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Clausal Prolepsis in Jordanian Arabic

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Abstract

This paper aims to investigate cases of object clausal prolepsis in Jordanian Arabic in which a pronoun is linked to a complementiser that sits at the right edge of the clause. As a language that allows arguments to drop, Jordanian Arabic does not have authentic expletives, but it has proleptic pronouns that herald embedded clauses. The subordinate CP is heralded by a clitic attached to the verb or a null pronoun. We argue that these pronouns originate in theta-marked positions. There are different constructions in which proleptic pronouns receive theta-roles. Proleptic proforms are conventionally personal pronouns like it in English. It has been found that there is a richer inventory in other languages. Some languages, including Dutch and Hungarian, reveal morphological variation regarding their proleptic proforms. Likewise, Jordanian Arabic exhibits, alongside purely pronominal proleptic elements, a demonstrative element that can be used as proleptic proform for the subordinate clause, namely *heik/heitʃ* 'that'.

Keywords: Clausal prolepsis, Jordanian Arabic, Proform, Subordinate clause, Theta-role.

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1. Introduction:

This paper tackles one of the untouched topics, namely, clausal prolepsis in Jordanian Arabic (henceforth, JA), in which a pronoun is connected to a CP located at the right periphery of the clause. As a pro-drop language, JA does not have genuine expletives but has proleptic pronouns that herald the embedded clauses. This can be shown in (1), where the clause *ʔinnu saami raḥ yursub* 'that Sami will fail' is supposed to be the direct object of the matrix verb *ḥake* 'said'.

It can be noticed that the embedded CP is heralded by the presence of the (clitic) -ha. This pronoun is in a position that is reserved for the direct object. This type of pronoun is attested in JA, where a clitic or a null pronoun can herald the embedded clause, as in the following examples. It is worth mentioning that we relied on our intuition as native speakers of the dialect under investigation (i.e., Jordanian Arabic). For examples from other Arabic dialects, we consulted some native speakers of these dialects.

- 1- ʔana ḥakeit-ha ʔinnu saami raḥ yursub
 1S say.PAST-3SF that Sami will fail.3SM.INF
 Lit. 'I said it that Sami will fail.'
 'I said that Sami will fail.'

- 2- ʔaʕjab -Ø-ni ʔinnu ʕali najaḥ
 surprise.PAST-3SM-1S.ACC that Ali succeed.3SM.PAST
 b-il-ʔimtiḥa:n
 in-the-exam
 'It surprised me that Ali succeeded in the exam.'

This phenomenon is also attested in various Arabic varieties. Consider the following examples:

- 3- ʔul-t-ha l-ək balaaf tisaافر
 say-PAST-1S-3SF to-you not travel
 'I said it to you not to travel.' (Egyptian Arabic)
- 4- ʔitwaʔaʕ-t-a min-u ʔin-u yesb-ni
 expect-PAST-1S-3SF from-him that-he insult-me

'I expected it from him to insult me.' (Lebanese Arabic)

In the examples above, the embedded CP is indicated by a clitic on the verb in the matrix clause.

These kinds of pronouns raise the following questions:

- a- What is the function of this pronoun in that position?
- b- What is the relationship between such a pronoun and the embedded clause?
- c- How is such a pronoun associated with the embedded clause?
- d- What determines the gender form of the proleptic pronoun associated with the subordinate clause?

The proleptic pronoun and the clause are not independent operators relative to one another. In addition, the verb in (1) is not ditransitive to take two internal arguments. It is a transitive verb that takes an internal argument, namely the proposition 'ʔinnu sami raḥ yursub'. Therefore, we need to figure out which the actual argument of the verb is and where to accommodate both the pronoun and the clause in the syntax since it is hard to claim that one is meaningless or semantically vacuous.

This phenomenon has been accounted for within various syntactic analyses proposed for clausal prolepsis in various languages, such as English (cf. (Rothstein 1995, Ott 2016, Gluckman 2021, Angelopoulos 2024), Dutch, Hungarian (cf. den Dikken 2018) and German (cf. Sudhoff 2016). Unfortunately, this phenomenon has not yet been investigated in any Arabic varieties.

While seemingly rare, the proleptic accusative is found in various unrelated languages, including Japanese (Takano 2003). Example is shown in (5).

5- John-wa Mary-o tensai da to sinziteiru.

John_{TOP} Mary_{ACC} genius is that believe

'John believes of Mary that she is a genius.' (Takano 2003:781)

In examples (1) through (5) above, a constituent appears structurally part of the matrix clause but is semantically linked to the complement clause that follows. Notably, two constituents—the noun phrase or the clitic and the embedded complement clause—seem eligible as the matrix verb's direct object. This raises important questions about their respective statuses. Which is the true internal argument of the verb, and what role does the other play? If the clause functions as a complement, where does the noun phrase or the clitic originate, what is its theta role, and where does it surface?

2. Jordanian Arabic

Genetically and typologically, JA belongs to the Semitic language family (cf. Al-Sarayreh 2013:11). It is the national language of Jordan and is spoken by approximately twelve million people. Like any other language or dialect, JA is viewed as part of a continuum of mutually intelligible varieties of Levantine Arabic (Al-Jarrah & Al-Hamdeh 2013).

JA shares the loss of all morphological case markers with other Arabic varieties (Al-Essa 2016). The pronouns in the Nominative case position emerge as strong free pronouns, and the ones in the Accusative and Genitive case positions emerge as clitics cliticized to the assigners. In addition, JA is a null-subject language where the phi-features are exhibited in the inflected verb (cf. Jarrah 2017: 5-8). SVO is the unmarked word order in JA. The verb shows full agreement with the subject regardless of the word order employed (cf. Al-Shawashreh 2016).

3. Discussion

The attempt is to characterise the notion of 'clausal prolepsis' in JA. One definition for prolepsis in the literature is a structure where a base-generated non-thematic object in the matrix clause is associated with a thematic argument in the embedded clause (cf. Higgins, 1981; Davies, 2005; Salzmann, 2017). The empirical evidence from JA proves that a thematic object (proleptic pronoun) in the matrix clause is associated with the entire subordinate clause. Thus, it cannot be argued that all prolepsis constructions require coreference between the proleptic object and a nominal inside the subordinate clause to be associated with the entire embedded clause.

In the following dialogue from JA, it can be noticed that proleptic pronouns can receive theta roles and have contentful meanings.

Speaker A:	gult-hə	lə	Ali			
	say.1S.PAST-3SF	to	Ali			
	'I said it to Ali.'					
Speaker B:	fu:	gult			I-u	
	what	say.2S.PAST	to-3SM			
	'What did you tell him?'					
Speaker A:	ʔinnu	sami	ma:	raħ	yetas ^ɕ il	w
	that	Sami	Neg	will	call.3SMINF	and
	yeɕzim-na					
	invite.3SM.INF-1P.ACC					

'That Sami will not call and invite us.'

In (6), the 3SF proleptic pronoun is associated with the entire embedded clause 'ʔnnu sami ma: raḥ yetasʕil wa yeʕzim-na'. Thus, the use of -hə indicates something is coming in the discourse. Moreover, the proleptic pronoun -hə occupies a subcategorised position that is θ -marked for the direct object of the verb *gulit* 'say'.

3.1 Proleptic pronouns in θ -marked positions in JA

This section presents different constructions in which proleptic pronouns receive theta-roles. All these constructions are natural and typical of present-day spoken JA.

3.1.1 Direct and indirect objects of verbs

In (7), one may claim that the clitic object -hə is not obligatory as in (8). The optionality of the proleptic pronouns is a straightforward indication that we are not dealing with an expletive since the latter is obligatory whenever there are conditions for use to apply.

- 6- ʔana ʔitwaggaʕit -hə ʔnnu sami raḥ yursub
 1S expect.PAST-3SF that Sami will fail.3SM
 Lit. 'I expected (it) that Sami will fail.' 'I expected that Sami would fail.'

- 7- ʔana ʔitwaggaʕit ʔnnu sami raḥ yursub
 1S expect.PAST that Sami will fail.3SM
 'I expected that Sami will fail.'

The direct object -hə receives a θ -role, which is the direct object of the verb *ʔitwaggaʕ* 'expect', and the embedded CP is heralded by that object in that position. In (9), the proleptic pronoun is the indirect object.

- 8- ʔaʕtʕa: ʔ -hə tʕana:j lamma sami tʕalab
 Give.PAST.3SM-3SF deaf ear when Sami demand -
 PAST minn-u ʔ i - d a y n a : t
 from-3SM the-debts

'He turned a deaf ear when Sami asked him to repay his debts.'

In double object constructions, the indirect object does not tend to be clausal since it will be followed by the direct object, leading to an unacceptable construction

(10). Therefore, prolepsis is the only resort.

9- *ʔaʕtʕə ʔi-dayna:t Imma sami tʕalab minn-u
 tʕ a n a a ʃ

Give.PAST 3SM when Sami demand.3SM.PAST
 from-3SM the-debts ~~ask~~

Intend. 'He turned a deaf ear when Sami asked him to repay his debts.'

3.1.2 Subjects of small clause complements of verbs

10- ʔiʕtabar-hə ʕeib ʔinnu marat-u ʔitsu:g
 consider.3SM.PAST-3SF shame that wife-his drive.3SF
 taksi
 taxi

'He considered it a shame that his wife drives a taxi.'

The above example shows that the proleptic pronoun occupies the position of the subject of the small clause ʕeib 'a shame', which heralds the embedded subordinate clause ʔinnu marat-u ʔitsu:g taksi 'that his wife drives a taxi.' The deletion of the proleptic pronoun will lead to the ungrammaticality of the sentence, as in (12).

11- *ʔiʕtabar ʕeib ʔinnu marat-u ʔitsu:g taksi
 consider.3SM.PAST shame that wife-his drive.3SF taxi

'He considers it a shame that his wife drives a taxi.'

Two words that can be part of the predicate of the small clause, namely, ʔiʃ/ʃi 'something' indicating masculinity and ʃaylah 'something' indicating femininity should agree with the proleptic pronouns in gender. Consider examples (13-15):

12- ʔiʕtabar-u ʔiʃ ʕeib ʔinnu
 consider.3SM.PAST-3SM something shameful that
 marat-u ʔitsu:g taksi
 wife-his drive.3SF taxi

'He considers it something shameful that his wife drives a taxi.'

In (12), the absence of ʔiʃ/ʃi 'something' would lead to infelicitous construction as in (13).

13- #ʔiʕtabar-u ʕeib ʔinnu marat -u
 consider.3SM.PAST-3SM shameful that wife -his
 ʔitsuug taksi
 drive.3SF taxi

'He considers it shameful that his wife drives a taxi.'

14- ʔiʕtabar-hə ʕaylah ʕeib ʔinnu marat-u
 consider.3SM.PAST-3SF something shameful that wife his
 ʔitsuug taksi
 drive.3SF taxi

'He considers it something shameful that his wife drives a taxi.'

In (15), the use of ʕaylah 'something' is optional, and its absence will not lead to infelicitous construction.

3.1.3 Subject of finite clause

There is an optionality of choosing the gender of the proleptic pronouns in certain diathesis. Therefore, the 3SF, the 3SM, and the 3SM null pronoun can be used as proleptic pronouns and receive a θ -role of the subject associated with the subordinate clause, as shown in examples (16-17).

15- ʕakıl-hə ʔi-dukka:neh fa:tħə
 seem-3SF the-supermarket.3SF open.3SF
 'It seems the supermarket is open.'

16- ʕakıl-u ʔi-dukka:neh fa:tħə
 seem-3SM the-supermarket-3SF open.3SF
 'It seems the supermarket is open.'

Two predicates in JA namely, waaðʕh and ʔimbayyin 'clear' can be combined with the 3SF proleptic pronouns. Consider examples (18-19) below.

17- waaðʕh-hə ʔinnu ʕali mari:ðʕ
 clear-3SF that Ali sick
 'It is clear that Ali is sick.'

18- ʔimbayn-əh ʔinnu ʕali ʕand-u ʕuyul ʔikθi:r

clear-3SF that Ali at/have -3SM work lots

'It is clear that Ali has lots of work.'

Moreover, there is a null proleptic pronoun where the agreement morpheme indicates the phi-features. In JA, the embedded CP is heralded by a null proleptic pronoun and its null or overt agreement morpheme. With 3SF, the agreement morpheme is overt, but with 3SM it is null as in (20-21 respectively).

19- ʔimbayn-əh ʔinnu ʕali ʕand-u ʃuʔul ʔikθi:r
clear-3SF that Ali at/have-3SM work lots

'It is clear that Ali has lots of work.'

20- ʔimbayn-Ø ʔinnu ʕali ʕand-u ʃuʔul ʔikθi:r
clear/seem-3SM that Ali at/have-3SM work lots

'It is clear that Ali has lots of work.'

Causative verbs like ʔaʕjab, ʔazzan, and farraḥ 'surprised', 'saddened', and 'made happy', respectively, can take null proleptic pronouns.

21- ʔaʕjab-Ø-ni ʔnnu ʕali najaḥ
surprise.3SM.PAST-1S.ACC that Ali succeed.3SMPAST
b-il-ʔimtiḥa:n
in-the-exam

'It surprised me that Ali succeeded in the exam.'

In (22), the null proleptic pronoun exhibits in the null agreement morpheme. It is worth mentioning here that the masculine morphology is always the null proleptic pronoun used with this type of verb.

3.1.4 Clausal dependents of adjectives

In this case, the use of the proleptic pronoun is conditioned by the presence of a preposition after the adjective. The proleptic pronoun receives the θ-role of the object of preposition and heralds the embedded CP, as shown in (23) below.

22- ʔana mitʔakkid min-ħə ʔinnu marat-u
I am certain Prep-3SF that wife-his
bi-tsu:g taksi

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Imperf-drive.3SF taksi

'I am certain of it that his wife drives a taxi.'

23- *ʔana mitʔakkid-hə ʔinnu marat-u I
certain-3SF that wife-his

bɪ-tsu:g taksi

Imperf-drive.3SF taxi

'I am certain of it that his wife drives a taxi.'

Notice that the use of the preposition and the proleptic pronoun in this construction is optional, as seen in (25).

24- ʔana mitʔakkid ʔinnu marat-u I
certain that

bɪ-tsu:g taksi

Imperf-drive.3SF taksi

'I am certain that his wife drives a taxi.'

3.1.5 Clausal dependents of PP-selecting verbs

25- kunt ʔaħlam fɪ:-hə ʔinnu ʔarbaħ maljo:n
be dream.1S Prep-3SF that Pres-win-1S million

dɪ:na:r

dinar

'I was dreaming of it that I win a million dinars.'

The above example shows that the proleptic pronoun is in a subcategorized position as the object of the preposition. Notice that the omission of the pp fɪ:-hə 'of it' does not affect the meaning and the grammaticality of the sentence as in (27).

26- kunt ʔaħlam ʔinnu ʔarbaħ maljo:n dɪ:na:r
be dream.1S that Pres-win-1S million dinar

'I was dreaming that I win a million dinars.'

3.2 heik/heif 'that' as a proleptic proform in JA

Proleptic proforms are conventionally personal pronouns, like it in English. In other languages, there is a richer inventory. For example, Dutch and Hungarian reveal

morphological variations regarding their proleptic proforms. On the one hand, Dutch uses the personal pronoun *het* 'it' or the locative proform *er* 'there' in the proleptic position as in (28) (Bennis, 1986). On the other hand, Hungarian displays variation between the personal/demonstrative pronoun *az* 'it' and the adverb of manner *Úgy* 'so/thus' as in (29) (den Dikken, 2018).

27- *Het/Er is gebleken dat 14% van de Belgen in armoede left*
It/there is turned out that 14% of the Belgians in poverty lives
'It has turned out that 14% of the Belgian population lives in poverty.'
 Dutch

28- *Az/ Úgy látszik, hogy Mari terhes*
It / so seems that Mary is pregnant
'It seems that Mary is pregnant.' (Hungarian)

Likewise, JA exhibits a demonstrative element that can be used as a proleptic proform for the subordinate clause, namely *heik/heif* 'that'. Consider the following dialogue.

Speaker A: *ʔil-madrasesh bukrah ʔimsakreh, la: ti:ɖʒi*
 the-school tomorrow closed Neg
 c o m e
'The school is closed tomorrow; do not come.'
 Speaker B: *mitʔakkid? mi:n ʔakə heik?*
 sure who say.3SM.PAST that
'Are you sure? Who said so?'
 Speaker A: *ʔil-mudi:r ʔakə heik ʔinnu ʔ i l -*
 m a d r a s e h
 the-principal say.3SM.PAST that that the-school
 bukrah ʔimsakreh
 tomorrow closed
'The principal said (so) that the school is closed tomorrow.'
 Speaker B: *ʔiðə l-mudi:r ʔakə heik ma:ʃi*

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If the-principle say.3SM.PAST that walk
 'If the principal said that, it's ok.'

The proleptic proform *heik* 'that' is in the matrix clause and receives the θ -role of the direct object. This can be proved by using the adverbial *ʕalanan* 'publicly' after *heik* 'that' and before the subordinate clause as in (31).

29- ʔil-mudī:r ʔakə heik ʕalanan ʔinnu
 the-principal say.3SM.PAST that publicly that
 ʔil-madrəseh bukraḥ ʔimsakreḥ
 the-school tomorrow closed

'The principal said (that) publicly that the school is closed tomorrow.'

It is vital to mention that this proleptic proform is commonly used with verbs like *ʔakə/ga:l* 'say', *simiʕ* 'hear', *ʕirif* 'know', *sʕa:r* 'become /happen', *saʔal* 'ask' and *ʔa:yef* 'see' with a null or overt complementizer in the subordinate clause. Consider the following examples:

30- ʔana simiʕit heik ʔinnu sami ʕimil ʔa:dθ w
 I hear-PAST that that Sami made accident and
 ma:t
 die.3SM.PAST

'I heard (that) that Sami had an accident and died.'

31- heik sʕa:r sami ʕimil ʔa:dθ w
 that happen-PAST Sami made accident and
 ma:t
 die.3SM.PAST

'That happened that Sami had an accident and died.'

32- ʔana heik ʔa:yef ʔinnu la:zim ʔinsa:ʕid
 I that Pres-see that must help.1P.INF
 baʕðʕ-ne
 some-us

'I (that) see that we must help each other.'

A piece of evidence that shows that the proleptic proform *heik* 'that' heralds the clause comes from the question tag. Consider the following example:

- 33- *ʔana ʔakeit-lə-k ti:dʒi badri muʃ heik*
I say.1S.PAST-to-you come early Neg that
'I told you to come early, didn't I?'

In the above example, the proform is anaphoric to the full preamble *ʔana ʔakeit-lə-k ti:dʒi badri* 'I told you to come early' where *heik* refers to the full sentence.

It cannot be argued that the proleptic proform is born inside the subordinate clause as the specifier of C and then subextracted from the CP into the matrix clause. Empirical evidence from JA shows that it is difficult to argue for cases in which the proleptic proform combines with a CP whose entire left periphery is occupied, as in the examples (36-37).

- 34- *Sami saʔal heik ʔayya kta:b ʔilli*
Sami ask.3SM.PAST that which book that
sa:mia ʔaxðat-u
samia take.3SF.PAST-3SM
Lit, 'Sami asked which book that Samia took.'

- 35- *ʔilli badd-i ʔaʕrif-u ʔayya kta:b ʔilli*
what want.1 know.1S-3SM which book that
samia ʔaxðat-u
Samia take.3SF.PAST-3SM
'What I want to know (it) is which book Samia took.'

As shown in the above examples, the C and the specifier of C are full, and there is no chance for the proleptic proform to be born inside the subordinate clause and subextracted into the matrix clause.

So far, it has been noticed that there is optionality in the selection of the proleptic pronoun gender in some diathesis. In others, it depends on the type of verbs used in the constructions. Causative verbs combine with masculine null proleptic pronouns. Verbs of saying combine with feminine proleptic pronouns. Free-standing proleptic pronouns of matter or story, preferably combined with masculine pronouns, do not

ban combining with feminine ones. Epistemic verbs combine with feminine proleptic pronouns. Finally, verbs that select question complementation combine with masculine proleptic pronouns.

3.3 Syntactic analysis of proleptic proforms

We argue that the proleptic pronoun is the actual argument getting its content specified by the CP in the asyndetic coordination structure. To prove this argument, binding tests show that we are dealing with true arguments. The proleptic weather pronoun (3SF) is in a referential dependency with the silent pronoun as in (38).

36- xalı:-na ʔınrawwıñ bad-hə tıftı w bəʕdein
let-us go.1P.Pres want-3SF rain.3SF and then
tıtıdɔʒ
snow.3SF

‘Let’s go home; it is going to rain, then snow.’

In (38), the proleptic pronoun -hə is the binder of the silent little pro. Thus, it should be an argument.

Moreover, this argument can be supported by using an adjunct clause between the proleptic pronoun and the subordinate clause, where the proleptic pronoun in the matrix clause is in a referential dependency with the silent object in the adjunct clause. Consider the following examples:

37- ʔımbayn-əh bıdu:n fıhım, ʔınnu ʕalı ʕand-u
clear-3SF without understanding, that Ali at/have-3SM
ʕıyul ʔıkθıir
work lots

‘It is clear, without understanding, that Ali has lots of work.’

38- ʔana mıʔakkıd min-hə, bıdu:n ʔək, ʔınnu marat-u
I certain Prep-3SF, no doubt, that wife-his
bı-tsu:g taksi
Imperf-drive.3SF taxi

‘I am certain of it, no doubt, that his wife drives a taxi.’

39- ʔıʕtabar-hə ʕeıb, bıdu:n taraddud, ʔınnu

consider.3SM.PAST shame, without hesitating, that
marat-u ʔitsu:g taksi
wife-his drive.3SF taxi

'He considers it a shame, without hesitating, that his wife drives a taxi.'

40- ʔakıl-hə, bıdu:n tafsʕi:l, ʔıl-muʔkıləh ma:
seem-3SF, without illustrating, the-problem Neg
ʔıl-hə həl
has-3SF solution

'It seems, without illustrating, the problem has no solution.'

In examples (39-42), the silent object pronoun in the non-finite adjunct clause is bound by the proleptic pronoun in the matrix clause. Therefore, since these proleptic pronouns can serve as binders, we can argue that they can be arguments.

A frequent usable adjunct clause in JA with these constructions is bəd-ha:-ʃ + gerund 'it does not need + gerund', which is used between the proleptic pronoun and the embedded clause. The pronoun in this clause refers to the proleptic pronoun. Consider the following examples:

41- ʔımbayn-əh, bəd-ha:-ʃ fıhım, ʔınnu ʕalı
clear-3SF, need-3SF-Neg understanding, that Ali
ʕand-u ʔıyul ʔıkθi:r
at/have-3SM work lots

'It is clear it does not need understanding that Ali has lots of work.'

42- ʔana mitʔakkıd min-hə, bəd-ha:-ʃ ʔək, ʔınnu
I certain Prep-3SF, need-3SF-Neg doubting, that
marat-u bı-tsu:g taksi
wife-his Imperf-drive.3SF taxi

'I am certain of it, it does not need doubting, that his wife drives a taxi.'

43- ʔakıl-hə, bəd-ha:-ʃ tafsʕi:l, ʔıl-muʔkıləh
seem-3SF, need-3SF-Neg illustrating, the-problem
ma: ʔıl-hə həl

Neg has-3SF solution

'It seems, without illustrating, the problem has no solution.'

In (42), we argue that the proleptic pronoun is the subject of a silent predicate. *ʃakl* 'seem' combines with a small clause containing the proleptic pronoun as the subject, and the silent predicate could be the 'true' or 'fact'. Thus, the proleptic pronoun is the subject of predication, and the predicate is silent.

4. Conclusion

It has been found that proleptic proforms associated to subordinate clauses are attested in JA. These proforms can be the direct, indirect objects or the subjects of verbs. The optionality of the proleptic proforms supports the claim that we are dealing with authentic arguments. The deletion of the proleptic proform when it occupies the subject of small clause complements of verbs leads to ungrammaticality. This can be argued to support the conclusion that we are dealing with genuine arguments. It has also been argued that the proleptic proforms receive a θ -role connected indirectly with the CP. This is particularly clear from the fact that the proleptic proform can receive the θ -role of the object of preposition and herald the subordinate clause. The (optional) use of these proleptic proforms after the preposition is strong evidence that they cannot be expletives. *heik/heif* is a proleptic proform that can also be used in JA to herald the embedded clause. Finally, binding tests and referential dependencies support the conclusion that all the proleptic proforms investigated in this paper are true arguments.

شبه الجملة المضمّنة في ضمير استباقيّ في العربية الأردنيّة

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عقاب الشواشرة، قسم اللغة الإنجليزيّة وآدابها، جامعة اليرموك، إربد، الأردن.

ملخص

يهدف هذا البحث إلى التحقيق في حالات شبه الجملة المضمّنة في ضمير استباقيّ في العربية الأردنيّة، حيث يرتبط الضمير بمكمل يقع على الحافة اليمنى للجملة. لا تحتوي العربية الأردنيّة على ألفاظ حشوية (تستخدم ملء الفراغ) أصيلة، ولكنها تحتوي على ضمائر مُسبقة تدل على الجمل المضمّنة. يتم الإعلان عن الجمل المضمّنة التابعة من خلال إضافة مرتبطة بالفعل، أو ضمير فارغ. ندعي أن هذه الضمائر تنشأ في الحالات التي تحمل علامة ثيتا. هناك تركيبات مختلفة تتلقى فيها الضمائر الاستباقية أدوار ثيتا. الممثلات المقولية المضمّنة في ضمير استباقي هي تقليدياً ضمائر شخصية مثل (it) في اللغة الإنجليزيّة. وقد وجد أنه في اللغات الأخرى، هناك مخزون أكثر ثراء. بعض اللغات، بما في ذلك الهولندية والمجرية، تكشف عن تنوع صرفي فيما يتعلق بالممثلات المقولية المضمّنة في ضمير استباقي. وبالمثل، تعرض العربية الأردنيّة، إلى جانب عناصر الضمائر البحتة، عنصراً توضيحياً يمكن استخدامه كصيغة استدلال للجملة الثانوية، وهي هيك / هيتش.

الكلمات المفتاحيّة: شبه الجملة المضمّنة في ضمير استباقيّ، العربية الأردنيّة، الممثل المقولي، شبه الجمل التابعة، دور ثيتا.

- (1) - The acceptability of these examples was checked by some Egyptian and Lebanese friends.
- (2) - Those linguists used the term 'bind'; we want to stay away from this term for the time being because it has not been shown that binding is what is involved.
- (3) - This is something that matches the behaviour of non-proleptic masculine and feminine pronouns in JA.

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