

INDEPENDENT AND AUXILIARY VERBS IN ARABIC: GRAMMATICAL AND SEMANTIC ANALYSIS

Nurullayev Mukhiddin

«Diplomat» University Department of the «Philology and Foreign
Languages» Senior Teacher

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

nurullayevmuhiddin0@gmail.com

Abstract. *This article analyzes the syntactic and semantic features of verbs in the Arabic language. In particular, verbs are categorized into independent (فعل تامّ) and auxiliary (فعل ناقص) types, examining their roles in sentence structure, their impact on the subject and predicate, and their function in conveying meaning. Using the example of “Kana and its sisters” (كَانَ وَأَخَوَاتُهَا), the article highlights the significance of auxiliary verbs in sentence construction and their role in expressing various semantic states. Both classical grammatical sources and modern linguistic approaches are examined in this study.*

Keywords: *Independent verb, auxiliary verb, Arabic syntax, Kana and its sisters, nominal sentence, perfect verb, defective verb, syntactic analysis, semantic analysis, Arabic language*

Introduction. In Arabic grammar, verbs are divided into two categories depending on their syntactic and semantic functions: independent verbs and auxiliary verbs. The article analyzes the grammatical features of these verbs in Arabic grammar, their role in speech and their meanings.

In particular, using the example of “كَانَ” and verbs close to it (كَانَ وَأَخَوَاتُهَا), their functions as independent and auxiliary verbs, as well as their influence on agreement, are studied. The article is written on the basis of classical works on Arabic grammar, taking into account modern linguistic approaches.

Independent verbs have lexical meaning in Arabic and are the main element that carries the semantic load of speech. In grammar, they are called “فِعْلٌ تَامٌّ” and are defined as “verbs that are limited to their carrier (فَاعِلٌ) and express independent meaning”.

These verbs appear as independent parts of a sentence and do not require an additional nominal participle (خَبْرٌ). For example: كَتَبَ زَيْدٌ “Zayd wrote”. In this example, the verb كَتَبَ means “to write” and forms a complete sentence with the possessive case (زَيْدٌ).

In his work *Mujam al-mustalahat al-arabiyya fil-lugat wa al-adab*, Majdi Wahba emphasizes the unique characteristic of independent verbs, since “they coordinate the subject and object of the sentence”. At the same time, independent verbs contain tense and person markers and express the main action or state of the sentence.

Another feature of independent verbs is the richness of their morphological structure. In Arabic, verbs have three tenses: past (مَاضِي), present-future (مُضَارِع) and imperative (أَمْر). For example: كَتَبَ (past tense) – “wrote”. يَكْتُبُ (present-future tense) – “writes”. اُكْتُبْ (commandment) – “write!”

These forms show that independent verbs are expressed as an independent semantic unit in a sentence.

Auxiliary verbs are used in speech as linking verbs or verbs that perform a grammatical function. These verbs include two groups of verbs called “كَانَ وَأَخْوَاتُهَا” (كَانَ and similar verbs) and “ظَنَّ وَأَخْوَاتُهَا”. (ظَنَّ and similar verbs). These verbs are part of sentences formed from the possessive case and participle, and according to grammatical terms, they are called “sick verbs” because they modify the “judgment” of the possessive case and participle.

Material and method. “كَانَ وَأَخْوَاتُهَا” (كَانَ and similar verbs): In Arabic, there is a group of auxiliary verbs called “كَانَ وَأَخْوَاتُهَا” which express the meanings of the words “to be” and “to become”. In the Ajrumiyah era, the verbs “كَانَ وَأَخْوَاتُهَا” were called “nawasih verbs” which nullified the ruling of the owner and the subject. These verbs are also called “imperfect verbs” in addition to their name “reduced verbs” which nullify the “judgment” of the possessive case and the participle. Their name comes from two different definitions given to them by grammarians.

Jalaluddin As-Suyuti writes in his work Hamul-Hawame: “These verbs are not limited to the possessive form (فَاعِلٌ), but require a nominal or verbal participle (خَبَرٌ).” However, most grammarians agree that the reason why imperfective verbs are so called is because they only indicate time.

Independent verbs (فِعْلٌ تَامٌّ) indicate the completion of an action with an indication of time. Imperfective verbs change the agreement between the subject and the object in speech. For example:

كَانَ زَيْدٌ تَلْمِيذًا – “Zayd was a student.” Here the verb كَانَ acts as an auxiliary, providing a grammatical link between زَيْدٌ (اسْمُ كَانَ) and تَلْمِيذًا (خَبَرُ كَانَ) Zayd is in the primary conjugation (رَفْعٌ) and تَلْمِيذًا is in the subjunctive mood (نَصْبٌ), demonstrating the syntactic effect of the imperfective verb.

The main feature of auxiliary verbs is their lack of semantic independence. They do not express the full meaning by themselves, but they reveal layers of meaning of the possessive and participial phrases present in the sentence. For example: صَارَ بَكْرٌ مُهَنْدِسًا – “Bakr became an engineer”. Here the verb صَارَ means “to turn” and represents Bakr's new state.

A list of these verbs and their meanings are detailed below:

1. كَانَ (يَكُونُ) – “was”, “become”. For example: كَانَ الطَّالِبُ مُجْتَهِدًا – “The student was diligent”. From a semantic point of view, this verb expresses a situation in the past tense. The verb “كَانَ” has a unique position in the Arabic language as it is used both as an independent verb and as an auxiliary verb depending on the context. Its function varies depending on the elements of the sentence.

As an auxiliary verb, كَانَ is used in subordinate clauses of nouns and means “to be”. In the past tense, it means “was” or “became”. In this case, it comes with a possessive pronoun (اسْمُ كَانَ) and a participle كَانَ زَيْدٌ مَسْرُورًا (خَبَرُ كَانَ) – “Zayd was happy”. In this example, Zayd is in the main agreement and مَسْرُورًا is in lower case, which demonstrates the grammatical effect of كَانَ. Ibn Aqil in his work Sharh Ibn Aqil explains this as “the fact that كَانَ assigns the position of a noun to a participle in a nominal sentence”.

Results: In modern linguistics, the verb “كَانَ” is considered to play the role of a copula (linking verb) as an auxiliary verb. For example, Rarin G. Riding in his book “Modern Standard Arabic” defines it as “a semantic link between the subject and the predicate”.

As an independent verb, كَانَ expresses the meaning of “to exist somewhere” or “to occur” and does not require the nominative case: اَطْلُبِ الْعِلْمَ حَيْثُمَا كُنْتَ — “Seek knowledge wherever you may be”. Here كُنْتَ means “to exist” and forms a sentence as an independent verb.

2. اَصْبَحَ بَكْرٌ طَالِبًا – “became”, “The morning has come.”. Масалан: “Bakr became a student”.

3. اَضْحَى بَكْرٌ مُهَنْدِسًا – “became”, “it was in Choshgokh”. Масалан: “Bakr became an engineer”. This verb also expresses a meaning associated with the afternoon.

4. اَمْسَى بَكْرٌ مَرِيضًا – “became”, “became an evening”. For example: “Bakr became a patient in the evening”. Semantically, this indicates a situation typical for the evening time.

5. بَاتَ – “became a midnight”. For example: بَاتَ الضَّيْفُ مَرِيضًا – “Guest became a patient in the evening”. This verb is used to express the situation at night.

6. ظَلَّ الْعِلْمُ نَافِعًا – “continued”. For example: “Science continued to be useful”. This verb is imperfective and shows the duration of an action in time of day.

7. صَارَ بَكْرٌ مُهَنْدِسًا – “became”, For example: “Bakr became an engineer”. This verb expresses change or transformation.

8. مَا زَالَ الْعِلْمُ نَافِعًا – “didn’t stop”, “continued”. For example: “Science continued to be useful”. This verb emphasizes continuity.

9. مَا بَرَحَ بَكْرٌ شَجَاعًا – “didn’t stop”, “continued”. For example: “Bakr continued to be brave”. Indicates continuity, has a meaning similar to the verb مَا زَالَ.

10. مَا انْفَكَ الرَّجُلُ نَادِمًا – “continued”. For example: “The man continued to regret”. This verb also expresses continuity, but carries a strong emotional meaning.

11. مَا فَتَى بَكْرٌ مُجْتَهِدًا – “continued”. For example: “Bakr continued to be diligent”.

12. مَا دَامَ – “as long as”, “on time”. For example: لَا أَصَاحِبُهُ مَا دَامَ مُتَكَبِّرًا – “He is arrogant, so I will not accompany him”. This verb is used in a conditional sense.

13. لَيْسَ – “no” For example: لَيْسَ الْغِشُّ مَقْبُولًا – “Lying is unacceptable.” لَيْسَ is unique among imperfective verbs because it is used only in the present tense and has a negative meaning.

The imperfective participle of verbs (خَبَرُ كَانَ) can have different forms:

- Nominal predicate: كَانَ زَيْدٌ مَسْرُورًا – “Zayd was happy”.
- Present-future verb: كَانَ زَيْدٌ يَتَكَلَّمُ – “Zayd was speaking”. In this case, the conjunction particle represents a continuing action in the past tense.
- Combination of words (شِبْهُ الْجُمْلَةِ): مَا بَرَحَ زَيْدٌ فِي الْجَامِعَةِ – “Zayd is still at university ”. There are semantic differences between imperfective verbs. For example, كَانَ means “generalization”, صَارَ means “transformation”, and ظَلَّ means “continuity”.

Discussion. Classical Arabic grammarians distinguish between independent and auxiliary verbs based on their syntactic independence. Ibn Hisham states that “while the independent verb expresses the full meaning with the possessive case, the imperfective verb cannot convey the full meaning”. This analysis reveals the relationship between nouns and verb sentences in Arabic. In modern linguistics, independent verbs are treated as “lexical verbs” and auxiliary verbs as “auxiliary verbs”. “كَانَ” and similar verbs belong to the group of “linking verbs” and their main function is to provide a link between the subject and the predicate.

“ظَنَّ and similar verbs” (ظَنَّ وَأَخَوَاتُهَا): These verbs semantically express a supposition or suspicion about something and have unique syntactic characteristics. They are used in sentences consisting of a possessive (primary) and a nominal participle (nominative participle), like the imperfective verbs “كَانَ وَأَخَوَاتُهَا” in Arabic, but unlike them, they agree between the possessive and the participle. The ظَنَّ وَأَخَوَاتُهَا group includes the following verbs: عَلِمَ، رَأَى، وَجَدَ، أَلْفَى، ظَنَّ، حَسِبَ، زَعَمَ، خَالَ، صَيَّرَ، جَعَلَ، رَدَّ.

These verbs are divided into three groups:

1. أَفْعَالُ الْيَقِينِ “Verbs expressing definition”. These include the verbs: عَلِمَ، رَأَى، وَجَدَ، أَلْفَى. These verbs express a high degree of precision and truth of meaning. They mean direct confirmation of reality through such meanings as “to know”, “to see”, “to find”. From a syntactic point of view, these verbs serve to provide specific information in a sentence by placing the participle in the accusative case.

2. أَفْعَالُ الرُّجْحَانِ “Verbs expressing the meaning of moving forward”. These include the verbs: ظَنَّ، حَسِبَ، زَعَمَ، خَالَ. This group of verbs is characterized by the expression of subjectivity and assumption, and includes such meanings as “to suppose” and “to calculate”. They emphasize probability rather than certainty, and therefore differ in meaning from certainty verbs. These verbs play an important role in expressing the possibility or probability of a thought in speech.

3. أَفْعَالُ التَّحْوِيلِ “verbs of conversion”. These include the verbs: صَيَّرَ، جَعَلَ، رَدَّ. These verbs mean change, transformation, or transition from one state to another. They perform the task of transforming the relationship between the possessive word and the participle in the sentence, providing syntactic and semantic changes.

Conclusion. In Arabic, independent and auxiliary verbs are important elements that determine the grammatical and semantic structure of speech. While independent verbs express the main action or state of speech, auxiliary verbs act as a link between the subject and the object, introducing additional semantic layers to speech. The dual functions of “كَانَ”

and similar verbs, as well as their influence on conjugation, demonstrate the complex and rich structure of Arabic syntax. The analysis of classical grammarians and modern linguists allows us to better understand the specific features of these verbs. The verbs “ظَنَّ وَأَخَوَّاثَهَا”, which are part of the nasiha verbs, serve as an important means of expressing certainty, possibility and variability of thought in Arabic. Their diversity of meanings and functions further enriches the deep and complex structure of Arabic syntax.

REFERENCES

1. Ibrahimov, N. (2017). Al-Qamous. Arabic-Uzbek encyclopedic dictionary.
2. Majdi Vahbat. Mu'jam al-mustalahat al-arabiyya phil-dictionary wal-adab. Beirut. Maktabatu Lebanon. -B 274
3. “Al-Mumte' fi sharh al-ajrumiyya”. Malik ibn Salim al-Mahzari. Maktabatu San'a al-asariyya. Yemen. 2004. -B 80.
4. Jalaluddin As-Suyuti. “Ham'ul-hawame' fi sharh jam' al-jawame”. 3 volumes. Dar al-kutub al-ilmiyyah. Beirut. 1998. J.1-B 366
5. Khalid Abdul-Aziz. “An-Nahw at-tatbiqi”. Dor al-Lu'lu'a. Egypt. 2018. – B 314
6. Bahauddin Abdullah bin Aqil. Commentary Ibn Aqil. 4 volumes. Egypt. Dor at-Turos. 1980. – B.261