



## THE USE OF WH- MOVEMENT IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC LANGUAGE

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**Abstract:**

When the average reader looks at the subject, he may think that it has no value or importance, just that it is a passing subject in the English language, but when we look into it, we will find that it has a major role in changing the course of the English sentence and changing its meaning, so we will try as much as possible to surround the subject in order to reach the main idea Which teaches us the importance of this topic is meant to delineate the syntax of wh-movement in Arabic within the The scope of this study is limited to examine only simple, relativized and indirect verbal information questions. Further restrictions also have been placed on tense and negation in that only past tense affirmative questions are tackled here. Languages vary not only as to where they place wh-words or phrases, but also in the constraints governing the movement process, in general. In spite of the different kinds of movement that languages feature all of such syntactic phenomena do share a common property, the movement of a category from a place to another.

**1. "WH-Questions" in English Language:**

The ability to how to form a question in the English language is a necessary skill for every student or interested in learning English, there is no doubt that asking questions and answers is one of the basics of conversation in the English language and in any language in general so that you can discuss well Originally, there are two types of questions in the English language, the first is a question, a question, the answer is yes or no, and the second type is a question using the interrogative and interrogative tools. They are words that come at the beginning of the question, such as (where, when, what, who, whose, which, why, how) etc. They are called open questions because the possible responses are limitless, and this means that the answer is no It should be yes or no, but it should carry more meanings. (Maqsood, 2018,p.203)

The question in the English language begins with an interrogative first, the interrogative tool Directly distracted by the auxiliary verb Followed by a subject, whether it is a pronoun or a noun After that, complete the sentence with the appropriate form All languages are similar and different from each other The basis that suggests that all languages are similar, the current research attempts to investigate the parametric variation in English in terms of the question tools WH- Our research focuses on investigating the Wh movement of the English language Furthermore, it focuses on the role it plays and how the Wh movement affected the grammar of The sentence and why it always runs towards the front position of the sentence In English, Wh-motion is a syntax process by which a Wh-statement exits from its internal position within the sentence to being the motor of the sentence resulting in the sentence surface structure (what, who, who, where, Why, whom) Question tools in the English language.(ibid)

**2. WH and Function:**

Question Word	Function	Example Sentence
What	asking for information about something	What is her name?
When	asking about time	When did she come?
Where	asking in or at what place or position	Where do you live?
Which	asking about choice	Which book do you want?
Who	asking what or which person or people (subject)	Who opened the window?
Whom	asking what or which person or people (object)	Whom did you call?
Why	asking for reason, asking what...for	Why do you talk like this?
Whose	asking about ownership	Whose are these shoes? -Whose turn is it?

(Friedmann, 2009, p.16-19)

**3. Classification of Wh-Movement:**

Wh-movement can be classified into following categories on the basis of distance and on the basis of position regarding the application of the movement

**3.1 Distance Based Classification:**

On the basis of distance, Wh-movement can be classified into followings

### **3.1.1 Wh-movement with no Distance:**

The movement of a Wh-expression in a sentence containing one clause termed as Wh-movement without distance. Such as what are you saying?

### **3.1.2 Wh-movement Based on Distance:**

The movement of a Wh-phrase in a sentence which contains one main clause and two or more subordinate clauses regarded as the Wh-movement with distance. In such types of sentences, a Wh-expression moves from its extracting point of the subordinate clause towards the landing point of the complementiser phrase specifier position of. Wh-movement with distance takes place in a cyclic fashion, e.g. what did you think that he eat t?

### **4. Wh-Movement with Multiple Wh-Expressions:**

There are a number of sentences containing one or more than one Wh-words. The movement of Wh-word in such a sentence based on the Attracts Closest Principle This principle states, "A head which attracts a given kind of constituent attracts the closest constituent of the relevant kind" e.g. who might he think tv has done what? The above example is the s-structure representation of the D-structure of the following sentence; he might think who has done what? Since in the sentence, there are two Wh-words who according to e "who" is closer to the main clause than "what", so "who" will move. (Maqsood, 2018, p.204)

## **5. Types Questions:**

### **5.1 Simple wh-Questions:**

The word "simple" is used here to distinguish this type of information questions from relativized and indirect questions. In this type, the wh-word moves from its original site (wh-subject, wh-object or non-argument positions) to one of the potential specifier positions mentioned earlier leaving a trace in its extraction site The examples below show that wh-words in can originate in argument and non-argument positions. As far as the argument positions are concerned, wh-phrases can originate e.g where do you live? (Batoosh, 2010, p.11)

### **5.2 Argument Questions:**

It is something whose answer is clear, understandable, and also predictable it is a question that consists of two parts, which means that you should discuss or debate with the questioner when answering, because the question requires this type of answer e.g why should I do or think that? (ibid, 2010, p.11)

### **5.3 Non-argument Questions:**

In plain English, this means that I am saying something, but there is no way to prove it is accurate or inaccurate. An example might help: "I have my say." This means nothing. , and I have no evidence that something happened, it's just a guess or expectation of the situation, for example, what if it rains tomorrow!? (ibid, 2010, p.12)

### **5.4 Relativized Questions:**

A relative clause is one kind of dependent clause. It has a subject and verb, but can't stand alone as a sentence. It is sometimes called an "adjective clause" because it functions like an adjective it gives more information about a noun.

Relative clauses are clauses starting with the relative pronouns who\*, that, which, whose, where, when. They are most often used to define or identify the noun that precedes them. Here are some examples: Do you know the girl who started in grade 7 last week? Can I have the pencil that I gave you this morning? A relative pronoun is a word that introduces a dependent (or relative) clause and connects it to an independent clause. A clause beginning with a relative pronoun is poised to answer questions such as which one? How many? or What kind? Who, whom, what, which, and that are all relative pronouns. (Freidmann, 2009, p.72)

## **6. WH Questions in Arabic Language:**

### **6.1 Introduction:**

Wh-question is a term in generative grammar for a question that is formed with an interrogative word, (what, who, whom, whose, which, when, where, why, or how), that Wh-questions are marked by a wh-word and subject /verb inversion (or subject-auxiliary inversion), except in those cases where the subject itself is a wh-word. Wh-questions are also known as wh-interrogatives, information-seeking questions, and content questions Department. The results showed that learners had lacked the requisite skills and practice in questions formation Appreciating the importance of asking questions in the classroom "questions are the corner-stone around which all interaction and activities between the teacher and his/her students take place at every stage of teaching The researchers attributed the learners' failure to: mother tongue interference, large classes, lack of motivation, lack of exposure, inadequate syllabus, improper teaching materials, tasks and methodology. (Addaibani, 2017, p.19).

### **7. Types of questions in Arabic:**

There are two types of questions in the Arabic language

"wh-questions".

"yes-no questions"

In our research, we will focus on the first type of questions and what role it plays in the sentence, its types, and its equivalent in Arabic language

"w-questions"

In this type of question, we use interrogative forms, the first of which begins with "wh", and the answer cannot be: yes, or "yes/no". These tools are

Where Where do you live أي أي Which Any/whichever meaning When choosing between two or more options (sane or unreasonable) Which food do you like to eat: fish or meat? أي أي Why Meaning: why/why. When asked about the reason or purpose Why did he travel to Iraq? أي أي What Meaning: what/what When asking about the irrational subject (animal/inanimate/plant/...), or the irrational object the question about the irrational subject أي أي ? What is your name أي أي When ? Meaning: when/at what time. When asked for the date or time When does he get up? أي أي Who (Used to ask about wise people) Who is your brother? أي أي واخوك؟ هو من who/that used to refer to the wise I met the man who won the prize أي أي Whose Who/who owns?whose Whose is this car? أي أي السيارة؟ هذه ل من	
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### 8. Conclusion:

The difference between the two languages is clear from the first sight, as we find that the English language has an auxiliary verb and the Arabic language does not have an auxiliary verb Wh- questions in English are generally formed with the assistance of an auxiliary verb (be, do have or a modal verb) that should go in accordance with the subject and tense of the sentence. Wh- questions in English follows a strict order: wh- + an auxiliary verb + subject + main verb Examples: Be: What did he watch on TV yesterday? Do: How do they live? Why didn't you inform me? Have: How long has lived here? Modal: Who can swim? Who (m) should she meet? When the question with (be) is about the subject of the sentence. (Addaibani, 2017, p.20)

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