. the positional preferences of the nominal sentences :
  - how often they appear as the first sentence of the text
  - how often they come in first position in the sequence.
  - how often they are preceded or followed by another nominal sentence
  - how often nominal sentences occupy the second sentence of the sequence where the first sentence is not nominal
  - how often both the first and the second sentence of the sequence are nominal
5. the types of contexts which favour nominal sentences
6. the most frequent types of sentence structures

7. the position the adverbial favours in the Arabic sentence
8. the syntactical categories which appear before the verbs
9. where the verbal element most frequently occurs
10. whether the initial element is always known
11. if the nominal sentence has exactly the same meaning as its corresponding verbal sentence
12. whether the nominal element is the topic of the sentence it appears in or that of the whole sequence
13. whether the nominal introduces a new topic, reintroduces a previous element or simply continues the previous topic
14. the frequency of rhematic element fronted
15. whether a nominal sentence is a marked or unmarked alternative for a verbal order

#### 2.8.4 Methodological difficulties

The main methodological difficulty encountered was the definition of the Arabic sentence. Other secondary questions also had to be clarified. They are :

1. What is new, given and recoverable information?
2. Which constraints on word order should be considered and why?
3. Is the initial element subject or topic?



### 2.8.5 Constraints on word order considered

The analysis concentrates on the relationship between context and word order. Therefore, the only type of constraint looked at is the pragmatic constraint. The other types were not excluded but only considered within the framework of the pragmatic one. Such factors are :

- the chronological factor and the difference entailed in language use by diachronic language change, for instance classical Arabic vs. modern standard Arabic
- the regional factor which focusses on differences in the use of the Arabic language in Egypt and Tunisia, for instance, a difference which, if it ever existed, is resolved by the common use of MSA everywhere in the Arab world today.
- differences of text genre and topic. The data includes texts of various genres (literary such as the short story, text 12, and journalistic such as the news articles, texts 6-9).

These differences themselves were not focussed on, but treated in terms of how the 'contextual construct' of a text influenced the choice of sentential structures.

Ideological differences such as conservative or leftist stances were not treated. In fact, the differences considered are purely textual and situational in the contextual sense of the term. This means that the only influences considered are those of the three contexts :

- the context of experience
- the ad-hoc context of immediate experience
- the ad-hoc context preceding the sentence

Naturally this does not exclude the influence of other factors, but they are seen as secondary and, to a certain measure, included in the pragmatic phenomena under discussion.

AnalysisTEXT 6

3.1

The relativity of the eightiesنسبية الثمانينات

This text illustrates how the concept of relativity reflects the spirit of this era. It has seventeen sentences and can be divided into five sections:

Section 1 is an introductory statement

Section 2 from رأسا على عقب and

Section 3 from فـالوقت ليس to و لان كل شيء and

Section 4 from كأي عامل آخر to النسبية تجعل

All substantiate the first statement with examples. The first is about the relativity of time, the second about the relativity of wealth and the third about the relativity of age.

Section 5 from و حسنة النسبية to the end, deals with the principal example - relativity in politics. It shows how it affects both the Arab world and Israel and how it can make failures easier to bear. The element 'relativity/ النسبية' is textually important and appears twelve times in the text in different word forms and classes. There is also an important use of lexical contrasts, for example :



her victories / our defeats

انتصاراتها / هزائمنا

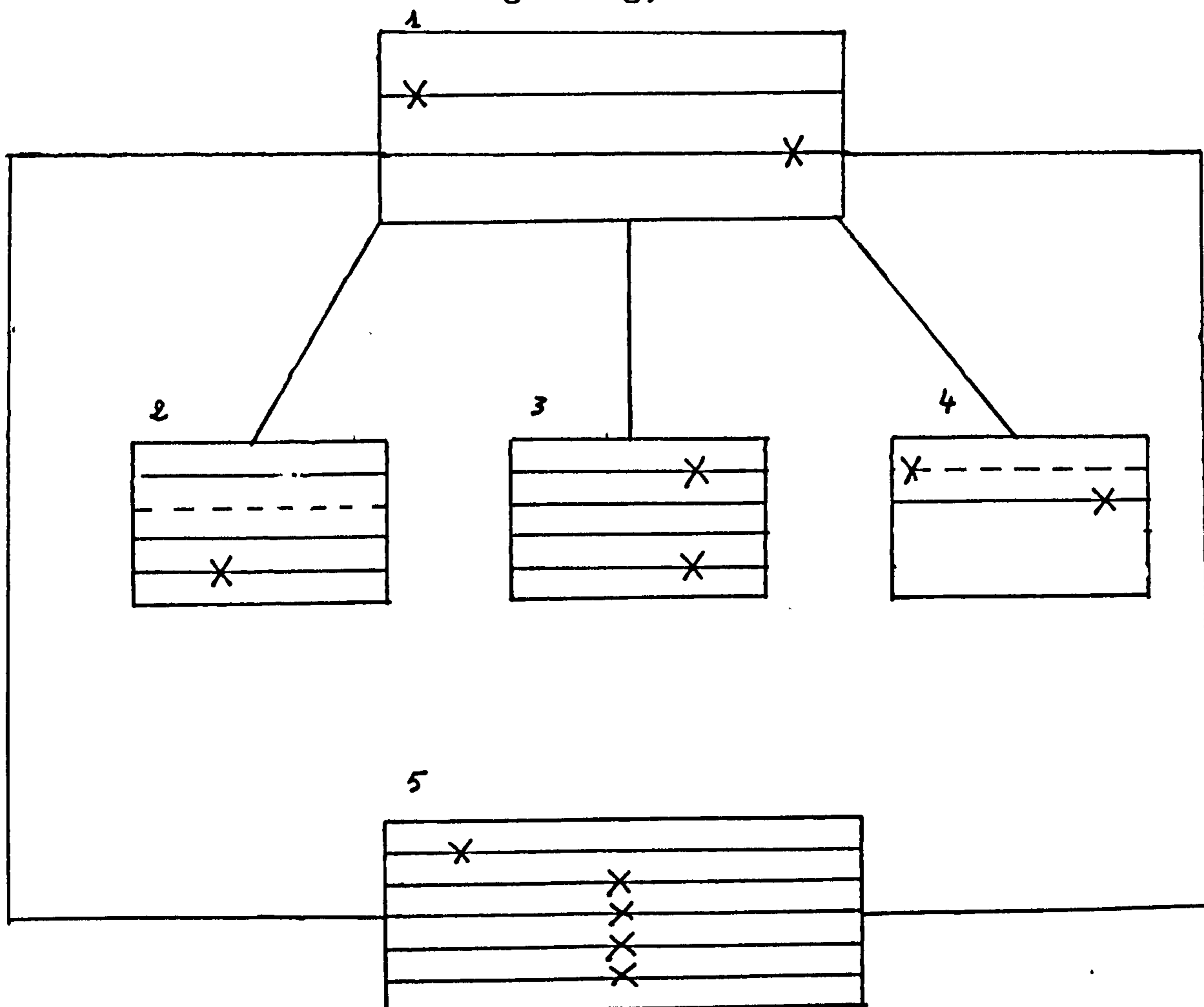
gold / tin

ذهب / تنك

old man / young man

عجوز / شاب

The following diagram is a general outline of the article's textual organization. Each block represents a section. The lines inside the block represent the section's sentences and the dotted lines represent the nominal sentences that will be analysed. Each little cross shows approximately where the concept 'relativity/ النسبية' is mentioned i.e. beginning, middle or end.



\* T(6)1

(ل3)

أرخص من (التنك) / يصبح / فأحيانا  
C / S+V / A

\* sometimes / it becomes / cheaper than tin  
A / S + V / C

This sentence occurs in the second section of the text which provides the first example of relativity i.e. the relativity of time. It follows a sentence which illustrates the general statement made in the introductory section. The preceding sentence announces the illustration of a statement. This statement :

time is not always gold

provokes the question

then what else can it also be?

with the focus on two elements i.e. what else and also. It will be seen later how these are translated in the syntactic and functional structures of the sentence in question.

' فأحيانا يصبح أرخص من التنك . ' is a straightforward one-clause sentence with an AVC structure comprising an ellipted subject relayed by the morpheme ( َ ) plus the vowel ( ُ ) of the verb 'become/ يصبح '. The F.S.P. structure achieved is Td - Tr - R with the diatheme relating directly to the rhematic sphere of the preceding sentence through the paraphrase of the temporal adverbial

'always/ دائما' with the negative particle 'is not/ ليس'. Both adverbs 'always/ دائما' and 'sometimes/ أحيانا' - textual antonyms - are semantically related to the main concept treated in the text, i.e. relativity. Semantically, however, they relate to it differently, because 'sometimes/ أحيانا' can be ascribed the quality 'relative', whereas 'always/ دائما' cannot, and its qualities are 'permanent', 'definite', etc. As was seen above, the expectations created by the first statement are sparked off by two elements 'always/ دائما' and 'gold/ ذهب' contrasted in the sentence with 'sometimes/ أحيانا' and 'tin/ تنك', with the contrast 'always, sometimes/ دائما ، أحيانا' given thematic prominence over the contrast 'gold, tin/ ذهب ، تنك' for the main reason that it semantically relates directly to the concept 'relativity'.

'sometimes/ أحيانا' is a foregrounded scenic element used to achieve contrast with another scenic element used in the non-thematic sphere of the previous sentence 'always/ دائما'. This change of adverbial from 'always/ دائما' to 'sometimes/ أحيانا' indicates not only a change in the quality of the scene but also a change in the quality ascribed to the quality bearer. This is achieved by the means of the lexical contrast of 'always/ دائما' and 'sometimes/ أحيانا' and that of 'gold/ ذهب' and 'tin/ تنك'.

This AVC order signals a deviation from the leading grammatical orders (SVCA, VSOA) and is determined by the principle of emphasis, which is placed on the contrasted



temporal specification 'sometimes/ أحيانا ' which specifies another event 'something else happens sometimes'. The A 'sometimes/ أحيانا ' is contextually partly dependent because it functions as a link between the thematic and the non-thematic sphere by bringing a non-thematic element into the thematic sphere, but at the same time, and by way of contrast, introducing a new aspect of the temporal setting 'sometimes/ أحيانا '. Then comes the second contrast with a higher C.D, the contrast between 'gold/ ذهب 'and 'tin/ تنك ' because it is hierarchically closer or more important to the definition of the subject of this section i.e. time.

To conclude, it can be said that 'sometimes/ أحيانا ' conveys new information but does not make a major contribution to the development of the text. It merely acts as a temporal setting. The semantic scales realized by the two sentences are :

quality bearer - quality - specification

\*Time is not gold always./

فالوقت ليس من ذهب دائما

scene - appearance - specif./phenomenon

\*Sometimes it becomes cheaper than tin

فأحيانا يصبح أرخص من التنك

Another point worth mentioning is the mild contrast involved by the repetitive use of the connector 'ف' which, though meaningless in appearance, conveys two different meanings. In the first sentence 'time/ فالوقت ', the element 'ف' introduces an illustration/example. In the second sentence, it introduces an explanation/example. It

accompanies the themes of both sentences and achieves lexical cohesion because it creates a sort of balance in the progressive development of the text by introducing a new topic 'time/ الوقت ' then a new scene 'sometimes/ أحيانا '.

The effect of reordering the sentence so that the order VAC ( فيصبح أحيانا أرخص من التنك ) is used, would result in a shift of focus from 'sometimes/ أحيانا ' to 'become/ يصبح ' i.e. from the concept of 'frequency' to that of 'state/becoming' expressed by the copula verb 'become/ يصبح ' now in initial position. On the other hand, tonic accent would, in that post-verbal position, confer contrastive focus to it. The structure would occur after a statement of the type :

It always becomes .../ ... \* يصبح دائما ...

If 'sometimes/ أحيانا ' was postponed to the end of the sentence, resulting in the order VCA, 'it becomes cheaper than tin sometimes/ فيصبح أرخص من التنك أحيانا ' where 'sometimes/ أحيانا ' is given the highest degree of C.D, although possible, the order would not be acceptable in its immediate context for at least two reasons :

1. 'sometimes/ أحيانا ' is predictable from the preceding context which lowers its C.D. It relates directly to the rhematic element of the previous sentence and because it introduces only a new aspect of this element, it cannot be regarded as conveying completely new information. This is also confirmed

when other elements of the same sentence appear to carry a higher C.D., for instance 'cheaper than tin/ أرخص من التنك .

2. A glance at the next sentence reveals that it is the contrast involved in the concept of change, expressed by the verb 'become/ يصبح ' and the final explanatory 'cheaper than tin/ أرخص من التنك', that is picked up by the theme of the sentence and not the concept of frequency expressed by 'sometimes/ أحيانا '.

\* T(6)2 و النسبية تجعل عجز السبعين شابا في الثلاثين  
S / V / O / C (15)

إذا كان لديه رصيد برنين مسموع لدى أهل عروسه المراهقة

\* relativity / turns / a 70 year-old man / into  
S V O C

a thirty year-old young man when he owns a (bank) account important enough in the eyes of the parents of his adolescent bride.

This sentence has a SVOC grammatical structure and realizes a Td - Tr - Th - R pattern. It introduces a sub-part of Section 3 of the text. The previous nominal sentence studied appeared in the sub-part preceding this one. This sub-part provides another example of 'relativity/ النسبية', which this time is age, which becomes only relatively important when the wealth of a bridegroom is concerned. Here the word 'relativity/ النسبية'



which, as has already been seen, is the concept around which the whole text centres, appears again because it is establishing a new starting point and bringing to the foreground a concept that has been backgrounded. It is re-introduced as the topic of the section and this time it functions as a diatheme. It is interesting to notice that although the substantive 'relativity/ النسبية' itself was backgrounded as a concept, (it does not appear under this form in this section or in the previous one) it nevertheless appeared in other word classes, mainly that of adjective e.g. 'relative/ نسبي'. This shows how a textually important concept is used throughout the text in different word classes and forms depending from which angle it is viewed.

Semantically, 'relativity/ النسبية' is a quality bearer brought back to the narrow scene to be ascribed a new quality. In order to bring it back to the narrow scene again, it is used with the coordinator 'and/ و' and modifies the scene through the new quality. It could be translated as "and relativity, again, ...". Possible reorderings of the sentence are :

1. وتجعل النسبية عجز السبعين شابا في الثلاثين  
C / O / S / V

إذا كان لديه رصيد برنين مسموع لدى أهل عراوسه المراهقة

Changing the order from SVOC to VSOC would amount to displacing the highest communicative unit within the narrow scene and changing the order to Tr - Td - Tp - R. The sentence would not be acting counter to the grammatical order nor would it be acting counter to the

FSP order because Tr - Tp / Td - R is an unmarked order in Arabic. However, given the context in which it appears, 'relativity/ النسبية' becomes theme proper and the FSP of the sentence will change. In other words it is in fact either:

1. the transition 'makes/ يجعل' and the process expressed by it which through its front position gains more C.D or
2. the diatheme 'relativity/ النسبية' which by moving to the second position (after the transition) has its C.D lowered thus becoming theme proper.

Closer observation of the difference between the two possible orders provides an answer. Indeed :

a. و النسبية تجعل عجوز السبعين شابا في الثلاثين اذا كان لديه رصيد برنين مسموع لدى أهل عروسه المراهقة .

b. و تجعل النسبية عجوز السبعين شابا في الثلاثين اذا كان لديه رصيد برنين مسموع لدى أهل عروسه المراهقة .

even if both structures are unmarked, front position increases the C.D. of a subject when it is in initial position because of the prominence given to it. This is not the case for the verb. Thus the VS order would mean diminishing the new breadth acquired by 'relativity/ النسبية' which in its context resets the framework for the concept by foregrounding it again.

'relativity/ النسبية' was used in the first section of the text but not, since then, in the same form. To





Text 7

The Arabs' reply الرد العربي

3.2

This text - a concept-based text - is about the Palestinian resistance to mounting Israeli oppression. It has six sentences and can be divided into three sections.

Section 1 from :

( الجنوب اللبناني to التصاعد المستمر )  
states that the rising number of acts of resistance is the resolute answer to the increasingly oppressive Israeli policy.

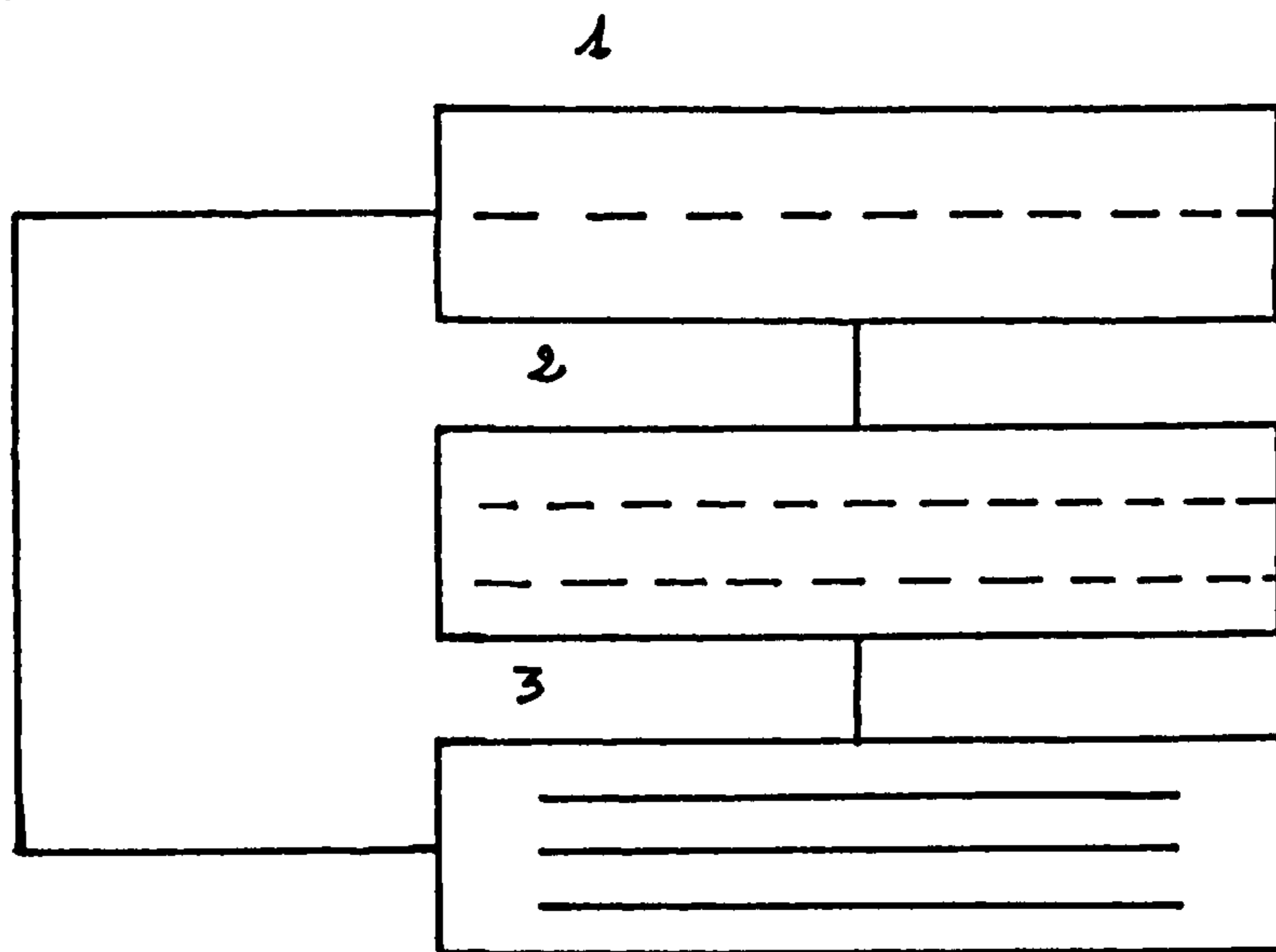
Section 2 illustrates the previous statement by relating the recent events.

Finally, Section 3 ( وهكذا ... ) underlines the differences between the two sides of the conflict.

The general topic is this comparison which textually provides a framework for the text's cohesion. This is achieved through the use of structural contrast (use of parallelism), or semantic contrast (when only expressions or single words are concerned), for example

- ( عمليات ) المقاومة البطولية / ( عمليات ) القمع الارهابية .  
terroristic oppression / heroic resistance
- مخيم / مستعمرة  
camp / settlement
- رجال المقاومة / جنود الاحتلال  
soldiers of the occupation / men of the resistance

The textual development of the text may be illustrated as follows:



In Section 2, the general statement made in Section 1 is illustrated with specific examples, for instance:

S1	general	المقاومة البطولية	عمليات القمع الارهابية
S2	specific	قصف صاروخي	غارة جوية
		'missile bombing'	air raid
		انفجار عبوة ناسفة	
		'bomb explosion'	

Section 3 relates to Section 1 through the thematic use of 'the answer/ الرد' which was rhematic in Section 1. It relates to Section 2 through the paraphrase of 'a few hours after/ فبعد ساعات' in Section 2 with the adverb 'swiftly/ سريعاً'.

التصاعد المستمر في عمليات المقاومة البطولية ضد العدو الصهيوني في الضفة الغربية المحتلة و جنوب لبنان/يشكل/ الرد الحاسم و الحازم على تصاعد عمليات القمع الارهابية التي تمارسها اسرائيل ضد العرب سواء في الارض المحتلة أو في الجنوب اللبناني .

T(7)1

(11)

\*The mounting number of heroic acts of resistance against the Zionist enemy in the occupied West Bank and Southern Lebanon / constitute / a resolute answer

S

V

C

to the mounting number of oppressive acts of terrorism by Israel against the Arabs whether in the Occupied Land or in Southern Lebanon.

The grammatical order of the sentence is SVC. It has a long complex subject formed by subject plus a modifying prepositional phrase, which extends it remarkably with, as will be seen later, certain consequences. The functional pattern realized is Td-Tr-R. This sentence appears text initially and is followed by a sentence which substantiates the statement with information about the recent events concerned. The nominal can therefore be said to be introducing a new topic. The order VSC is possible, though improbable because the subject which is long is in a better position before the verb than after it - a principle called the principle of 'front weight'. (Williams, personal communication).

\* يشكل / التصاعد المستمر في عمليات المقاومة البطولية ضد العدو الصهيوني في الضفة الغربية المحتلة و جنوب لبنان / الرد الحاسم و الحازم على تصاعد عمليات القمع الارهابية التي تمارسها اسرائيل ضد العرب سواء في الارض المحتلة أو في الجنوب اللبناني،

Apart from the element of weight, a VSC order would involve the de-dynamization of the subject with a verb that does not carry enough semantic content to be placed at the front, and, as it is not only the beginning of the section but also that of the text, it is necessary to



establish elements on the scene. This largely justifies the thematic prominence given to the phrase 'mounting number/ التصاعد المستمر' which is known to the reader.

T(7)2 \* فبعد ساعات من الغارة الجوية الوحشية الثانية التي شنتها الطائرات الاسرائيلية على مخيم عين الحلوة قرب صيدا بجنوب لبنان و التي استشهد و أصيب فيها العشرات من نساء و أطفال المخيم / تعرضت / مستعمرة "نهاريا" (٢٥) بشمال فلسطين المحتلة / لقصف صاروخي كما شهدت مستعمرة " كريات جات" بالضفة الغربية المحتلة انفجار عبوة ناسفة أدت لاصابة ستة من الاسرائيليين

A few hours after the second savage air raid which was perpetrated by the Israeli planes against the camp of Ain Al Hilwa near Saida in Southern Lebanon and in which were martyred tens of women and children of the camp, / was subjected / the Naharia settlement

A

V

S

in northern Occupied Palestine / to a missile bombing

O

and witnessed Kiryat Jat settlement in the Occupied West Bank a bomb explosion which injured six Israelis

This is the first sentence in the second section which illustrates the statement made in the first section, i.e. the preceding sentence and all its parts relate directly to both its thematic and rhematic parts which are 'the ongoing escalation/ التصاعد المستمر' and 'the resolute answer/ الرد الحاسم'. Its grammatical structure is AVSO. The adverbial is made up of a prepositional phrase 'a few hours after/ بعد ساعات' modified by two co-ordinated relative clauses with the resulting pattern :

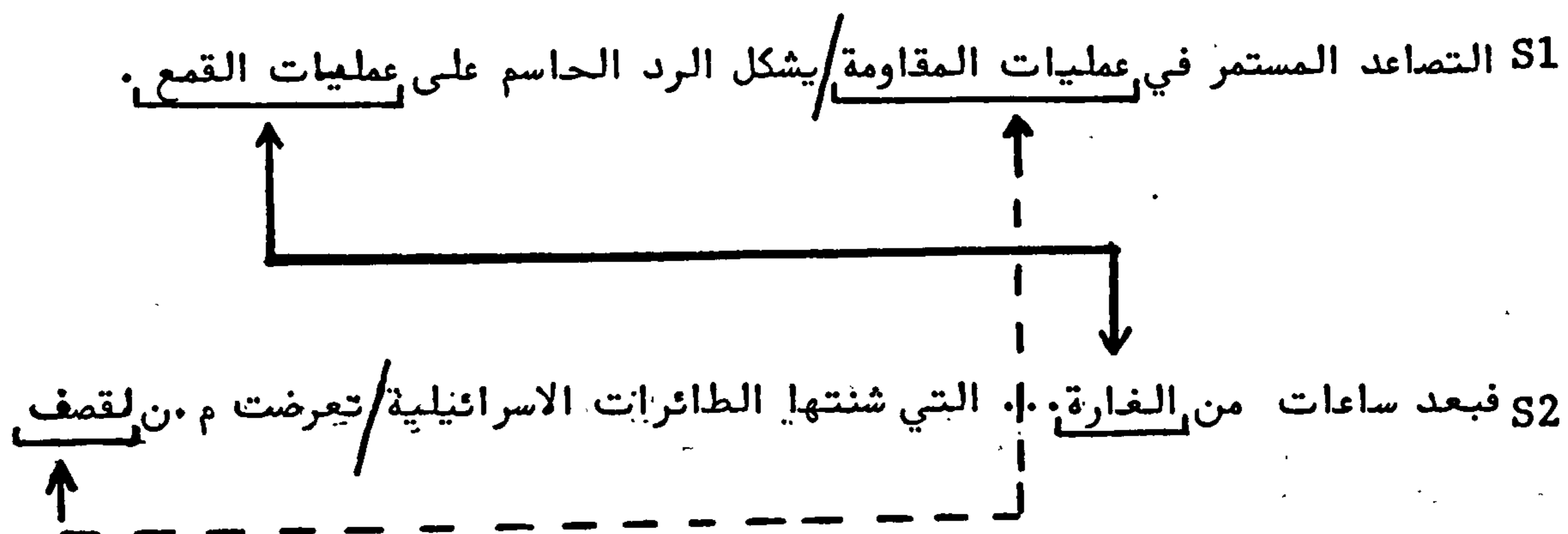
$\alpha[(A SAV) ( (S)VO)] \beta$

The functional pattern realized is Td-Tr-Tp-R.

In the thematic part of the sentence

( فبعد ساعات من الغارة الجوية ) relates directly to  
( عمليات القمع الارهابية ) of the previous rhematic part.

However, the new information contained in the rhematic part of the sentence ( تعرضت مستعمرة نهاريا ) is directly linked to ( يشكل الرد الحاسم ) which it illustrates. This may be illustrated like this :



The relationship between S<sub>1</sub> and S<sub>2</sub> can be illustrated semantically by the pattern :

S<sub>1</sub> effect -----> cause  
S<sub>2</sub> cause -----> effect

The diatheme and the rheme are synchronically related in a relation of cause and effect. Therefore, displacing the adverbial (in other terms, the diatheme) would unbalance this relationship. The only position it could be postponed to is after the coordinated sentence or the end of the section. This would mean, in functional terms,

putting the diatheme in the rhetic sphere consequently raising its C.D and lowering that of the rheme with the following consequences :

1. the diatheme would become rheme
2. the rheme would become diatheme
3. the loss of the chronological/synchronic relationship between the two events which will be translated textually into a change from a cause/effect relation to an effect/cause one
4. a change from the A semantic scale to quality scale
5. instead of being on the events themselves

تعرضت مستعمرة ن لقصف / كما شهدت مستعمرة ك انفجار

focus will be on the scenic element which sets the framework for the events

6. this change of the scenic element to the rhematic sphere would unbalance the textual harmony created by the two sentences with the patterns :

scene	appearance	phenomenon
A	V	S

scene	appearance	phenomenon
A	V	(S)

with a focus placed on the events on both, in relation to the same scenic setting expressed in S<sub>3</sub>

sentence by 'at the same moment/ وفي الوقت ذاته'

The deviation from the unmarked (S)VO A, V(S)O A to AV0 gives the sentence an emotive colouring.



The possibilities of reordering the different parts of the sentence on its own can also be considered. For this the sentence may be parsed into the following parts :

فبعد ساعات من الغارة الجوية الوحشية الثانية التي شنتها الطائرات الاسرائيلية على مخيم عين الحلوة قرب صيدا بجنوب لبنان و التي استشهد و أصيب فيها العشرات من نساء و أطفال المخيم / تعرضت مستعمرة "نهاريا" بشمال فلسطين المحتلة لقصف صاروخي/كما شهدت مستعمرة " كريات جات " بالضفة الغربية المحتلة انفجار عبوة ناسفة أدت لاصابة ستة من الاسرائيليين .

The three parts obtained are called  $\beta$ ,  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  respectively. Both  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  relate events for which  $\beta$  provides a temporal setting and some background information about the events preceding them. Both  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  are related by  $\text{كما}$  which opens  $\alpha_2$  which could be placed at the beginning of  $\alpha_1$ , thereby increasing the number of possible reorderings, which in total are :

- a.  $\alpha_1$  (  $\text{كما}$  )  $\alpha_2$   $\beta$  or with the same effect
- b. (  $\alpha_2$  (  $\text{كما}$  )  $\alpha_1$   $\beta$  )
- c.  $\alpha_1$   $\beta$  (  $\text{كما}$  )  $\alpha_2$  or with the same effect
- d. (  $\alpha_2$   $\beta$  (  $\text{كما}$  )  $\alpha_1$  )

In a. and b. the temporal complex clause providing background information is placed in third position resulting in the information imbalance discussed earlier. It is possible, however, to place  $\beta$  between  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$ . The only difference with the preceding orders in a. and b. is that instead of being completely postponed to the end of the sentence, the temporal scene setter appears after the first event and therefore keeps some of its 'scene

setting' value. On the other hand,  $\alpha_2$  is now separated from  $\alpha_1$  resulting in a certain imbalance in the sentence emphasized by the use of 'just as/ كما' appearing at the beginning of the clause and which presupposes that the first part of the enumeration is placed immediately before the second one.

T(7)3 \* و في الوقت ذاته/قتل و أصيب/18 جنديا اسرائيليا/و دمرت/دبابة  
(11) و مدرعة/في كمين نصبه رجال المقاومة اللبنانية للدورية الصهيونية  
عند الطرف الشمالي لـ " المنطقة الامنية " ، بجنوب لبنان .

\*At the same moment / were killed and injured/

$A_t$

V

17 Israeli soldiers and / were destroyed

O

V

a tank and an armoured cruiser / in an attack lead by

O

$A_l$

men of the Lebanese resistance against the Israeli  
patrol near the northern end of the 'security zone'  
in Southern Lebanon.

The grammatical structure of this sentence is quite different from any of those preceding it. It has one temporal adverbial which modifies two clauses and the whole is followed by a complex locative adverbial clause.

$A_t[(VO) (VO)] A_l$

At the word order level, the temporal adverbial appears in the first position in the sentence and the locative one at the end, and they are separated by other elements of the

sentence. Each has its position determined by the same word order principles, particularly the grammatical one and that of FSP. However, each of these two principles is stronger in one of the two adverbials. The FSP principle is more active in the case of the temporal adverbial, as is the grammatical principle in the case of the locative adverbial through the grammatical principle of end weight. In other words, in each element, one of the two principles is more distinct.

'At the same moment/ وفي الوقت ذاته',  $A_t$ , in this sentence is contextually dependent because it does not specify a new time but on the contrary, confirms the same temporal framework by paraphrasing that of the previous sentence, to pave the way for the announcement of other parallel events. On the other hand, the locative adverbial parallels that of the rhematic sphere of the previous sentence :

(i) مستعمرة نهاريا بشمال فلسطين المحتلة

\* The Naharia settlement in Northern Occupied Palestine

(ii) الطرف الشمالي لـ " المنطقة الامنية " بجنوب لبنان .

\* The Northern end of the 'Security Zone' in Southern Lebanon

which both occur as effects of the same cause. On the functional level, this sentence acts as a second rheme for the previous one, forming the pattern:

تعرضت ... R -----> Tp فبعد ساعات  
قتل و أصيب... R -----> (Tp) ( وفي الوقت ذاته )



The end position of  $A_2$  may be due to the fact that it is a long (adverbial) clause.

In this case, word order indicates which, between the two adverbials, is communicatively the most dynamic. Indeed,  $A_1$  which appears in initial position is entirely context dependent or entirely recoverable from context whereas the information presented by  $A_2$  is entirely independent.

The thematic structure of the sentence is :

T(d) - Tr - R - R' (R' = rest of rheme)

$A_1$  has the lowest degree of C.D because it is entirely retrievable from the preceding context. At the other end of the sentence,  $A_2$  brings in a new aspect of the narrow scene.

This sentence is very interesting because it has two different adverbials. It will be illustrated how they function on both the grammatical and functional level and note what happens when, in Arabic, two adverbials compete for first position and which factors most determine their final position.

As stated earlier, 'At the same moment/ وفي الوقت ذاته' is entirely context dependent. 'In an ambush/ في كمين' for its part is a completely new scenic element, especially by contrast with the scenic element of the previous sentence. A change in word order would have several effects:

Reversing the order of the two adverbials would give the structure  $A_2[(VO) (VO)] A_1$ . It must not be forgotten that the grammatical structure of the previous sentence was

$A_t - V - S - O$

A word order change would have several effects :

1. the parallelism resulting from the chain  
 $A_t [(VO) (VO)] A_l$   
 $(A_t) - V - S - O$  would be lost
2. the functionally more dynamic  $A_l$  would be used at the beginning of the sentence and discarded whereas the scenic element with the lowest degree of C.D would appear at the end of the sentence when, in unmarked sentences, elements are ordered from the lowest to the highest according to their degree of C.D
3. because of the principle of end weight, by appearing before the verb,  $A_l$  would break the enumeration of events which started the preceding sentence
4. the distance between the  $A_t$  and the element it paraphrases would be too long.

It may be concluded after considering all these points that when there are two different adverbials, the one with a lower degree of C.D will be used first in the sentence probably to be discarded. The adverbial with a higher degree of C.D will appear in a later position in the sentence. If it is very long, it will appear in the last position.

$A_l$  could be used in the order :

$(VA_t O) (VO) A_l$

with the result that the prominence given to  $A_t$  would be lost for the benefit of the action expressed semantically by the V, especially the 'simultaneity' framework it sets.

Having considered  $VA_t O VO A_e$

and  $A_e (VO)(VO) A_t$

$(VO)(VO) A_t A_e$  may now be considered.

Again the framework set by the use of the  $A_t$  parallel to that of the preceding sentence would be lost because of the loss of the prominence given to  $A_t$ . The closeness of  $A_t$  and  $A_e$  would unbalance the functional pattern of the sentence by putting the elements with the highest degree of C.D at the front and those with a lower one at the end resulting in the pattern Tr - R - T(d) - R' where prominence is given to the events separated by the two scenes, in any case without the sentence being marked.



## Text 8

3.3

### The responsibility of the Sudanese government

#### مسؤولية الحكومة السودانية

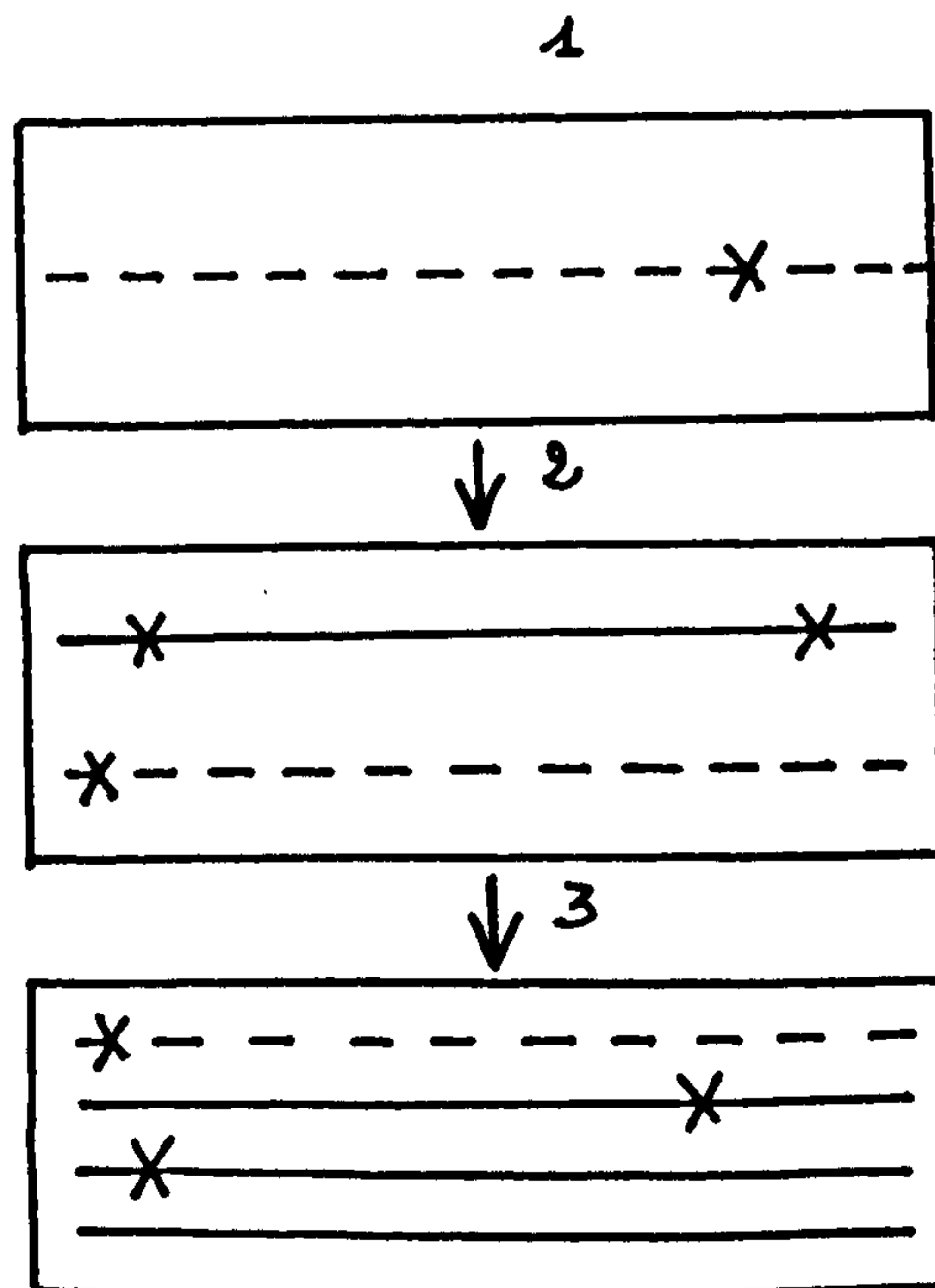
Text 8 is about the formation of a new government in the Sudan. It has seven sentences and can be divided into three sections.

Section 1 from the beginning to (الحكم المدني) presents the situation, i.e. the announcement of the formation of a new Sudanese government.

Section 2 from (خدمة السودان وشعبه to ورغم العقبات الكثيرة) relates the Prime Minister's achievements and

Section 3 from (to بتشكيل الحكومة to the end of the text) evaluates the situation.

The word 'government/ الحكومة' is present throughout the text. It is first mentioned in the rhematic sphere of the initial sentence and is then kept in the rhematic spheres of all the following sentences except the last. It will be symbolised by little crosses on the textual chart of the text as used in text six.



T(8)1 \* بعد مشاورات و اتصالات مكثفة امتدت لاكثر من اسبوع ، أعلن  
 تشكيل الحكومة السودانية الجديدة ايذانا بالبداية العملية (٢١)  
 لانتقال السلطة في السودان الى الحكم المدني .

\* After more than a week's intensive consultations

A

and contacts/ was announced/ the formation of the new

V

O

Sudanese government signalling the practical  
 beginning of the Sudanese shift of power to civilian  
 rule.

This sentence is the first sentence of the text. It sets the scene by informing the readers about the events of the previous week, then states the main event. This temporal element is expressed in ( بعد ). The grammatical structure realized is  $A_tV_{pass}O$  with the temporal adverbial acting as an exophoric reference to the background of the main event. The functional pattern observed is Td - Tr - R. The information presented by the diatheme will be known to the reader because the events reported happened the week preceding the main event. The following sentence 'despite the obstacles/ ورغم العقبات' relates through its thematic part to both the thematic and rhematic scenes of the sentence. The words 'the many obstacles/ العقبات الكثيرة' can be linked to the thematic 'intensive consultations and contacts/ مشاورات و اتصالات مكثفة'. Then the expression 'the formation of the government/ تشكيل الحكومة' is used again as in the preceding rheme.

This functional pattern achieves the effect of a

spotlight being directed from the backstage to the frontstage. Reversing the thematic order to Tr - R - Td would mean reversing the whole perspective of the sentence by presenting the elements with the highest degree of C.D first, then those with a lower one last. There would then be two possibilities :

1. either the elements keep the same degree of C.D, i.e. each keeping its function or
2. their degree of C.D is lowered in the case of the rheme which would become theme proper, and raised in the case of the diatheme which would then become rheme.

In case 1, the diatheme will have its C.D lowered because of the loss of the prominence it had gained through initial position, and the framework providing the background for the main event will be unnaturally placed. On the other hand, the length of the rhematic part is such that it would push this temporal framework even further away from the scene.

If pattern two is considered, or in other words if 'after consultations/ بعد مشاورات مكثفة ) is considered as the rheme, the result would be a change in the expectations of the reader. Thus, instead of the expectation of more information inspired by the original order, the object of expectation would be some news about the 'consultations and contacts/ مشاورات واتصالات ) either in terms of more details about them or in terms of



contrast with some other element for example 'after rapid consultations and contacts' ( بعد مشاورات و اتصالات سريعة )

(originally 'new') given ---- (originally 'given') new  
 أعلن ... th ----> rh بعد مشاورات ...  
 رغم العقبات ... th ----> rh الا أنه ...  
 given ---- new

This would entail a complete change of information pattern from :

given ----> new to the unusual new ----> given  
 given ----> new given ----> new

Another possible order is Tr - Td - R which involves the breaking of the rhematic sphere by inserting the diatheme between the transition and the rheme. The  $A_0$  would lose the prominence given to it by the initial position. The event expressed by the transition would be in the front instead, as if it was the object of focus. This would infer that the action 'was announced/ أعلن ' itself is more important than its object or what was declared 'was announced/ أعلن '. On the other hand, the principle of length prevents the present  $A_0$  from being inserted between the verb and the complement because of the long distance it would put between the two elements. A shorter  $A_0$  can be used, for instance 'yesterday afternoon/

' بعد ظهر الامس .

There is yet another possible order:

• ايدانا بالبداية العملية لانتقال السلطة في السودان الى الحكم المدني  
 أعلن تشكيل الحكومة السودانية الجديدة بعد مشاورات و اتصالات مكثفة  
 امتدت لأكثر من أسبوع .

It consists of splitting the 0 element into two parts and placing the comment clause before the verbal clause. The temporal clause appears in final position with the same effect as seen in the preceding example. The change involved in this case is that the scene, which was temporal and presented background information, is now replaced by a commentary clause. The immediate effect is a change of the semantic formula of the sentence from

time + event + comment to  
 comment + event + time

As can be seen, the clause expressing the event keeps the same position but its relation with the other two clauses undergoes a change perceived at two levels :

1. The focus conferred on the temporal background information is now passed over to the comment clause.
2. The temporal clause is now in rhematic position and this wrongly implies that it is the part that is going to be developed.

(١٨) و في الوقت نفسه ترك رئيس الحكومة الباب مفتوحا أمام كل الفعاليات و الاحزاب لتطوير المشاركة للاسهام الفعال في العمل السياسي العام في خدمة السودان و شعبه .

\* At the same time/ left / the Prime Minister / the

A<sub>t</sub> V S

door open to all groupings and parties / for a more

O

A

effective contribution to government in the service of the Sudan and its people.

This sentence comes in the second position within the second section of the text which is about one of the political achievements of the Sudanese Prime Minister. It is followed by a section about the consequences of these achievements. The grammatical structure of the sentence is A<sub>t</sub>VSOA with the temporal adverbial relating directly to the preceding sentence of which it paraphrases the temporal framework 'and at the same time/ وفي الوقت نفسه'. It defines the textual relationship between the two sentences as one of simultaneity. The position of the final prepositional clause of purpose is semantically determined by the principle of end weight. Semantically, it is determined by the usual process of stating a fact first and the purpose second, unless the order is reversed to focus on the latter.

The F.S.P. structure of the sentence is Td - Tr - Tp - R - R' with the diatheme keeping the previous narrow scene stable by paraphrasing it. It does not appear again



later in the text and only maintains the same scene so that further information can be given within the same framework. Changing the FSP structure would involve changing the functional value of each element. Different orders are possible :

- a. VSAQA      و ترك/رئيس الحكومة / في الوقت نفسه/الباب مفتوحا أمام كل  
الفعاليات و الاحزاب/لتطوير المشاركة للاسهام الفعال في العمل  
السياسي العام في خدمة السودان و شعبه .
- b. VAQA      و ترك / في الوقت نفسه / رئيس الحكومة/الباب مفتوحا أمام كل  
الفعاليات و الاحزاب/لتطوير المشاركة للاسهام الفعال في العمل  
السياسي العام في خدمة السودان و شعبه .
- c. SVAQA      و رئيس الحكومة/ترك / في الوقت نفسه/الباب مفتوحا أمام كل  
الفعاليات و الاحزاب/لتطوير المشاركة للاسهام الفعال في العمل  
السياسي العام في خدمة السودان و شعبه .
- d. VSAQA      و ترك/رئيس الحكومة/الباب مفتوحا أمام كل الفعاليات و الاحزاب/  
في الوقت نفسه / لتطوير المشاركة للاسهام الفعال في العمل السياسي  
العام في خدمة السودان و شعبه .

In all these sentences only one element, the adverbial, functionally the diatheme, has its order changed except in sentence b. where the order VS is also reversed to SV. The different possible orders may be considered :

- a. VSAOA - this order involves the loss of the thematic prominence given to A<sub>t</sub> in the original order. Its C.D will be lowered, and the prominence given to the action expressed in the verb 'left/ تترك ' thus shifts the reader's expectations. This order also involves the loss of the idea of "something else" or "yet another achievement" expressed in 'at the same

time/ وفي الوقت نفسه ' when it is in first position. This postponing of the temporal adverbial in addition to the acquired initial position of the verb 'left/ ترك ' directs the reader's expectation only towards the verb itself i.e. the action expressed by 'left/ ترك ' disregarding the idea of "yet another achievement". Another consequence is that because the scene setter ' وفي الوقت نفسه ' is displaced, so is the framework it set and which gave this idea of simultaneity and formed a textual link between the two parts of the text by giving prominence to the chronological relation between the events.

- b. VASOA - وترك في الوقت نفسه رئيس الحكومة  
الباب مفتوحا ...

\* Left / at the same time / the Prime Minister / the

V A S

door open...

O

- the same applies to this order except that preposing the A<sub>t</sub> to the subject makes the C.D of the former higher than that of the latter. In other words, the adverbial would be given preeminence over the subject.

- c. SVA<sub>t</sub>OA - This order would place the focus on the subject entailing a change in the reader's expectations which would then be for something else

to be contrasted with the subject 'the Prime Minister/ رئيس الحكومة'.

- d. VSOA<sub>ت</sub>A - this order would amount to introducing the A<sub>ت</sub>, which belongs to the thematic sphere, into the rhematic sphere. On the functional level, the result would be counter to the functional perspective of the sentence by unsettling the balance between the separate spheres of each of the thematic and rhematic elements which are normally ordered gradually according to their degree of C.D. This order would present the following functional structure Tr - Tp - R - Td - R'. To conclude, this order would be counter to the functional principle.

\* S<sub>1</sub>T(8)3

و بتشكيل الحكومة السودانية الجديدة / (يكون)  
 ( قد أتمل ) / الشكل الدستوري لنظام الحكم  
 الجديد / بعد الانتخابات التي خاضتها كل الاحزاب  
 السودانية (و تعبيراً عن ارادة الشعب السوداني...)

(11)

\* With the formation of the new Sudanese government/

A

will have been completed / the constitutional aspect

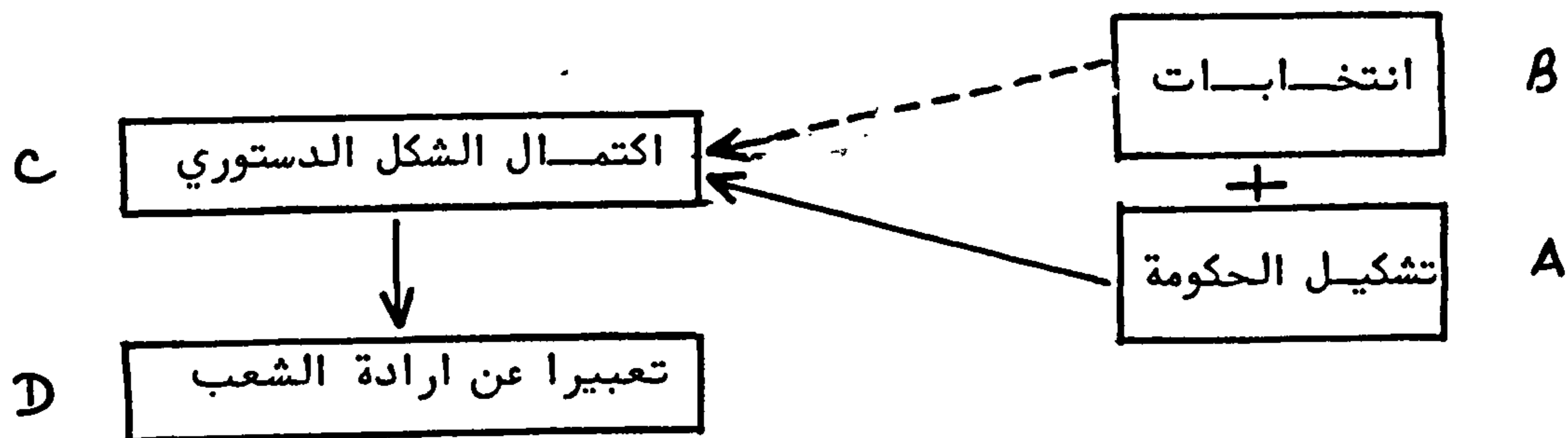
V

0

of the new system of government after the elections in which all the Sudanese parties are participating (as an expression of the will of the Sudanese people who rose up against military rule).



The complex structure of this sentence can be better understood if represented in the following diagram :



or  $A + B \implies C(D)$

In the text, the formula realized is

$$B \implies C(A) + (D)$$

where A is the main event

B a preceding event

C the main result of A

D what C fulfils.

$S_1 =$	(with clause)	V	V	S	$A_t$
	1	2	3	4	5

The grammatical order of this sentence is  $AVSA_t$ . The first element in this sentence 'with the formation of the new Sudanese government/ وبتشكيل الحكومة السودانية الجديدة' is a prepositional phrase and the verb is formed by the copula 'is/ يكون' plus the verb 'completed/ اكتمل', with the subject appearing after it. The functional order is Td - Tr - R. Textually the sentence is about the implications of the main event which is the formation of the Sudanese government 'تشكيل الحكومة السودانية' and which appeared twice in the preceding part of the text, first

rhematically in the first sentence of the text, then thematically in the second. It can be said, therefore, to act as a recall of the main topic and to give further information about it. It is mentioned once again in the next sentence.

Semantically the information is organized as

condition - implication

One possible reordering is to put the 'condition' clause in apposition within the split 'implication' clause. This would also require splitting the verbal group. The sentence obtained is  $S_2$ :-

$S_2$  \* ( و يكون ) الشكل الدستوري لنظام الحكم الجديد / بتشكيل الحكومة  
السودانية الجديدة / ( قد أتمل ) بعد الانتخابات التي خاضتها  
كل الأحزاب السودانية ( و تعبيرا عن ارادة الشعب ...الحكم  
العسكري )

V	S	(with clause)	V	A <sub>t</sub>
2	4	1	3	5

The subject appears before the prepositional adverbial clause with the effect that it is now dedynamized and belongs to the thematic sphere after it was in the rhematic sphere. As for 'the formation of the new Sudanese government/ بتشكيل الحكومة السودانية الجديدة' which in the original sentence reestablished the scene, it has now acquired a higher degree of C.D. because of the focus conferred on it by the apposition. The verb ( قد أتمل ) is now dynamized and becomes rhematic. If the different

elements were numbered as in the original sentence having  
the formula :

A V V S A

1 2 3 4 5 , the new sentence would have the order:

2 4 1 3 5

The original order is more natural unless there are  
specific contextual conditions for the subject 'the  
constitutional aspect / الشكل الدستوري ':

- if it is focussed for contrast
- if it is completely new
- if it is brought back to the front scene from the  
background.



## Text 9

### Positive steps      خطوات ايجابية

3.4

The topic of this text is the hopes that have been raised by recent events in Lebanon. It is composed of seven sentences and can be divided into four sections.

Section 1 is an interrogative sentence which has a double function. First it informs the reader about the events in question and second it sets the scene for the following evaluation.

Section 2 from ( في الفخ الرهيب to وقد لا يدعو ) evaluates the situation, first from a general point of view, then from the point of view of the Lebanese people.

Section 3 from ( يمثل الجميل to لقد تزامن ) looks at the events again.

Section 4 evaluates these events as in section 2..

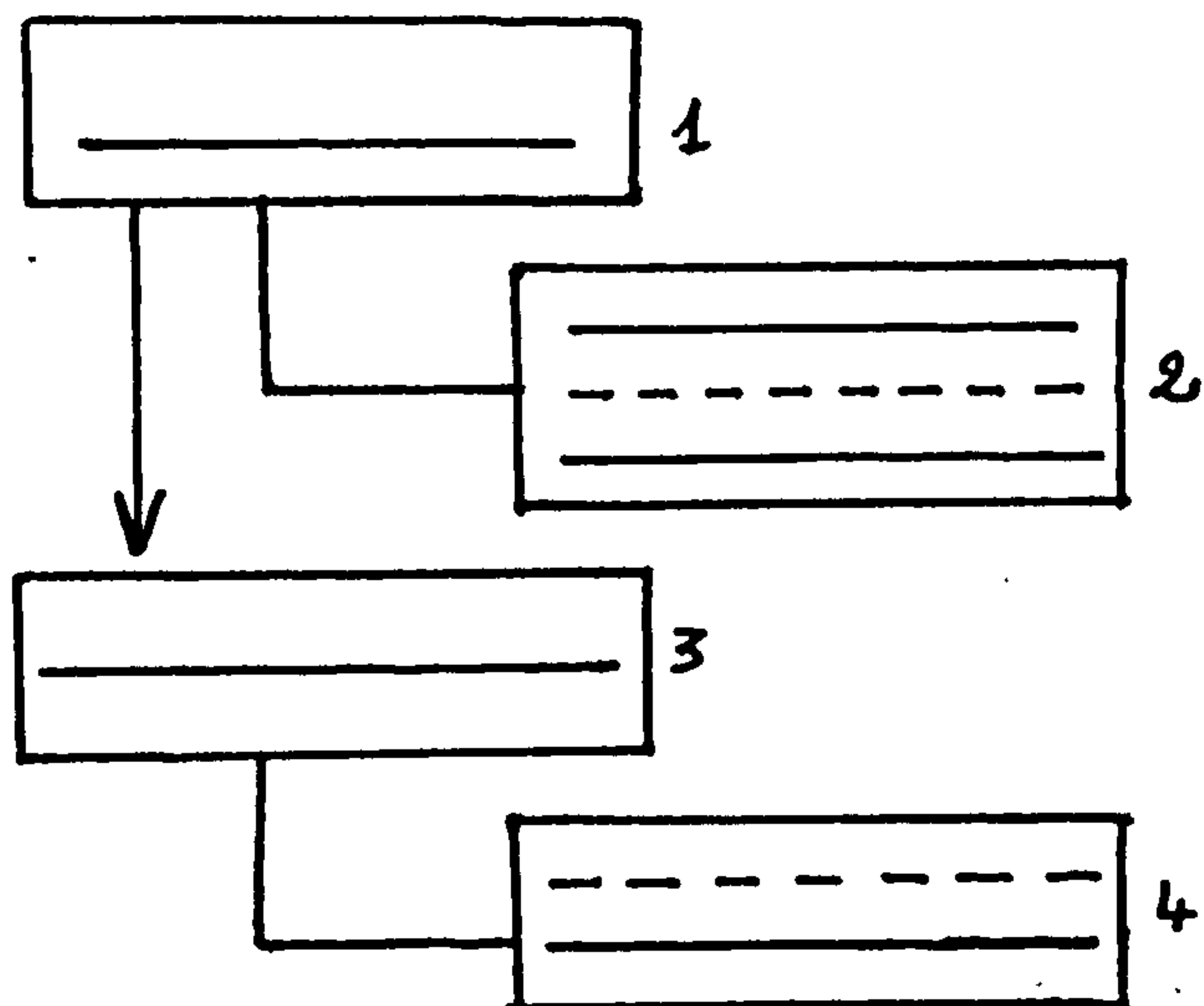
Textual cohesion is achieved through a choice of positive emotive vocabulary e.g.

optimism / تفاؤل      to rejoice / يهلل  
cure / شفاء      positive step / خطوة ايجابية

This lexicon is used in parallel to a negative emotive vocabulary which it outnumbered e.g.

serious tragedy / محنة قاسية  
horrific nightmare / الكابوس الرهيب

The textual organization of the text can be represented as follows:



فالأحداث الماضية تدعو الى التروي و التزام جانب الحذر  
كلما لاح في الافق بصيص أمل و ذلك في انتظار أن تتضح حقيقة  
الامور .

\* T(9)1  
(ل5)

\* The past events / invite to / reflection and

S

V

O

prudence / each time new hopes appear in the horizon/

A

and that until the situation becomes clearer.

This sentence is the third one within the first section of the text. The initial sentence is a question which the two following sentences attempt to answer. The sentence has a SVOA structure and it is linked to the preceding one through the use of the explanatory coordinator (ف). Both sentences have very similar structures. This is achieved by the repetitive use of the verb 'call for/ يدعو الى' used once in the negative form and once in the affirmative. This parallelism of the verbal predicates implies parallelism of the subjects, the first of which is 'that/ ذلك' in the first sentence and which refers to

the events stated in the preceding sentence. The second subject is 'the events/ فالأحداث ' used in a contrastive way strengthened by the use of the justificative (ف). One difference between them is that while the first one is known, the second one is new. The effect is reinforced by the semantic relationship of contrast between the expressions 'raising one's hopes too high/

'الذهاب بعيدا في التفاؤل' and 'reflection and prudence/

التروي والتزام جانب الحذر .

The F.S.P. structure of the sentence is Td - Tr - R - R<sup>2</sup>. The diatheme 'past events/ الأحداث الماضية', links the non-thematic sphere of the previous sentence to the thematic sphere of the succeeding sentence by introducing a new element which is contrasted with the thematic 'that/ ذلك ' of the preceding sentence. This element is an exophoric reference to the recent events. It is therefore recoverable to the reader through his general knowledge. The relative structural and semantic parallelism of the two sentences has been observed. Functionally, the theme of the previous sentence is contrasted with the diatheme of this sentence which appears sentence initially. All three elements are contrasted with those of the preceding sentence. Thus, because it is contrasted with the previous theme, the sentence initial subject acquires a higher degree of C.D hence becoming diatheme. On the other hand, the rheme is complex. The information contained in the rheme proper is specified in the 'rest of rheme' by the use of the temporal adverbial clause starting with the frequency adverbial 'each time/ كلما'. The diatheme 'the events/ الأحداث ' is not used again in the following



sentences. However, it is indirectly referred to through illustration in the relative clause !..الذي اکتوى / burnt by/ which brings in further background information.

There are different possible reorderings of the original SVOA:

1. VSOA
2. ASVO
3. AVSO
4. SVOA

It is noteworthy that in the first order the verb has initial position, and in the second it comes in second position.

1. اذ تدعو / الاحداث الماضية / الى التروي و التزام جانب الحذر /  
كلما لاح في الافق بصيص أمل و ذلك في انتظار أن تتضح حقيقة  
الامور .

The subject 'the past events/ الاحداث الماضية' loses its initial position. Consequently its C.D, which was raised by that prominence, is lowered. With the verb now in first position, the sentence becomes syntactically identical to the preceding one except for the adverbial that the first sentence does not have. Both have a VSO order, with both their V and S contrasted. The subject's prominence is then passed onto the verb. Instead of the two subjects contrasted 'the past events/ that, ذلك / الاحداث الماضية', it is now the two verbs which are 'invite/ do not invite, ' لا يدعو / تدعو'. The result is a complete shift

of focus and downgrading of the reference carried by  
'the past events/ الاحداث الماضية '.

2. كلما لاح في الافق بصيص أمل / فالاحداث الماضية / تدعو / الى التروي  
و التزام جانب الحذر و ذلك في انتظار أن تتضح حقيقة الامور .

This is a straightforward case. In the original sentence,  
the temporal adverbial clause 'each time appears in the  
horizon/ كلما لاح في الافق ' follows the object  
prepositional phrase 'reflection and prudence/

'التروي و التزام...'  
which it modifies, therefore completing the  
rhematic information contained in it. In the first  
position, it sets the scene for the whole sentence and  
also modifies the elements S and V. It is easy to  
understand the change involved by representing the  
grammatical pattern in the following way  $(A_t)SV0$ . It is  
easier to see how a change in the position of the  $A_t$   
modifies not only the FSP structure of the sentence but  
also the semantic relations between its elements. Also,  
because it modifies the rheme, this  $A_t$  functionally has a  
higher degree of C.D. than an adverbial which would  
express temporal specifications for the whole sentence  
through the diatheme.

3. اذ كلما لاح في الافق بصيص أمل / تدعو / الاحداث الماضية / الى التروي  
و التزام جانب الحذر / و ذلك في انتظار أن تتضح حقيقة الامور .

This order consists in modifying the SV order into VS,  
resulting in the formula  $A_tVSO$  where, in comparison with

the original sentence, two elements -  $A_t$  and S - have their position changed. The subject is dedynamized to the benefit of the verb. This change does not influence the relation of the sentence or its status vis a vis the succeeding sentence. As for the relation with the preceding sentence, the case was discussed in the previous order  $A_tSVO$ .

4. فالاحداث الماضية / تدعو / الى التروي و التزام جانب الحذر / في انتظار أن تتضح حقيقة الامور / كلما لاح في الافق بصيص أمل

#### SVOA

This new order does not concern the S or the V which keep their original positions. It is the order of the two final clauses, the  $A_t$

كلما لاح في الافق بصيص أمل

and the comment clause

و ذلك في انتظار أن تتضح حقيقة الامور

Which is changed. A distance is put between the temporal clause and the actions which it modifies :

التروي و التزام جانب الحذر

with two consequences:

- a. Semantically, the new order may be confusing as to which clause the adverbial clause now modifies. Indeed, it can be considered to modify 'until the situation becomes clearer/

instead of 'invite reflection and prudence/ تدعو الى التروي و التزام جانب الحذر



In fact, the comment clause is about the whole proposition i.e. the whole sentence including the modifying temporal clause. It must therefore appear last.

- b. Since the temporal clause modifies the clause preceding it - in the original order - it must then remain in the same position. This is confirmed functionally by the fact that the rest of rheme in this case must follow the rheme proper and that both must precede the rheme-oriented theme 'until/  
في انتظار

\* T(9)2 و هذا يعني أن الامور تحركت بين دمشق و قصر بعبدا و أن  
هناك معطيات جديدة يمكن على أساسها استئناف المفاوضات  
(15) من أجل التوصل الى صيغة لوضع دستور جديد للبنان ترضى  
به جميع الاطراف المتنازعة .

\*This / means / that things have moved between

S V O<sub>1</sub>

Damascus and Babada / and that there are new factors

O<sub>2</sub>

on the basis of which talks can be resumed to reach a consensus to put a new constitution for Lebanon which would satisfy all the parts of the conflict.

This sentence appears in the fourth section of the text. It is an evaluation of the sentence preceding it and it does so by using the resumptive demonstrative pronoun 'this/ هذا' and the semantically weak verb 'means/ يعني'. It is followed by the conclusion. It is linked to the

preceding sentence by the coordinator ( و ) and the repetition of ( أن ) which is directly linked to the verb 'means that/ يعني'. The grammatical structure is  $SVO_1O_2$  with the two objects coordinated.

As for the functional structure, the pattern realized is Th - Tr - R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>. The theme is contextually dependent and has a very low amount of C.D. It is an anaphoric reference to the preceding sentence and it sets a framework for the evaluation of that sentence by introducing the two coordinated rhemes. A possible reordering of the elements of the sentence is VSO which would increase the distance between the preceding sentence and the anaphoric reference 'this/ هذا' and shift the prominence it had to the verb instead. First position seems to be more natural for the summative anaphoric demonstrative pronoun ( هذا ). It is also interesting to notice the position of the two rhemes. Though they are related by the coordinator ( و ) which indicates that they are equal in rank in regard to the theme, the second one builds upon the information brought by the first one. In other words, each can follow directly the transitional part of the sentence if it appears alone. However, if they appear together, they have to follow the order R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> respectively. 'this/ هذا' or its referent, is not mentioned further in the following sentences.

## Text 10

### The Abassid Family in Tayf الاسرة العباسية في مدينة الطائف

3.5

This text is a historical account of how the Abassid family came to give its name to a renowned dynasty which ruled the Islamic world for over five centuries. It does so by considering mainly three of its members and it also shows how the family, although from Mecca, always stayed in Tayf.

The text can be divided into three sections, each dealing with an important member of the family :

The main topic of Section 1 ( from رغم انتساب to أشهرهم عبد الله بن العباس ) is Al Abbas Ibn Abd'Al Muttalib.

Section 2 (from الى جبل رضوى to ولد عبد الله بن العباس ) is about his son, Abdullah Ibn Abbas.

Section 3 (from وهكذا عاد العباسيون to the end of the text) is about the son of the latter, Ali Ibn Abdullah Ibn Abbas.

The text makes great use of temporal adverbials as well as copula verbs such as 'to be/ كان ' and 'to become/ أصبح '. There is also sustained use of the connector 'for this reason/ لذا '

T(10)1 \* وبعد وفاة عبد المطلب / أصبح / محمد عليه الصلاة و السلام /  
في كفالة عمه أبي طالب ، و ان لم يكن أكبر أولاد عبد المطلب (ل 16)  
سنا أو أكثرهم مالا .



\* After Abd'al Muttalib's death / became / Mohamed,

A

V

S

peace be upon him, / in the custody of his uncle Abu

C

Taleb / although he was not the eldest or the richest  
of Abd'al Muttalib's sons.

This sentence appears within the first section of the text. Although the topic of this section is Al Abbas, the theme in this particular sentence is Mohammed (pbh), his nephew, who Al Abbas did not adopt. The grammatical structure can be represented as (At VSC) with an interesting positioning of the subordinate concessive in final position.

The temporal adverbial refers back to eight sentences before when in the first section Al Abbas's father, Abd'Al Muttalib, is mentioned. The present sentence now considers what happened after his death, hence the change of scene realized through the use of the adverbial which in turn realizes the function diatheme. The resulting thematic pattern is : Td - Tr - Tp - R - R'. 'Abd'Al Muttalib/

عبد المطلب ' is known as a referent but is new by virtue of its function. This is the result of its degree of C.D being raised by the proximity of the temporal prepositional phrase 'after the death/ بعد وفاة . 'Become/ أصبح', the transitional element used, is a copula of the group of 'to be/ كان' and its sisters. It announces a complement for its subject or a specification. The theme 'Mohamed/ محمد' though not mentioned before, is part of the background. It is completely recoverable

not only from the text itself and its references to 'Mecca/ مكة', 'عبد المطلب' for example, but also from the hypertheme which is 'الاسرة العباسية' and thirdly because of the eulogy used after it 'صلى الله عليه وسلم/peace be upon him'. A comparison between the referent and function of both elements, the theme and the diatheme, reveals interesting information about the nature of their relationship. Looking at the two elements :

element	referent	function
و بعد وفاة عبد المطلب محمد	partly given completely new	diatheme theme

the element which is more recoverable from context 'و بعد وفاة عبد المطلب' has a higher degree of C.D than that which is completely new. One reason, worth investigating, could be that the intertextual element or what Palkova and Palek (1978) call the 'context of experience', increases the recoverability of an element more than what they call the 'ad-hoc verbal context of the preceding sentence'. In other words, the higher the layer of context is in the hierarchy, the lower will be the amount of C.D. carried by the element directly related to it. This is why 'محمد صلعم' which relates directly to the highest layer, that of 'the context of experience' is finally more recoverable and will have a lower degree of C.D. than 'و بعد وفاة عبد المطلب' which relates to the lower layer. 'The ad-hoc verbal context of the preceding sentence' is textually more recoverable, but still has a higher degree of C.D, probably because it sets a new scene for the whole

utterance. The rheme is made up of a prepositional genitive clause commented upon by a concessive clause starting with 'although/ وإن' which forms the rest of rheme which will be expanded in the next sentence.

Possible re-orderings of the sentence elements are :

1. و أصبح / محمد عليه الصلاة و السلام / بعد وفاة عبد المطلب /  
في كفالة عمه أبو طالب و ان لم يكن أكبر أولاد عبد المطلب سنا  
أو أكثرهم مالا .

VSAC

- 2, محمد عليه الصلاة و السلام / أصبح / بعد وفاة عبد المطلب /  
في كفالة عمه أبو طالب و ان لم يكن أكبر أولاد عبد المطلب سنا  
أو أكثرهم مالا .

SVAC

3. و بعد وفاة عبد المطلب/محمد عليه الصلاة و السلام / أصبح /  
في كفالة عمه أبي طالب و ان لم يكن أكبر أولاد عبد المطلب سنا  
أو أكثرهم مالا .

ASVC

In order 1 the verb is given initial position and the subject is still after the verb, while the adverb only appears in third position, before the complement. This means that the amount of C.D carried by the temporal adverbial ' و بعد وفاة عبد المطلب ' is lowered and that prominence is given to the process referred to by the copula verb 'became/ أصبح'. The consequences are that grammatically, the distance between the verb 'becomes/ يصبح' introducing an attribute and the attribute itself 'in the custody of his uncle Abu Taleb/



' is increased by the adverbial now placed after the subject. This distance, which was made of one element, the subject Mohammed (pbh), is now made up of two elements, whereas usually the distance between a subject and its predicate does not exceed one element. Furthermore, it entails a downgrading of the chronological element contained in the adverbial and which in this case, the text being a historical account, has a definite textual role to play. This does not mean that

VASC      و أصبح / بعد وفاة عبد المطلب / محمد عليه الصلاة والسلام / في  
كفالة عمه أبي طالب و ان لم يكن أكبر أولاد عبد المطلب سنا...

is possible because it has only one element between the verb and the adverbial. In this case, the element in question is too long to be put between the verb and its subject, which means that there could be a principle of weight, that prevents certain associated proximities, for example SV, VS, VSC from being interrupted. On the functional level, by being moved to third position ' و بعد وفاة عبد المطلب ' loses its scene-setter status. In the original order, it set a framework for the whole sentence by occupying the front of the narrow scene. Leaving this position entails the loss of the prominence given to the scenic element and textually translates itself in a lack of smooth transition between this part of the text and the preceding one.

Order 2 ( ( و محمد صلعم أصبح بعد وفاة عبد المطلب في كفالة .... )

In this SVAC order, the same comments apply to the adverbial as in order 1, because the adverbial is still in third position. The major change involved however, is the prominence given to the subject 'Mohamed (pbh) / محمد صلعم',

which now appears as if it were contrasted with another element.

The same applies to order 3

و بعد وفاة عبد المطلب / محمد صلعم / أصبح / في كفالة عمه ...

ASVC which keeps the original scene-setter in the same position and consequently the same amount of C.D as in the original sentence, but has the subject preceding its verb. Here the grammatical order which determines that the verb should appear no later than the second position is in play. On the other hand, both the A and the S cannot be emphasized at the same time. The one with the lower C.D. will appear after the verb. As a result, the order AVSC will prevail if prominence is given to the adverbial and SVAC if it is given to the subject. As for the  $\beta$  clause, there is no way it can precede the  $\alpha$  clause because it is tightly linked to the complement ' في كفالة عمه ' to the extent that its subject 'although he was not / وان لم يكن ' which goes back to 'his uncle / عمه ' is ellipted. Its subordinate status does not allow it to be moved elsewhere.

\* T(10)2 و في الطريق / التقى / بالعباس بن عبد المطلب و أسرته  
(ل 43)

\* On the way / he met / Al Abbas Ibn Abd'Al Muttalib

A

S + V

O

and his family.

This sentence too is from the first section of the text, relating to the life of Al Abbas. The subsection

preceding it tells us that he stayed in Mecca after the Prophet (pbh) left for Medina. The present subsection is about what he did when the Prophet (pbh) came back to Mecca. The transition is marked through the first sentence of the subsection which says 'then came the 8th year of the Hegira.' This sentence sets a chronological scene for the events related in the subsection. The next sentence relates the main event 'The Prophet (pbh) set out for the invasion of Mecca'. The expectation is:

what happened then?

which will be answered in the next sentence with an introductory locative adverbial 'on the way/ وفي الطريق'. The grammatical structure thus realized is AVO with the verb marked for subject. As for the F.S.P. structure realized, it is Td - Tr/Tp - R. The change of scene operating at the level of this sentence, from a general historical temporal setting to a more specific one, has already been observed. Hence the use of a locative prepositional phrase which functions as the diatheme ' وفي الطريق ' which also directly relates semantically to the preceding sentence: 'and the Prophet (pbh) set out for the invasion of Mecca / و خرج الرسول لفتح مكة'. The relation between the two sentences could be paraphrased

'He was going to X and on his way he met ...'.



The diatheme relates directly to the rhematic sphere of the preceding sentence. The theme is ellipted, the rhematic elements partly recoverable. Within the rhematic element 'with Al Abbas and his family/ بالعباس و أسرته' the referent 'Al Abbas/ العباس' is given, but the case function is not. The second part 'and his family/ و أسرته' is new, both as a referent and from the point of view of its function.

Possible reorderings of this AVO structure are:

- a. VAO                      و ألتقى / في الطريق / بالعباس بن عبد المطلب و أسرته
- b. VOA                      . و ألتقى / بالعباس بن عبد المطلب و أسرته / في الطريق .
- c. OVA                      . و بالعباس بن عبد المطلب و أسرته / ألتقى / في الطريق .
- d. AOV                      . و في الطريق / بالعباس بن عبد المطلب و أسرته / ألتقى .
- e. OAV                      . و بالعباس بن عبد المطلب و أسرته / في الطريق / ألتقى .

In order a. VAO, the verb is put in initial position, followed by the locative adverb and then the object. Semantically, because of the verb's position, focus would be on the meeting itself. Furthermore, the distance between this verb and one of the non-subject participants, the prepositional phrase ' بالعباس بن عبد المطلب و أسرته ' would be increased. The original equation of the original sentence can be represented as :

Location - Action (trans.verb + Participant)

In order b. this order would be broken into :

Action (trans.verb) - Location - Participant

Syntactically, the transitive verb is separated from its prepositional object phrase. Functionally, ' وفي الطريق ' which links the sentence with the preceding one by marking the transition from a temporal setting to a locative one, would appear only after the transition ' التقى ' and this would dedynamize it.

In order b. VOA, ' في الطريق ' is given rhematic focus although it is completely dependent on the preceding sentence. On the other hand, it would increase its degree of C.D. at the expense of the phrase ' بالعباس بن عبد المطلب ' which represents the participants while the latter represents the main information. This fact is confirmed by the next sentence where this same participant ' العباس ' appears in the thematic sphere.

Order c. OVA is less probable and would involve a case of contrast with some other participants which could be paraphrased :

'It is X he met, not Y'

or 'Al-Abbas Ibn Abd'Al Muttalib not Al Abbas Al Wakili',

for instance.

In both d. and e., the verb comes in third position, and in both, the elements preceding the verb are naturally emphasized. However, the use of these two sentences is limited to the domain of poetry rather than non-poetic prose and this is enough to justify simply mentioning them here.

\* T(10)3 فهم لم يخوضوا في الحركات السياسية المضادة للدولة  
 الاموية كثورات العلويين و عبد الله بن الزبير و المختار  
 (ل 93) الثقفى و غيرها .

\* They / did not get involved / in the political

S V O

activities against the Omeyyad state/ such as the  
 Alaouites' wars, Abd'Allah Ibn Zubayr's, Mukhtar Al  
 Thaqafi's, etc.

This sentence appears in a section about how the  
 Abassids came back, for the second time, to Tayf and what  
 activities they undertook. More precisely, it is a  
 subsection about their political life.

The grammatical structure is SVO with the personal  
 pronoun (هم) as subject referring back to the subject of  
 the first sentence 'the Abassids/ العباسيون ' which is  
 then ellipted in the second one (this sentence comes third  
 in the subsection.) The FSP order is a straightforward Tr  
- Tr - R - R<sup>2</sup>. The theme is recoverable from the previous  
 context, but also from the hypertheme. However, it is  
 still dynamized because of the contrast it involves with  
 the elements cited in the rheme of the same sentence and  
 which are ' ثورات العلويين و عبد الله بن الزبير .... ' etc. It  
 is also worth mentioning that this sentence also  
 illustrates what is meant by the preceding one  
 'They preferred the rewards of the hereafter than the  
 honors of this world/ وآثروا ثواب الآخرة على عرض الدنيا  
 This is confirmed by the use of (ف) which, in this case,



marks explanation.

The sentence would be perfect even if the subject (هم) was dropped. However, the contrastive focus put on (هم) would be lost. As seen in a previous case, changing the order of (فهم) to put it in second position after the verb as in ' فلم يخوضوا هم في الحركات ... ' is not common in Arabic. However, supposing it was, there would be a shift of focus because:

1. (هم) would be expected to be contrasted with precise persons and not movements as is the case in the rheme ' ثورات العلويين ' etc.
2. Another structure would be expected. Instead of the comparative clause ' كثورات ' focussing on the complement itself, focus on the action ' يخوضوا ' through further use of the verb would be expected.

Finally, postponing the subject (هم) after the verb (i.e. VSO) is impossible.

Text 11

Stockholm - أستكهلم

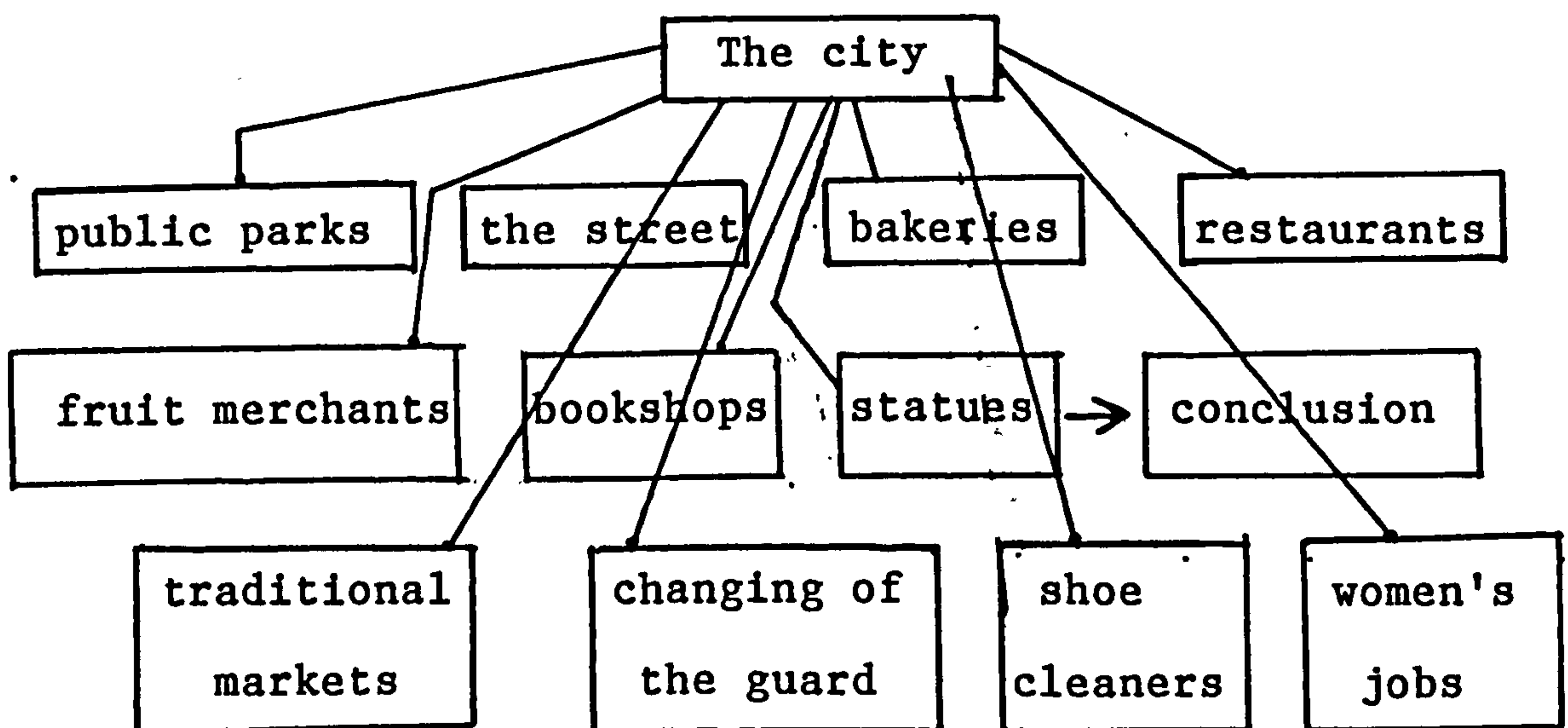
3.6

This text is an extract from a description of Stockholm. It emulates the effect of a camera moving slowly from place to place. The tour starts with a sequence on parks, followed by the streets, shops, restaurants and statues. It then moves on to more traditional activities or trades such as open markets, shoe cleaners, etc. The last sequence is about the jobs undertaken by women.

As would be expected in the description of a town, this text has a lot of locative expressions and nouns for places, for example:

public parks / الحدائق العامة - the city / المدينة  
everywhere in the city / في شتى أرجاء المدينة / شارع  
restaurants / مطاعم - bakery / مخبز

The textual organization of the text may be represented as in the following diagram :



\* T(11)1 فهي تغازلـك حيثما سرت ، في كل شارع  
و في كل ميدان ... (ل2)

\* It / will flirt with you / wherever you go, in every  
S V + O A  
street and in every place.

This sentence appears in second position in the first section of the extract. The first sentence has an introductory function and marks the change of topic from the swimming pools talked about in the thematic part of the preceding sentence, to the public parks which form the rhematic part. This is operated smoothly by the presentation of a new element within the same scene 'In this city/ في هذه المدينة'. The grammatical structure realized is SV(O)A. It is coordinated to the preceding sentence through the use of the illustrative (ف) and the subject is one of three cases of sentence initial personal pronoun in the text. It is a substitution for the complement of the preceding clause. As for the adverbial, it consists of a locative clause and the second of two prepositional coordinated phrases apposed to it. The functional order of the sentence is Td - Tr+Tp - R. The diatheme relates directly to the rhematic sphere of the preceding sentence. The preceding rheme is 'the great number of public parks/ وفرة الحدائق العامة'. From there the elements appearing on the narrow scene of the succeeding sentence will narrow down to الحدائق العامة, without the modifier 'وفرة' and this process gives it more emphasis. This in turn is increased by the fact that



it is going to be the topic of the section and has a higher degree of C.D than, for instance, the thematic element represented by 'ك' in 'تغازلك' and which refers to the reader. The element 'حديقة/park' reappears in the rhematic sphere of the succeeding sentence with the element 'مشرفا على/overlooking'.

Possible reorderings include :

1. V(O)A فتغازلك حيثما سرت ، في كل شارع و في كل ميدان ...

In this order, the personal pronoun 'she (it)/ هي' is omitted. The sentence is still meaningful. However, the framework established by 'هي' for the section is lost although the verb remains marked for person as seen in a previous case (see text 10). Another form of relationship is possible vis a vis the preceding sentence. It consists of using the relative pronoun ('which + feminine' التي). This process turns the sentence which was independent, into a relative one, consequently, backgrounding the information it conveyed.

2. AV(O) حيثما سرت ، في كل شارع و في كل ميدان / تغازلك ...

This sentence also drops the personal pronoun 'she (it)/ هي' which further established the subject 'public parks/ الحدائق العامة'. The FSP order realized is :

Td - Tr/R

\* T(11)2 و المطاعم في المدينة تجري على النظام  
الأمريكي القائل أخدم نفسك بنفسك ... (25)

\* Restaurants in the city / are organized /

S V

according to the American model of self-service

A

As already seen, each section focusses on one particular aspect or trade in the city. The present sentence appears in first position in a section about restaurants in Stockholm, and 'restaurants/ المطاعم', which is used sentence initially is established as the topic of the section. It is also followed by the locative 'in the city/ في المدينة' which has systematically appeared in every initial sentence of every section up to now. It acts as a reminder to the reader that he is still on a guided tour of the city.

The grammatical structure realized is SVA where the locative prepositional noun phrase 'in the city/ في المدينة' modifies the subject 'restaurants/ المطاعم'. On the functional level, the sentence has a Td - Tr - R complex order where ( المطاعم ) and ( في المدينة ) form one communicative unit. Within it, the element 'restaurants/ المطاعم' modified by the same locative modifier as the preceding topics, is new on a given, reiterated scene 'في المدينة'. Therefore, whereas 'in the city/ في المدينة' is recoverable from context, 'restaurants/ المطاعم' is unrecoverable. Its initial position having established it,

it will reappear twice, once in the same section, some sentences later, and once at the beginning of the next section as a framework for the thematic element 'fruit merchants/ متاجر الفاكهة'. It appears in the singular form in this section, and then once again in the conclusion. The transitional element is a prepositional verb 'are organized/ تجري على' collocationally used with 'model/ نظام' which is postmodified by 'American/ الأمريكي' and forms the rheme.

Possible reorderings :

1. VSA                      و تجري المطاعم في المدينة على النظام الأمريكي  
القائل أخدم نفسك بنفسك...

It is the verb in this case which appears sentence initially. The subject will consequently have its degree of C.D lowered which entails the loss of its contrastive focus which in turn means the loss of the organized section by section presentation of city trades. On the other hand, the transition from the preceding section would be made without a new scene being set for the new topic and/or section.

2. AVS                      على النظام الأمريكي القائل أخدم نفسك بنفسك /  
تجري / المطاعم في المدينة

This sentence presents a straightforward case of topicalization. ' على النظام الأمريكي ... ' is placed before all the other elements. This shifts the focus from the S to



the A. It runs counter to the layout of the other sections of the text. It creates the expectation of a contrast which is not fulfilled.

فالسويدي اذا أحس الجوع في بعض طريقه ، و ضاق  
 به وقته أن يدخل المطعم ، أو لم يجد في نفسه  
 شهوة السى ما يحتويه المطعم من مأكـل ، فأنه  
 لا يستنكف أن يقصد بائع الفاكهة . \* T(11)3  
 (ل 32)

\* The Swede / if he feels hungry on his way and

S

A

cannot afford the time to enter a restaurant or is  
 not attracted by the restaurant's menu/ (he) will not

V

scorn / going to a fruit merchant

O

After the section about restaurants comes one about fruit merchants. The scene is set by putting the new entity (the fruit merchant) in the rhematic sphere to set the scene and the topic for the whole section. This sentence occurs in the second position. Its grammatical structure is SAVO with an interesting  $\alpha - \beta - \alpha$  pattern where the subject and the predicate which form the  $\alpha$  part are separated by a conditional sentence formed by three coordinated clauses. This long interruption between the subject and the verbal clause forming the rest of the sentence can be considered at the syntactic, the functional and the semantic level. The implications of this grammatical order are firstly that by giving the subject 'The Swede/ السويدي' first

position, emphasis is placed on it. Secondly, at this stage the implications involve both the functional and grammatical levels, because functionally the conditional sentence in apposition is placed in a position that goes counter to the principle of end-weight which requires that the more complex elements be placed in final position. And indeed, the distance between the subject and its verb could break the flow of information. This is, however, remedied by the repetition of the subject by affixing the morpheme 'ه' to the particle 'ان' reinforced by the use of 'فانه' in 'فانه'. The effect is that the subject is given a new thrust. In this way, the emphasis has been achieved and the proximity with the verb preserved.

At the functional level, the structure realized is Td - T(d) - Tr - R. The present section is about fruit merchants and if in this sentence the element 'السويدي' is given prominence by being given diathematic function, it is because the existence of the fruit merchants as a city institution justifies the discussion of Swedish life at this point and more precisely how 'The Swede / السويدي' enjoys this service. It will reappear in the same form 'The Swede / السويدي' in the next section which is about bookshops in the city. The diatheme is followed by the diatheme oriented theme which completes the presentation of the scene.

Changes entailed by reordering :

1. The order SVOA would entail putting the complex conditional sentence after the object clause. It would also mean dedynamizing the conditional sentence

which is given prominence. Syntactically, this conditional sentence acts as a modifier for the subject and must therefore not be separated from it as arose in a preceding case.

2. If the order AVSO is considered, the same applies, where A and S would be separated by the verbal element. Another implication is that the subject 'The Swede/ السويدي' would lose the prominence conferred to it by its initial position, and although this could be made up for by preceding it with the topicalizer 'فان' that is already in the sentence as in 'The Swede does not scorn going to .../ فان السويدي لا يستنكف أن يقصد بائع الفاكهة .../

the meaning would still be different from the original order for at least two reasons. First, functionally the prominence would be given to the conditional complex sentence and its elements instead of the subject 'The Swede/ السويدي'. Second, syntactically three verbal clauses will appear before the appearance of the subject 'The Swede/ السويدي' in its full form. Therefore, the only possibility if A is to appear sentence initially is to introduce the subject at the beginning of the conditional clause right after the verb 'felt/ أحس'.

A(S)VO      اذا أحس السويدي الجوع في بعض طريقته و ضاق  
به وقته أن يدخل المطعم ، أو لن يجد في نفسه  
شهوة السى ما يحتويه المطعم من مأكلا ، فانه  
لا يستنكف أن يقصد بائع الفاكهة .



## 3. VSOA

لا يستنكف السويدي أن يقصد بائع الفاكهة  
إذا أحس الجوع في بعض طريقه ، و ضاق  
به وقته أن يدخل المطعم ، أو لم يجد في  
نفسه شهوة الى ما يحتويه المطعم من  
مأكـل .

Another possible order consists in changing the position of the conditional clause and putting it at the end of the sentence. The effect of having A in final position was dealt with in order 1. (SVOA). In the present order, the first position is reserved for the verb. This results in a dedynamization of the subject for the benefit of the action. There is on the other hand a complete loss of focus from the point of view of the subject, a focus conferred on it by its preverbal position and also as a new element, or quality bearer appearing on the scene. It also loses the modification added to it by the proximity of the conditional clause now in last position.

\* T(11)4 و في بعض هذه المكتبات / تعرض / بجانب  
المؤلفات السويدية أحدث المطبوعات (ل 39)  
الأمريكية و الانجليزية ، و بينها قليل من  
المطبوعات الفرنسية أحسب أنه للا جانب خاصة

\* And in some of these bookshops / are displayed /

A

V

beside Swedish publications / the latest American

A

O

and English publications and among them a few

French publications / I think they are for  
comment clause  
foreigners in particular.

This sentence appears in second position in the following section of which the topic is the 'bookshops'. After a general statement about their profusion in the city, the description becomes more specific and deals with those which offer foreign literature.

The grammatical structure obtained is A<sub>1</sub>VpassA<sub>2</sub>O + comment clause. The locative expression is modified by the limiting determiner 'some/ بعض'. The verb is in the passive form and it is followed by another locative phrase 'besides Swedish publications/ بجانب المؤلفات السويدية' before the complement appears. The sentence finishes with a comment clause. The functional order of the elements is Td - Tr - Tp - R - R'. The diatheme is directly related to the rheme of the preceding sentence through 'bookshops/ المكتبات' which appears in 'a multitude of bookshops/ حشد من المكتبات'. However, in this sentence, it is dynamized by the use of the limiter 'بعض' which will restrict the scope of the head 'bookshops/ المكتبات' and the new information will be about 'some of these bookshops', not about the existence of this institution but about some specific examples of it.

The initial position of the locative phrase is a straightforward case of prominence for the establishment of a new scene which not only links the sentence with the rhematic part of the preceding sentence, but also allows

its own rhematic elements to prepare for the next thematic development. Therefore, reordering the sentence into a verb initial sentence, or more specifically the initial  $A_1$  would mean:

- a. a lower degree of C.D [for (A)]
- b. a loss of its 'scenic' quality
- c. prominence given instead to the process expressed in the verb 'are displayed/ تعرض'
- d. textually, it would change the nature of the transition from one communicative unit to the other (i.e. the two sentences)

All this applies whether  $A_1$  is placed right after the verb or after  $A_2$ .

Two other orders are possible which both concern the position of the two adverbial phrases. They are:

1.  $A_2VA_1O + C.$ clause
2.  $A_2A_1VO + C.$ clause

Again, it is a case of the priority of adverbs when there are more than one in a sentence. This section is about bookshops in the city. Through the syntactic use of the determiner 'some/ بعض',  $A_1$  will semantically reduce the scope of the general scene and make it more specific.  $A_1$  also ensures a smooth continuity between the preceding sentence where it picks up the rhematic element 'bookshop/ المكتبات', which is now used thematically. It maintains the





On the functional level, the order is T(d) - Tr - R - Tp. As seen above, the diatheme foregrounds some of the background elements to prepare the scene for a new one which will function as theme, and its specifications, expressed by the locative adverbials, will function as rheme.

Consider now different elements:

1. VSA<sub>1</sub>A<sub>2</sub>

2. VSA<sub>2</sub>A<sub>1</sub>

Order 1 requires putting the adverbial complex phrase in apposition after the subject. The resulting phrase reads:

1. وتتوالى التماثيل ، مع كثرة المطاعم ووفرة المكتبات ، في الميادين و خلال الحدائق و بجوار الفوارات .

This order means prominence is given to the process expressed in 'تتوالى' , but the distance placed between the prepositional adverbial phrase 'في الميادين/ in places' and its verb and subject would be too big. This order would go counter to the grammatical principle.

2. وتتوالى التماثيل في الميادين و خلال الحدائق ، و بجوار الفوارات مع كثرة المطاعم ووفرة المكتبات

As for order 2 where the first adverbial occurs at the end of the sentence after three locative adverbials, this order would go counter to the functional principle which requires that known elements be placed in the thematic sphere and new ones in the rhematic sphere, when they appear in one communicative unit. The case is further

confirmed if it is considered that the following sentences deal with 'التمائيل' and not with 'كثرة المطاعم ووفرة المكتبات' and this is another reason why 'التمائيل' should appear in the rhematic sphere.

In both 1 and 2 the action is given prominence through its initial position. However, in both of them the subject can be placed before the verb if it needs to be dynamized. The order  $VA_1SA_2$  :

وتتوالى / مع كثرة المطاعم ووفرة المكتبات  
التمائيل في الميادين و خلال الحدائق  
وبجوار الفسارات .

was decided against for the following reasons :

- it is against the syntactic principle which requires the verb to be next to the subject whether to the left or to the right, as in this case the two elements are separated by an adverbial phrase
- it is against the principle of front and/or end weight which usually puts complex elements in initial or final position
- the adverbial clause 'with the multitude of restaurants and bookshops/ مع كثرة المطاعم ووفرة المكتبات' links this section with the previous ones by bringing to the foreground previously rhematic elements which were backgrounded. It sets the scene for the new element 'the statues/ التماثيل'. Consequently, the amount of C.D it carries will-be lower than that of the subject. Therefore, the principle of C.D requires it to appear sentence initially and it can still appear in the final position





described', the element 'the city/ المدينة' is called from the background to set the scene once again. Thus it acts as a diatheme. It provides a framework not only for the new institution mentioned, 'the open market', but also for the following ones, the changing of the guard and the shoe cleaners, and it is brought into the foreground again only after these sections (except of course for one case in the succeeding sentence).

The rest of rheme is a concessive clause. The preceding description of the subject's function explains in what way a change of order into VSO would change the functional perspective of the sentence. First the prominence would be awarded to the verb which brings us to the second point, the framework set by ' المدينة ' and the trans-section transition operated by it would be lost.

There are two other possibilities which concern the position of the subordinate clause 'although it has/ ' وان استوفت ' according to whether it is placed at the beginning of the sentence or in the middle.

1. وان استوفت المدينة وسائل التمدن  
العصري فانهـا لا تنسى ديمقراطيتها  
فهي  
وتقاليدها
2. ولا تنسى المدينة ، وان استوفت  
وسائل التمدن العصري ، ديمقراطيتها  
وتقاليدها .

Another possible order is:

3. وان استوفت وسائل التمدن العصري  
لا تنسى المدينة ديمقراطيتها  
وتقاليدها

In the three sentences, the subordinate clause is dedynamized because it has been moved from the rhematic sphere of the original sentence to the thematic sphere. In order 1 it still benefits from the focus conferred on it by its initial position, whereas in 2 it is backgrounded by the apposition. Order 3 is a variant of order 1. the subject 'the city/ المدينة' which in 1 was inserted after the verb of the subordinate clause, now appears in the principal clause after 'it does not forget/ لا تنسى' the difference between them is in the relationship between the two sentences :

- syntactically, the two clauses forming sentence 1 are dependent, whereas in 2 one is independent and the other subordinated to it
- in sentence 1 the subject reappears replaced by 'فانها' or 'فهي' in the second clause.

All the following nominal sentences are cases of preposed subjects and have roughly an SVO structure with some small differences, that is for example for cases where the subject is modified by a demonstrative pronoun, an adverbial phrase or an adjective (sentences 7, 8, 9, 10, etc.)

These sentences are:

هذه السوق تقوم في ميدان طليق الهواء يزدان  
 بأعمدة فخمة ، أمامها نصب فني يمثل شاعرا  
 موسيقيا من الاغريق ، و هو يعزف و يغنني  
 كأنه يعلو في الجو .

.7  
 (262)



\* This market / is set / in an open air space

S V A

decorated with splendid columns (with) near them the artistic statue of a Greek poet musician playing and singing, looking as if he was rising in the air.

و القوم هنالك لم يباليوا أن يجمعوا في قلب  
العاصمة بين سوق و ميدان فني ، اجلا لا  
لحق ناله الاهلون من قديم اذ كانوا  
يبيعون في هذا الميدان ما ينتجونه من  
فاكهة و من خضر .

.8 (٢٦٦)

\* People there / do not mind / mixing in the heart of

S V O

the city a market and an artistic place thus honouring a right gained long ago by their predecessors as they used to sell in this place the fruit and vegetables they produced.

و تغيير الحرس كل يوم يقتضي اجراء  
هذه الزفة الموسيقية وفقا للاوضاع  
الموروثة منذ امد بعيد .

.9 (٢٧٤)

\* The changing of the guard everyday / requires /

S V

this musical procession conforming with inherited

O

traditions.

فما سحو الاحذية السويدية يزاولون  
عملا من الاعمال السرايحة .

.10 (٢٨١)

\* The Swedish shoe-cleaners / conduct / a lucrative

S V O

trade.

و هم يتميزون بالصمت المطبق .11

(ل83)

\* They / are characterised / by a complete silence

S V C

و هن اللواتي يحصلن الاجور في "الترام" .12

و يقمن بالخدمة في عدد من المشارب و  
الاندية ، و يبعن المرطبات و الثلجات في  
ظلات على الطريق ... (ل87)

\* It is they who / work as / ticket collectors in the  
tram / work as / waiters in a number of coffee-bars

S V O + A

and clubs / sell / soft drinks and ice-creams in

V O + A

kiosks in the streets ...

Functionally, they all mark a change of focus.

Sentence 7 appears initially in a subsection devoted to the description of the market and it serves to mark a change of orientation of this description which was general in the preceding section and dealt with related aspects such as housewives, etc. and now it comes back to the market itself again. The term 'market/ سوق' appeared twice rhematically. It is now diatheme and it

will appear again in the rhematic sphere of the last sentence before being discarded.

Sentence 8 appears within the same section. The subject 'people/ القوم' marks a change of topic after it was 'market/ السوق'. The subject will be mentioned again in the next section. It is new but derivable from context since these institutions are part of the life of 'these people/ القوم' which will appear again thematically in the initial sentence of the next section represented by the genitive pronoun 'هم' in 'the signs of their attachment to/ علائقهم'.

8. و القوم هنالك لم يبالوا أن يجمعوا في قلب العاصمة  
بين سوق و ميدان فني ، اجلالا لحق ناله الاهلون من  
قديم اذ كانوا يبيعون في هذا الميدان ما ينتجونه من  
فاكهة و من خضر .

As seen in previous cases where the subject is modified, the locative adverbial 'there/ هنالك' can appear elsewhere, for instance in a AVS or SVA order in this sentence, but the scope of the part it modifies is changed. It must therefore be considered as one with the element it modifies and therefore stay in the same position if its meaning is to remain the same. As for the comment clause starting with 'thus honouring/ اجلالا ...' putting it in initial position is possible but would go counter to the principle of end weight, and at the same time it isolates or postpones the theme of the sentence which is 'the people there/ القوم هنالك'.



Sentence 9 is in a section about another of the city's traditions; the changing of the guard. However, the first sentences are directly addressed to the reader. The subject 'the changing of the guard/ تغيير الحرس' marks the transition from an addressee-oriented utterance to a topic-oriented one, which closes the section. 'تغيير' is taken from the preceding rhematic sphere which it modifies with the temporal phase 'كل يوم'.

9. وتغيير الحرس كل يوم يقتضي اجراء هذه الزفة الموسيقية وفقا  
لنظام وضاع الموروثة منذ امد بعيد .

What was said about 'there/ هنالك' in the previous sentence applies to 'everyday/ كل يوم' of this sentence, which although it can appear elsewhere, for instance, after the verb, has to stay in the same position. Moreover, it also puts too much distance between the thematic 'the changing of the guard/ تغيير الحرس' and its rhematic predecessor 'the changing of the guard of the castle/ تغيير حرس القصر'. The comment clause 'conforming with/ وفقا لـ' can be put in two different places:

a. it can be put in apposition as in:

ويقتضي تغيير الحرس كل يوم ، وفقا للاوضاع  
الموروثة منذ امد بعيد ، اجراء هذه الزفة  
الموسيقية .

b. or it can be put sentence initially.

وفقا للاوضاع الموروثة منذ امد بعيد ، فان تغيير الحرس كل  
يوم يقتضي اجراء هذه الزفة الموسيقية

It should be noted that in both cases, the order of the V and S elements has been changed to VS unless the subject

is reinforced by the use of ' إِنَّ ' for sentence b. As for a., if the subject appeared before the verb, the latter, with nothing on its left, would be too far from its complement.

Sentence 10 appears in a new section of which the topic is yet another of the city's institutions, the shoe cleaners. These are not mentioned directly until the third sentence. This happens again after the first sentences address the reader and mention the object of the trade 'shoes' and the place 'kiosks/ الظلة الخشبية'. Therefore, although the subject 'shoe-cleaners/ ماسحو الاحذية' is recoverable, it is new because never mentioned before. It is a case where the function is given but the referent is new. It functions as diatheme and is mentioned in the next sentence in the affixed pronoun in ' فانهم ' and 'their kiosks/ ظلّاتهم'.

In Sentence 11 - the personal pronoun ' هم ' is used to refer to them. It sets the scene for yet another aspect of the subject to be mentioned and therefore functions as diatheme. Indeed, this ' هم ' also gives a new thrust to the subject and establishes it more on the scene to prepare the way for more specifications which here take the shape of three verbal predicates which are :

هيئات أن ينبس - يتميزون - يتولون

It will not be mentioned again because it is the end of the section. The alternative orders for this sentence are:





The use of the relative pronoun 'اللواتي' reinforces the personal pronoun 'هنّ' and emphasizes it. An alternative order is to separate the two by putting 'هنّ' in the final position:

و اللواتي يحصلن الاجور في " الترام " و يقمن  
بالخدمة في عدد من المشارب و الاندية و يبعن المرطبات  
و الثلجات في ظلات على الطريق هنّ

This also increases the amount of C.D it carries and turns it into a rhematic element after it was thematic, and by the same effect reduces that of the previous rhemes, e.g. 'work as ticket collectors/ يحصلن الاجور في الترام' etc. On the other hand, this order would keep a rhematic element 'attractive girls/ الفتيات اللفاتنات' in the rhematic sphere. For these reasons, it can be said that this order would go counter to the functional principle of the distribution of information.

In the six sentences, a reordering involving putting the verb in initial position would result in:

1. the process being put in prominence instead of the actor.
2. a change in the information structure of the utterance.
3. a change in the relation of the sentence with the preceding and succeeding sentences.

## Text 12

### A generous thief      لـص جـواد

3.7

This short story is about a wealthy business man who is the victim of a theft which leaves him unconcerned. He is then later seen in despair because following a general economic crisis, he cannot afford a proper Christmas. At that moment, he receives a cheque from the repentant thief.

The text can be divided into three main sections:

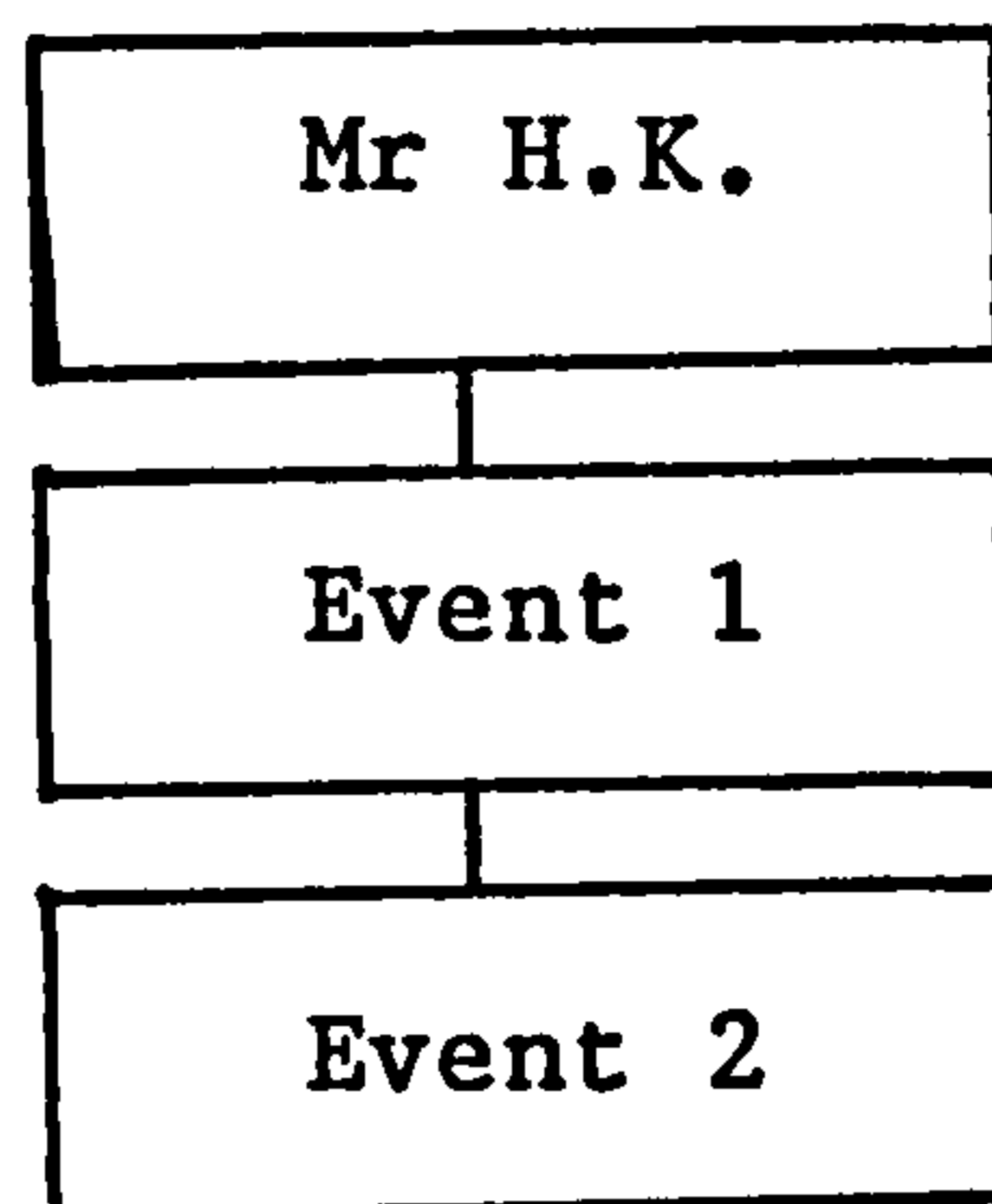
Section 1 (from the beginning of the story to و ثروته تنمو) introduces the main protagonist Mr. H.K., his shop, his clients and shop assistants.

Section 2 ( from استسمنه اللصوص to عام أول ) relates a theft which is apparently insignificant to Mr. H.K.

Section 3 ( from وتناول شبح الازمنة to the end of the text) relates the second main event of the story or how the stolen money is sent back at a most appropriate time. It can be divided into three subsections:

1. (from الى بيته قانطا to وتناول ) describes the general scene in which the events are set and that is the general economic crisis which finally hits Mr. H.K. himself.
2. ( from شطر غرفته to ارتمى ذات يوم ) is a more specific setting for the event. It describes Mr. H.K.'s total despair some time before Christmas.
3. (from فما كاد يتوسط to the end of the text) relates how Mr. H.K. received the cheque, as well as his reaction and that of his wife and children.

All nominal sentences appear in Section 1, except for one case in the second subsection of Section 2. The textual organization of the text can be schematized as follows:



هذا ينتقي ، و هذا يدفع ما عليه ، و ذاك يساوم  
 ولكن على غير ما ألفناه نحن في البيع و الشراء ،  
 و تلك تخرج لانها لم تجد ما يواتيها و يناسبها  
 فلا يتعلق بأذيالها أحد ليبيعوها ما ليست في حاجة  
 اليه .

\* T(12)1  
(22)

\* This one / selects, / this one / pays.../, that one /  
 S V S V+O S

bargains / but in different ways from the usual way  
 V A

of buying and selling /, and that one / goes out /  
 S V

because she did not find what she wanted and liked  
 and <sup>A</sup>no-one follows her with persistence to sell to  
 her something she does not need.

This sentence appears in the third position in the first section of the text which has four sentences. It is preceded by an SC sentence and a verbal sentence, which respectively introduce Mr. H.K. the main protagonist and then his shop, about which this sentence will provide



details focussing on how this 'febrility' in the shop materializes in the customers' activity. It has four coordinated verbal clauses which realize the following pattern :

[(SV) (SVO) (SV (A<sub>i</sub> clause)) (SV (A<sub>i</sub> clause))]

All four subjects are demonstrative pronouns which contribute, through their semantic meaning, to the overall development of the sentence in depicting the scene set in this first section of the short story. It is as if all the remaining clauses of the sentence, illustrated the previous sentence 'his shop is crammed with people/

يغصّ مخزنه كل يوم بالناس ' for which, on a higher level, they functionally act as a rhematic element.

Semantically the links are quite clear. The verb 'crammed with people/ يغصّ بالناس ' is sufficient in itself to give a clear image of how the store looked. The next clauses, however, further illustrate this 'overcrowdedness' by showing people in action, and this is where the demonstrative pronouns 'this one/ هذا', 'that one/ ذاك', 'that one + feminine gender/ تلك', intervene. They not only contribute to this idea of anonymity, conveyed by the expression 'is overcrowded/

يغصّ بالناس', but also, through the element of proximity vs. distance. Consider for instance the contrast 'this one/that one' expressed by 'هذا' vs. 'ذاك' which contributes to the image of a large store. Functionally, the whole utterance is made of several coordinated communicative units which are all complete communicative units at a lower level, i.e. they all have their thematic and rhematic spheres. These thematic elements have their

degree of C.D raised by the element of contrast involved, and these successive SV structures give balance to the whole utterance, which would be diminished should the order be reversed into VS order. On the other hand, this change of order would mean a change of prominence because the transitional elements or verbs would be placed initially as if the actions were focussed on, whereas it is in fact the people. This is confirmed by the fact that these anonymous subjects ' هذا - ذاك - تلك ' are an expansion of the rhematic element ' people / الناس ' of the preceding sentence. Furthermore, they are going to be specified in the next sentence.

\* ... و لكن على غير ما ألفناه في البيع و الشراء ( نحن )  
 \* ... و لانها لم تجد ما يواتيها و يناسبها ( تخرج تلك )

1. Within the conjunctive clause ' ... و لكن على غير ما ... ' the subject ' we / نحن ' can be put in the final position and replace the A , ' in selling and buying / في البيع و الشراء '. This case is mentioned just to illustrate a case of VAS
2. In the last clause ' ... و تلك تخرج ... ' the subordinate clause, which acts as rheme can be put in initial position. The new sentence would read ' و لانها لم تجد ... ! ' which would place the focus on the reason rather than on the reaction. It will also break the parallelism with the two preceding clauses which have an SV order. It is noteworthy that the order of the clause ' that one goes out / تلك تخرج ' is reversed to VS.

\* T(12)2 فتیان و فقییات ، سیدات و سادة ، غلمان و شیوخ  
 یزدحمون فی ذلک البیت العظیم . (16)

\* Boys and girls, ladies and gentlemen, children

S

and elderly people / mill about / in this grand

V

A

house.

The first section, as has just been seen, set the scene for the whole story. This sentence appears initially in the second section and more details are given about the activity in the shop. The syntactic pattern realized is :

S[(N + N) (N + N) (N + N)]VA

These three subject noun phrases make a further contribution to the idea of intense activity already conveyed by the preceding sentence. This idea is also emphasized by the choice of the verb 'crowd/ یزدحمون', which all three noun phrases share. The final element, the locative adverbial phrase 'this grand house/

مخزنه' paraphrases 'his store/ ذلك البیت العظیم' which appeared in the previous section. In the same way, the subject noun phrases paraphrase the subjects of the preceding sentence. On the functional level, the F.S.P. order of the sentence is R - Tr - Tp. All the elements of this sentence are retrievable from the preceding sentences directly, as in the sentence 'his store is crammed with people/ یفصّ مخزنه بالناس' or indirectly, as in the image conveyed by the subject personal pronouns



، هذا - ذاك - تلك . But these people who were considered as an anonymous mass in the first sentence, and as anonymous individuals in the second one, will be given a clearer shape in this sentence. These noun phrases give information about their age and status through their semantic meaning i.e. they are boys and girls, men and women, children and old people. They bring in new information about these participants and set them on the scene as the topic of the section or at least part of it, because the second part will be about the shop assistants. The element of 'newness' in the subject phrases is emphasized by the non-use of the definite article, whereas the adverbial prepositional phrase ' في ذلك البيت العظيم ' is used with the definite article. Furthermore, one supplementary factor for considering these subject N.P. s as rhematic is that they are picked up as the (ellipted) theme of the next sentence.

This unmarked syntactic structure has a functionally marked order and it is the grammatical factor which determines this by raising the C.D of the subject through focus and initial position. As in all the previous cases, a reordering of the elements would involve dynamizing some elements and/or dedynamizing others. Up to now, the initial elements were all diathemes or themes and the change of order resulted in most cases in loss of prominence of the reordered element. In this case, however, the initial element is the rheme and therefore some reorderings might involve not only a decrease in the amount of C.D. but a complete functional change of status from rhematic to thematic. Consider these new orders:

1. VSA                      و يزدهم فتیان و فتیات ، سيدات و سادة غلمان  
و شیوخ في ذلك البيت العظيم

The first change the subject incurs is a syntactic one i.e. it is used plus the definite article like the adverbial phrase. In functional terms, this means that its C.D is lowered. In functional terms again, this means that it is not for certain the element with the highest degree of C.D in the sentence. And indeed, since the adverbial occurs after it in the sentence, and since none of them is focussed, then the adverbial can be said to have become rhematic. Consequently the subject is now thematic. The new functional pattern is Tp - Tr - R. If the subject is to keep its rhematic status then order

2. VAS                      و يزدهم في ذلك البيت العظيم فتیان و فتیات ، سيدات  
و سادة ، غلمان و شیوخ .

is to be considered. In this case the A will precede the S which would have its C.D. raised and become rheme.

There is still another possible order:

3. AVS                      في ذلك البيت العظيم يزدهم الفتیان و الفتیات ، السيدات  
و السادة ، الغلمان و الشیوخ .

The A is given prominence through the first position where it sets the scene and becomes therefore diathematic. On the other hand, the S appears in final position and conserves its rhematic status. It can be used with, and without, the definite article. The A has its C.D further

increased through the use of contrastive focus which would render it rhematic.

To sum up, it is not the functional factor alone that determines the degree of C.D of an element and therefore its functional status as a thematic or rhematic element, through the use of contrastive focus for example. The grammatical factor may also be at play and determine the functional status of an element.

\*T(12)3  
(11)

و الابتسامة لا تفارق أفواههم .

\* Smiles / do not leave / their mouths

S                      V                      O

The present sentence comes third within the second subsection of the second section. The first sentence was, as seen earlier, about the shop's clients and the second about the shop assistants. Its syntactic order is SVO and it is straightforward. Semantically, it is in contrast with the preceding sentence though no contrastive adverbial is used. They are coordinated with (,) instead. A literal translation would be: 'They are busy constantly yet smiles never leave their faces.' Therefore, what is 'surprising' or 'worth mentioning' is the fact that despite their hard work they keep on smiling. This means that the element 'smiling' will carry the highest amount of C.D. The resulting functional order is R - Tr - Tp where 'the smile/ الابتسامة ' is rhematic. It is also illustrated in the following sentence



( لا يتذمرون و لا يجهرون بسامة و لا ملل ) . On the other hand, in this quite collocative use of the expression ( الابتسامة لا تفارق أفواههم ) it is difficult to consider ' أفواههم ' as the element with a higher degree of C.D unless it is the object of a contrast with another element with the meaning 'not their mouths but their faces', for instance in the case of a SV order. The possible reordering of the sentence are :

1. VSO ولا تفارق الابتسامة أفواههم  
 would certainly reduce the amount of C.D carried by ' الابتسامة ' by giving initial position, and therefore prominence, to the verb. In that case, it would be less informative in the structure than the element ' أفواههم ' which would then acquire more C.D. and become rhematic, whereas the dedynamized ' الابتسامة ' would become theme.

Two other orders are possible. The first one consists of putting the complement in first position. The effects of such topicalization in terms of focus and emphasis have already been dealt with.

2. OVS وأفواههم لا تفارقها الابتسامة  
 The function of the elements are changed. The previous rheme becomes theme and the theme becomes rhematic. It also gives the impression that ' أفواههم / their mouths ' is the object of a contrast with some other element which would, semantically, be very unusual, or be a given element

through its function of 'topic'. Consider the literal translation:

their mouths are never left by smiles\*

their mouths smiling never leaves\*

The other order is:

### 3. VOS

لا تفارق أفواههم الابتسامة

The elements keep the same function. The only difference is that their order is not marked as in the original sentence where the rheme was placed in the initial position. The result is that the contrast involved would be lost. In the preceding sentence, it says that the shop assistants are always busy. This sentence adds 'yet they are always smiling'. This is realized through the marked structure.

\* T(12)4 هذا يرزم البضائع و يسلمها ، و ذاك يعرضها و يعين  
أثمانها ، و القوائم على الصندوق يقبض و يدفع  
(12) وهكذا دواليك .

\* This one / packs / the goods and / delivers them, /

S V O V + O

that one / puts them in display / and prices /

S V + O V

them / and the one responsible for the till / gets

O S V

the money in and out and so on.

This is still dealing with the subsection about the shop assistants and the structure of this sentence is similar to the first sentence looked at in the text. Its grammatical order is

((SVO+V) (SV+VO) (SV+V))

The subjects are preposed to their verbs. These subjects are derivable from the rhematic part of the first sentence of the subsection 'The same may be said about the shop assistants/ *وهكذا قل عن عمال المخزن*. Demonstrative pronouns ' *هذا - ذاك* ' and their locative description ' *القائم على الصندوق* ' 'the one responsible for the till/ bring them back to the scene by referring directly to them. This achieves the effect of a close up on some of the shop assistants and their activities. It was their attitudes which were described. This prominence and contrast dynamize them and consequently they function as diathemes. Reordering these clauses into VS order would result in their C.D being lowered and they would function as themes. On the other hand, this prominence would be given to the actions expressed by the verbs. This sentence does not differ from the first, and will therefore not be expanded upon any further.

One other possibility is the topicalization of the complement in the first clause with the following result:

و البضائع يرزماها و يسلمها هذا و يعرضها ذاك  
و يعين أثمانها و يقبض و يدفع القائم على الصندوق  
و هكذا دواليك .

The order of the verb and subject can be SV or VS. The only requirement is that it is the same for the three clauses.



\* T(12)5  
والمستر هـ. ك. على كرسية يستعرض شؤون تجارته  
و يراقب عماله غير متعمد . (ل 14)

\* And Mr H.K. on his chair / inspects / his business

S

V

O

This is now dealing with the third section. The first sentence sets the scene once again by going back to the store, not for its own sake, but to look at Mr. H.K. more closely. It sums up the preceding part by repeating the first sentence which referred to the store in the first section:

Sentence 1: ينفص مخزنه كل يوم بالناس

Sentence 2: المخزن غاص بالمشتريين

Then comes this sentence with Mr. H.K. in initial position. Its grammatical order is SVO where the A 'on his chair/ على كرسية' modifies the subject. Therefore, after reestablishing the scene, (the store), the topic of the scene (Mr. H.K.) is established through structural foregrounding. It appeared in the first section in the initial position within the first sentence and will appear again on an average of once per section.

The FSP structure of the sentence is Td - Th - Tr - R. Because Mr H.K. is brought back to the scene from the background and because it marks the transition from the establishment of the scene realized through the first sentence 'the store is crammed with clients/

'المخزن غاص بالمشتريين' to the establishment of the topic of the section, it will function as diatheme. Here again

it is a case of focus gained through initial prominence which would be lost if the order was changed to VS giving the sentence ' و يستعرض الستر ه.ك: على كرسيه ' where the subject would have its C.D lowered to that of theme, whereas the A would have its own raised to become diatheme since the information it brings is less recoverable than that presented by the use of 'Mr. H.K.'

T(12)6  
(19)

هذه الحركة في مخازن الستر ه.ك. تتجدد ما  
تجدد النهار ، و صاحبها ينعم و ثروته تنمو .

\* This activity in Mr. H.K.'s shops / starts again /  
S V  
every day / and their owner / gets richer / and his  
A S V S  
wealth / grows  
V

These three clauses all have their subjects preceding their verbs. They form a link between the preceding section and the next one in which the events come as a consequence.

As already seen, the repetition of 'المخزن غاص بالمشتريين' showed how the store is busy. This action is now mentioned again with further specification i.e. that it lasts all day. As a result, Mr. H.K.'s wealth increases and as a consequence the thieves are attracted. The main elements are therefore the buzzing activity of the shop, Mr. H.K. and his wealth, and all three subjects are preposed. The resulting grammatical structure is:

(SVA) + (SV) + (SV)

The FSP structure is Td - Tr - R + Td (Tr/R) + Td (Tr/R). The three preposed subjects, because they are focussed, have their C.D raised and become diathematic. They each bring to the foreground an element which had been backgrounded or introduce a new aspect of the narrow scene as in 'شروته' which is a result of the activity in the store. The last two clauses present a case where the transition is the rheme since it is not followed by any other element and by consequence relays the new information to be presented. All three cases again present a case of focus given through initial prominence.

I. In the first sentence, a VS order

وتتجدد هذه الحركة في مخازن المستر... ما تجدد النهارو صاحبها ...  
would involve the subject being dedynamized and become theme as a result. As for the two remaining clauses, if the order SV was to be reversed to give 'و ينعم صاحبها و تنمو شروته' this VS order would produce two possibilities:

- a. that the verbs themselves are focussed, for contrast for instance or
- b. that 'its owners/صاحبها' and 'his wealth/شروته' are completely new and/or contrasted, which is not the case.

2. VAS و تتجدد ما تجدد النهار هذه الحركة في مخازن المستر هـ. ك

The grammatical order VAS means—the sentence has a new functional order which is Tr - Td - R where the subject, and its modification, become the new information. But such an increase of the C.D. of the subject would be better



achieved through syntactic means involving, for instance, a marked structure and the use of certain focussing words such as 'أما' for example.

\* T(12) 7  
(257)  
و عند الغروب عاد الى الشرفة

\* At sunset / he came back / to the veranda

A<sub>t</sub>

V + S

A<sub>q</sub>

This sentence occurs in the fifth section which is about a particular day, when Mr. H.K. was depressed. Mr. H.K. is on his veranda sadly remembering the old, happy days and the sight of his faithful but now skinny dog, makes the memory even more unbearable, and he runs to his room where he sleeps until evening. This is when the sentence occurs. It links two sentences together by paraphrasing, in the thematic sphere, the rhematic element of the preceding sentence. The temporal expression 'until the evening' becomes 'at sunset' which is preposed to the verb resulting in the following syntactic structure: A<sub>t</sub> - V - A<sub>q</sub>. The difference between the two adverbials is semantic. The first 'until/حتى' expresses the duration and end of a state, the second 'at sunset/ عند الغروب' expresses the starting point of a new state or action. This shade raises the C.D of the temporal adverbial phrase of the sentence and gives it the status of diatheme in Td - Tr+Tp - R, the functional structure. 'The veranda/ الشرفة' is the element with the highest degree of C.D because it establishes the scene for the next events. It is recoverable because it is

mentioned at the beginning of the section in the rhematic part of the first sentence. Mr. H.K. is there, then he goes to his room, then he comes back to the veranda to eventually return to the room. Therefore, each time such a change is mentioned, the sentence operates at the level of the section like a new scene and this is why, although recoverable, the element 'the veranda/ الشرفة' or 'the room/ الغرفة' is still dynamized and stays rhematic.

As for the initial element 'at sunset/ وعند الغروب' how the different orderings affect the function of the different elements of the sentence can be seen as follows:

1.  $VA_e A_e$  و عاد عند الغروب الى الشرفة

The verb is here in prominence whereas the adverbial phrase, now in second position has its C.D lowered and becomes theme instead of diatheme. Focus would be on the action itself expressed by the verb 'came back/ عاد'. The complement 'to the veranda/ الى الشرفة' keeps its rhematic status unless its position is changed in a new word order in the case of

2.  $VA_e A_e$  for instance. The expression 'عند الغروب' is now the element with the highest C.D and it would be a simple paraphrase of the previous rheme acting as a rheme too. This would create expectations for information about this particular moment. But in the succeeding sentence, the thematic element is about what happened on the veranda, which is picked up in the original order from the rhematic sphere. Therefore, it can be said that a  $VA_e A_e$  order textually unbalances the distribution of information.

3.  $A_2VA_2$ 

وإلى الشرفة عاد عند الغروب

This order would involve the element ' إلى الشرفة ' being contrasted with another locative expression, like for instance ' إلى الغرفة ', and it is not the case.

4.  $A_2A_2V$ 

و عند الغروب إلى الشرفة عاد

5.  $A_2A_2V$ 

و إلى الشرفة عند الغروب عاد

These two orders have in common that they both involve having the verb in third position. This, considering the few cases where the verb appears in such an order, reveals special features :

- two adverbials, one locative, the other temporal follow each other
- these two adverbials also precede the verb

The consequences of each of these adverbials being placed in initial position have been seen. When the temporal adverbial 'at sunset عند الغروب' appears in first position, it may function as diatheme if it is setting a new scene or as a rheme if it involves contrast in terms of 'at that time and not at another time'. As for 'to the veranda/ إلى الشرفة' it involves contrast and a marked structure especially because of the use of the preposition 'to/ إلى' which normally appears straight after the verb.

The explanation for their use together preverbally is that the first is used to set a new scene, and the second



involves contrast, but both have a lower amount of C.D. than the verb which constitutes the most important information and creates the expectation for some facts being revealed about the action 'returned/ عاد' whereas in the text, the following sentence is about what happened there on the veranda instead.

\* T(12)8  
 وعند فراغ الكيس يستوحش الحر .  
 (٢٦٢)

\* When the purse gets empty / is forgotten / the

A

V

noble man

O

This sentence appears in the last section of the text. In this particular part, it looks at Mr. H.K. and his 'états d'âme'. It has a AVO structure with, in initial position, a temporal adverbial 'when the purse gets empty/

'عند فراغ الكيس'. On the functional level, the pattern achieved is Td - Tr - R. In the preceding nominal sentence 'at sunset/ وعند الغروب' a new temporal scene was set followed by new specifications about the actor Mr. H.K. The present temporal adverbial is quite different. It is not about actual time but about what the author wants as a general truth, what happens when X condition is realized. Thus the result has a higher degree of C.D than the condition and appears after it. On the other hand, since it is more recoverable than the subject, it sets the scene for it by linking it to, and achieving the transition

from, the previous sentence. It is possible to reorder the elements of the sentence into :

- |         |                              |
|---------|------------------------------|
| 1. VOA  | و يستوحش الحر عند فراغ الكيس |
| 2. OVA  | و الحر يستوحش عند فراغ الكيس |
| 3. A OV | و عند فراغ الكيس الحر يستوحش |

In 2. OVA , the Object is moved to initial position, before the verb. In the original order it functioned as the element with the highest amount of C.D. If it is kept as rheme and the new FSP order is R - Tr - Td. It has not incurred any change from the point of view of its C.D but it will have to be stressed because it is contrasted. If it is not a matter of contrast and if the A carries a higher amount of C.D than the O (i.e. if the A is the rheme) the result would be that the same grammatical order will have a different FSP order, now Td - Tr - R. This allows the subject to have its amount of C.D increased moderately while another element, the adverbial, is rhematic. If the subject does not have this 'moderate' emphasis, then the order 1. VOA is used. In both 1. and 2. the smooth transition achieved by the A is lost. Order 3 would express contrast on the subject as was seen for AOV orders.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### Discussion

Thirty three nominal sentences out of a total of 176 sentences in seven different texts have been discussed. The remaining sentences have different structures. Seventy are verbal and among the rest, some are verbless and some have fixed orders. The nominal sentences forming the corpus analysed, will now be examined in detail. Among the cases looked at, the elements preceding the verb had exclusively two syntactic functions: subject and adverb.

#### 4.1 Subject initial nominal sentences

The subjects form a majority in the pre-verbal elements with 21 cases out of 33. These subjects present different internal structures. Some of them are simple i.e. made of one element, for example 'relativity / النسبية' in text 6. Some are complex i.e. followed by a modifier, for example T(11)8 'people there / القوم هنالك' and T(11)2 'restaurants in the city / المطاعم في المدينة'. Within the simple ones, some belong to the category of common nouns, for instance 'relativity /

النسبية' or personal pronouns

'هم - هنّ - هي'

As for complex ones, they may be modified by the noun or by a complex noun phrase, for example T(7)1 :

التصاعد المستمر في عمليات المقاومة البطولية ضد العدو الصهيوني في الضفة ...



Functionally, except for two cases where they are rhematic, T(12)2,3, these subjects are diathematic because they fulfil the following three functions :

- link the non-thematic and thematic spheres
- keep an element in the foreground or foreground a backgrounded element
- introduce a new aspect of the narrow scene

All are definite except for one case in T(12)2, where the functional structure is rheme-transition-theme and where consequently this subject is unknown. The other case of initial rheme in the data is also a subject. It is definite, but was not mentioned before in the text, i.e. completely new.

#### 4.1.1 Reordering of the subject

All the sentences considered allow at least one re-ordering. However, although all the alternative orders are possible, most of them are not always probable because of functional and textual restrictions. The verb-initial alternative order is the most frequent (VS). Other orders consist in displacing the adverbial and/or object to a pre-verbal or post-verbal position. For example :

<u>Sentence</u>	<u>Original order</u>	<u>New order</u>
T(12)3	SVO	VS0
		VOS
		OVS
T(12)7	A <sub>t</sub> VA <sub>l</sub>	VA <sub>t</sub> A <sub>l</sub>

		VA <sub>l</sub> A <sub>l</sub>
		A <sub>l</sub> VA <sub>l</sub>
		A <sub>l</sub> A <sub>l</sub> V
		A <sub>l</sub> A <sub>l</sub> V

The number of reorderings possible varies from 1 to 4 according to each sentence:

8 sentences allow 1 reordering

7	"	"	2	"
4	"	"	3	"
2	"	"	4	"

In the majority of cases in the new orders (16 out of 21), the subject appears right after the verb. In the remaining five cases :

1. The original subject is used in the first clause, but it reappears before the verb affixed to **إِنَّ**

e.g. T(11)3      فالسويدي اذا أحس الجوع في بعض طريقه ، و ضاق  
به وقته أن يدخل المطعم ... ، فأنه لا يستنكف أن  
يقصد بائع الفاكهة .

2. The subject appears in final position, separated from the verb by a locative adverbial.

e.g. T(12)2      فتيان و فتيات ، سيدات و سادة ، غلمان وشيوخ  
يزدحمون في ذلك البيت العظيم .

3. Again, the subject appears in final position but this time it is separated from the verb by a complement

e.g. T(12)3 SVC --- VCS      و الابتسامة لا تفارق أفواههم  
لا تفارق أفواههم الابتسامة

The new syntactic order also means changes in the amount of C.D the elements in question carry and consequently the FSP structure of the sentence. It also translates itself sometimes in a change in the semantic meaning of the sentence and also the textual organization of the section or text. One example will be useful at this stage to illustrate the types of changes involved by the re-ordering of sentence initial constituents. Take for example T(11)2

و المطاعم في المدينة تجري على النظام الأمريكي القائل  
أخدم نفسك بنفسك

'Restaurants in the city are organized on the American self-service basis.'

The original order SVA, allows two re-orderings:

1. VSA
2. AVS.

Through its initial position, the subject 'restaurants/  
المطاعم' is established as the topic of the section in the original order.

1. VSA - The S is moved to post-verbal position. Consequently the amount of C.D it carries is lowered and it loses its status as topic of the section. This order also unbalances the transition which SVA operated from the topic established for the preceding section (i.e. 'bakeries/ المخابز'), and leaves the present section without a new topic.

2. AVS - The A placed in initial position creates an expectation for another element to be contrasted with it. This expectation will remain unfulfilled as no contrast is



involved concerning the element 'according to the American organization/ على النظام الأمريكي'. Furthermore, this order does not follow the layout of the other sections of the text.

#### 4.2 Adverb initial nominal sentences

There are 12 cases of adverb initial nominal sentences in the data. The adverbs fall within two main types and two minor types: temporal (8 cases), locative (2 cases), additive (1) and causal (1). All, except one, 'sometimes/ أحيانا' are prepositional phrases. Like most initial subjects, all these adverbs function as diathemes. Some of them specify a scene, as 'sometimes / أحيانا' for instance. Some confirm an existing scene, for example 'at the same time / وفي الوقت نفسه', while some set a new scene, 'at sunset / وعند الغروب' for instance. Their internal structure is generally complex. Their different functions involve :

- bringing non-thematic elements to the thematic sphere, e.g. T(10)2 'on his way / وفي الطريق'
- keeping an element on the thematic scene, e.g. T(11)4 'in some of these bookshops / وفي بعض هذه المكتبات'
- bringing in a new aspect of the narrow scene, e.g. T(6)1 'sometimes / أحيانا'

##### 4.2.1 Reorderings of the initial adverb

Possible reorderings vary from 1 to 5 :

1 sentence allows 1 reordering

2 " " 2 "

4 " " 3 "

3 " " 4 "

2 " " 5 "

These changes involve:

- putting the initial adverbial in final position
- putting a preverbal adverbial in post-verbal position  
AV - VAC - VCA this is for cases when the verb is marked for subject e.g. T(6)1 : 'it sometimes becomes cheaper than tin / فأحيانا يصبح أرخص من التينك '
- when the subject is independent, then the adverbial may appear in different positions :
  - a. between the verb and the subject VAS
  - b. after both the verb and the subject VSA
- when there is another adverbial in the sentence the initial adverbial can be placed after it in general, or exchange positions with it in some cases.

One example of initial adverbial reordering is T(12)7 :

'At sunset he returned to the balcony /'

'وعند الغروب عاد الى الشرفة'

The original  $A_t V A_\ell$  order allows several re-orderings :

a -  $V A_t A_\ell$

b -  $V A_\ell A_t$

c -  $A_\ell V A_t$

d -  $A_t A_\ell V$

e -  $A_\ell A_t V$

In the original order, the  $A_t$  sets the scene for the new event expressed by :

'returned to the balcony/عاد الى الشرفة/

The first two re-orderings will show the following changes:

in order a - A<sub>t</sub> appears in post-verbal position where it is rather backgrounded by being put in apposition. Prominence is given to the event expressed by the verb 'returned/عاد'

in order b - the A<sub>t</sub>, now in final position, is the element with the highest amount of C.D. The A<sub>t</sub> could express contrast, for instance with another A<sub>t</sub> e.g. 'in the morning/ في الصباح' but this order would unbalance the distribution of information regarding the preceding and succeeding sentences.

#### 4.3 Competition between the adverb and subject

This section will look at non-initial adverbials. Five such elements occur in adverbial initial sentences, and six in subject initial sentences.

##### 4.3.1 Adverb initial sentences

a. The first case is found in text 7. The sentence is

T(7)3: وفي الوقت ذاته قتل و أصيب 18 جنديا اسرائيليا و دمرت دبابة  
و مدرعة في كمين نصبه رجال المقاومة اللبنانية للـدورية  
الصهيونية عند الطرف الشمالي لـ" المنطقة الامنية " ، بجنوب  
لبنان .



with an  $A_t VOA_e$  structure where the first adverbial is temporal and the second, which is in final position, is locative. Structurally, the locative adverbial is more complex than the temporal adverbial. Functionally the  $A_t$  confirms the temporal framework for the sentence. Thus it has a lower amount of C.D than the  $A_e$  which brings in new information.

b. The second case of a sentence with two adverbials occurs in text 8. The sentence is T(8)2:

و في الوقت نفسه ترك رئيس الحكومة الباب مفتوحا أمام كل  
الفعاليات و الاحزاب لتطويع المشاركة للاسهام الفعال  
في العمل السياسي العام في خدمة السودان و شعبه .

and has an  $A_t VSOA_e$  structure. The second adverbial which expresses purpose functions as rest of rheme. However, although semantically it can be stated before the reason expressed in the verbal clause, it is prevented from doing that by the principle of end weight which requires it to appear in final position.

c. The third case, still in text 8 is T(8)3 :

و بتشكيل الحكومة السودانية يكون قد اكتمل الشكل الدستوري  
لنظام الحكم الجديد بعد الانتخابات التي خاضتها كل  
الاحزاب السودانية و تعبيرا عن ارادة الشعب السوداني  
الذي قام بانتفاضته ضد الحكم العسكري .

with an AVSAA structure. It has the peculiarity of having two final adverbials. This complex structure was examined in some detail in the analysis of the text. The two final adverbials seen then were the elements (B) and (D) (See diagram in the text analysis). The information presented in (B) is of the same nature as that presented in (A). They both complete the rheme. Thus, (B) presents background information which in this context specifies the information presented in the rheme, whereas (D) evaluates

the main event in terms of what this event fulfils.

d. The fourth case is T(11)5. It has an  $A_1VSA_2$  structure and reads :

ومع كثرة المطاعم ، وفرة المكتبات ، تتوالى التماثيل  
في الميادين و خلال الحدائق ، و بجوار الفوارات .

The initial adverbial functions as a link between the sentence and the rest of the text. The final adverbial specifies the rheme it follows. Its amount of C.D is lower than that carried by 'the statues/ التماثيل ' which is rheme proper. It is still rhematic and will function as rest of rheme.

e. The last case T(12)7, reads:

و عند الغروب عاد الى الشرفة .

Its structure is  $A_t VA_t$  . The first adverbial sets a temporal scene which ensures the succession of events. The second adverbial is more directly linked to the subject because it locates it. It has therefore a higher amount of C.D. and appears in final position.

#### 4.3.2 Subject initial sentences

a. The first case of subject initial sentence with final adverbial to be examined is a sentence with an  $SVOA_t$  structure in T(9)1:

فالأحداث الماضية تدعو الى التروي و التزام جانب الحذر  
كلما لاح في الافق بصيص أمل و ذلك في انتظار أن تتضح حقيقة  
الأمور .

The adverbial is dependent upon the action expressed by the verb which it defines. This relationship can be

formulated as follows:

x must be done every time y happens.

As seen earlier in the analysis, putting this  $A_t$  sentence initially is the only other position possible. This temporal adverbial would then set the scene for the whole sentence. The  $A_t$  specifies the O. It is therefore in the rhematic sphere.

b. Case number two is sentence T(11)1 :

فهي تغازلك حيثما سرت ، في كل شارع و في كل ميدان...

It has an  $SV(A)$  structure. The final adverbial belongs to the rhematic sphere and it brings in specifications for the subject.

c. The third case, again in Text 11 is T(11)7 :

هذه السوق تقوم في ميدان طليق الهواء يزدان بأعمدة فخمة ،  
أمامها نصب فني يمثل شاعرا موسيقيا من الاغريق ، و هو  
يعزف و يغني كأنه يعلو في الجو .

which has an  $SVA_e$  structure, in which the locative adverbial brings all the new information. The structure being unmarked, the unit containing the new information appears finally.

d. The next example, still in text 11, T(11)12:

و هنّ اللواتي يحملن الاجور في " الترام " و يقمن بالخدمة في  
عدد من المشارب و الاندية ، و يبعن المرطبات و الثلجات  
في ظلات على الطريق ...

has the structure  $S[(VOA_e) + (VOA_e) + (VOA_e)]$ . The subject (هنّ) is reinforced by the use of the relative pronoun marked for the same person (اللواتي). Both are followed by three verbal clauses. Each has a locative adverbial specifying its preceding verb which it consequently



follows in the clause.

e. The next sentence, found in text 12 has a complex subject T(12)2:

فتيان وفتيات ، سيدات و سادة ، غلمان و شيوخ  
يزدحمون في ذلك البيت العظيم .

In its structure  $S[(N+N)(N+N)(N+N)]VA$ , the initial subject is the rheme. The scene set for it, and known since it was mentioned previously, can only have a lower amount of C.D and therefore is thematic.

f. The final case is sentence T(12)6:

هذه الحركة في مخازن المستر ه.ك. تتجدد ما تجدد  
السنهار ، و صاحبها ينعم و ثروته تنمو .

which has an  $SVA_t$  structure. The subject is known and the new information is combined in the verb and the temporal adverbial. This makes it difficult for the  $A_t$  to be placed elsewhere in the sentence, as for instance initially.

#### 4.4 Position of the nominal sentences in the text

Nominal sentences looked at appear in all the sections. There is no tendency, for instance, 'to appear particularly in the first or last section. Nominal sentences may appear anywhere in the text, from the first section to the last. However, it is interesting to look at the initial sentences of the texts analysed to see whether they share preference for a certain type of structure. Only two of these seven sentences are nominal. Among the

rest, two are SC sentences and the remaining three have a fixed order. The same can be said about sequence initial sentences. The distribution of nominal sentences in initial position does not follow a particular pattern. This type of sentence does not form a significantly higher proportion than other types of sentences, as for instance SC or fixed order sentences.

On the other hand, the proportion of sequence and text final nominal sentences is the same as that of text initial nominal sentences, two in each case. As for the status of the sequence where the nominal sentences appear, it can be to exemplify, to evaluate, to describe, etc. Verbal sentences (all texts included) make up less than half the total number of sentences, that is 70 sentences out of 166. In regards to sequence initial nominal sentences, it is worth mentioning that of 33 such units, 9 are initiated by nominal sentences. The remaining ones do not all have the same structure. Only 8 of them are verbal. This means that non-verbal sentences including nominal sentences, form the majority of sequence initial sentences in the texts.

#### 4.5 Re-ordering and new meaning

As was mentioned earlier, the syntactic categories which appear before the verb are the subject and the adverbial. Considering any subject or adverbial or complex noun phrase or clause as one element, and considering any modifier following an initial subject or adverbial as

forming one element, it can be said that the verbal element always occurs in second position. The FSP function of the nominal elements is diatheme for the majority of cases looked at. There are, in the data, only two cases of rhematic nominal elements and both appear in the same text. These nominal sentences, whether subject or adverbial initial, do not have exactly the same meaning as their corresponding verbal sentence. This may be illustrated with a few examples from the data :

1. T(10)2, AVO

و في الطريق التقى بالعباس بن عبد المطلب و أسرته

2. T(12)3, SVO

و الابتسامة لا تفارق أفواههم .

and their verbal counterparts:

1'. VOA

و التقى بالعباس بن عبد المطلب و أسرته في الطريق

2'. VOS

لا تفارق أفواههم الابتسامة .

to see if the parallel sentences of the two pairs have exactly the same meaning. The first noticeable difference between them is a change in the order of their syntactic elements. This in turn involves a change in their FSP structure. In the original order, it was

1. Td - Tr/Tp - R

2. R - Tr - Tp

and in the new order

1'. Tr/Tp - T(p) - R

2'. Tr - Tp - R

It also involves a change in the relations entertained by their different elements on the semantic level which can



be formulated as follows:

1. a scene is ascribed a phenomenon
- 1'. a quality bearer is ascribed a specification  
and in
2. a quality bearer is ascribed a quality
- 2'. a setting is established for the appearance of a new  
phenomenon/quality bearer.

To conclude, these changes which operate at the three levels, syntactic, functional and semantic, show how the nominal sentences differ from their corresponding verbal sentences.

#### 4.6 Information content of initial constituents

The question remains whether these initial preverbal constituents or, in semantic terms, these initial scenes and quality bearers, have been mentioned before or whether they appear 'suddenly'. There are three categories of initial nominal elements:

- a. those which are not known
- b. those which are known because they were previously mentioned
- c. those which are recoverable

The first category a., form a minority with 6 cases out of 33. Categories b. and c. which can be assimilated into one category because the element is known in both, form the majority, 27 cases. Looking at the first category:

#### 4.6.1 Unknown initial elements

The 5 cases are found in text 7 (2 cases), text 8 (1 case) and text 12 (2 cases). No generalization can be made about the syntactic preference of these elements because half of them are subject and the other half are adverbial. The same can be said about their positions. They do not show any marked preferences. Half of them are sequence initial, the other half not. Concerning the three sequence initial cases, it is perhaps noteworthy that two of the three cases form a single sentence sequence, one of which is text initial.

The interesting feature that the members of these two groups share is that while the first three - those which appear sequence initially - are completely new although they refer to background information, the two remaining ones - which appear within their sequences - although completely new, can be linked to their preceding sentences semantically :

In text 11, T(11)10:

فما سحو الاحذية السويدية يزاولون عملا من الاعمال الرابعة .

relates to 'your shoes/ حذاؤك' which appears three sentences earlier.

In text 12, T(12)3

الابتساماة لا تفارق أفواههم

relates to 'they are constantly busy/ فانهم في شغل دائم' in the preceding sentence.

Functionally they are all diathematic except for one case, in text 11, which is rhematic ( و الابتساماة لا تفارق أفواههم ). These 'unknown' initial nominals do not have any marked

syntactic or semantic preferences. They may be subject or adverb, quality bearer or scene, sequence/text initial or not. However, functionally they tend to have a preference for the diathematic role rather than any other role.

#### 4.6.2 Known/recoverable initial elements

As seen earlier, members of this category make up the majority. Their syntactic categories are the subject and the adverb. Functionally, they are all diathematic except for one case in text 11 which is rhematic 'فتيان وفتيات'. They may be divided into three types:

- a. those which are a repetition of a previous term, recalled from the background, for example T(6)2:

و النسبية تجعل عجوز السبعين شابا في الثلاثين اذا  
كان لديه رصيد برنين مسموع لدى أهل عروسه المراهقة

- b. those which entertain a relation of synonymy with a previous term, expression or idea, for example

T(11)4: :

و في بعض هذه المكتبات تعرض بجانب المؤلفات  
السويدية أحدث المطبوعات الأمريكية و الانجليزية  
و بينها قليل من المطبوعات الفرنسية أحسب أنه ...

T(11)11 :

و هم يتميزون بالصمت المطبق.

- c. the recoverable elements which relate to a previous element in the text through wider semantic relations such as a similar semantic field, general to specific, etc.

These recoverable initial nominals appear in any section of the text, whether the first, last or middle. Within the



sequence they also appear in the middle of the sequence, its end and even in initial position (in 6 cases out of 28), all of them terms recalled from the background and used in almost the same form, for example:

T(6)2:                   و النسبية تجعل عجز السبعين شابا في الثلاثين اذا  
كان لديه زصيد برنين مسموع لدى أهل عروسه المراهقة

T(8)3:                   و بتشكيل الحكومة السودانية يكون قد اكتمل الشكل  
الدستوري لنظام الحكم الجديد بعد الانتخابات التي  
خاضتها كل الاحزاب السودانية و تعبيرا عن إرادة  
الشعب السوداني الذي قام بانتفاضته ...

In conclusion, it appears from the preceding examples that although no systematic rules can be drawn, at least not at this stage, about the functional, syntactic, semantic and structural pattern of the nominal initial element in the Arabic sentence, certain preferences can be determined. These elements tend to be diathematic. Their most common syntactic categories are the subject and the adverbial. There is a slightly higher occurrence of those which are 'unknown' in sequence initial position, whereas the majority of those which are 'known' appear in other positions within the sequence. Thus, there is no systematic relation between 'unknown' elements and initial position, but only a marked preference for it.

#### 4.7 Topicality of the initial element

Considering these initial elements from the point of view of topic, whether they are topic at a sentential or sequential level and what kind of 'topical' relation they

entertain with the preceding elements of their text, the most noticeable feature of the initial nominal element at this stage is that it is, in general, the topic of the sentence in which it appears rather than that of the whole sequence (in 21 cases against 12). Even sequence initial nominal elements do not generally function as topic for the sequence but for their sentence only (5 cases against 4). It was seen earlier that subject nominals form the majority. This majority is even more important concerning nominals which are topic for the sequence in which they appear. The adverbials form a very small minority of 2 cases against 10 subject which means that they most often set the scene for individual sentences than for whole sequences.

This proportion (2 out of 10) also shows that adverbials are much more short-lived compared to subjects of which 10 keep in the same syntactic role for the whole sequence. The proportion of adverbials functioning as topic for individual sentences is higher. As for the subject, it functions with approximately the same frequency in both cases. In most cases these nominal elements do not introduce a new topic or set a new scene. They more often either reintroduce a previous element adding to it new specifications or they simply continue a previous topic, thus ensuring the continuity of topic or scene, for example T(11)4, where the nominal adverbial phrase 'in some of these libraries/ وفي بعض هذه المكتبات' specifies the element used in the preceding sentence 'a whole lot of libraries/ حشد من المكتبات', and in T(6)2 'relativity turns/ والنسبية تجعل'.



النسبية', which is also the topic of the text, is called again from the background and used as a concept after it was used under other forms such as modifier for instance. But if these three functions are looked at separately, then the function 'introducing a new topic/scene' has the majority with 14 cases out of 33. It is then followed by the function 'continue the previous topic' with 12 cases, and finally, the function 'to reintroduce a previous element', with a minority of 7 cases.

The difference between the two categories 'introducing a previous element' and that of simply 'continuing a previous topic' concerns the distance between two occurrences of the nominal element. When the two appearances are separated by a textual unit such as a sentence or a sequence, it is a case within the first category which is being dealt with, but when the two occurrences appear in two simultaneous units, then it is the second category. As for the first category where the nominal element introduces a new topic or scene, half of the cases are new scenes, while the other half are new subjects. However, not all these nominal elements are completely new. Only five of them are completely unknown. the rest are recoverable.

Considering the proportion of subjects and adverbials' fulfilment of the three functions, it is observed that:

1. - introducing a new topic :-

subjects and adverbials have the same frequency with seven occurrences each



2. - re-introducing a previous topic :-  
 subjects are almost twice as frequent as adverbials  
 with 5 occurrences against 2
3. - continuing a previous topic :-  
 subjects are 3 times as frequent as adverbials with 9  
 occurrences against 3

This reveals a higher tendency of the subject to continue a previous topic whereas the adverbial more frequently introduces a new scene.

#### 4.8 Textual dynamics of sentence initial constituents

The textual dynamics of these nominal elements or how they move from the rhematic sphere to the diathematic sphere, and vice versa, and whether they are announced by predecessors or not, and how long they remain in the following text, need to be considered. The nominal elements can be divided into several categories:

1. those with no predecessor and no successor
2. " a predecessor and a successor
3. " no " a "
4. " a " no "

1. In this category, the number of adverbials is higher than that of subjects with 9 cases against 5. This can easily be explained by the fact that adverbials are primarily used to set a new scene and are

therefore not 'announced' by a predecessor. Their quick disappearance from the scene shows how short-lived they are. The next scene is taken by a new subject or adverbial.

2. There are as many cases in this category as in the previous one, only the figures are reversed. Subjects are more numerous than adverbials with 11 cases against 3. This shows that subjects have a tendency to remain longer on the scene. The fact that their appearance in the nominal sentence analysed is preceded and followed by other appearances shows that they appear on the scene from the background. They are brought back to the front in the nominal sentence, and are used again in the thematic sphere of later sentences most of the time, before being discarded. It also confirms the fact that subjects have a greater 'longevity' than adverbials.
3. There are much fewer cases in this category and all of them are subject.
4. There are even fewer cases in this category where only one subject and no adverbial appear before the nominal case and do not appear again afterwards.

What can be concluded from the numbers in the four categories is :

- when they do appear, subjects tend to do so both before and after their appearance in the nominal sentence analysed.
- they otherwise appear neither before nor after

- subjects appearing in nominal sentences are more long-lived than adverbials appearing in initial position in nominal sentences
- adverbials tend to appear only once, that is in the nominal sentence (i.e. neither before nor after).

#### 4.9 Distance between the different occurrences

The sentence initial constituents analysed, when they do appear before their occurrence in a nominal sentence or after, generally appear in the preceding sentence and/or the next one. For those which appear afterwards, the second biggest probability is 2 sentences after the nominal sentence. There is then only one which occurs 3 sentences later, and another 6 sentences later. As for the appearances before the nominal sentence, the next most probable position after the preceding sentence is the last 2 sentences, of which there are 3 cases. The remaining cases are one for the last 3 sentences and one for the last four sentences. There is then one occurrence 3 sentences earlier, one occurrence 11 sentences earlier and 2 occurrences 9 sentences earlier.

The 'spheric' preference of these subjects and adverbials when they appear precedingly and/or afterwards - in terms of their preference for the thematic or the rhematic sphere - will now be looked at. To do so they will be divided into two categories:



4.9.1 . Appearances before the nominal sentencea. Subjects

It has just been shown how subjects are more likely than adverbials to appear before they occur in the nominal sentence. Their occurrence is the same in both the rhematic and thematic sphere, 6 cases each. One very interesting point if the antecedants of these subjects are taken into consideration, is that all those which 'appeared previously in the rhematic sphere' do so in the sentence which immediately precedes the nominal sentence. On the other hand, subjects which 'appeared previously in the thematic sphere' are those which are well established in the sequence because they have been mentioned more than once, as for example T(11)11 where in the sentence

او هم يبتدئون بالاصوات المطبق  
 the subject (هم) refers back to the subject which is 'shoe-cleaners/ ماسحو الاحذية' which has been the subject in the last 2 sentences, or because they refer to a 'subject' which plays a central role in the text, as for instance in text 6 where 'relativity / النسبية' is used as a concept 11 sentences before it appears in T(6)2, but because it is the topic of the text, need not appear again in the rhematic sphere. The same can be said about T(12)5 'Mr. H.K. .... /

المستر ه. ك. على كرسية يستعرض شؤون تجارته

of which the previous appearance is not only 9 sentences before but also thematic.

## b. Adverbials

There are only 2 cases of adverbials which 'appear previously in the rhematic sphere' and only one case for a preceding appearance in the thematic sphere. Concerning the first 2 cases, the adverbials re-use elements which were themselves rhematic and redefine them as in T(11)4: 'in some of these libraries / وفي بعض هذه المكتبات ' where the previously rhematic 'bookshops / مكتبات ' is used with the restrictive 'in some / وفي بعض '. The second case is in T(8)3: 'with the formation of the government / بتشكيل الحكومة ' where 'تشكيل الحكومة ' which was used rhematically in the first sentence of the text (and then thematically) is used with 'with / بـ '. The third case is found in T(11)5 :

ومع كثرة المطاعم ، ووفرة المكتبات، تتوالى التماثيل في  
السميادين ، و خلال الحدائق ، و بجوار الفوارات ...

in which 'restaurants and bookshops/ المطاعم و المكتبات ' were each topic of a section in turn and have been used many times in the text - in the three preceding sentences for 'bookshops / المكتبات ' and also three times for 'restaurants / المطاعم ' in the 2 sections preceding the last. But, if the former 'المكتبات ' was used rhematically and thematically 'المطاعم ' was used only thematically. The result is that this sentence is not a straightforward case because it has 2 elements, one with a previous rhematic appearance and one with a previous thematic appearance. It can be assumed, however, that these adverbials which appear before their nominal occurrence, are not adverbials as such, as for instance

temporal or causal, but rather of another type. It has been seen that all three use elements which have previously been used in the text as objects ( تشكيل الحكومة ) or subjects ( المطاعم / المكتبات ). They will serve to set a new framework or build a new scene to introduce new specifications, see for instance the above example ( وفي بعض هذه المكتبات ).

#### 4.9.2 Appearance after the nominal sentence

##### a. Subjects

Most subjects appearing in nominal sentences reappear thematically later in the text and the chances are that they do so in the next 2 sentences. They can be divided into 2 categories:

- those which have appeared before the nominal sentence and reappear after it (11 cases)
- those which did not appear before the nominal sentence but appear after it (4 cases)

Although most of these subjects reappear thematically, there are still 4 cases of rhematic reappearance. This phenomenon is not really due to the need to dynamize an element which was previously rhematic and then was backgrounded in a long section of the text. In fact, three of these elements appeared rhematically. They then appeared as diathemes in the nominal sentences that have been looked at. Their rhematic reappearance does not occur a long distance from the nominal sentence. In 2 cases,



they occur in the following sentences :

' فهي تغازلِك حيثما سرت ، في كل شارع و في كل ميدان

reoccurs in ' مشرفا على حديقتة

' هذه السوق تقوم في ميدان طليق الهواء يزدان بأعمدة ..

reoccurs in ' يجتمعوا .. بين سوق و ميدان فني

In one case it occurs 2 sentences later:

' هذا يرزم البضائع و ييطمها ، و ذاك يعرضها ... و القائم على الصندوق ..

reoccurs in ' يراقب عماله

As for the fourth case of rhematic reappearance, it is the sentence 'and restaurants / والمطاعم' whose subject reappears three sentences later in

' و ما أكثر ما في المدينة من مطاعم و مشارب

These subjects are rhematized again not because they are new, obviously, but because they must be new in some sense. They have, in comparison with the other elements they are used with, the highest degree of C.D.

#### b. Adverbials

There are three cases of adverbials which reappear after the nominal sentence. None of them is rhematic. All reappear in the thematic sphere. Another feature they have in common is that they are not proper adverbial expressions as such, but as seen earlier, previous objects that are used adverbially. And it is these elements :

'تشكيل الحكومة / The formation of the government/

'المكتبات / 'bookshops'

'besides the great number of libraries and bookshops/

مع كثرة المطاعم و المكتبات

which are used without the adverbial expressions: — -  
 - مع كثرة  
 - في بعض

It is perhaps interesting to remember that these elements have occurred rhematically before appearing in the nominal sentences. As to their syntactic categories, the most important one is the *object* with 9 occurrences followed by the *subject* with 7 occurrences. There is also 1 adjective and 1 locative adverbial. All three adverbials which reappear do not function as adverbials any more but as complements.

It is not the aim of this study to demonstrate the importance of word order in the expression of the sentence perspective. It attempts simply to demonstrate the difference between the various types of emphasis evoked by initial position and to explore its mechanisms, which allow a better processing of the textual functions marked by the sentence initial constituent.

The analysis showed a general tendency for the verb to appear in second position. There were no cases of sentences where more than one constituent was pre-posed to the verb. This does not, of course, include subject modifiers counted as part of the subject. The most frequent syntactic categories in initial position are the subject, in the majority of cases, and the adverbial, mainly temporal and locative. It was illustrated that re-ordering of the initial constituent entailed various kinds of changes, not only within the sentence, but also in

relation to the preceding and succeeding sentences. The syntactic order being relatively free in Arabic, reorderings mainly resulted in a change of the functional perspective of the sentence involved. Hence the two principal contexts which entail an increase of C.D are :

- 1 - when an element is signalled as new
- 2 - when an element is contrasted

In the case of an SV or AV order, for instance, moving the initial constituent to post-verbal position results in a decrease in the amount of C.D carried by the element in question in favour of the semantic meaning expressed by the verbal element.

In cases of competition for initial position between a subject and an adverbial, it was observed that it is the principle of C.D which usually determines the position of the constituent, followed by the principle of weight. As for the information content of the initial pre-verbal constituents, the analysis has shown that these elements are more frequently known than unknown, and that they show a marked tendency to function as diathemes. Thus, initial constituents do not generally introduce a new topic or set a new scene, but more frequently :

- reintroduce a previous element by adding new specifications (12 cases)
- continue a previous topic (7 cases)



It was observed that subjects have a higher tendency to continue a previous topic whereas adverbials set new scenes. This explains the higher number of adverbials with unique appearance (9 cases) than the number of subjects which appear only once (5 cases), and consequently, the higher number of subjects with a predecessor and a successor (11 subjects) against 3 adverbials.

Nominal sentences appear in all types of concept-based texts. They are more numerous in certain texts than in others, but the data was not large enough to permit any systematic conclusions about the type of texts in which they are most likely to appear. Such is the case with the textual parts where they may appear. There does not seem to be any marked preference for the beginning, middle or end of a text for instance, or the function of the section of the text in which they appear.

Within text, these initial pre-verbal constituents are in general topic of a sentence and not that of a whole section. However, subjects are more often topic of sequence than are the adverbials. Consequently, it may be said that adverbials are more short-lived than subjects. Re-appearance of a constituent is more likely to happen in the succeeding sentence, but also two, three or more sentences later. When they have a previous appearance i.e. before their appearance in the nominal sentence under analysis, initial pre-verbal constituents may do so two, three or more sentences earlier. Previous appearance of the pre-verbal subject usually occur in the rhematic

sphere of the immediately preceding sentence. They may appear in the thematic sphere of a previous sentence (6 cases against 6 for each case). When they do appear in a previous sentence, adverbials in the data analysed appear in the rhematic sphere (2 cases) and the thematic sphere (1 case). As for their appearance after the nominal sentences, both adverbials and subjects reappear in the thematic sphere. However, the data revealed 4 cases of subject rhematic re-appearance.

The fact that the total number of verbal sentences make up less than half the total number of sentences in the texts analysed (see 4.5), is sufficient to consider that both the nominal and the verbal orders are unmarked orders.

The conclusions drawn by this study if extended would contribute further in determining the different mechanisms governing pre-verbal initial position, and more particularly the difference between the nominal sentence and the verbal sentence.

In the general area of language studies, this could find application in a more functional approach to the teaching of Arabic discourse, and also in the expanding field of computational studies.

In the field of translation teaching, emphasis may be laid on initial pre-verbal position as a function marker, as well as other function markers in relation to different text-type conventions. These will enable a better interpretation of textual functions and consequently a more faithful rendering in translation.

Another interesting area of research is the identification of text-types in Arabic, of which word order is one of the many textual conventions. Related issues such as the thematic nets of the different text types could throw some light on the different types of development of information in Arabic. An analysis of the pre-verbal initial constituent in Arabic would be interesting within the framework of a general theory of text-types where the regularities between context and linguistic forms are well-defined.

In the domain of initial position, it would be interesting to investigate in more detail, each of the two pre-verbal constituents seen in this study - the adverbial



and the subject - as well as the possibility of other constituents in initial position in a text-based data.

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APPENDICES

<u>Text number</u>	<u>Newspaper</u>	<u>Date</u>
Text 1	Al Ryadh	15.10.86
2	Al Madinah	22.10.86.
3	"	"
4	Al Ryadh	15.10.86.
5	Al Sharq Al Awsat	-
6	Al Ryadh	9.10.86.
7	Al Sharq Al Awsat	-
8	"	17.5.86.
9	"	-

Text 10

الطائف في العصر الجاهلي و صدر الاسلام. (1981). Sakr, N.H.  
Al Tayf fil asr al jahili wa sadr al islam.  
 Djeddah : Dar al Shuruq. pp.156-160

Text 11

شمس و ليل Taymoor, M. (19 ?)  
Shams wa layl. Beirut : Al Matbaa al  
 namoudhajya. pp. 114-119

Text 12

وجوه و حكايات Abood, M. (1974).  
Wajuh wa hikayat. Beirut : Dar Maroon Abood.  
 pp. 130-134

Text 1

مبادرة ايطالية لوقف حرب الخليج تعتمد على دور نشط للأمم المتحدة  
روما- كونا:

ذكرت مصادر حكومية مطلعة هنا امس ان ايطاليا تعكف حاليا على دراسة مشروع مبادرة لاعلان هدنة في الحرب الايرانية - العراقية كمقدمة للبدء بمشروع حل تفاوضي لهذه الحرب الدامية.

وقالت المصادر ان ايطاليا ستتقدم بالمشروع فور الانتهاء من اعداده الى مجلس الامن الدولي عندما تدخل ايطاليا الى عضوية مجلس الامن في يناير (كانون الثاني) القادم ولمدة عامين.

واضافت هذه المصادر ان مشروع المبادرة الايطالية لن يكون نداء انشائيا للسلام او وقف اطلاق النار بل مشروع مفصل يهدف الى اعادة النشاط الى دور الامم المتحدة الرئيسي وهو انقاذ السلام العالمي.

وكان رئيس الجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة قد اعلن منذ عشرة ايام عن ترشيح ايطاليا رسميا لعضوية مجلس الامن الدولي وستكون المرة الرابعة التي تدخل بها ايطاليا عضوية المجلس في اطار الدول غير دائمة العضوية وستحل مكان استراليا او الدانمارك عن مجموعة البلدان الغربية.

وكان وزير الخارجية الايطالي جوليو اندريوتي اول من دعا الى ضرورة قيام مجلس الامن الدولي بمبادرة عملية وملموسة لوقف النزاع في الخليج وستقدم ايطاليا تفاصيلها في يناير (كانون الثاني) القادم.



Text 2

ثبات الجنيه الاسترليني امام العملات  
لندن - كونا:

قال متعاملون ماليون هنا ان الجنيه الاسترليني كان ثابتا امام باقي العملات الاوروبية الرئيسية في سوق الاوراق المالية صباح اليوم. و اضافوا ان موقف الجنية الاسترليني تعزز اثر المحادثات التي اجرتها رئيسة الوزراء البريطانية مارغريت ثاتشر مع رئيس البنك المركزي الالماني الغربي كارل بوهيل الذي تعهد بدعم العملة الانجليزية.

Text 3

المجموعة العربية تخفق في دعوة مجلس الامن  
الامم المتحدة - كونا:

انخفضت المجموعة العربية في الامم المتحدة الليلة قبل الماضية في الاتفاق على دعوة مجلس الامن الدولي للانعقاد لبحث الغارات الجوية الاسرائيلية على المخيمات الفلسطينية. وقالت مصادر دبلوماسية ان لبنان اعترض على طلب منظمة التحرير الفلسطينية عقد مثل هذا الاجتماع حيث يعتقد ان الوقت غير مناسب لذلك.

Text 4

### هجوم إيراني جديد في القطاع الأوسط طهران - رويتر:

قالت إيران ان قواتها شنت هجوما على محورين على مواقع عراقية في القطاع الاوسط من الجبهة وزعمت انها استولت على مرتفع وخلفت اكثر من ١٠٠٠٠ عراقي بين قتيل وجريح.  
وذكرت الوكالة ان الهجوم شن الساعة ١٢ و ٤٠ دقيقة من بعد منتصف الليلة قبل الماضية بالقرب من مدينة قصر شيرين على الحدود الايرانية.  
واضافت الوكالة قولها: (الأثناء تشير الى ان تبادل النيران بين الجانبين لا يزال مستمرا حتى صباح امس).

Text 5

### رسائل من الشيخ زايد لقادة الخليج العواصم الخليجية - «الشرق الاوسط» - والوكالات:

واصل الدكتور مانع سعيد العتيبة وزير البترول والثروة المعدنية جولته في عواصم دول مجلس التعاون لدول الخليج العربية التي استهلها امس الاول بزيارة لجدة سلم خلالها رسالة الى خادم الحرمين الشريفين الملك فهد بن عبد العزيز من الشيخ زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان رئيس دولة الامارات العربية.  
وزار الدكتور العتيبة امس كلا من الدوحة والمنامة حيث سلم رسائل مماثلة الى الشيخ خليفة بن حمد آل ثاني امير دولة قطر والى الشيخ عيسى بن سلمان آل خليفة امير دولة البحرين.  
وسيزور الدكتور العتيبة غدا دولة الكويت لتسليم رسالة من الشيخ زايد الى الشيخ جابر الاحمد الصباح امير دولة الكويت.

Text 6نسبية..  
الثمانينات!!

النسبية اكثر النظريات مناسبة لروح العصر.. وللمجتمعات العربية بالذات.. فلا قاعدة.. ولا حكم مطلقا.. اذ ان كل شيء يظل نسبيا تبعا للمصالح والشخصيات.. فالوقت ليس من ذهب دائما، فاحيانا يصبح ارخص من (التنك) اذ ماذا يعني ان تقضي ساعات وساعات في شراء مقاض واحتياجات أو مداعبة لاطفال.. غير انه يتحول بقدرة قادر بالنسبة 5 لك الى ذهب بل وكالسيف ان لم تقطعه قطعك اذا كان احد اولئك الخريجين يصر على ازعاجك بطلبه المتواصل لشرف مقابلتك ولو لثوانٍ يحصل فيها بالرد على طلب تعيينه بنعم اولا أو حتى بهزة من رأسك.. وقد لاتستطيع ذلك لان تلك الثواني التي يطلبها من ذهب ويمكن ان تقلب 10 موازينك رأسا على عقب!!

ولان كل شيء نسبي.. فالغنى كذلك.. فماذا تعني عشرة ملايين بالمقارنة مع مليارات الغير ولذا يظل صاحبها يركض وراء المليارات.. اما اولئك الذين يكتفون (بالقروش) من الالف فلهم قناعاتهم النسبية وهم احرار!!

والنسبية تجعل عجوز السبعين شابا في الثلاثين اذا كان لديه 15 رصيد برنين مسموع لدى اهل عروسه المراهقة.. اما تأثير فارق العمر على استمرارية الحياة الزوجية فنسبي كأي عامل آخر!!  
وحسنة النسبية بالشكل السابق.. انها مرهم هزائمنا على الصعيد العالمي.. فهي هزائم نسبية لانهما عرفت العالم بنا... بعد ان كنا نكرة لقرون طوال!! وهذا في حد ذاته نجاح ولو نسبي ولا بد ان نفتخر به.. 20 واسرائيل ليست احسن حالا منا بكثير.. اذ ان انتصاراتها المتوالية نسبية.. اي اقتصادية فقط.. ما دام العالم يشجب كل تحركاتها!! ودمتم ودامت النسبية.. مسكننا العصري الجديد!!



Text 7

## الرد العربي

التصاعد المستمر في عمليات المقاومة البطولية ضد العدو الصهيوني في الضفة الغربية المحتلة وجنوب لبنان يشكل الرد الحاسم والحازم على تصاعد عمليات القمع الارهابية التي تمارسها اسرائيل ضد العرب سواء في الارض المحتلة او في الجنوب اللبناني.

5 فبعد ساعات من الغارة الجوية الوحشية الثانية التي شنتها الطائرات الاسرائيلية على مخيم عين الحلوة قرب صيدا بجنوب لبنان والتي استشهد واصيب فيها العشرات من نساء واطفال المخيم، تعرضت مستعمرة «نهاريا» بشمال فلسطين المحتلة لقصف صاروخي كما شهدت مستعمرة «كريات جات» بالضفة الغربية المحتلة انفجار عبوة ناسفة أدت 10 لاصابة ستة من الاسرائيليين.

وفي الوقت ذاته قتل وأصيب ١٨ جنديا اسرائيليا ودمرت دبابة ومدرعة في كمين نصبه رجال المقاومة اللبنانية للدورية الصهيونية عند الطرف الشمالي لـ«المنطقة الامنية»، بجنوب لبنان.

وهكذا جاء الرد سريعا وحاسما وباللغة نفسها التي يستخدمها 15 العدو الصهيوني ضد العرب وان كان هناك اختلافان اساسيان الاول ان رجال المقاومة - بعكس جنود الاحتلال الاسرائيلي - لم يستهدفوا في عملياتهم الاطفال والنساء والشيوخ كما حدث في الغارتين الجويتين على المخيمات الفلسطينية بجنوب لبنان او في اعتداءاتهم الوحشية اليومية داخل الارض المحتلة.

20 اما الاختلاف الثاني فيتمثل في أن الدافع الاستراتيجي لعمليات رجال المقاومة هو تحرير أرضهم وانهاء الاحتلال الذي يجثم عليها، وأن دافع العمليات الاسرائيلية هو الارهاب والارهاب وحده لدعم احتلالهم لهذه الاراضي.

## مسؤولية الحكومة السودانية

بعد مشاورات واتصالات مكثفة امتدت لأكثر من اسبوع أعلن تشكيل الحكومة السودانية الجديدة إيذانا بالبداية العملية لانتقال السلطة في السودان الى الحكم المدني.

5 ورغم العقبات الكثيرة التي واجهت السيد الصادق المهدي رئيس الوزراء في سبيل تشكيل الحكومة إلا أنه نجح أخيراً في تكوين حكومة قومية وصفها بانها تقدم توازناً صحيحاً بين الكفاءة وبين التوازن الاقليمي والتوازن بين الأجيال.

10 وفي الوقت نفسه ترك رئيس الحكومة الباب مفتوحاً أمام كل الفعاليات والأحزاب لتطوير المشاركة للاسهام الفعال في العمل السياسي العام في خدمة السودان وشعبه.

15 وبتشكيل الحكومة السودانية يكون قد اكتمل الشكل الدستوري لنظام الحكم الجديد بعد الانتخابات التي خاضتها كل الأحزاب السودانية وتعبيراً عن ارادة الشعب السوداني الذي قام بانتفاضته ضد الحكم العسكري.

وإذا كان اختيار الشعب السوداني لمثليه في الجمعية التأسيسية قد جاء انعكاساً لما طرحته الأحزاب السودانية من برامج سياسية واقتصادية فإن المرحلة التي تلي تشكيل الحكومة تعني بداية المسؤولية الحقيقية أمام هذه الأحزاب لترجمة برامجها الى واقع.

20 ولا شك ان الحكومة الجديدة تعلم تماماً قدر المسؤولية الملقاة على عاتقها في ضوء المشاكل الملحة التي يواجهها السودان وأبرزها الأزمة الاقتصادية وقضية الجنوب ولذلك فالمتوقع ان تنطلق لحل هذه المشاكل التي حملها الشعب السوداني أمانة العمل باخلاص وصدق على حلها.

Text 9

## خطوات ايجابية

هل تكون اعادة فتح مطار بيروت بعد مرور ثلاثة اشهر على اقفاله واجتماع الرئيسين امين الجميل وسليمان فرنجية بعد طول جفاء مؤشرا الى قرب انفراج الاوضاع في لبنان وانتهاء المحنة القاسية التي عانى منها اللبنانيون طويلا؟

5 وقد لا يدعو ذلك الى الذهاب بعيدا في التفاؤل فالاحداث الماضية تدعو الى التروي والتزام جانب الحذر كلما لاح في الافق بصيص امل وذلك في انتظار ان تتضح حقيقة الامور.

غير ان المواطن اللبناني الذي اکتوى بنيران الحرب المستمرة منذ ١٢ عاما بات يهلل لأية خطوة ايجابية تفتح امامه ابواب الامل بقرب زوال الكابوس الرهيب وشفاء لبنان من العلل والامراض التي ابتلي بها منذ ان سقط في الفخ الرهيب.

لقد تزامن قرار اعادة فتح مطار بيروت وزيارة الرئيس الجميل للرئيس السابق فرنجية في مدينة اهدن الشمالية مع قرار استئناف المفاوضات بين القيادة السورية والوفد اللبناني الذي يمثل الجميل.

15 وهذا يعني ان الامور تحركت بين دمشق وقصر بعبدا وان هناك معطيات جديدة يمكن على اساسها استئناف المفاوضات من اجل التوصل الى صيغة لوضع دستور جديد للبنان ترضى به جميع الاطراف المتنازعة. وكل ما يتمناه اللبنانيون هو ان تظل هذه الاجواء سائدة وان يتحقق الاجماع على انقاذ لبنان مما يخطط له المتآمرون لتقسيمه وتفتيته.



## Text 10

## الأسرة العباسية في مدينة الطائف

رغم انتساب الأسرة العباسية إلى قبيلة قريش ، صاحبة السيادة السياسية والدينية في مكة ، إلا أنها آثرت الارتباط بالطائف أكثر من ارتباطها بمكة . ويرجع هذا الارتباط إلى العصر الجاهلي ، في عهد رأس هذه الأسرة العباس بن عبد المطلب .

كان مولد العباس بن عبد المطلب قبل الهجرة بنحو خمسين سنة وهو ابن عبد المطلب بن هاشم ، رئيس قريش ، وزعيم مكة ، والذي ذاع صيته بين العرب بعد مواجهته للغزو الحبشي . وورث العباس المجد عن أبيه العظيم ، فأصبح من أشرف قريش ، واشتهر بسداد الرأي ، والكرم ، والعطف على الفقراء . وتولى بعض المناصب الشرفية في مكة . أبرزها منصب السقاية ، أي توفير المياه لآلاف الحجاج القادمين في مواسم الحج . كما تولى عمارة الكعبة ، أي منع الكلام فيها بصوت عال .

5

10

وكان العباس ثرياً ، ولذا امتلك في الطائف بستاناً للكروم واسعاً ، إلى جانب بعض العقارات ، وكان يقضي غالباً فصل الصيف في الطائف . كما كان يقوم باستيراد كميات كبيرة من الزبيب ، لتحلية مياه الحياض التي ينقل إليها المياه من آبار مكة ، تخفيفاً للوحثها ، وكان هذا من واجب العباس ، إذ كان - كما ذكرنا - يتولى السقاية . وارتبط العباس مع بعض وجوه الطائف بأعمال تجارية متعددة .

15

وبعد وفاة عبد المطلب ، أصبح محمد عليه الصلاة والسلام في كفالة عمه أبي طالب ، وإن لم يكن أكبر أولاد عبد المطلب سناً أو أكثرهم مالاً . فقد كان الحارث أكبرهم عمراً ، والعباس أعظمهم ثراء ، ولكن العباس كان على ماله حريصاً ، ولذا نجده يتولى السقاية دون الرفادة ، وهي توفير الطعام للحجاج كما كان أبو طالب أخصاً شقيقاً لعبد الله والد محمد عليه الصلاة والسلام .

20

ومرت قريش بأزمة اقتصادية ، وكان أبو طالب كثير العيال ، ورأى محمد - عليه الصلاة والسلام - أن يرد جميل عمه أبي طالب ، وأن يخفف من مسؤولياته العائلية ، ولذا توجه إلى عمه العباس ، فقال له : ان أخاك أبا طالب كثير العيال . وقد أصاب ما ترى من هذه الأزمة ، فانطلق بنا إليه فلنخفف من عياله آخذ من بني رجلاً ، وتأخذ رجلاً فنكفلهما عنه . وكفل العباس جعفرأ ، بينما كفل محمد علياً . وأصبح علي بن أبي طالب ربيباً لمحمد عليه الصلاة والسلام ، فنشأ في بيته ، وكان أول من آمن به بعد زوجه خديجة ومولاه زيد بن حارثة ، ثم تزوج من ابنته فاطمة فأنجب منها الحسن والحسين .

25

ولم يقم العباس بالدور الكبير الذي قام به أبو طالب ، فقد أصبح أبو طالب حامياً لمحمد ، مدافعاً عنه ، ورد عنه كثيراً من إيذاء المشركين . حتى أن الرسول عليه الصلاة والسلام اعتبر العام الذي مات أبو طالب وخديجة فيه (عام الحزن) . وقال

30

محمد : « ما نالت قريش مني شيئاً أكرهه حتى مات أبو طالب .  
 ووقف العباس موقفاً مشهوداً من الرسول عليه الصلاة والسلام . حين قدم وفد  
 الأوس والخزرج ، يبايع النبي (بيعة العقبة) ويدعوه للقدوم إلى المدينة المنورة . وأخذ  
 العباس اليهود والمواثق من مسلمي الخزرج . ليضمن تأييدهم الكامل والمستمر  
 لابن أخيه العظيم .

35

لا تمدنا المصادر القديمة بما يؤكد اسلام العباس ، ولكنها تؤكد عدم هجرته مع  
 النبي ، وقد ظل مقيماً في مكة . ويروي ابن هشام أن العباس كان قبل فتح مكة  
 « مقيماً بمكة على سقايته ، ورسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم عنه راض » . ثم نجد العباس  
 من ضمن أسرى بدر ، حيث يطلق الرسول الكريم سراحه ، فيعود إلى مكة . وتذكر  
 المصادر القديمة أن العباس كان يبعث من مكة برسائل متوالية يبث فيها بأخبار قريش  
 ومكة .

40

ثم كان العام الثامن بعد الهجرة ، وخرج الرسول لفتح مكة ، وفي الطريق التقى  
 بالعباس بن عبد المطلب وأسرته ، ورأى العباس أن يأخذ الأمان لأهل مكة من الرسول  
 الكريم ، فقد رأى في دخول الرسول مكة عنوة « لملك قريش آخر الدهر » . وأشفق  
 العباس على مصير أبي سفيان ، فطلب منه أن يمتطي معه بغلته ليأتي الرسول فيطلب  
 الأمان له . كما نصح العباس أبا سفيان أيضاً أن يحذر أهالي مكة فلا يقاوموا الجيش  
 الإسلامي .

45

وآثر العباس الانتقال إلى المدينة المنورة ، بعد فتح مكة . وظل إلى جوار ابن أخيه  
 العظيم ، رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم ، حتى انتقل إلى جوار ربه ، فشارك في مواراته  
 في قبره الطاهر . ولذا لم يشترك في اجتماع سقيفة بني ساعدة الذي انتهى باختيار أبي بكر  
 الصديق خليفة . وكان العباس يرى جدارة علي بن أبي طالب بالخلافة . ولذا امتنع عن  
 البيعة لأبي بكر بالخلافة وظل العباس موضع احترام وتقدير خلفاء الرسول . أبي بكر  
 وعمر وعثمان ، يستشيرونه في مهام الأمور . حتى لحق العباس بربه في المدينة . وكان  
 عمره حينئذ تسعين سنة . وخلف تسعة أولاد ذكور أشهرهم عبد الله بن العباس .  
 ولد عبد الله بن العباس قبل الهجرة بثلاث سنوات . وأصبح في مقدمة الصحابة  
 الملازمين للرسول عليه الصلاة والسلام ، ولذا أصبح في مقدمة رواة أحاديثه النبوية  
 الشريفة . وقام في عهد الخلفاء . بواجب الجهاد ، فجنده مشاركاً في الجيش الذي  
 فتح طبرستان في عهد عثمان بن عفان .

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وقدر علي بن أبي طالب موقف عمه العباس منه في موضوع الخلافة . بعد وفاة  
 الرسول . حين وقف إلى جانبه ، وامتنع عن البيعة لأبي بكر . ولذا نجد علياً يولي بعض  
 أولاد العباس حكم الولايات ، فولى منهم عبيد الله بن عباس على حكم اليمن .  
 وقم بن العباس على حكم مكة والطائف ، وعبد الله بن عباس على حكم البصرة .  
 وهكذا عاود العباسيون تاريخهم مرة أخرى في الطائف فقد أصبح قم يلي الطائف  
 التي أصبحت تابعة إدارياً لمكة .

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65

اشترك عبد الله بن العباس في موقعي الجمل وصفين ، إلى جانب علي بن أبي  
 طالب ، وقد أراد علي اختياره حكماً في أول الأمر ، ولكن معظم جنده أرادوا اختيار  
 فقيه الكوفة أبا موسى الأشعري .

وظل عبد الله بن العباس ينتقل بين المدينة والطائف ومكة ودمشق . وأصبح  
 عضواً من أبرز أعضاء جماعة أبناء الصحابة في الحجاز ، الذين كانوا يعتبرون أنفسهم  
 « أولياء الأمور » .

70

آثر عبدالله بن عباس الإنصراف إلى الدين والعلم ، والابتعاد عن مشاكل  
 السياسة ، ولذا بايع يزيد بن معاوية بالخلافة . ورفض البيعة لعبد الله بن الزبير حين  
 أعلن نفسه خليفة في مكة ، وفرح يزيد لامتناع ابن عباس عن البيعة لخصمه ابن

- 75 الزبير ، وكتب يزيد إلى ابن عباس رسالة يشكره فيها ويطلب منه أن يكون عوناً له ضد ابن الزبير ، واستنكر ابن عباس رسالة يزيد ، وكتب إليه : « أما بعد ، فقد بلغني كتابك بذكر دعاء ابن الزبير إياي إلى نفسه وامتناعي عليه في الذي دعاني إليه من بيعته ، فإن بك ذلك كما بلغت فلست حمدك أردت ، ولا ودك ... وسألتني أن أحث الناس عليك وأخذهم عن ابن الزبير ، فلا ولا سروراً ولا حبوراً ، وأنت قتلت الحسين بن علي ... » .
- 80 وغضب عبد الله بن الزبير على عبد الله بن عباس ، ورأى إبعاده عن مكة حتى لا يتأثر أهلها بآرائه المعارضة لخلافته ، فأبعده إلى الطائف ، فعاش فيها حتى مات سنة ٦٨ هـ . كما أخرج ابن الزبير أيضاً محمد بن علي بن أبي طالب المعروف بابن الحنفية ، عن مكة ، إلى جبل رضوى .
- 85 وهكذا عاد العباسيون ثانية إلى الطائف ، ومنهم من اشتغل بالعلم والدين ومن اشتغل بالانتاج الزراعي والتجارة . وكان أشهر أبناء عبد الله بن العباس الستة ، هو علي ، الذي اشتهر باسم السجاد ، لكثرة صلواته وورعه ، رغم أنه أصغر إخوته سناً . وقد اشتهر بالعلم والعبقرية الفكرية ، فارتفع شأنه في بلاد الحجاز ويروي ابن خلكان أنه « كان إذا قدم حاجباً أو معتمراً ، عطلت قريش مجالسها في المسجد الحرام ، اعظاماً له وتبجيلاً ، فان قعد قعدوا معه ، وان مشى مشوا جميعاً حوله ، ولا يزالون كذلك حتى يخرج من الحرم » .
- 90 وظل العباسيون ، في الطائف ، يرقبون أحداث الدولة الأموية ، في سلبية ، دون المشاركة فيها ، وآثروا ثواب الآخرة على عرض الدنيا . فهم لم يخوضوا في الحركات السياسية المضادة للدولة الأموية ، كثورات العلويين ، وعبد الله بن الزبير ، والمختار الثقفي ، وغيرها . ولكن القدر كان يخفى للأسرة العباسية دوراً كبيراً في التاريخ الإسلامي ، حيث تقوم له دولة وخلافة سنة ١٣٢ هـ وتستمر أكثر من خمسة قرون ، وحتى سنة ٦٥٦ هـ كما شاءت الأقدار أيضاً أن يغادر العباسيون مدينة الطائف بل بلاد الحجاز كلها ، إلى بلاد الشام ، التي لا يربطها بها رابط .
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وكما تروّعك في هذه المدينة كثرة حمامات السباحة ،  
تروّعك وفرة الحدائق العامة ، فهي تغازلك حيثما سرت ، في  
كل شارع ، وفي كل ميدان ... حتى إنك إذا عدلت إلى مطعم  
أو مشرب ألبيت نفسك فيه مشرفاً على خديقة ، وأمامك بركة  
يسبح فيها البط ، وقد حملت إليك الأنسام روائح الأنغام . 5

و « الشارع » في المدينة عامر بالحيوانات كبيرة وصغيرة ،  
فيها من السلّح ما تنتجه « السويد » وما يجلب إليها من سائر  
إليقاع ، فلا يعينك أن تجد شيئاً تطلبه وإن عزّ ... وما أصدق  
من سمي « أستكهم » : مدينة نيويورك الصغيرة ، أو : بنت  
نيويورك ... وإني على إعجابي بالأمم العظمى ، وتقديرى لمنزلتها 10

العالية المرموقة ، أراني بالابنة الرشيدة أشدّ شغفاً ، يروقي منها  
هدوء تسكن إليه الأعصاب ، ويفتني فيها ذلك التناسق العجيب  
في ظواهر العمران . ليكل شارع نظام مرسوم ، وطرز أبنية  
موحد ، ولكل بناء ظلال للشرقات ، يتم اختيار ألوانها عن  
ذوق قتي مضني ، وإحساس بالجمال رهيف . 15

وإذا ابتغيت في هذه المدينة شراءً شئاً من الخبز ، وجدت  
الناس فيه عددٌم كثير ، ولكن زحامهم لا تضيق به النفس ،  
فلا أنت مضطر أن تدفع الناس بمسكبيتك ، ولا أنت تتأذى  
من يدفعك ، ولا أنت متبرم بالوقوف في صف تنتظر أن  
تتقدم ، ولا أنت طامع في أن يحايك البائع بتعجيل مطلبك . 20  
ولا أنت مستنكر أن يفضل عليك غيرك فيؤثره بالتعجيل ...  
هنالك بجانب الباب تذاكر مرقومة ، تأخذ إحداها حال  
وصولك ، وترقب أن ينادى البائع رقم تذكرتك ، فتسرع إليه  
لتشترى ما تريد .

والمطاعم في المدينة تجري على النظام الأمريكي . 25  
القبائل : احذيم نفسك بنفسك ... دونك الصواني .

- والصحون وما إليها من عدة المائدة، فأحبل منها ما شئت، وانتق  
 بما اشتيت، واجلس حيث طاب لك أن تجلس...  
 وما أكثر ما في المدينة من مطاعم ومشارب، ولا سيما  
 30 مشارب الشاي والقهوة، فهي محلات للأكل الخفيف، تقدم  
 فيها أصناف الكعك، ومنوعات الشطائر والفتائر.  
 وتستطيع أن تضيف إلى المطاعم متاجر الفاكهة، فالسويدي  
 إذا أحس الجوع في بعض طريقه، وضاق به وقته أن يدخل  
 المطعم، أو لم يجد في نفسه شهوة إلى ما يحتويه المطعم من ما كل،  
 35 فإنه لا يتكف أن يقصد بائع الفاكهة، فيشترى موزة  
 أو تفاحة أو كمثرأة، ولا يلبث أن يقضمها في الطريق على  
 أعين الناس من راح وغاد...  
 وفي شتى أرجاء المدينة جسد من المكتبات، تزخر  
 بالكُتب مختلفة الأنواع، وفي بعض هذه المكتبات تُعرض  
 40 بجانب المؤلفات السويدية أحدث المطبوعات الأمريكية  
 والإنجليزية، وبينها قليل من المطبوعات الفرنسية، أحسب أنه  
 للأجانب خاصة، فقد بدال أن السويدي لا يُعنى باللغات  
 الأجنبية كبير عناية، ومن العسير أن يتحدث إليه بغير لسان  
 قومه، فقلما يحسن غيره من ألسن الناس...  
 45 ومع كثرة المطاعم، ووفرة المكتبات، تنوال التماثيل في  
 الميادين، وخلال الحدائق، وبجوار الفوارات... وليست  
 كلها وقفا على إحياء التاريخ، تبجد البطولة، وتخلد ذكرى  
 الأبطال، فإن فيها جانبا عظيما من التماثيل الفنية لإمتاع  
 الإذواق.  
 50 ولك أن تستخلص من الشارع، الجاغل بهذه المظاهر  
 الثلاثة: المطعم، والمكتبة، والتماثيل؛ — أن رجل للشارع،  
 السويدي يهتم بتغذية جسمه حين يأكل، وبتغذية عقله حين  
 يقرأ، وبتغذية روحه حين يُمتع ذوقه بفن التماثيل... وبذلك  
 يتكامل غبذاؤه الذي يجعل منه نموذجا للمواطن الرشيد  
 السعيد.  
 55

والمدينة لا تنسى ديمقراطيتها وتقاليدها ، وإن استوفت  
وسائل التمدن العصري ... فكما ترى في شوارع دلوغان ،  
و « زورنج » ، السويزرية أسواقا شعبية ، ترى في أهم أحياء  
مدينة « أستكهلم » ، سوقا للخضر والفواكه في ظلات خشبية ،  
يفند إليها حاملات السلال من ربات البيوت ، ليشترين  
60 ما يحتجن إليه .

هذه السوق تقوم في ميدان طليق الهواء يزدان بأعمدة  
نخعة ، أمامها نُصب قتي يمثل شاعرا موسيقيا من الإغريق ،  
وهو يعزف ويفتى ، كأنه يعلو في الجبل ، وعن كتب منه حلقة  
من الغيد الحسان متطلعات إليه ، مصغيات لآلحانه العذاب ...  
والقوم هنالك لم يبالوا أن يجمعوا في قلب العاصمة بين سوق  
وميدان قتي ، إجلالا لحق ناله الأهلون من قديم ؛ إذ كانوا  
يبيعون في هذا الميدان ما ينتجونه من فاكهة ومن خضّر .

ومن علامتهم حرصهم على التقاليد أنك تسمع وقت الظهيرة  
70 موسيقى عسكرية تهز الشارع أو الميدان ، فتخرج إليها مع الناس  
تشهدثلة من الجنود فرسانا أو مشاة ، وهم مزهزون في أردية  
زرقاء مزركشة ، وعلى رؤوسهم بنوذات نحاسية تلمع صفرتها  
تحت وهج الشمس ، وتسال : ما الخبر ؟ فتعلم أن هذا عرض  
متبع لتغيير حرس القصر ، وتغيير الحرس كل يوم يقتضى  
75 إجراء هذه الزفة الموسيقية ، وفقا للأوضاع الموروثة منذ  
أمد بعيد .

ومها يكن جذاؤك لامع الطلاء أو تكسوه غبرة ،  
فأنت راغب في استطلاع شأن هذه الظلة الخشبية الحمراء التي  
لا تتسع إلا لفرد ، وفيها كرسي يتعالى كأنه عرش ، وكأنك  
حين تتمكن عليه قد أصبحت من النظاريف العظام ! ... وقلنا  
80 يخلو هذا العرش من جالس ، فاسحو الأحذية السويدية يزاولون  
عمال من الأعمال الراجعة ؛ وعلى الرغم من ذلك فإنهم في المدينة



قِلة ، وظُلَّاتِهِم ممتثرة في الشوارع الكبرى ، وهم يتميزون  
بالصمت المطبق ، يتولون عملهم بلا هرج ولا مرج ، هيئات  
أن ينيسَ أحدهم ينتِ شفة .

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وللجنس اللطيف في أعمال المدينة صولة ... فالأدوية في  
الصيدليات يحضرها الفتيات القاتنات ؛ وهن اللواتي يحمّلن  
الأجور في الترام ، ويقمن بالخدمة في عدد من المشارب  
والأندية ؛ ويعن المرطبات والمثلجات في "ظلات" على  
الطريق ...

## الفصل الثاني

المستر هـ. ك. تاجر كبير في نيويورك أتم الله عليه نعمته فراجت تجارته . يفصّ مخزنه كل يوم بالناس : هذا ينتقي ، وهذا يدفع ما عليه ، وذاك يساوم ولكن على غير ما ألفناه نحن في البيع والشراء ، وتلك تخرج لأنها لم تجد ما يواتيها ويناسبها فلا يتعلق بأذيالها أحد ليبيعوها ما ليست في حاجة اليه .

5

فتيان وفتيات ، سيّدات وسادة ، غلمان وشيوخ يزدهجون في ذلك البيت العظيم ، يكادون يتدافعون بالمناكب لولا ما تواضع عليه القوم في تلك الديار ، وما عرفوا به من الكياسة والتؤدة في آداب الاجتماع . فلا تكاد تسمع ضوضى في المخزن . فحديثهم كله وشوشة وهمس أشبه بوشوشة الحلي في معصم الحسناء المتأنقة . وهكذا قل عن عمال المخزن ، فإنهم في شغل دائم ، والابتسام لا تفارق أفواههم : لا يتذمرون ولا يجهرون بسامة ولا ملل ، هذا يرزم البضائع ويسلمها ، وذاك يعرضها ويعين أثمانها ، والقائم على الصندوق يقبض ويدفع ، وهكذا دواليك .

10

المخزن غاص بالمشتريين : والمستر هـ. ك. على كرسية يستعرض شؤون تجارته ، ويراقب عماله غير متعمد ، تارة يقبل على مدير العمل يناقشه في بعض النظريات ، وطوراً يجالس عميلاً كبيراً يجلسه إلى جانبه هنيهة ، حتى إذا فرغ من كل هذا تناول صحف النهار ونشرها أمامه يطالعها وإذا أقبل عليه مشتري ، غلطاً ، صرفه بلطف وكياسة إلى من يعنيه أمره .

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هذه الحركة في مخازن المستر هـ. ك. تتجدد ما تجدد النهار ، وصاحبها ينعم وثروته تنمو .

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استسمنه اللصوص فنقبوا مخزنه الذي وصفنا ، وافتتحوا معقل ثروته الحصين : ذلك الصندوق الحديدي المصفح . ولا تسل كيف . ففي اللصوص في تلك البلاد أخصائيون حذقوا مهنتهم حتى أصبحت فناً قائماً برأسه . هم دولة في قلب دولة ، وقد عجزت عن مطاردتهم حكومة البلاد فقعدت ويدها مغلولة إلى عنقها . ولنا بفاجعة الطيار لنديبرغ بابنه ، وبما نقرأه عن خطفهم كبار الأغنياء وتغريم شركة ضمان الحياة بفديتهم ، أسطع برهان .

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درى المستر هـ. ك. بالسرقة فتائر تائر راع سرقت له نعمة من مئات ، فهز رأسه ، وانشقت شفتاه حتى لا يدري الناظر اليه أبيتسم أم

- 30 هيزأ . وكأنه قال في نفسه : « وما تنقر الطيور من بيدر كالحرم ، فكل ما وقع عليه اللصوص دخل ثلاثة أيام ، فقط ... » .
- وأذاعت صحف ذلك النهار في نيويورك خبر السرقة ، فهزّ عارفو متانة البيت التجارية رؤوسهم قائلين : « مبلغ ٥٠ ألف دولار ، لا شيء » .
- وتطاول شبح الأزمة الراعب وتضخم ، فارتعدت البيوت التجارية في الولايات المتحدة ، وتناثرت الأوراق والأسهم المالية في الأسواق كأوراق الخريف الصفراء تحت أذيال العاصفة ، فهلعت القلوب . ثم أخذت البيوت التجارية والمالية تتداعى واحداً بعد واحد كما يحدث ساءة الزلزلة ، ولم يثبت أمام هذا الاعصار الخفيف إلا الطويل العمر .
- 35 ومن هؤلاء الأفياذ الذين صمدوا للأزمة المستر هـ . ك . فإنه ظل متمتعاً بالثقة حتى عام أول . ثم ظهرت الصدوع فأخذ يسد كل عورة تبدو بما عنده من مال احتياطي ، حتى عجز هذا العام فكان من المفلسين فاوى إلى بيته قانطاً .
- 40 ارتقى ذات يوم على كرسي في شرفة مسكنه المطل على الطريق وقد أسبل دموعه ، ومرّت في مخيلته ذكريات الماضي فساوره الأسف وكاد يخنقه الغم . يفكر كيف ينقذ عائلته ، ويودّ أن تبتلعه الأرض حين يرى أصحابه ، ويتفتت قلبه إذا فكر بزوجته وبنيه أو أبصر أولاد الناس فرحين مرحين ، كيف لا والعيد مقبل ، ولعيد الميلاد في أميركا شأن عظيم ، ونفقات ذات بال . هدايا للأطفال ، وألبسة للبنين والبنات ، وحسنات للفقراء ، وتبرعات للعيال المستورة ، وماكل فاخرة أهمها الديوك الحبشية ، وزيارات ومعابدات ...
- 45 تلك ساعة ، أشد هولا من يوم العرض ، مرّت عليه . وبينما كان مطرقاً كمن ألقى على منكبيه أثقل الأحمال ، إذا بكلمه يتمسح به بعد ما جفاه الناس وجفاهم . وما كان أشد ألمه إذ رأى هزال كلبه الأمين ، وكيف لا يهزل وبنوه أصبحوا ينازعونه زاده ، بعد أن كانوا يجودون عليه بالذ الماكل وأشهاها .
- 50 لم يطق المستر هـ . ك . هذا الموقف فاسرع إلى غرفته ليخفي آلامه المبرحة ، فنام ولم يستيقظ حتى المساء . وعند الغروب عاد إلى الشرفة فسطعت الكهرباء فصيرت الليل نهاراً ، فلم ير صاحبنا في اختلاف النهار والليل شيئاً جديداً . ماذا يعنيه من شؤون الليل ، فذاك عهد مضى وراح .
- 55 أجل لم يعد يهتم إلا لقوت الغد ، وقد جفاه الأصحاب والحلان ، وعند فراغ الكيس يستوحش الحر .
- 60 فكّر طويلاً بصديق يقرضه بضعة دولارات يستعين بها على حاجات الغد ، فإذا بنفسه تقول له : « هيات ! » فهبّ من شرفته كمن أهين ولم يستطع دفع الإهانة ، فتوجه شطر غرفته ، فما كاد يتوسط البهو حتى قرع الباب فتعوّذ ، ولا أدري ماذا تتم .
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فأسرعت ابنته وفتحت الباب ، فإذا بموزع البريد ينتصب أمامه  
كاللارد ويدفع إليه مكتوباً قائلاً : « مضمون يا سيدي . » وتاوله السجل.  
فوقع بيد مرتجفة وهو يظن الكتاب إنذاراً من أحد الدائنين  
ففضّه بجنق قائلاً : « أيلحقونني إلى القبر ؟ غداً إن شاء الله . »

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وانشق الكتاب عن توأمين : عاطفة نبيلة واكسير الحياة .  
كتاب من لص حاسب ذمته ، وأرضى ضميره الحي ، وأثلج صدر  
البشرية ، رأى الواجب يدعوه قلبى - والفتوة سخية - فنفح التاجر  
الذي سرقه من أعوام بالفني ليرة انكليزية ، فجاءت بوقتها .

أما المستر ه. ك. فما أظنه قال شيئاً ، بل صمت كزكريا بعد  
خروجه من الميكل .

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أما أولاده وزوجته فكانوا يرقصون فرحاً ، مؤمنين أشد الإيمان  
بمحاكاة « بابا نويل » ...