Nominal and Verbal Negation in Arabic: 
A Minimal Limitation

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Abstract. This paper discusses some minimal limitations of negation 
verbal and nominal sentences in Palestinian Arabic (PA) and standard 
Arabic (SA). The discontinuous marker *ma*-\textit{sh} and the single neg-
ative marker *maa*, as verbal negators, occur interchangeably in certain 
nominal contexts in our data rejecting the nominal negator *mish*. 
Based on the standard minimalist assumption (Chomsky 1995 and 
Rizzi 1990), the analysis reveals that these nonverbal categories 
which are not allowed by PA to occur by these two verbal negative 
particles, pattern with verbs with respect to their position in negation. 
The negated nominals in these contexts raise to satisfy some checking 
features and suggest that they pattern with verbs and share with them 
some predicational aspects in negation.

Introduction

Among the major issues discussed in recent literature on the Arabic syntax, 
standard and dialects, is one which concerns negation. The discussion of Pal-
estinian Arabic (PA) negation has been the focal concern of many linguists in a 
number of significant studies. However, to the best of the author’s knowledge, 
no study precedent to this one has discussed the syntactic prominence and mini-
mal limitations of nominal and verbal negations in PA, which normally pattern 
with verb particles *maa*, and *ma*-\textit{sh}.

This paper casts light on two syntactic properties of the single negating par-
ticle and provides syntactic description to the collected data, within the confines 
of the recent linguistic framework of the Minimality Program (MP), (Chomsky 
1995 and Rizzi 1990). One property is that *maa*, as used in PA, freely alternates 
syntactic functions and behaviors with the discontinuous verbal negation marker
ma\,-sh, a marker that amalgamates with the verb to express tense and the phi-features (person, gender, and number), (see Benmamoun 2003 and Mohammad 2000). The second syntactic property of ma\,a\, is that it also occurs with a limited class of nouns, and substitutes syntactic roles with the negative particle mish, which negates the pre-nominal construction\(^1\). The limited class of nouns that are pre-nominally negated with either ma\,a\, or ma\,-sh requires predication features.

The distinction follows the recent developments in Chomskian Theory of MP. It is based on the same standard minimalist view, where its core is found in both the representational and the derivational economy conditions (Rizzi 1990, Martin \textit{et al.}, 2000 and Ouhalla 2002); see also Haegeman (1992, 1993 & 1995).

The verb, in cases of verbal negations, must amalgamate with T(ense), since NEG(ation) is lower than T, and within MP the verb must pass through the marked property of NEG (Mohamed & Ouhalla 1995). Otherwise, the sentence is unacceptable because of using the single NEG nominal marker mish instead of the discontinuous verbal negator ma\,-sh, for either failure of the verb to raise and satisfy some feature checking of the Minimalist Program, as in (1-b) below, or for violation of Chomskian Minimalist Link Conditions (Mohammad 2000), as in (1) below:

(1) \(\begin{array}{l}
\text{a - l -walad ma daras -i-sh druus -su} \\
\text{the - boy not studied 3SING/M -NEG lessons -his} \\
\text{"The boy did not study his lessons"}
\end{array}\)

(1) \(\begin{array}{l}
\text{b - l -walad mish daras druus -u} \\
\text{the - boy not studied/3SING/M lessons - his} \\
\end{array}\)

* (1) \(\begin{array}{l}
\text{c - l -walad daras mish druus -u} \\
\text{the - boy study/3 SING/M not lessons - his} \\
\end{array}\)

(1-a) is an SVO sentence that has its verb negated by, and amalgamated with the discontinuous negating particle ma\,-sh. But both (1-b) and (1-c) fail to meet the minimal link conditions of structure in PA, as mish only negates non-verbal elements in a nominal construction, as in (1-d) above. The negated head-noun is the predicate of the nominal sentence.

The verbal VSO sentence in PA is, however, negated by alternately using the two verbal negating particles ma\,a\, and ma\,-sh, as in:

(2) \(\begin{array}{l}
\text{a - ma daras druus -u} \\
\text{not studied lessons - his} \\
\text{"He did not study his lessons"}
\end{array}\)


* the asterisk is used throughout this paper to indicate (ill-formedness).
maa occurs initially and precedes the verb daras, and functions in the same way as the discontinuous ma -sh, with the appropriate phonological changes to the verb and particle as in (2-b) above.

maa alternates meaning and syntactic position with the nominal negating particle mish with a limited group of nouns. One example is the following nominal and negative construction.

\[
\text{(3) } \begin{align*}
\text{a - } & \text{ maa } \text{ il-}u \text{ Ha' } \\
& \text{not for him right } \\
& \text{“He does not have the right”}
\end{align*}
\]

This is an equative sentence marked for negation. The PP il-u raise in (3-b) to satisfy some feature checking, which makes the sentence well-formed and acceptable in PA, just as in (2) above, with the verb daras against the single negative particle maa in (2-a), which would suggest that the PP requires predication features.

Feature Checking proves useful to our analysis. In MP, it is a basic relation between lexical elements in a syntactic feature. It allows one element to 'licence' another by checking off its features with the associated features, (Ouhalla 2002).

**Related Background**

Syntactic relations especially in terms of similarities have been acknowledged by almost all linguists, including most, if not all, modern Arabic dialects. Similarities are also extended to include many features of written SA, and not only the spoken variety of Arabic.

Eid (1992) acknowledges that Arabic dialects such as Iraqi, Palestinian and Makkah Arabic behave like Egyptian. Her earlier work (1998) involves information useful to our study on negation where it works against tense in standard Arabic.

Negation in Palestinian Arabic is discussed by Mohamed & Ouhalla (1995), where some non-verbal categories occur in the so-called nominal sentences. The conclusion that the particle ma -sh which amalgamates with the verb is not possible to attach to non-verbal elements. This conclusion is contrary to Ben-mamoun’s (1990), where other dialects such as Egyptian Arabic and Moroccan...
Arabic allow this at least with some non-verbal predicative categories. Ben-
mamoun’s (2003) is a useful recent work that provides a solid discussion on
nominal and verbal negation. Negative polarity items (Benhamoun 1996) are
conducted on standard Arabic, and his study in (1997) is similar to ours in terms
of discussing negation of verbs.

M. Bahloul (1996) extends NegP hypothesis in Standard Arabic and the vari-
ous sentential modality. R. Bahloul (1996) has discussed a sentential modality,
and has argued that negators in French and Tunisian Arabic occur within the ex-
tended X’, in Government-Binding Theory, named Neg(ative) P(hrase). Briefly,
in X-BAR syntax of Government-Binding Theory, phrasal projections (such as
AP, NP, PP, NegP, etc.) are BAR-Projections which refer to the different types
of phrasal expansion of any word-level category hierarchically. A SINGLE-
BAR Projection is the 'small' X-BAR phrase, and the DOUBLE-BAR Pro-
jection is the 'large' X-double-bar. All full phrases (as NP, PP, etc.) are maximal
projections-levels above which the properties of the lexical entries for the
HEADS have no influence, (Jackendoff 1977).

The following is an illustration of the NegP on a tree diagram:

\[
\text{Spec} \quad \text{NegP} \quad \text{Neg'} \quad \text{XP} \\
\quad \text{Neg} \quad \text{laa}
\]

The above formal description of the NegP in Arabic formulates the basic un-
derstanding and analysis of the discussion of laa to include the single-negating
particle maa, and the correlated complex-article ma -sh.

It is interesting that the dialect of Yemen has been explored in two studies
from two linguistic perspectives. Vanhove (1997) finds that maashii occurs in
nominal sentences and with verbs. Simeone-Senelle (1997), on the other hand,
clarifies that the Tihaamii dialects of Yemen do not differ much from other Ar-
abic dialects in terms of negation.

Bergamon’s (1997) work on Egyptian and Moroccan verbal negation in pro-
erbs concludes that it differs in each variety, see also Bergamon et al. (1994).
Ouhalla (1998, 2002), Laka (1990), Haegeman (1992, 1993 & 1995) and Zan-
nuttini (1990 & 1991) draw a clear link between languages in negation. More-
over, Mohammad (2000) formulates a solid background in word order as well
as subject-verb agreement. Those issues have been essential in the study of Ar-
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Arabic syntax since the time of the Arab grammarian Sibawayhi in the eighth century, where they have been extensively discussed. The most recent versions of the generative grammar framework, namely minimalism, (Chomsky 1995, Martin et al. 2000) formulate the basis of this study. In minimalism, everything must be justified empirically or theoretically, where a sentence (or usage) must be generated as fully grammatical. This ambitious framework has been benefited from in our study, where Mohammad (2000), has clearly inspired us by highlighting specific related cases in PA as well as SA.

Data Analysis

This section contains data and discussion. The data are of two kinds: written standard Arabic (SA) and spoken Palestinian Arabic (PA). SA usages are negative nominal and verbal sentences. The sentences relevant to the topic of this paper are borrowed from Arabic grammar references, and mainly Al-Ghalayyini (1981). PA data are collected from unplanned spoken narratives, transcribed and glossed by the author of this paper, a native speaker of PA. The informants are educated men and women from a few main cities of Palestine, namely Jerusalem, Nablus and Ghaza. Therefore, the data may reflect specific features of PA in negation found to be used by city dwellers. The featural forms constitute the main topic of this paper. The featural forms of PA negative particles used by the educated city dwellers constitute the very features that define the principles binding them. Therefore, this discussion is required to make such features transparent.

Simple negated verbal and nominal sentences in PA that exhibit both negative particles of verbal negations of the correlated negation elements ma(i)-ish, and the single negation elements maa have been selected from the data and analysed to reveal their syntactic properties. Special groups of nominals that act as predicates are negated by the above two verbal negating elements, which are alternately used. The nominal negative element mish is not possible to use for the syntactic facts presented below.

The following discussion consists of two main sections: The first is a general outlook on negation and its formal mechanism in SA. The second section focuses on negation in PA in general; whereafter each of five subsections specifies the special group of nominals which occur as predicatives. These nominals cannot be negated by the nominal negator mish.

1. Negation in Standard Arabic

It is well known in Arabic syntax in particular (see Al-Ghalayyini 1981), and in Semitic Syntax in general (Benmamoun 1997 & 2003, and Moutououakil 1991), that there is an intimate relation between the position of negative par-
particles and the verb in verbal negation. Moreover, simple equative sentence negation can be made in a various ways depending on tense, (Mohammad 2000:31). Arabic is also well known to have more than one negative particle, e.g. maa, laa, lam, lan, laysa. When verbal sentences are negative, one of the three negative particles laa, lam and lan, are always adjacent to the verb in pre-verbal position, no matter in what order, within the order variations found in SA, the sentence has in terms of SVO, VOS, ... (Mohammad 2000, M. Bahloul 1996, and Ouahalla 1998). Such close relation is seen in the subsequent examples:

1. a - laa yaHmil -u haath-a (present/unmarked TENSE)
   "He does not carry this"
   b - lam 'ashtari haath-a (Past TENSE)
   "I did not buy this."
   c - lan 'ashtari-ya haath-a (future TENSE)
   "I will not buy this."

The above usages (5-a, b & c), consist of the three main negating particles which occur adjacent to the verb in SA verbal sentences, where tense information is also inflected and differentiates each one. According to Ben-mamoun (2003) and Ouahalla (1998), the negative verbal particles laa, lam and lan are different variables of the same particle laa. Tense is expressed in laa as carried by each of the three particles, see (5-a), (5-b) & (5-c) above. laa can then be used in SA as either the negative particle laa, or the prohibitive laa. The distinction between them is of a pragmatic nature, which lies outside our area of discussion. It is mainly related to the two verbal moods: indicative (in case of the negative laa), and imperative (in case of the prohibitive laa). Sentence (5-a) above, contains the negative laa.

Following the same reasoning by Ouahalla (1998), the list of negative particles in SA is reduced to two members, laa and maa. laa is restricted to verbal sentences, and maa occupies positions in both nominal and verbal constructions. laysa negates nominal equative – sentences in SA, and can alternate with maa as follows:

1. a - maa l -walad -u fariH -un
   "The boy is not happy"
   b - laysa l -walad -u fariH -an
   "The boy is not happy"

laysa, which is only found in the variety of SA, affects its predicate fariH-an, as in (6-b) above, and it must bear the accusative case, (Mohammad, 1989). In some contexts, maa and laa appear to have the same functions and can be used interchangeably. The main difference between them is of a distributional nature. Where-
as *maa* can co-occur with both verbal and nominal sentences, *laa* is restricted to verbal sentences, where it has a wider scope to negate the whole sentence. In this sense, *maa* has a restricted scope of negation, where it negates a single constituent rather than the whole sentence, (Ouhalla 1998). The following are examples:

(7) a - *maa huwa bi- shaa'er -in* (n-al SA)
not he PRT- poet -GEN
“He is not a poet.”

b - *maa la-huu min Naa Sir -in* (n-al SA)
not for him PRT supporter-GEN
“He doesn’t have a supporter.”

c - *maa daras-a duruus-a -huu* (v-al SA: PAST)
Not study-3 SING/M lesson-ACC - his
“He did not study his lessons.”

(8) a - *laa ta- stagh fir la- hum* (v-al SA; IMP)
not you – ask forgiveness for- them
“Do not ask forgiveness for them.”

b - *laa ta-rji' –uu ma' – i -ya* (v-alSA; untensed)
not you- return -PI/M with – I – ACC
“You don’t return with me.”

Tense is implied in the above nominal sentences (7-a) and (7-b) and is defined by context rather than by an explicit grammatical element; whereas (7-c) expresses the past tense as inflected by the verb *darasa*, the IMP (8-a) and the untensed (8-b) are explicit verbs together with the negative particles *laa* and *maa*.

The formal mechanism underlying verbal negated sentences, shows that T (ense) dominates NEG(ation) in projection. The negative elements project a NegP intervening between T and Agr, as in:

(9) 

```
TP (or IP)
  |
  Spec
  |
  T1
    |
    To
      |
      NegP
        |
        Neg
          |
          AgrP
            |
            Spec
              |
              Agr1
                |
                Agr0
                  |
                  XP
```
The NegP occurs between TP above and AgrP below, and the NegP does not constitute a category for specifier of its own. Negative elements are part of a more general category and should therefore be treated accordingly, (see Benmamoun 1990, 1996 & 2003, M. Bahloul 1996, and Ouhalla 1998). The negative particles are generated under the single functional category NegP. They can be realized morphologically as either the feature-simple particle laa, or as the feature-complex particle with a wider scope of negating the whole verbal sentence. maa, the nominal negator is restricted to constituents, and as in (7-a) above, is correlated with bi-, and min as in (7-b) above. Although these particles syntactically resemble prepositions, they usually correlate with maa in nominal constructions in SA, (Ouhalla 1990).

The minimal limitations of the two negative particles in SA are presented in the tree (9) above, which interprets their formal mechanism. The two verbal particles in PA are used interchangeably, and their occurrence in nominal constructions against the nominal negator mish is discussed in the following section.

2. Negation in Palestinian Arabic

One sentential negative particle in PA is the discontinuous particle ma -sh, and is found in many spoken dialects of Arabic accompanied by certain phonologically determined vowels, (see, among many others, Mohammad 2000, Simeone-Senell et al., 1997, Mohammed & Ouhalla, 1995, Bahloul, M., 1996 and Bahlul1, R., 1996). This correlated discontinuous negative particle, where –sh cliticizes as a bound morpheme onto ma and occurs in situ following ma, which is usually suffixed to a head verb, is found to alternate in the same contexts with maa. They both occur interchangeably in PA and mainly in verbal sentences. Example (2) above presents the alternations between maa (2-a), and ma -sh (2-b) in PA that interchange in exactly the same context.

On the other hand mish, is the third negative particle in PA that predominates in nominal sentences negation, in contrast of laysa in SA. Similar minimal limitations are found in the PA mish in nominal negation those of laysa in SA. The negative scope of mish is restricted to its head noun which it negates, and it carries tense and aspect within its limitations. This syntactic fact justifies the occurrence of mish in nominal context against both maa and ma-sh’s verbal context. maa and ma -sh both have a wider scope in that they negate the whole sentence and not the head word to which they are adjacent. Whereas tree (9) above applies to the formal negation mechanism in verbal negation of PA using maa and ma –sh. The following tree provides the structure and derivation of nominal sentences of the type illustrated in (1-d). X₀ is a noun, an adjective particle or a preposition:
AgrP that appears lower than NegP in tree (9) above for the formal description of verbal sentences, disappears in tree (10) as nominal sentences do not contain an explicit verbal component. However, in case of the feature-complex discontinuous particle ma -sh, the -sh cliticizes to ma under the head position NEG which is immediately dominated by NegP. Having –sh structurally dependent upon its head ma, makes it of a clitic, as it can neither stand by itself nor move to a lower position than NEG, (Ouhalla 2002).

According to our PA data, the verbal negative particles laa, lam, lan, and the nominal negator laysa (or maa) of the SA never appear. Instead, only the three negative particles exist as mentioned above, to satisfy negation contexts.

The following subsections involve nominal contexts in PA used with the verbal-negative particles. The outstanding syntactic property of these predicates is that they go with verbs with respect to their position in relation to the negative particles maa and ma -ash even though they are apparently non-verbal categories. Thus, a blunt description to these contexts is that the non-verbal categories which are not allowed in PA to occur by these two verbal negative particles are the opposite of what is usually found in nominal sentences.

However, it is believed that this group of nominal contexts contains predication, and raises to satisfy some feature checking for a well formed acceptable native PA sentences.

2.1. Expletive Negation Followed by NP

Consider the following:

(11) a - maa Hada mawjuud
    not anyone there
    “No one is there.”

    b - ma Haddi -sh mawjuud
    not anyone – NEG there

    *c mish Hada mawjuud
    not anyone there
In the expletive expressions above (see Cornillon 1998), *Hada* is a non specific predicate in a nominal sentence which cannot accept the nominal negator *mish*. *Hada* is a nominal negative polarity item that can either amalgamate with the complex-negative verbal particle *ma -sh* (11-b), or follow the single-negative *maa* (11-a). The only case where the nominal *mish* occurs is with permutation between the expletive modal auxiliary *'mawjuud'* and the nominal item *Hada* (11-c). Without such permutation, the noun *Hada* cannot be adjacent to *mish*, as in (11-c). The modal auxiliary in this case follows the nominal negator *mish*, and *Hada* moves away from the negative particle. This is not possible with the expletive modal auxiliary *fii*, as in (12-c) and (13-c). On the other hand, negated nominals allow only the verbal particles to occur adjacent to the expletive *fii* as in: (12-a & b) and (13-a & b) above. An indefinite subject is always used with the expletives (see Mohammad 2000).

### 2.2. The Noun Group with NEG Acts as Predicate

The following example is found in PA data which involves one noun of this special type:

(14) a - *maa* 'ism -u heek  
not name – 3SINGM this  
"His name is not this."

b - *ma* 'ism -u- -ush heek  
not name-3SINGM -NEG this

* c - *mish* 'ism - u heek  
not name -3SINGM this

d - *mish* heek 'ism –u  
not this name -his

The above is a nominal sentence, which is negated by the two verbal negative particles, *maa* in: (14-a) and *ma -sh* in: (14-b) above. *mish* is not acceptable
with the same word order or adjacent to this type of noun, as in: (14-c). Per-
mutation takes place between the predicate indefinite noun heek and the subject
noun 'ism-u, the latter having moved away from mish which becomes adjacent
to the predicate heek (14-d). mish rejects adjacency with those types of noun,
see also (11-c) above, where the indefinite noun Hada moves.

The noun, 'ism-u, is one of a limited group of nouns, that are found in PA to
go with verbs in negation, and thus function as predicates. Other nouns are: Hii-
la “possession”, nafs “desire/soul”, Ha’ “right”, shak(e)l “appearance/shape”,
‘isem “name”, as in (14) , and Hada “someone”, as in (11) and (12) above. The
expletive modal auxiliary is also used with these nouns and modifies them in
marked cases such as NEG and even questions (see Mohammad 2000). But
these nouns grouped here share the property of predication in NEG, and reject
the nominal negator mish, which carries tense and aspect within its limitations,
(14-c). It is interesting to realize, as mentioned earlier (see III.2) above, that all
these nouns are abstract, indefinite and describe human senses or possessions.

2.3. Duplicated Pronoun in NEG

Nominal sentences with a duplicated pronoun have a special word order in
NEG, where the negated particle falls between the two duplicated pronouns and
followed by a nominal (usually derived from a verb), with the pattern caacic, as in:

(15)  a - inta maa inta ‘aarif
      you not you know
     “you, you don’t know.”

     b -     inta ma inta-ash ‘aarif
            you not you –NEG know

     *c - inta mish inta ‘aarif
          you not you know

The nominal predicate ‘aarif is patterned as: CaaCiC and inflects for fi-
features. It is the duplicated pronoun following maa amalgamates with the com-
plex-negative particle ma-sh. According to Eid (1992), this pronoun functions
as a ‘copula pronoun’. As for our data, the duplicate pronoun does not occur
with the nominal negator mish, as in (15-c) above. The duplicate pronoun is not
only followed by the nominal predicate patterned as CaaCiC, but is also fol-
lowed by NP, adjP, PP and advP, all predicates that occur in Arabic nominal
sentences.

2.4. PP Pronoun il-u Negated and Followed by HN Predicate

Consider the following usage :
(16)  a -  
ma  il  -u  mazaaj  
not  for  -him  mood  
“He is not in the mood.”

b -  
ma  il  -u  -sh  mazaaj  
not  for  -him  -NEG  mood  

* c -  
mish  il  -u  mazaaj  
not  for-him  mood

A special noun-group follows the PP *il-u*, which may refer to location or position: *waD* ‘position’, *makaan* ‘place’, *markaz* ‘status’, etc., or refer to human possession or feelings, such as: *nafs* ‘soul/desire’) as in: (III.2.3 above), *naSiib* 'share', and even *Hada* 'someone' of the negative polarity. The mechanism of the usage here resembles that of SA in (7-b) above, where tense is not explicitly expressed. It also follows the realization made in (3-a) and (3-b), in that the PP requires predicational features that make it raise to satisfy some feature checking for the grammaticality as in: (16-a) and (16-b) above. But (16-c) with *mish* and its restricted scope of negation, limits the PP *il-u* and deprives it from raising to function as a predicate with the required verbal features. The sentence is then unacceptable.

2.5. maa and ma -sh Negate Verbal Sentences Interchangeably, but not mish

Examples appear in our data and are presented here that conform to the subtitle above:

(17)  a -  
maa  by-  udrus  
not  pres.3SING/M - Study  
“He does not study.”

b -  
ma  by-  udrus  -ish  
not  Pres.3SING/M study  -NEG  

* c -  
mish  by-  udrus  
Not  Pres.3SING/M study

(18)  a -  
maa  daras  
not  study  Past 3SING/M  
“He did not study.”

b -  
ma  daras  -ish  
not  study  -Past 3SING/M  

* c -  
mish  daras  
not  study  (Past 3SING/M)

The wider scope of negation is expressed in (17-a & b) and (18-a & b) above, conveyed by NEG *maa* and *ma -ish* which both alternate interchangeably within the same verbal sentences. *mish* is a restricted-scope particle which negates only its HN constituent within nominal sentences. The only verbal construction where *mish* appears is when negating the future modal *raH* “shall/will” which
inflects optionally for subject agreement. This context allows the three negative particles in PA to alternate freely, where \textit{raH} enjoys a special syntactic status, (see Mohamed and Ouhalla 1995).

The conclusion concerning \textit{laysa} in SA can be benefited from here. When the PA negative particle \textit{mish} negates nominal HNs within a nominal sentence, it carries tense within its restricted negative scope and accordingly clarifies the reason why its HN cannot raise to satisfy some features checking and depends on \textit{mish} that carries predicational features; see examples (3-a) and (3-b) above.

**Conclusion**

This paper discusses some sentences in SA and PA to determine negation in general, so that a specific description of some special usages in PA are clearly analyzed and subsequently described. Two formal descriptions of the mechanisms of verbal and nominal negations are provided; (9) and (10) respectively. Those apply to both varieties discussed: PA and SA.

Special nominal contexts are found in PA to allow negation by verbal negative particles only and rejecting the nominal negator \textit{mish}. Those contexts of nominals involve the negated expletive construction followed by an NP; a special noun group that behaves as verbal predicates in NEG; a duplicated pronoun in NEG forms, and the PP \textit{il-u} negated.

The significant property of these predicates is that they combine with verbs in negation, even though they are apparently non-verbal categories. Accordingly, the formal description of tree diagram (9) of the verbal sentences in negation is applicable in these contexts in their minimal limitation of negation.

**References**


دراسة نحوية لصيغة النفي في الجملة الأسمية والجملة الفعلية في العربية: المنهاج النظري في حدود (المي مالتي)

نهى سليمان داوود الشرفا

 vem ماeshād al-shurafa

أستاذ اللغويات المشارك - قسم اللغات الأوربية وآدابه - كلية الآداب والعلوم الإنسانية
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المستخلص. يقوم هذا البحث بدراسة استخدام صيغة النفي في كل من الجملة الفعلية والاسمية في اللغة العربية الفلسطينية واللغة العربية، وذلك بتطبيق الحدود النظرية لمنهج "المي مالتي". إن كلا من أداء النفي المركبة (م... ش)، والبسيط (ما) الليتين يتم استخدامهما عادة للفن الجملة الفعلية، يمكن أيضا استخدامهما للفن بعض الجمل الاسمية، ويرفض سياق هذه المجموعة من الجمل الاسمية استخدام (مش)، وهي أداة النفي الشائعة التي تستخدم عادة للفن الجملة الاسمية، وتطبيق الهيكل النظري "المي مالتي"، يوضح البحث أن الجملة الاسمية عموما يتم نفيها بآداء (مش)، ولا يمكن استخدام (م... ش) أو (ما) في اللغة الفلسطينية. وأما عند نميمة مجموعة معينة من الجمل الاسمية، وجد إنها تتشابه نحوه مع الفن الجملة الفعلية باستخدام هاتين الأدواتين، مما يجعل هذه المجموعة من الجمل الاسمية ترتفع إلى مستوى الإسهام الفعلي لنقل معنى النفي. ويوضح البحث بعد تحليل البيانات التي تم تجميعها من اللهجة الفلسطينية واللغة العربية، خاصة نموذج قراءة النفي (ما) الخاصية الأولي هي أن (ما) تبادل وظيفتها النحوية مع آداء النفي المركبة (م... ش) التي تستخدم مع الفعل في حالات الإعراب الناقص (المعد والجنس والضمير). أما الخاصية الثانية لأداء (ما) النافذ فهي تستخدم مع مجموعة معينة من الأسماء، بدلا من آداء نفي الجملة الاسمية (مش)، وتتبرد أيضا في وظيفتها النحوية مع آداء النفي المركبة (م... ش).

وتوضح نتائج البحث أن هذه المجموعات الأسمية في اللهجة الفلسطينية ترفض آداء نفي النواكيب الاسمية (مش)، وتحمل في سياقها إسهاماً تعملياً كإسهام الجمل الفعلية حتى ولو كانت أسماء، مما يجعلها تحت سيطرة نحوية عملياً لمساهمتها من قبل.