

Nahw - The Grammatical States in Arabic Language - Part 2

In the last post we started discussing the concept of *grammatical states* in the Arabic Language and saw a few examples where an اسم took on these grammatical states. It was also mentioned that the اسم itself can occur in Arabic sentences in the form of more than simply nouns. In fact, an اسم can act like an:

1. Adjective e.g. *The **green** apple*
2. Adverb e.g. *He ran **quickly***
3. Object of Preposition e.g. *in the **house***
4. Adverb of time and place e.g. *I met Amr **yesterday***
5. Adverb of reason and cause e.g. *I stood up **out of respect***

In this post I will introduce quite a few more grammatical terms, all of which form part of Arabic sentences and all of which will be اسم , and then we will see how each of these terms fall into one of the 3 grammatical states. Since there are only 3 grammatical states which an اسم can take but multiple ways in which it can occur in an Arabic sentence therefore جر ، رفع نصب will cover a lot more than just indicating the Subject/Object/Possessive characterization, as we had mentioned in the previous post. In fact, there are 22 positions or grammatical states in an Arabic sentence which an اسم can take. This will entail defining a whole set of new grammatical terms, some of which we have already seen. Let's start from the basics and see how it works.

We had earlier said that there are two kind of sentences in Arabic: جملة اسميه (Nominal Sentence) and جملة فعليه (Verbal Sentence). We can extract 5 separate grammatical terms from these two type of sentences:

1. (مبتداء = Boy , خبر = Standing) i.e. *The boy is standing* e.g. الولدُ قائمٌ . مبتداء : جمله اسميه .

2. (فعل = Hit , فاعل = Hamid) i.e. *Hamid hit* e.g. ضَرَبَ حَامِدٌ . جمله فعليه .

i.e. *Hamid hit Ahmad*, then Ahmad, the object of the verb *hit*, becomes مفعول به

3. If we were to change the sentence above to passive voice i.e. *Ahmad was hit*, then the فاعل

(Hamid) is no more present and the مفعول به (Ahmad) becomes the subject of the sentence. In

such cases it is called نائب فاعل , or the *deputy doer*

In addition to this we have also been introduced to the concept of *phrase* and already know that a possessive phrase consists of two parts:

1. مضاف اليه (The possessor)

2. مضاف (The possessed)

This is now the right time to introduce another term which is frequently encountered in Arabic

sentences, called مجرور . As you may have guessed correctly this is the state when an اسم goes in the

state of جر . In Arabic, whenever an اسم is preceded by a preposition it automatically goes into جر . An

example of this is: في البيت (in the house). Note that البيت has entered its grammatical state because of

the preposition في in front of it. There are certain particles in Arabic which cause an اسم to enter a

specific grammatical state. These particles are known as **Governing Agents**. There are 17 of them in

total. However, we will start with only two at this time and will see how the two of them affect the

grammatical state of an اسم. These two particles are:

1. كان

2. إن

Both these governing agents affect جمله اسميه and cancel the original grammatical states of مبتدأ and خبر

.Also, the name of both these terms change as well when a sentence contains either كان or إن

. What was earlier known as مبتدأ is now known as اسمُ كان (Ism of kana) and in case of إن as اسمُ إن

(Ism of Inna). Similarly, the predicates are known as خبرُ إن and خبرُ كان .

So, all in all we have 12 terms at our disposal and the rules of نحو will dictate which grammatical state

each of these terms go in. Firstly, since we are only concerned with اسم at this stage, therefore we will

remove فعل from our list, leaving us with 11 terms to deal with. The following table lists which

grammatical state each falls in:

رفع	فاعل , نائب فاعل , مبتدأ , خبر , اسمُ كان , خبرُ إن
نصب	مفعول به , اسمُ إن , خبرُ كان
جر	مضاف إليه , مجرور

Now this is a lot of information! Insha Allah I will give a number of examples in the coming posts for each of these rules so that they become easy to understand.