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Adab Al-Rafidayn Journal

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Editor-in-chief

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FOREIGN RESEARCHES

Noun Sensitivity to Number System in English and Arabic: A Contrastive Study

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Abstract

The present research is concerned with studying nouns in English and their corresponding nouns in Arabic in order to determine some points of similarity and difference; particularly as far as number classes of nouns and their formation are concerned following the two descriptive models presented by Quirk, R., Sidney, G., Geoffrey, L., and Jan, S. (1985) for English and Aziz, Y. (1989)for Arabic. This research hypothesizes that forms of nouns are more complex, regular and productive in Arabic than nouns in English. In addition, the difference in the number classes of nouns and their formation in English and Arabic is due to the fact that English and Arabic belong to two different families. Thus, in order to provide a better insight in to the number classes and forms of the nouns understudy, the research consists of separate parts illustrating number classes and their formation in both English and Arabic. Then, a comparison of all the morphological techniques involved in forming number classes of nouns in both English and Arabic is highlighted and discussed expressing the points of convergence or divergence as far as the two languages are concerned. It is concluded that unlike English, Arabic nouns are governed by a large set of strict rules by means of which all classes of number are expressed with high accuracy and adequacy. Accordingly, the regularity and high efficiency of Arabic in producing an infinite number of plural nouns is an evidence for the high productivity of Arabic .

Keywords: Broken Plural, Masculine Sound Plural, Feminine Sound Plural, Variable Nouns, Mutation.

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1. Introduction

The majority of grammarians accord on defining English number system as a binary system which involves both singular and plural. Kasperaviciene (2002: 14) argues that number is a feature of parts of speech; namely, nouns, pronouns, determiners and verbs. Riordan, et al. (2015: 2) state that grammatical number is a morphological form of noun which is modulated to show the numerousity of its referents, mentioning whether the noun indicates a singular or plural. Mingazova, et al. (2016: 8388) state that number is closely related to nouns where the process of forming plural nouns is not an easy process. It demands, as Ismail (2016: 149) says at least, a good knowledge about the inflectional suffixes that are supplemented to nouns' endings as well as their usages. So, plurality can be expressed with affixes, internal vowel change, subtraction and suppletion (Aikenvald, 2018: 22).

In accordance with number, nouns can be divided into countable and uncountable nouns. Countable nouns are those nouns that have the ability to be both singular and plural, as in (pen, pens), while uncountable nouns refer to nouns which can neither be counted nor pluralized, as in (music). Certain nouns can be treated as both countable or uncountable depending on their usage, e.g.:

(1) Jane has beautiful hair.

(2) I found a hair in the tea.

Most English grammarians, Schrock (n.d.: 38) among them assert that most nouns are regularly pluralized by adding –s/-es suffixes. Schrock also mentions the existence of another category of nouns which comprises rather few nouns, this category represents the irregular plural nouns whose plural is expressed by means other than the suffix –s.

In Arabic, number is also identified in nouns, Pronouns, adjectives as well as verbs, all have singular, dual and plural distinction. Singular nouns can be singular masculine which is unmarked, or singular feminine marked with the suffix (tā') marbūṭa, 'alif-maqṣūra or 'alif-mamdūda. The dual number is marked with the suffixes (-'āni) for the nominative case, (-'ayni) for the accusative and genitive cases. Nouns also distinguish two types

of plural, regular plural, which is of two types, masculine plural nouns marked by the suffix (-'ūna) in the nominative case, (-īna) in the accusative and genitive cases and feminine regular plural with the (-āt) suffix, while the second type of plural is called irregular (broken plural) (Ahmed, 2008: 15-18). However, it is not expressed in the same manner in the two languages under study. This is mainly due to languages' specific rules of plural noun formation.

2. Aims

The main purpose of this research paper is to mainly investigate the classes of number in both English and Arabic as far as nouns are concerned. In addition, it aims to point out the similarities and differences between the two languages regarding plural noun formation.

3. Hypotheses

This paper hypothesized that:

1. English plural noun formation is simple, irregular and ambiguous in comparison with that in Arabic which is complex, regular and clear and precise.

2. Nouns are more sensitive to number distinction in Arabic than those in English.

4. Procedure

In accordance with the procedure followed here, a considerable amount of explanation about countable nouns in English is presented first. Then, a similar explanation is carried out in Arabic. After that a comparison between English and Arabic is presented to point out the similarities and differences between the two languages as far as nouns' sensitivity for number is concerned. Finally, the results obtained out of the comparison are briefly presented.

5. The Model

Quirk, R., Sidney, G., Geoffrey, L. and Jan, S. (1985) and Aziz, Y. (1989) are the two significant models adopted in this research, where the first model is for English while the latter is for Arabic. These two models are comprehensive theoretical ones giving a full a similar classification of nouns with all its types.

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6. Value of the Study

It is hoped that this research will be important for everyone who wants to enrich his/her knowledge about number system, especially the students, for whom this research can be a good source of information which the students intend to benefit from. It may also be important for teachers or scholars who want to know points of difference between English and Arabic as far as variable nouns are concerned, and therefore these differences may represent a source of mistakes that students may commit. Accordingly, this research enables them to focus on these points and give them a high priority through lots of examples and exercises while teaching, which, in turn, may help the students overcome this problem and then reduce the mistakes the students may make. Finally, this research may also be useful for translators to help them avoid making mistakes while translating.

7. Limits of the Study

This research paper is limited to the description of varible nouns with its various types, since they are the nouns that are affected by number system. Therefore, invariable nouns are not going to be dealt with whatsoever.

8. Nouns in English

Eckersley and Eckersley (1960: 19-21) define a noun as the name of anything" whether it is the name of a person, place, object….etc. These nouns can be classified depending on the two numbers (singular and plural) in to two major classes, namely variable nouns which are singular and plural which can in turn be divided into regular and irregular plurals and invariable nouns which do not show number distinction, i.e., they have only one form which can be either singular or plural.

Valeika and Buitkiene (2003: 45-49) state that number is built on countable nouns (proper and common) which are of discrete structure unlike uncountable nouns which lack this category owing to their indiscrete structure. Therefore, this research will be restricted to account for variable nouns only.

As for singular variable nouns, Stageberg (1971: 121) devotes part of his work to discuss distinguishing singular from plural nouns. He states that meaning is not always a suitable and reliable tool for measuring number; therefore, he adopts three criteria to test whether the noun is singular or plural, and they are as follows:

A. A noun is singular if one of the following pronouns can replace it "he, him, she, her, it, this and that", but if it is plural, the following pronouns will be used instead "they, them, these, and those".

B. It is possible to identify whether a noun is singular or plural through using modifiers such as "several, many, those, fifteen" or pronouns reference like "his, her, its…..etc.

C. The verb has a large and important role in determining the noun being singular or plural, so when the noun is the subject who performs the verb, the verb takes the third person singular to indicate that the subject is singular, but the verb is used without this –s when the noun is plural, as in:

(3) John plays football.

(4) The children play football.

Regarding plural variable nouns, they are divided into:

i. Regular Plural Variable Nouns

As for regular plural, it is so called since its both pronunciation and form are expectable. Concerning the pronunciation of the regular plural nouns, Stageberg (ibid: 124-125), Quirk et al (1985: 304), Azar (1996: 134-137) and Swan (2016: 118) notice that the regular plural suffix (-s) or (-es) can be pluralized by three different allomorphs, they are:

A. /iz/ after /s, z, ʤ, ʧ, ʃ /, as in (houses, quizzes, wishes, pages).

B. /z/ after voiced sounds, for instance (toys, days, rooms).

C. /s/ after voiceless sounds, as in (cats, disks, cups).

Regarding its form, nouns are marked by its coincidence with an inflectional category of number; therefore, the suffix (-s) or (-es) is used to alter singular nouns into plural ones. Quirk et al (1985: 304) explain the suffix (-s) or (-es) is added to the stem in the following cases:

1. The suffix (-es) is added if the noun ends in (ch, sh, x, z, s), as in (witches, dishes, boxes, buses). There are some exceptions to this rule like:

A. If (ch) is pronounced (k), only (-s) is added, as in (patriarch, patriarchs).

B. Some vowels+z, the (z) should be doubled before adding (-es), such as (quiz/quizzes; fez/fezzes).

2. When a noun ends in a consonant+o, the suffix (-es) is only added to it, as in (tomato, tomatoes), but it is also remarked that some nouns in spite of their ending in (-o), take (-s) only, for instance (zero/zeros, kilo/kilos). But when nouns end in (a vowel+o), they are pluralized by adding (-s) only, for example (stereo, stereos).

3. When a noun ends in a consonant or vowels such as (e) or (a), (-s) is added, as in (pen/pens; book/books; bicycle/bicycles; lake/lakes; sea/seas).

4. A noun ending with the sequence (vowel+y), this (y) remains and only (-s) is added, such as (toy/toys), but if the sequence is (a consonant+y), in this case (y) is shifted into (i) and (-es) is annexed to the stem, as in (faculty/faculties; candy/candies) (Quirk et al, 1985:305)

Schrock (n.d.: 38) asserts that by far most English nouns are regularly pluralized by adding (-s/-es) suffixes. He adds that even when new nouns are borrowed or introduced into English, they are sometimes treated as regular nouns by adopting the same suffixes to convert them to plural, as in (dot. coms).

ii. Irregular Plural variable Nouns

These nouns are identified as a kind of plural whose form cannot be expected. Depending on the changes that take place in the structure of a noun resulting from the addition of the plural suffixes, it becomes possible to classify irregular plurals into the following:

1. Zero plural: Stageberg (1971: 124-125) and Quirk et al (1985: 307) allude to the existence of some nouns that have a fixed form and pronunciation in both singular and plural, the nouns that have the same forms are:

A. The name of some animals like (deer, fish, sheep).

B. Some nouns preceded by a numeral or quantifier, as in (three million dollars).

C. Some expressions used for measurements like "foot" (a unit of length) or "pound" (a unit of weight), such as (thirty pound)..

D. With nationalities that end in (-ese) like (Japanese, Chinese…etc)

2. Voicing

Quirk et al (ibid: 305-306) state that some nouns are pluralized by altering the voiceless sound, then adding (-s):

A. Nouns ending in (-f/-fe): Quirk et al identify some nouns ending in (-f) or (-fe), they are about twelve, these nouns form plural by altering (-f/-fe) into (-ves), as in (wife/ wives; life/ lives; knife/ knives' calf/ calves)

B. /θ/ is sometimes transformed into /ð/ like (mouth) /məuθ/ (mouths) /məuðz/.

C. Other nouns ending in (-f) or (-fe) can be pluralized by adding (-s) only, as in (cliff/ cliffs; safe/ safes).

D. Some nouns mark their plurals by adding either (-s) or (-es), for instance (scarf) is pluralized, as in (scarfs) or (scarves); (hoof) is pluralized as (hoofs) or (hooves).

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3. Foreign Plural

Quirk et al (1985: 311) define foreign plural as particular nouns that are taken from other languages, this kind of plural co-exists as a substitution of regular plurals. English prefers retaining the original forms of nouns that are taken from other languages, but nowadays, there are some attempts, especially in American English to pluralize these nouns by adding the suffixes (-s) or (-es) instead of their original inflectional suffixes, this can be applied to the nouns that are frequently used. Some foreign nouns can be pluralized both regularly and through the borrowing of their plural foreign origins. Foreign plurals are usually used for technical purposes unlike regular plurals that are used naturally in everyday use of the language; therefore, (formulas) has a general usage, whereas in mathematics (formulae) is adopted:

Table (1) Foreign Nouns with Two Plurals

singular	plural
formula	Formulae/formulas
index	Indices/indexes
memorandum	Memoranda/memorandums

Quirk et al (ibid: 313) identify the nouns that take foreign plural as follows:

Table (2) Foreign Plural (Latin Words)

singular	plural
stimulus	stimuli
nucleus	nuclei
formula	formulae

alumna	alumnae

Table (3) Foreign Plural (Greek Words)

singular	plural
hypothesis	hypotheses
analysis	analyses
crisis	crises
basis	bases

It is important to mention that some nouns ending in (-o) can be pluralized by changing (-o) to (-i), as in the Italian word (tempo/ tempi).

4. Mutation

Quirk et al (1985: 305) mention that the plural of some irregular nouns are marked by altering their medial vowel, for example (man/men; tooth/teeth; louse/ lice).

5. Plural (-en)

Some nouns form their plural by adding (-r)en, this kind of plural is found in some words that are about three like (child/ children; ox/ oxen; brother/ brothren).

Quirk et al also talk about pluralizing compound nouns by saying that the majority of compound nouns are pluralized by adding (-s) to the end of the last word, as in (armchair/ armchairs; pencil case/ pencil cases). With some compounds, both the first and the last

word are pluralized like (women doctors, men servants). Quirk et al identify certain compounds that have adjectives, prepositions, or adverbs occurring as the last word, in this case, only the first word is pluralized like (courts material, daughters-in-law, lookers-on).

9. Nouns in Arabic

Abdul-Hameed (1965: 26) defines a noun as a word that has an independent meaning. He divides nouns into two types, namely concrete like (بيت) (house) and abstract, as in (شجاعة) (courage). He states that nouns differ from other parts of speech by accepting one or even more than one of the following markers:

1. Nouns accept nūnation, for example (شجرةٌ, شجرةً , شجرةٍ).

2. Nouns accept the definite article (ال) (the) like (الطفل) (the child).

3. Nouns accept the vocative (ياء) (yā'), as in (يا فتى) (you boy).

4. Nouns accept occurring in genitive case, for example:

يلعبُ الولدُ بالكرةِ(5)   (The boy plays with the ball).

On his turn, Aziz (1989: 99) defines nouns as essential elements functioning as the head of a noun phrase. Ahmed (2008: 17-21) mentions that Arabic nouns contain three numbers, namely singular, dual and plural. Concerning singular, they are unmarked, whereas the rest are formed by adding certain suffixes to the endings of nouns, i.e., the dual and regular plural, or by making certain alternations within the word, i.e., broken plural.

Aziz (1989: 99) classifies nouns into two types, namely variable and invariable nouns. Variable nouns are those nouns that have both regular and irregular forms:

A. Regular Variable Nouns
They include nouns that alter their forms from singular to dual or plural by adding predictable suffixes. Concerning regular variable nouns, they are presented as follows:

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1. Dual

In Arabic, the majority of singular nouns are made dual by taking the suffix (ان-) ('alif and nūn) in nominative case and the suffix (ين-) (yā' and nūn) in both accusative and genitive cases, as in:

(6) الرجلانِ كريمان   (The two men are generous)

(7) راينا الرجلين الكريمين   (We saw the two generous men)

Al-Galayeeni (1971: 9) discloses a number of the dual conditions:

1. To form the dual, there must be two identical words in both pronunciation and meaning, the coincidence exists in the number of letters and cases; therefore, the dual is used to avoid repetition, for example:

(7) اشتريتُ كتابين   (I bought two books)

(8) اشتريتُ كتاباً و كتاباً   (I bought a book and a book)

Sometimes, repetition is adopted instead of using the dual for purposes of redundance, for example:

(9) عندي من العبيدِ الف و الف (I have a thousand and a thousand slaves)

Which means a thousand men and a thousand of women.

2. If the indicated two terms have different pronunciations and meanings, they are not dual in reality, but they are annexed dual when one of the used items is overwhelming the other, for instance certain expressions such as الاب و الام (father and mother) have the dual form الابوين (parents) and the word القمرين is used to indicate both (sun and moon).

3. On the opposite of some grammarians who claim that the noun should be singular in order to take the dual form and reject forming dual to the dual, sound plural, broken plural or even the plural of plural, grammarians justify this prohibition to avoid having two

nominative, accusative and genitive cases in the same noun. Al-Galayeeni (1971: 11), however, illustrates that sometimes the dual and the plural have the ability to be made dual if they are preceded by the word (ذوا) in the nominative case or (ذوي) in both accusative and genitive cases, for instance (ذوا حسنين) which means two people having the same name, which is (Hasan).

4. Some words do not take the dual form themselves, but they are substituted by another dual form, as in بعض (some) which is given the dual form جزاين (two parts) or, اجمع-جمعاء (all) that take the dual form كلا-كلتا (both), as in:

(10) كلاهما غائب   (Both of them are absent)

Abdul-Hameed (1965: 447) says that the process of dual formation submits to certain rules, they are:

1. The suffixes (ان-) and (ين-) are added when the base form is صحيح (sound), as in منقوص رجل (a man), رجلان (two men), or الاخر (defective) which ends in (ياء) like قاضٍ (a judge) which has the dual form قاضيان (two judges).

2. If the base word is مقصورة (maqsūra) which means that the last letter of the word is the letter 'alif. In this case, the letter 'alif is changed into (yā') in three positions:

A. When the letter 'alif is preceded by three or more than three letters, such as مستشفى (hospital), the dual form is مستشفيان (two hospitals).

3. If the letter 'alif occurs as a third letter in the word and used instead of (yā'), as in فتى a young man), the dual form is فتيين-فتيان (two young men).

C. If the word consists of three letters having the letter 'alif as a last one, there are three cases:

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i. When the root of the letter 'alif is unknown and is used for prolongation, such as the proper noun مَتىّ (matā) that has the dual form مَتيان (two matās).

ii. If the letter 'alif is the third letter and it is a substitute of (wāw) like عصا (a stick) which takes the dual form عصوان (two sticks).

iii. When the third letter of the word is the letter 'alif which has no definite root and it is not used for prolongation.

Hasan (n.d.: 19) elaborates the discussion about the term (dual) by arguing that there are some debate among grammarians and linguists about what the term dual means. He refers to those grammarians who use the term (annexed dual) to refer to some words that have dual parsing, but they are not dual in reality since they miss one of the dual conditions. Linguists use the term dual generally and they consider any word has a dual parsing as a dual whether it is really dual or not. Regarding linguists, there is no difference between dual and annexed dual. Hasan (ibid: 120) mentions that grammarians use the term annexed dual to refer to some words like (كلا),(كلتا),(اثنان), (اثنتان), (ثنتان) which in spite of having dual meaning, they are not derived from singular nouns, as in (اثن), (اثنه), (ثنت). The annexed dual words end in 'alif in nominative case, but take the suffix (yā') in both genitive and accusative cases. Thus, words such as (اثنان), (اثنتان), (ثنتان) take the dual parsing without any condition, as in:

(قالو ربنا امتنا اثنتين و احييتنا اثنتين فاعترفنا بذنوبنا فهل الى خروج من سبيل **(11)** (سورة غافر,الاية11

"They will say: our Lord! You have made us die twice (i.e., we were dead in the in the louins of our fathers and dead after our life in this world) and you have given us life twice (i.e., life when we were born and life when we are Resurrected)! Now we confess our sins, then is there any way to get out (of the fire)?" (Al-Hilali and Khan, n.d.: Surah Ghāfir, Verse: 631)

Both (كلا) and (كلتا) should submit to certain rules in order to have the dual parsing, these conditions are:

1. They should be followed by an explicit noun or pronoun referring to two things/ people, such as:

(12) كلتا الجنتين اتت اكلها (سورة الكهف: الاية 33)

"Each of those two gardens brought forth its produce" (Al-Hilali and Khan, n.d.: Surah Al-Kahf, Verse: 390)

2. Both (كلا) and (كلتا) must precede the definite nouns; therefore, it is not possible to say (كلا امراتين) (both women) or (كلا رجلين) (both men) unless the indefinite nouns is being specified by some adverbs, as in:

(13) كلا طالبين عندك مؤدبان (Both students are polite)

3. Both (كلا) and (كلتا) are used for emphasis if they are preceded by a noun and followed by an attached pronoun where this pronoun agrees with the noun in gender and number, as in:

(14) نجحَ الطالبان كلاهما (Both students succeeded)

2. Plural Nouns

They can be of two types:

ii. Regular Plural Variable Nouns

They are of two kinds, namely masculine sound plural and feminine sound plural (Aziz, 1989: 115).

A. Masculine Sound Plural

Abdul-Hameed (1965: 447), Al-Yaziji (2007: 223) and Qawachiliya (2011: 11) refer to this type by stating that singular noun can be transformed into masculine sound/regular plural by adding the suffix (ون-) in nominative case, and (ين-) in both

accusative and genitive cases. Abdul-Hameed sets a number of conditions for this conversion, they are as follows:

1. If the base word is sound, as in مهندس (an engineer), this word normally takes the suffixes (ون-) and (ين-) to form the masculine sound plural (مهندسين/مهندسون) (engineers).

2. When the noun ends with (yā'), the (yā') is deleted, as in (ساع) (courier), then the suffix (ون-) or (ين-) is added like (ساعِين/ساعون) (couriers).

3. To form masculine sound plural, the word that has (الف مقصورة) (ى) as a last letter like (مرتضى), this 'alif should be deleted and fatha is used to indicate this deletion before adding the suffixes (ون-) and (ين-), for instance (مرتضون) , (مرتضين).

4. Abdul-Hameed (1965: 447) indicates the words that end with (hamza) by saying that it should be noted if this (hamza) is original or it is converted from (wāw) or (yā') since each case has its own condition. If the (hamza) is original, as in (قراء) (reader) so, it remains then the suffix (ون-) or (ين-) is added, as in (قراؤون) (readers), but when the (hamza) is converted from (wāw) or (yā') like (كسّاء) (garment) so, the hamza can be either retained or shifted into (wāw) before appending the suffixes to be (كسّاؤون/ كسّاوون) (garments).

Al-Galayeeni (1971: 15) focuses on pluralizing proper nouns by saying that it can be converted into masculine sound plural, but the process of plural formation submits to certain rules, which are:

A. The proper noun should be masculine: only masculine proper nouns can be made masculine sound plural; therefore, it is possible to say (محمدون), but not (زينبون).

B. Animate: a proper noun should refer to animate without the feminine(tā'), so (طلحة) is a name of a noun, but does not take the masculine sound/ regular plural since the termination of the word is (tā').

Al-Galayeeni (1971: 16) invokes that there are some words treated as sound masculine plural in spite of being not completely accord with their conditions; therefore, they are named annexed masculine sound plurals which involve the following words illustrated below:

A. اولو which means (the owner of something), as in:

(15) و لكم في القصاص حياة يا اولي الالباب (سورة البقرة, الاية 179)

"And there is (a saving of) life for you in Al-Qisās (the law of equality in punishment) O men of understanding, that you become Al-Muttaqūn." (Al-Hilali and Khan, n.d.: Surah, Al-Baqarah, Verse: 36)

B. اهلون is the plural of (اهل) meaning (deserve) for instance:

(16) ما يود الذين كفروا من اهل الكتاب و لا المشركين ان ينزل عليكم من خير من ربكم
(سورة البقرة ,الاية 105) و الله ذو الفضل العظيم يختص برحمته من يشاء

"Neither those who disbelieve among the people of the scripture (Jews and Christians) nor Al-Mushrikun (the idolaters, polytheists, disbelievers in the oneness of Allāh, pagans, etc.) like that there should sent down unto you any good from your Lord. But Allāh chooses for His Mercy whom He wills. And Allāh is the owner of Great Bounty". (Al-Hilali and Khan, n.d: Surah, Al-Baqarah, Verse: 105)

C. سنون whose singular form is سنة (a year) like:

(17) و قال للذي ضنّ انه ناجٍ منهما اذكرني عند ربك فأنساه الشيطانُ ذكر ربه فلبث في
(سورة يوسف, الاية 42)   السجن بضع سنين

"And he said to the one whom he knew to be saved: mention me to your lord(i.e., your king, so as to get me out of the prison) but shaitān (Satan) made him forget to mention it to his lord (or satan made Yusuf (Joseph) to forget the remembrance of his lord (Allāh) as to ask for His Help, instead of others). So, (Yusuf(Joseph) stayed in prison afew (more) years" (Al-Hilali and Khan, n.d.: Surah, Yusuf, Verse: 42).

D. بنون which is the plural of (ابن) (son) like:

(18) المالُ و البنون زينة الحياة الدنيا و الباقيات الصالحات خيرٌ عند ربك ثواباً و خيرٌ
 املا (الاية 46 ,سورة الكهف)

"Wealth and children are the adornment of the life of this world. But the good righteous deeds, that last, are better with your lord for rewards and better in respect of hope". (Al-Hilali and Khan, n.d.:, Surah Al-kahf, Verse: 46)

E.   (عالمون) which has the singular form عالم (a world), as in:

(19) الحمد لله رب العالمين (سورة الفاتحة, الاية 1)

"All the praises and thanks be to Allāh, the Lord of the 'Ālamīn (man kind, Jinn and all that exists" (Al-Hilali and Khan, n. d.: Surah, Al-Fatiha, Verse: 1).

F. The expressions of decades that include the numerals from twenty up to ninety, for example:

(20) زارنا عشرونَ رجلاً   (Twenty men visited us)

B. Feminine Sound Plural

The second type of regular plural is called feminine regular/sound plural which Al-Galayeeni (1971: 14) describes as a kind of plural that is formed by adding the plural suffixes (ـاتٌ-) in the nominative case and (ـاتٍ-) in both accusative and genitive cases to the ending of nouns to form nouns such as (معلماتٌ/معلماتٍ). Al-Yaziji (2007: 223), Dendane (2010: 71) and Qawachiliya (2011: 11) state that the feminine suffix (ـات-) is added to the following:

1. All feminine proper nouns whether they end with the feminine radicals (ـاتٌ-) or (ـاتٍ-) or not, as in (فاطمات), (سلمات), (هندات).

2. Non-human nouns preceded by (ابن), (ذو) and the like where (ابن) and (ذو) are changed into regular feminine plural to be (بنات), as in (ذوات القعدة), (ذوات) and (بنات عرس).

3. الاسماء المقصورة: The (ى) in nouns such as (فتى) is changed into (ياء) and (ات-) is added to be (فتيات).

4. الاسماء الممدودة: When nouns such as (عصا) end with (الف ممدودة), the ('alif) is changed into (wāw) and then the plural suffix (ات-) is added to be (عصوات), while those end with (hamza), as in (صحراء), the (hamza) is changed into (wāw) before the addition of the suffix to be (صحراوات).

5. Nouns borrowed from other languages, such as (تليفون) (تليفونات) (telephones) and (كاميرة) (كاميرات) (cameras), although some foreign nouns may have broken plural, as in (فلم) (افلام), (حُكم) (احكام).

Hasan (n.d.: 168) while talking about feminine sound plural, was mainly concerned with presenting the cases through which feminine sound plural can be identified, these cases are:

1. Words that end with (tā') no matter whether such words are nouns as with (فاطمة) or not such as (صناعة) (industry).

2. The deletion of (tā') with which any singular feminine noun ends before adding the feminine sound plural suffixes. If the noun ends with ('alif maqsura), or (hamza) after deleting (tā'), the following should be taken into account:

i. The ('alif maqsura) is converted into (yā') like (هدى) which becomes (هديات) unless its origin is (wāw) and occurs as a third letter in the word. In this case, the 'alif is shifted into (wāw) then, the plural suffix (ات-) is added.

ii. When the word ends in an ('alif mamdūda) so, the original (hamza)that follows ('alif) should remain then, it is pluralized, as in (انشاء) which is turned into (انشاءات).

Hasan (ibid: 165) in his explanation of annexed feminine sound plural divides it into two groups:

1. The first group refers to some words that do not have singular forms, but singular meaning only, as in the following words:

a. (اولات) whose singular meaning is (ذات) (the owner of something), for example:

(21) اثنيت على اولات الخلق (I praised those who have moral)

b. (اللات)whose singular meaning is the word (التي), for instance:

(22) رايتُ اللاتِ نجحنَ في الاختبار (I saw the girls who succeeded in the exam).

2. The second group involves words that In spite of having feminine plural form, but they denote singular words regardless of their being masculine or feminine, as in:

a. (اذرعات): It is not the plural of the word (ذراع), but it is a name of a reign in the south of Syria, such as:

(23) زرتُ اذرعات (I visited Adhru'āt).

b. (عرفات): This word is not the plural of the word (عرفة) since it denotes a name of place, for instance:

(24) عرفات هو اسم جبل في مكة (Arafat is a name of a mountain in Mecca)

c. (بركات): This seems to be the feminine plural of the word (بركة), but it is annexed feminine sound plural referring to a name of a man, as in:

(25) التقيتُ بركات في البازار (I met Barakat in the bazar)

ii. Irregular/Broken Plural Nouns

   Al-Galayeeni (1971: 26) defines broken plural or irregular plural as a noun that indicates more than two changing its singular form by either alternating the spelling of the stem, or by being implied, as in (الفلك) (ships) which has the same form in both singular and plural. In other words, in Arabic, the broken plural alternates the singular form by either making some elisions within the word structure, as in (أسُدٌ) (a pen/pens), by changing its vowel like (اسدٌ) (a lion) (اقلام /قلم) (lines), by adding some consonants and vowels (رجال) (a man) (رجُل)

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(men) or by deleting and alternating its vowels, such as (رَسول) (a messenger) (رُسُل)(messengers).

Al-Galayeeni (ibid: 27-8) allocates the case where forming broken plural is permissible, he mentions that this kind of plural can be applied to nouns which can be comprised of three, four, or five letters. As for the last case, its fourth letter should be a vowel with (sukūn). The Arabs set this condition since they reject forming plural from nouns that consist of more than four letters unless they are preceded by a vowel with (sukūn).

Al-Galayeeni (ibid) and Aziz (1989: 116) mention that broken plural is of two types:

1. Plural of paucity which involves the amount that ranges between three and ten.

2. Plural of abundance which includes the amount which starts from ten to infinity.

Aziz (ibid) states that plurals of paucity have the following patterns:

Table (4): Plural of Paucity

Singular Word	Pattern in the Plural Form	Plural Word
رغيف (Loaf)	افعِلَة	ارغِفة (loaves)
عين (eye)	افعُل	اعيُن (eyes)
قفل (lock)	افعال	اقفال (locks)
فتى (young man)	فِعلَة	فِتية(young men)

While plurals of abundance have the following patterns:

Table (5): Plural of Abundance

Singular Word	**Patterns in the Plural Form**	**Plural Word**

Singular Word	Patterns in the Plural Form	Plural Word
غُرفة (Room)	فُعَلٌ	غُرَف (Rooms)
أخضَر (Green)	فُعْل	خُضْر (Green)
كِتاب (Book)	فُعُلٌ	كُتُب (Books)
خيمة (Tent)	فِعَلٌ	خِيم (Tents)
جَبَل (Mountain)	فِعال	جِبال (Mountains)
نَمر (Tiger)	فُعُول	نُمُور (Tigers)
ساذَج (Naive)	فُعَّل	سُذَّج (Naive)
قارِئ (reader)	فُعَّال	قُرَّاء (Readers)
طالِب (Student)	فَعَلة	طَلَبة (Students)
جانٍ (Culprit)	فُعَلة	جُناة (Culprits)
دُب (Bear)	فِعَلة	دِببة (Bears)
أخ (Brother)	فِعْلة	إخوة (Brothers)
عين (Eye)	أفعُل	أعيُن (Eyes)
قَول (Saying)	أفعال	أقوال (Sayings)
فؤاد (Heart)	أفعِلة	أفئِدة (Hearts)
باسِل (Valiant)	فَواعِل	بواسِل (Valiants)
قافلة (Caravan)	فَعائِل	قوافل (Caravans)
صبي (Boy)	فعلان	صبيان (Boys)
راهِب (M0nk)	فُعلان	رُهبان (Monks)
كريم (Generous)	فُعلاء	كُرماء (Generous)
قَوي (Strong)	أفعِلاء	أقوياء (Strong)
مريض (Patient)	فعلى	مرضى (Patients)
صحراء (Desert)	فَعال	صحار (Deserts)
صحراء (Desert)	فَعالى	صحاري (Deserts)
حاج (Pilgrim)	فَعيل	حَجيج (Pilgrims)
صقر (Hawk)	فُعولة	صقورة (Hawks)
خادِم (Servant)	فَعَلٌ	خَدَم (Servants)
صاحِب (Friend)	فَعلٌ	صَحب (Friends)

In addition to the previous patterns, certain patterns are used for plurals of more than three consonants, such patterns are:

Table (6) the Plural of Patterns Having More than Three Consonants

Singular Word	Patterns in the Plural Form	Plural Word
منديل (Handkerchief)	فعاليل	(Handkerchiefs)

		مناديل
بيطار (Emperor)	فعاللة	اباطرة (Emperors)

Al-Nadri (1997: 276) talks about other types of plural which are called (منتهى الجموع) (ultimate plural), (جمع الجمع) (the plural of plural), (اسم الجنس) (collective nouns) and (الجنس الجمعي):

1. منتهى الجموع (Ultimate Plural): Al-Nadri states that this type belongs to the plural of paucity which represents every plural after its 'alif, come two or three letters, the middle of which is sākin, such as (أصابع) (fingers), (اساطير) (myths).

2. جمع الجمع (the plural of plural): Al-Nadri (ibid) claims that in Arabic, plural words are sometimes pluralized, for example (ايدٍ) (اياد) (hands), (اقوال) (اقاويل) (sayings).

3. اسم الجمع (collective nouns): Al-Nadri (ibid) defines a collective noun as a noun that signifies more than two and whose meaning is plural. He adds that their singular forms are not derived from their plurals. For instance, (إبِل) (camels) is a collective noun whose masculine singular is (جَمَل), while its feminine is (ناقة) she-camel). The same is true with (قوم) (tribe) which has (رَجُل) (a man) as its singular. These are examples of collective nouns that involve both animate and inanimate words.

4. اسم الجنس الجمعي: This type of plural has a singular form of the word, and this is achieved either by adding the feminine tā' like (شَجَر) (شجرة) (tree/trees), or by using (ياء النسب) after such words, as in (عَرب) (Arabs) (عربي) (Arabic). These suffixes also denote both the meaning and gender of words.

Al-Nadri (ibid: 277) also mentions compound nouns by identifying the conditions where compound nouns submit to certain rules to form plural, these conditions are:

1. Various kinds of compound words are made plural by pluralizing the first word only, such as (كتابُ الطالب) (the student's book), (كُتُب الطالب) (the student's books).

2. Compound words that have the word (ابن) (son) as a first word, such words can take either masculine sound plural like (بنو عربي) (Arabi's sons) or broken plural as in (ابناءُ عربي) (Arabi's sons). This condition is inapplicable if the word (son) is followed by an inanimate word, such as

10. Comparison between Nouns in English and Arabic

A comparison between English and Arabic related to Nouns sensitivity to number is carried out to show points of similarities and differences between the two languages under study.

10.1 Similarities between English Nouns Sensitive to Number and Their Counterparts in Arabic

Since singular nouns in both English and Arabic are unmarked and duality has no counterpart in English, the main concern in the two languages are similar in being divided into variable and invariable where variable nouns are sub-classified into regular and irregular nouns. Regular, which is the easy part in both languages, are predictable in both English and Arabic, since they are marked with specific morphemes suffixed to nouns: -s/-es in English, as in (boys,buses) (ون-) and (ين-) for masculine and (ات-) for feminine in Arabic, as in (مهندسون), (مهندسين) and (مهندسات).

It is noted that irregular plural in Arabic may involve a change in the internal structure of nouns producing words like (عبيد) and (عباد) as the plural of (عبد). This seems to be similar to the formation of some singular words and their conversion into plural in English as is the case in words such as (man)and its irregular plural (men).

English and Arabic are alike through the process of some examples indicating that the noun can acquire the regular plural suffix as well as the irregular plural suffix, as in(formulas/regular)and(formulae/irregular)

Which are the plurals of (formula) in English and (كافرون/regular) and (كفار/irregular) which are the plurals of (كافر) in Arabic.

10.2 Differences between English and Arabic Nouns Sensitive to number

Basically, the category of number in English is different from Arabic, as its types are limited to singular and plural, while in Arabic, it is evident that the number limits are expanded to include dual As well. In English, singular nouns are unmarked, while in Arabic two types of singular are identified, masculine singular nouns and feminine singular nouns where only masculine singular nouns are not marked, whereas feminine singular nouns are marked with certain morphemes such as the suffix (tā'), as in (هبة), the letter ('alif and hamza) like (اسماء) or the letter ('alif maqsūra), as in (سجى), others are lexically determined as feminine, as in proper nouns, such as (هند), (مي) and (اخلاص).

Nouns in English have no dual or annexed forms as it is in Arabic since plural in English refers to two or more entities, while in Arabic plurals refer to three and more entities. This explains the reason for the presence of three categorization for nouns in Arabic, and only two in English. In other words, when the plural in English includes two or more entities, this implies that the need for dual category is eliminated, while in Arabic its presence is necessary.

Regular plural variable nouns common in both English and Arabic, are more accurate in Arabic than they are in English, because regular plural includes gender which has an active and fundamental role in determining the suffix required to transform singular nouns into plurals. Therefore, regular plural has two types in Arabic, which are regular masculine plural such as (مدرسون) and (مدرسين) as regular feminine plural such as (مدرسات).English, on the other hand, has no restricted or distinct plural forms for masculine and feminine nouns, neither does it have any morphemes differentiating dual from plural nouns as it is in Arabic, for example (two students) and (three students). The same noun (students) with the plural suffix –s is used with the numeral (two) referring to duality and (three) indicating plurality; in addition, (students) may indicate masculine or feminine students. Thus, in English (-s, -es) is the constant plural morpheme used with nouns, regardless of

whether the noun is human or non-human, masculine or feminine, as in (teachers) and (cars).

It is worth mentioning that in Arabic, both regular masculine and regular feminine plurals have two different number markers each. This multiplicity in the options presented to the speaker is due to the role the position of the noun may have in determining the case of the noun, and then decide its number marker. In other words, Case which is a grammatical feature in both English and Arabic has the a considerable status in determining the form of the dual as well as plural morphemes attached to words in Arabic. Generally, case is presented either by using:

A. The diacritics including dhamma (الضمة) which indicates the nominative case, al-fatha (الفتحة)that refers to the accusative case and finally al-kasrah (الكسرة) which marks the genitive case, as in:

(26) لعبَ الاطفالُ في الحديقةِ (The children played in the garden)

(27) شاهدتُ الاولادَ في المدرسةِ (I saw the boys in the school)

B.Letters and diacritics, as in (wāw) which indicates regular masculine plural to express the nominative case, for instance:

(28) المهندسون مثابرون (The engineers are hard workers)

C. The letter 'alif explains the accusative case and used with dual nouns to express the nominative case, for example:

(29) زرتُ مدنا كثيرة (I visited many cities)

(30) دخلت الفتاتين الى المنزل (The two girls entered the house)

D. The letter (yā')which is used with dual nouns as well as regular plural nouns to express the accusative case, such as:

(31) كرمتُ الفتاتينِ الفائزتينِ في السباق (The two girls who won the race were rewarded)

This signifies the dependency relation between number and other categories such as gender and case in Arabic. In consequence, the

selection of one of the elements of the set available in the number system depends on what was chosen from the elements in other systems. This means that number, gender and case interact together to form one portmanteau inflectional system. English, on the other hand, does not give any role for case to perform when using plural morphemes, i.e., case is totally neglected in dealing with singular and plural nouns. Therefore, a noun in English, regardless of their function (subject, object of a verb, object of a preposition), the marker employed for converting nouns from singular to plural is the same:

(32) The boys/the girls are clever.

(33) John hits the boys/the girls.

In English, the plural morpheme –s had three allomorphs (s,z and iz) where the choice of anyone of these allomorphs is phonologically determined by the last sound of the word to which the morpheme –s is added. This means the morpheme –s has three different pronunciations in English. The Arabic plural morphemes (-ون), (ـين-), (ـاتُ-) and (ـاتِ-), on the other hand, have no such variation in pronunciation.

It is also important to mention here the occurrence of annexed regular masculine plurals in Arabic which are absent in English.

English and Arabic have two complex and contrasted classes of irregular plurals where the irregular plural forms are unpredictable in English that is to say, no definite rules are available in constructing irregular plurals. This helps the emergence of many contrasted plural forms where some are produced with a vowel shift within the stem, as in (goose/geese), others take foreign endings, such as (basis/bases), or even marked with zero morphemes, as in (sheep, deer), or accompanied with a change in the base, such as (thief/thieves). Some irregular plural forms may employ suffixes, such as ((-r)en) which is exclusively used with some English words, like (child/children). These are the major exceptions to the regular plural formation process; therefore, they are called irregular.

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In contrast, Arabic has a unique class of irregular, broken plurals which are mainly governed by strict rules or patterns that represent a multitude of conditioning factors to which plurals are subject, in other words, Arabic broken/irregular plurals have unequivocal patterns of plural formation. These patterns show that irregular plurals are phonologically and morphologically governed. Therefore, broken plural can be said to be regular, predictable and then productive.

It is important to mention the broken/irregular plurals are regular in the sense that they follow the same consistent patterns with no regard for the source word. Arabic regular plurals are patterned by means of suffixation attached to the stem, but in Arabic, this suffixation is always applied with considering the gender and case of the noun to which it is suffixed. That is why (ون-)is used with masculine in the nominative case, (ين-) for the accusative and genitive cases, (اتُ-) is attached to feminine in the nominative case whereas (اتِ-) is used to indicate accusative and genitive cases. Thus, regular plural formation in Arabic seems to be complex in comparison with the mere addition of –s in English.

In contrast to regular plural, which is the dominant form of plural in English, the broken/irregular plural is the broadest and the mostly used form of plural nouns in Arabic, i.e., most nouns take broken plural. In consequence, the broken/irregular plural becomes the norm in Arabic.

Forming Arabic irregular plural may involve both an internal vowel change as well as an addition of consonantal affixation, as in (دكاترة/دكتور) (sea/ seas), (امير/امراء) (prince, princes), (بحار/ابحُر/بحر) (doctor, doctors) while in English, irregular nouns are generally formed with suffixes. This variety in plural forms is partly due to the fact that Arabic is morphologically rich, where its morphology falls into two main classes, the concatenative morphology and non-concatenative morphology. The first class indicates the addition of a plural suffix to the stem of the word, as in (معلمون/معلمين/معلم) (teacher, teachers), while the second class of plural forms shows both an internal vowel shift, as well as affixation of consonants, as

in (بيت/بيوت) (house, houses) while English has only concatenative morphology. In consequence, the number system of Arabic nouns is rather complex in comparison with English, and this is mainly due to its non-concatenative nature which imposes an abundance in the use of templates which are unique to Arabic in forming plural. Thus, Arabic broken plural is more complicated than English mainly because of the great number of patterns followed in constructing broken plural which is really a challenge.

Unlike English, the irregular plural in Arabic is classified into various classes based on the smaller or greater number distinction, these classes are:

A. Plural of paucity.

B. Plural of abundance.

C. Ulimate plurals.

D. Plural of plurals.

Moreover, the existence of two plurals for a singular noun shows no difference in meaning between these plural forms in English, while in Arabic, having more than one plural may imply a difference in meaning, as in (عباد) and (عبيد) (slaves) which are the plurals of the word (عبد) (slave). The former means the people who submit to the commands of Allah and abide by his teachings while the latter means the unbelievers.

Unlike English, even modern words borrowed from other languages have a particular rule that distinguishes them from other original Arabic words, as their conversion to plural is not random as is the case in English which maintains the plural form of the loan words. In Arabic, these loan words either take the regular feminine plural suffix, as in (كاميرات), or (تليفونات), or follow the broken plural process and thus leave the ambiguity which is a prominent feature of English, since many of those who want to learn English find themselves obliged to memorize these foreign words, otherwise they may face the problem of not recognizing these plurals. Thus, Arabic

is flexible, which means the freedom to borrow vocabularies from other languages but it reformulates these words according to its morphological laws. This shows the high systematic nature of Arabic.

As for compound words, English and Arabic show substantial differences. It is noted that in English, the part of speech plays a vital role in specifying the part of compound that is supposed to be pluralized, for instance when the second part of the compound that should be pluralized, but when the compound is a compound noun, in this case the second word or part of the compound is usually pluralized, although in some instances both parts or words of the compound are pluralized, as in (women doctors). In contrast, the first word in the compound is always the pluralized item in Arabic, as in (بنات اوى) (jackal's daughters).

It is clear that the pluralization of English compounds is less complex than those of Arabic for certain purposes, some of them are:

A. On the opposite of English, the second word of the Arabic compounds determines whether the first word can be pluralized or not, for instance if the Arabic compounds start with (ابن) (son) as a first word, so the second word should be animate in order for (ابن) to have sound masculine or broken plural, otherwise it takes sound feminine plural only like (بنات اوى) (jackals' daughters).

B. Unlike English where both the first and second words are pluralized in certain compounds like (women doctors, men servants), some Arabic compounds, for example the compound word (عبد الله) (Abdullah) can take the sound plural (عبدو الله), and the broken plural (عبيد الله).

C. The majority of English compounds are pluralized by adding the plural suffix (-s) to the words endings, like (crossroads), whereas in Arabic compound words may take sound plural, broken plural or even adding (ذوا) or (ذوي) in front of the compound words, such as:

(34) سررتُ بقدومِ ذوي عبد الله (I am pleased in the coming of Abdullah's family).

8. Conclusions

In the light of the foregoing description and based on the comparison that took place between English and Arabic, the following are the final results of this comparison:

1. Both English and Arabic are similar in having both variable and invariable nouns. Within the scope of what is known as variable nouns, English and Arabic vary in having singular and plural in English, while Arabic distinguishes singular, dual and plural nouns. In addition, plural nouns in English can be regular and irregular, while according to the observations of the researcher, Arabic plurals are only regular, since their formation has specific complex rules to follow, and this complexity is due to the large number of patterns Arabic has where mastering these patterns is rather a difficult task.

2. Unlike English which is satisfied with the adoption of a suffix as a means for distinguishing singular from plural nouns, Arabic has sought help from several means to achieve its goal of identifying singular from non-singular. This is clearly shown by making use of suffixes as well as the internal modification of the noun. This variety in the strategies is mainly due to the fact that Arabic seeks precision, clarity and brevity in its expressions, as they represent part of its eloquence which is one of its important features.

3. One of the significant differences between English and Arabic is that English does not make any distinction between masculine and feminine plural as it is in Arabic.

4. Since Arabic is one of the original Semitic languages, so it is a conjugated language then, i. e., the endings of nouns change according to their positions in a sentence. This change is clearly reflected in the form of the suffix with which the dual or plural nouns end. In other words, Arabic adopts two suffixes expressing duality, the first one (ان-) is attached to nouns functioning as subjects, and (ين-) is suffixed to dual nouns acting as objects of

verbs or of prepositions. With masculine regular plural, the suffix (-ون) is used with nouns acting as subjects, while (ين-) is added to nouns in the object position. Concerning the feminine regular plural, it is the diacritic marker difference which signifies the function of a noun. Therefore,(اتُ -) is attached to subjects while (اتِ-) is suffixed to objects.

5. The consistency of the morphological formulas and their constructions on fixed rules makes it easier for the learner to learn such a language and deal with it, i.e., the word templates and the morphological patterns help to shorten the time for learning a language and provide the opportunity to derive an unlimited number of words from a limited number of patterns. This explains the high productivity of Arabic in comparison with English.

6. Expressing number in Arabic by employing nouns is rather complex, systematic, regular and productive in comparison with English which is rather simple, arbitrary and ambiguous.

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الأَسماء الحسَّاسة للنظام العددي في اللغتين الإنكليزيَّة والعربيَّة: دراسة مقارنة

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المستخلص

يعتني البحث الحالي بدراسة الأَسماء في اللغة الإنكليزيَّة والأَسماء المقابلة لها في اللغة العربية لتحديد بعض أوجه التشابه والاختلاف ولاسيَّما فيما يتعلَّق بالفئات العددية للأَسماء وتكوينها وذلك باتباع الأُنموذجين الوصفيين المقدمين من كويرك (1985) للإنكليزيَّة و عزيز يؤيل (1989) للعربية، ويفترض هذا البحث أَنَّ أشكال الأَسماء في اللغة العربيَّة هي أَكثر تعقيدًا وانتظامًا وإنتاجيَّة مِمَّا هي عليه في اللغة الإنكليزيَّة، فضلًا عن ذلك فإنَّ الاختلاف في الفئات العددية للأَسماء وتكوينها في اللغتين الإنكليزيَّة والعربيَّة يرجع إلى حقيقة أَنَّ اللغتين الإنكليزيَّة والعربية تنتميان إلى عائلتين مختلفتين؛ لذلك توفِّر رؤية أفضل لفئات وأشكال الأَسماء قيد الدراسة, ويتألَّف البحث الحالي من أجزاء منفصلة توضح فئات

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الأعداد وتكوين الأسماء في اللغتين الإنكليزيَّة والعربيَّة، وبعد ذلك يتم تسليط الضوء على المقارنة بين جميع التقنيات المورفولوجية الداخلة في تكوين الفئات العددية للأسماء في كلا اللغتين, ومناقشة أوجه التقارب والاختلاف بينهما، وخَلُصَ البحث إلى أنَّه على النقيض من اللغة الإنكليزيَّة، فإنَّ الأسماء العربية تخضع لمجموعة كبيرة من القواعد الصارمة التي يتم من بها التعبير عن جميع الفئات العددية بدقة وكفاءة عالية، واستنادًا إلى ذلك, فإنَّ هذه الدقة والفاعليَّة العالية في إنتاج عدد لا حصر له من الأسماء الجمع لهو خير دليل على الإنتاجيَّة العالية للغة العربية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: جمع التكسير، جمع المذكر السالم، جمع المؤنث السالم، الأسماء المتغيرة، الإبدال.