

the type of negative used in the first proposition; the second proposition can be either a full sentence, or can restate in modified form one element in the first sentence, leaving the remainder to be assumed to be identical in the two propositions: 'ما بَحَثْنَا هَذَا وَلَا حَاوَلْنَا بَحْثَهُ' 'we did not investigate this, nor did we attempt its investigation'; 'ليس الرجل في البيت ولا المرأة' 'the man is not in the house, nor is the woman';

هَذَا غَيْرُ صَحِيحٍ وَلَا عَادِلٍ 'this is untrue and unjust'

§9: 13. The answer 'No!' to a question is لَا, or more emphatically كَلَّا 'No indeed!'; 'certainly not!':

§9: 14. لَا is also a generalized negative used to restate in modified form one element in a preceding proposition: اعتقدت هذا لا ذلك 'I believed this, not that'. Occasionally لَيْسَ may be encountered employed in a similar way: 'حكم على البلاد كلها ليس على العاصمة فقط' 'he ruled over the whole country, not over the capital alone'. In modern Arabic there is a limited range of nouns and adjectives with which لَا forms a compound word: 'لاسلكي' 'wireless', 'لا نهائي' 'interminable', 'لا شيء' 'a nullity'. Quite common, however, is the insertion of لَا between the preposition *bi* and its noun, in the sense 'without': 'بلا شك' 'without doubt'.

§9: 15. The verbal abstract عَدَمَ 'absence, non-existence' may be annexed to another verbal abstract with the function of negating it: 'عدم إمكان هذا' 'the impossibility of this'.

§9: 16. لَنْ is an emphatic negative of the future: 'لَنْ يذهب' 'he will certainly not go'.

§9: 17. قَطْ placed after a negative reinforces it in much the same way as does English 'at all': 'لَا أعلم قط' 'I do not know at all'.

## 10

### INTENSIFIED ADJECTIVES AND SIMILAR WORD PATTERNS

§10: 1. A word pattern *أَفْعَل* is often used as an adjective having an intensified sense 'particularly/specially so-and-so'; parallel to the simple adjective *سَرِيع* 'speedy' there is *أَسْرَعَ* 'particularly speedy'; parallel to *كَبِير* there is *أَكْبَر* 'specially big'. Like other adjectives, these are capable of functioning as nouns [§1: 21]. Except as described below [§10: 8], this pattern has no differentiation between masculine and feminine, or between singular and plural.

§10: 2. When the sentence contains an entry-term used as a standard of comparison expressed by the use of the preposition *مِنْ* (which in this case is equivalent to 'in relation to'), the intensified adjective must be rendered in English by the 'more . . .' or '-er' form: 'كتاب أكبر من هذا' 'a bigger book than this'; 'هو أعرف بهذا منا' 'he is more acquainted with this than we are'. This may also be the case in contexts where a standard of comparison is clearly implied even if not overtly stated.

§10: 3. When an intensified word-pattern of this kind functions as a noun annexed to an entry-term describing a category within which the noun alluded to by the intensified pattern is included, then the intensified word pattern must be rendered by 'most . . .' or '-est' forms in English. Two possible structures occur in this case, the first being that in which the category term is a defined plural: 'هذا أكبر كتبه' 'this is the biggest of his books'; 'هو أعرفنا بهذا' 'he is the best acquainted of us with this'.

§10: 4. An alternative to this structure is one in which the category term is expressed by an undefined singular: 'أصعب مشكلة لاقيناها' 'the most difficult problem which we have encountered'; 'أفيل ملك في العالم' 'the noblest king in the world'.

§10: 5. When an intensified word pattern is annexed to a defined singular, it signifies 'the . . .-est part of'. Hence, whereas *أسفل المدن*

[§10:3] أسفل مدينة and [§10:4] أسفل المدينة both imply 'the lowest town [among a group of other towns], the sense of المدينة أسفل is 'the lowest part of the town'.

§10:6. The category term can also be represented by a clause beginning with *ما* or *من* [§4:6]: أجمل ما رأيت 'the most beautiful thing I have seen'; أجمل من رأيت 'the handsomest person I have seen'. Such expressions can then be further particularized by the addition of an explicit category noun in the defined plural introduced by the preposition *من*: أجمل ما رأيت من المناظر 'the most beautiful sight I have seen'; أجمل منظر رأيت 'the handsomest shaikh I have seen'. These latter structures are consequently congruous in sense with أجمل شيخ رأيت and أجمل منظر رأيت.

§10:7. When there is no standard of comparison expressed or implied, and no category term expressed or implied, the intensified adjective form must be rendered by 'very...' or by the simple unqualified adjective in English: الشيخ الأعم 'the very learned shaikh'; الصدر الأعظم 'the Grand Vizier'; الموضوع الأهم 'the really important subject'. This is the case with certain adjectival notions which are expressed in Arabic *only* by the intensified form, such as الأوسط 'middle'.

§10:8. Traditional, and to a large extent modern, prose usage requires that the intensified adjective form should *only* exhibit differentiation between masculine and feminine, singular and plural, when it has *itself* the article. If this is not the case, then only the context will reveal whether its implications are masculine or feminine, singular or plural: هي أجمل مدينة رأيتها 'they are the most generous of men'; هم أكرم الناس 'it is the most beautiful city I have seen'; هؤلاء أجمل النساء 'these are the most beautiful of women'. When it has the article, it is differentiated according to the following patterns:

	Masculine	Feminine
Singular	الأفعل	الفعلى
Plural	الأفاعيل	الفعلى

though there are a few such adjectives which have a masculine plural of a

الشرق الأوسط [§13:4]. Thus, الشرق الأوسط 'the Middle East', but القرون الوسطى 'the Middle Ages'.

§10:9. Instances where this principle is controverted will, however, occasionally be encountered: الطائرات الأسرع من الصوت 'supersonic aircraft', and conversely دول كبرى وصغرى 'great and small states'.

§10:10. A noun which qualifies [§1:19] an intensified adjective has the undefined form, thus contrasting with the structure involving a simple adjective. Further, the adjective is in this case *not* formally annexed to the noun, from which it follows that the noun need not immediately follow the adjective. In fact, there is a fairly strong tendency to place the qualifying noun in this structure right at the end of the sentence. The simple adjective structure لهذه المسائل هو واسع المعرفة بهذه المسائل contrasts with these problems' contrasts with these problems'. English idiom is more widely acquainted than us with these problems'. English idiom will often require sentences of this nature to be recast: كان الملك أشد من الوزير في تحصيل هذه النتائج رغبة than the minister to achieve these results'.

§10:11. نطلب 'good' and شر 'bad' are basically nouns, as in نطلب 'we seek the good', but are often incorporated into the same structures as intensified adjective forms: thus, هذا خير من ذلك 'this is a better thing than that'; شرهم 'the worst of them'.

§10:12. أول 'first' and آخر 'last' are also intensified adjectives (though slightly irregular in pattern) and occur in the annexion structures described [§10:3, 4]: أول أمر حاوله 'the first thing which he attempted'; لأول مرة 'for the first time'; آخر ليلة من الشهر 'the last night of the month'; آخر أبواب الكتاب 'the last of the book's chapters'; but أول اليوم 'the first part of the day'; آخر الأمر 'the end of the matter'.

§10:13. The pattern ما أفعل followed by an entry-term which has the status of a direct object constitutes an exclamatory sentence

structure implying surprise or admiration: ما أجهلكم 'how ignorant you are!'; ما أفضل هذا 'how excellent this is!'.  
 §10: 14. The pattern فاعل is also found in adjectives denoting

colours and certain other physical qualities; this pattern has a feminine singular فاعلة and a plural (masculine and feminine) فاعلون: الكتاب: فاعلة: فاعلون: 'the red book'; راية حمراء: 'a red flag'; عرج: 'lame (people)'.

## 11

### CIRCUMSTANCE CLAUSES

§11: 1. A 'circumstance' clause has the primary function of describing a situation which is represented as simply an attendant circumstance to the main statement; and it may have one of three possible structures: (i) it may begin immediately with an imperfect verb, or (ii) it may begin with و لَمْ followed by a perfect verb, or (if negative) with و لَمْ and an imperfect verb, or (iii) it may begin with و plus a thematic structure.

§11: 2. A circumstance clause of type (i) may either describe a situation existing simultaneously with that of the main statement, or an intention present at that time: خرج يحمل الكتاب في يده: 'he went out carrying the book in his hand'; ذهب الى عمان يخبر الملك بالأخبار: 'he went to Amman with the intention of informing the king of the news'. In type (ii) the situation is anterior in time to the main statement, and in type (iii) جرت هذه الوقائع والحرب قائمة: 'these contemporaneous events occurred when the war had ceased'; جرت هذه الوقائع والحرب قائمة: 'these events occurred while the war was going on'.

§11: 3. The purely temporal implications of a circumstance clause may, however, have added to them a logical significance which may be either causal ('inasmuch as') or antithetical ('although'). It is therefore important to recognize such a clause, and to appreciate that و is not in these cases a connective [§5: 2] and should not be translated 'and'. Clauses of types (ii) and (iii) can often be recognized by the fact that the presence of و or the thematic structure interrupts a sequence of sentences beginning with a narrative perfect verb: انصرف الوزير وقد فرغ من شغله فغضى الى عمان: 'the minister, inasmuch as he had now finished his work, departed and proceeded to Amman'; انخبروه وهو غائب عن البلاد في ذلك الوقت فزالت المناوئة كلها: 'they elected him, although he was at that time absent from the country, and all opposition ceased'.