UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROJECT

(Syntactic functions of complement in English and Kurdish)

at Salahaddin University College of Education-

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2023-2024

Acknowledgement

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who have contributed to the fruition of this research project. Our deepest appreciation goes to my advisor, [D.Rawshan Tahir], whose unwavering guidance and insightful feedback shaped the trajectory of this study. Your mentorship has been invaluable, and We are immensely grateful for the knowledge and expertise you shared. Special thanks are due to [college of education English department at Salaheddin university] for providing the necessary resources and creating a conducive environment for research. To our family and friends, thank you for your unwavering support and understanding during the demanding phases of this project. Your encouragement provided the motivation needed to navigate the challenges.

Abstract

This research project looks at the syntactic functions of complements in both English and Kurdish, with the goal of learning more about their structural properties' contributions to sentence building. The study takes a comparative approach to analyzing the many forms of complements found in both languages. Chapter one explains the research aims, defines the research topics, and emphasizes the need of investigating complements in English and Kurdish. It establishes the framework for the next chapters, situating the inquiry within the larger context of linguistic analysis. The second chapter focuses into English complements, namely verb and prepositional complements and their roles in sentence structure. The link between complements and arguments is examined in depth, with a focus on their syntactic and semantic differences. The third chapter extends the research to Kurdish complements, looking at their syntactic and functional aspects. This chapter uses comparative analysis to illustrate similarities and differences between complement structures in Kurdish and English. Chapter four summarizes the outcomes of the comparative analysis and provides concluding thoughts. It emphasizes the value of cross-linguistic research in furthering our understanding of complement structures and their implications for linguistic theory and language instruction.

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<div align="center">**Section One**</div>

1.1 Introduction

The study looks into complementation patterns in English and Kurdish, focusing on their syntactic roles and distributional characteristics. The goal is to investigate how complements interact with verbs, grammatical categories, and discourse context in both languages. The study uses natural language data to identify systematic trends and variations in complement structures, shedding light on their morphosyntactic limitations. Furthermore, the study looks into the consequences of complementation patterns for language learning, processing, and linguistic theory. By illuminating the syntactic functions of complements in English and Kurdish, the work advances our understanding of language structure and variation, providing insights into the mechanisms underpinning sentence generation and interpretation in a variety of linguistic contexts.

1.2 Research aims

The project aims to investigate and compare the syntactic functions of complements in English and Kurdish languages. The study's specific goal is to investigate the syntactic structures of complementation in both languages across a variety of sentence kinds, detecting parallels and differences in complementary patterns. It also tries to investigate the syntactic limitations that influence complement selection by various verb types, as well as their role in communicating tense, aspect, and mood distinctions.

1.3 Research questions
1. What are the types of complements in the English language?
2. What are the types of complements in the Kurdish language?
3. What are the differences and similarities between English and Kurdish?

1.4 Significance of the research

The value of this study stems from its contribution to various fields of linguistics and language studies. First, it improves our comprehension of syntactic structures and complementation patterns in English and Kurdish, offering information on cross-linguistic variance and universals in language syntax. Second, it sheds light on the syntactic limitations that influence complement selection, helping us better understand language processing and production mechanisms. Third, the study's findings have the potential to inform language teaching approaches and curriculum development, particularly for bilingual education programmers that include both English and Kurdish. Fourth, it addresses translation issues between the two languages, resulting in improved communication and cultural interchange.

Section Two
Complement in English Language

2.1 Definition of Complement

Complements are words or groups of words that are necessary to complete the meaning of another part of the sentence. Complements act like modifiers to add additional meaning to the word or words they are attached to. However, unlike adjunct modifiers, they do not add supplemental information—they provide information that is necessary to achieve the intended meaning in the sentence. Complements, even those that complete the meaning of the subject, are always part of the predicate. (Herring, 2016, P 860)

For example, the complement of the verb believe in (1) is the noun

phrase John. Together, believe and John make up the verb phrase, believed John.

    (1) Mary [believed John]. (Lobeck, 2000, Pp. 248-249).
          VP

2.2 Types of Complement

There are five main categories of complements: subject complements, object complements, adjective complements, verb complement and adverbial complements. We'll briefly look at each below.:

2.2.1 Subject Complements

A subject complement is the information that follows a linking verb to describe, identify, or rename the subject of the clause. Subject complements can be nouns, pronouns, or adjectives. Even though they modify the subject, they are dependent on the verb of the clause and thus are part of the predicate. For example, "Her husband took all the credit, but it was she who did all the work." (The pronoun she re-identifies the subject it.) • "You look nice." (The adjective nice describes the subject you.)

    1- Predicate nouns: Nouns that follow linking verbs are known as predicate nouns (or sometimes predicative nouns or predicate nominatives). These serve to rename or re-identify the subject. If the noun is accompanied by any direct modifiers (such as determiners, adjectives, or prepositional phrases), the entire noun phrase acts predicatively. For example: • "Love is a virtue." (The noun phrase a virtue follows the linking verb is to rename the subject love.) •

"Tommy seems like a real bully." (The noun phrase a real bully follows the linking verb seems to rename the subject Tommy)

2- Predicate pronouns: We can also use a predicate pronoun after a linking verb to re-identify the subject. This is most common in questions and responses in which the identity of the subject is not known or is being explained. For example: • Question: "Who is it?" (The pronoun it follows the linking verb is to rename the subject who.) • Answer: "It's me!" (The pronoun me* follows the linking verb is to rename the subject It.) We also commonly use personal pronouns in the possessive case predicatively, as in: • "That's mine." The computer was his." • "Victory is ours!".

3- Predicative Adjective: A predicative adjective is an adjective used after a linking verb to describe or modify the subject of the clause. For example: • "You look nice." • "He is very handsome." Here, nice describes the subject you, while the adjective phrase very handsome describes the subject he. Note that adjectives appearing immediately before the noun they are describing are known as attributive adjectives. For example: • "The old man seems nice." Old is an attributive adjective that describes the subject, man. Nice also describes man, but it is a predicative adjective because it follows the linking verb seems.

2.2.2 Object Complements is a word or group of words that describes, renames, or completes the direct object of the verb; without one, we are left asking what about the state or condition of the direct object as a result of the verb. An object complement can be a noun or noun phrase; an adjective or adjective phrase; a relative clause, an infinitive or infinitive phrase, adverb of place and prepositional phrase.

1- Noun and noun Phrases: When a noun phrase follows the direct object in a clause with a transitive verb, it functions as an object complement. Here some examples -: I can make him a better person. In this example the pronoun 'him' is the direct object and the noun phrase 'a better person' is the object complement. The committee elected <u>him</u> **treasurer**.

2- Adjectives and adjective phrases: Factitive verbs also take adjectives and adjective phrases as their object complements. But whereas a noun that functions as an object complement will rename a direct object, an adjective serves to describe or modify the direct object. Like all object complements, adjectives must follow the direct object they are describing. If they come before it, they are simply acting as attributive adjectives, which are not necessary to complete the meaning of the sentence.examples: All he wanted was to make <u>his husband</u> **happy**. We decided to paint <u>my room</u> **bright pink.**

3- Relative clauses: Relative clauses are dependent clauses that are introduced by relative pronouns. Like adjectives, relative clauses serve to describe the noun that they follow; for this reason, they are often called adjective clauses. For example: Do you know <u>someone</u> **who can work the photocopier**?, I hate <u>the color</u> **that they painted this room**.

4- Infinitives and infinitive phrases: An infinitive or infinitive phrase acts as an object complement by describing the intended or desired action of the direct object. For example: -I made hre <u>promise</u> **to help me**.(The infitive phrase is **to help me** and describes the direct object <u>promise</u>). -The jury found <u>him</u> **gulity of the crime**. (the infitive phrase is gulity of thr crim and describes the direct object him. (Herring, 2016, P.870-875).

5- Adverbs of place: help us express where the verb is taking place. Using them will help us be more accurate about locations, Adverbs of place (also called spatial adverbs) modify a verb to tell us where an action takes place. They provide information about the location or position of something They do not modify adjectives or other adverbs. Examples -Come **here** for a minute. I've lived in **France** my whole life.

6- Prepositional Phrases: Prepositional phrases (or postpositional phrases, adpositional phrases) are groups of words that contain a preposition, its object, and any modifying words that follow the preposition. They provide additional information about the relationship between different elements in a sentence. Examples: -I'm worried **about** <u>Margaret</u>. Preposition + Noun. -Have you heard anything **from** <u>him</u>? Preposition + Pronoun.(langeek, 2020).

2.2.3 Adjective Complements also called an adjective phrase complement is defined as a functional part of a sentence that completes the meaning of, or complements, an adjective or adjective phrase. Adjective complements provide information that makes a word or group of words function as an adjective in a clause or sentence. They are usually paired with predicative adjectives, which are adjectives that come after a linking verb and describe the subject. If the meaning of an adjective is unclear as written, then an adjective complement is needed. If a sentence reads, "Barb is nervous," it conveys the idea that Barb is someone who tends to be nervous all the time. The word "nervous" is a predicate adjective because it is placed after a linking verb (is) and describes the subject (Barb). If the author or speaker isn't trying to say that Barb has a general trait of nervousness, then more information is needed to complete the meaning. The predicate adjective "nervous" can be clarified with the addition of an adjective complement. The sentence "Barb is nervous about public speaking" specifies the situation in which she is nervous. The addition of the adjective complement "about public speaking" completes the meaning of the adjective in this sentence, an adjective complement can be prepositional phrase, infinitive phrase and noun clause. (Gormandy white, 2021, yourdictionary.com).

1- Prepositional phrase: A prepositional phrase often functions as an adjective complement in a sentence. As an adjective complement, it sits next to an adjective and provides more information about the adjective. This piece of information it provides helps the readers or listeners to understand the context in a better way. Prepositional phrases are formed by using a preposition and its object (noun, noun phrase, noun clause, pronoun). "I am not happy with your performance". Here, 'with your performance' is a prepositional phrase that's working as an adjective complement. It's coming next to the adjective 'happy' and giving useful information about it. If we ended the sentence with the adjective happy, we wouldn't have more clarity about the sentence. We wouldn't know what the speaker is unhappy with. (Sharma, 2022, englishwithasish.com).

2- Infinitive phrase: Infinitive phrases are formed from full infinitive verbs (to + the base form of the verb) plus any additional objects or modifiers of the verb. I am happy to see you again. 'To see you again' is an infinitive phrase that's coming next to the adjective 'happy' and telling us the reason for this state of existence. It completes the meaning of the adjective by telling us why the

speaker is happy. If it weren't there, we wouldn't know why the speaker is happy. This completely changes the meaning of the sentence.

3- Noune clause: is a dependent clause that is able to function grammatically like a noun. Noun clauses begin with the words that, how, if, and the "wh-" words—what, whatever, where, wherever, when, whenever, why, which, whichever, who, whom, whoever, whomever, whether, and whatever. "We were a little curious why they decided to leave." (Why they decided to leave is the complement of the adjective curious.) "The boss is certain who will lead the next project." (Who will lead the next project is the complement of the adjective certain). (Herring, 2016, P.879)

2.2.4 Verb Complement is usually an object that comes after a verb and completes its meaning. Without the verb complement, the sentence stops giving the same meaning and looks incomplete. "I want" When you read this sentence, you feel something needs to come after the verb 'want'. It's important to talk about what you want. Without its object (complement), the sentence looks incomplete. Corrections (with verb complements): "I want to learn from you". "I want some food". Now, after adding the object of the verb 'want', the sentence makes sense. The object here is completing the meaning of the verb. There are two types of verb complements:

Direct object: A verb is someone or something that directly receives the action. Asking 'what' or whom' to the verb gives you the direct object. Ex – I love Jon. (Love whom = Jon (DO)) The sentence does not make sense or looks incomplete without the object. The object is a complement to the verb. More examples: You can't beat us in the match. We have food for you.

An indirect object is usually a person for whom an action is done. The indirect object receives the action. We can find it by asking 'whom' to the verb. An indirect object is always used with a direct object. It can't be used in a sentence if the direct object is not there. Ex – She gave Jonas a beautiful car. Direct object = a beautiful car (gave what?) Indirect object = Jonas (gave it to whom?) Try imagining the sentence (She gave) without the objects. The sentence doesn't make sense without the objects working as the complement to the verb. More examples: I will give him the money in some time. Rahul taught us Money Management last week.

What can be a complement to the verb? A verb complement as its object can be the following things: Noun or noun phrase, Pronoun, Gerund or gerunds phrase, Infinitive or infinitive phrase.

1- A noun or a noun phrase often works as the object of a verb. Here are some examples: "Some of us are training <u>kids</u> to be fighters". "I don't have <u>money</u> to spend".

2- Pronoun can also be an object of the verb. Here are some examples: I have never seen <u>him</u>.

3- A gerund or a gerund phrase can also receive the main verb directly. Here are some examples: My friend Monu loves <u>playing with kids</u>.

4- An infinitive can also be an object of a verb. You can use it with all action verbs; there are some verbs that can be used only with infinitives. Examples: I like <u>to sing</u> sometimes. (Sharma, 2022, englishwithasish.com)

2.2.5 Adverbial complement is an adverb or an adverbial that completes the meaning of a verb. It helps the sentence render the meaning it intends to give. Taking an adverbial complement out of a sentence changes its core meaning; it takes an essential part of the sentence, unlike an adjunct. It is a type of verb complement as it helps to complete the meaning of a verb.

Examples:

- Don't put me in his group. In this example, the prepositional phrase 'in his group' is a complement to the verb 'put'. Removing it makes the sentence incomplete and takes away its meaning. You put something somewhere; not mentioning the place where you put something will make the sentence lose its meaning and make it incomplete.

- I love coming here. Here, the adverb 'here' is a complement to the verb 'coming'. You don't just come; you come to a place. So, mentioning the place is important. The place has to be combined with the verb. Taking the verb

complement out of the sentence makes it sound incomplete (I love coming). When you look at this sentence without the adverb, the question 'where' organically comes to your mind.

- Don't aim for a money fight. 'For a money fight' is the adverbial complement here. It is a prepositional phrase that complements the verb and helps it complete the correct meaning of the sentence. When used as an intransitive verb, it is followed by a prepositional phrase starting with either 'for' or 'at'. (Sharma, 2022, englishwithasish.com)

Section Three
Complement in Kurdish language

3.1 Definition of Complements

An introduction about Kurdish grammar, we have syntactic tools that form sentences that are sentences in terms of structure (simple, compound, and complex), Also, sentences in terms of content (declarative, interrogative exclamatory imperative). It also indicates the main and secondary parts of a sentence (subject and their types, verb …etc.)

(Khoshnaw, 2012, P16)

A complement is a sentence-forming component that is related to verb or they are those components that come with verb and they make the sentence into a grammatical sentence and give it the intended meaning.

There are many types of complement in Kurdish but here we will only discuss two main types of complement verb complement that also called (direct object) and auxiliary complement (indirect object)

(Ahmed Khoshnaw, 2008, P52)

3.2 Types of complement

In Kurdish grammar we have many secondary types of complement but we have only two main types which are: verb complement and auxiliary complement

3.2.1 Verb complement or direct object they are the parts of speech that take function of some verbs, removing them creates a semantics and grammatical rule gap in the sentences.

Direct object come between subject and verb, here is the rule (subject+ d. object + verb) moreover only noun and subject pronoun can be a direct object in the sentence, they answer the question (what, who). Another feature that distinguishes direct object is that the preposition does not precede direct object since this component don't need any preposition by itself can complete its function. Removing direct object from the sentence make it incomplete in term of semantically and order of the component of the sentence. Hence the existence of direct object in the transitive sentence is necessary.

EX: - هاوزار خانووی کڕی = Hawnaz buy a house.

5- نازەنین ئێوەی بانگ کرد = Nazanin invited you.

The words (خانوو- ئێوە) contain (noun – pronoun) play the role of direct object and directly acted upon. If it removed, it makes up grammatical gap this cause that the listener don't understand the meaning of the sentence.

6- نازە چێشت لێدەنێت = Naza is cooking.

The word (چێشت) is a noun and it function as an object because it completes the (چێشت) that is a transitive verb, if we didn't bring the word (چێشت) we didn't know what Naza is cooking.

(Haval Shamsadin, kurdipedia)

3.2.2 Auxiliary complement or indirect object it is a noun or subject pronoun that complete the meaning of the verb in the sentence with preposition (بـــە- ەوە، لە- دا، بۆ، ه، د، ل، ژ، ژبۆ، بـــەرەو.....)

Indirect object comes with and it comes in different places in the sentence. Indirect object comes with transitive and intransitive verb, and passive voice.

Ex: مامۆستا وانه به ئێمه دهڵێت = Teacher teaches us.

(ئێمـــه) is the first-person plural subject pronoun and it function as indirect object as it completes the meaning of transitive verb (دهڵێـــت) by (به) preposition.

Ex:- ئێمه له کارهكهدا سهردهكهوین = we will successful in the work.

The word (کارهکـــه) is a singular noun and it function as indirect object as it completes the meaning of intransitive verb (ســـهردهكهوین) by (له- دا) preposition.

(زمان و ئهدهبی کوردی پۆلی یازدهیهم, 2022, P18)

Section Four

4.1 Conclusion

Complements play an important part in both English and Kurdish grammar, serving as necessary elements for constructing grammatically acceptable sentences and communicating intended meaning. English has a wide range of complement kinds, including subject complements, object complements, adjective complements, verb complements, and adverbial complements. These various complements serve the function of conveying additional information about the verb, subject, object, adjective, or adverb within the sentence. Kurdish grammar, on the other hand, has a

more simplified complement system, which is divided into two categories: verb complements (for direct objects) and auxiliary complements (for indirect objects). Despite these structural variations, both English and Kurdish use complements to achieve the same basic goals: completing sentence meaning, guaranteeing grammatical accuracy, and successfully communicating the desired message. Furthermore, the location of complements in a phrase varies according to their nature and function. In English, complements can come before or after the verb, follow the subject, or modify adjectives and adverbs. In Kurdish grammar, however, verb complements (direct objects) are normally placed between the subject and the verb, although auxiliary complements (indirect objects) may be placed differently depending on the sentence structure and the individual verb used. Finally, in both languages, prepositions are used alongside complements to indicate specific relationships between sentence elements. Prepositions are widely used with adverbial complements in English, but they are also regularly used with auxiliary complements (indirect objects) in Kurdish grammar to clarify the relationship between the complement and the verb. By studying the syntactic functions of complements in both English and Kurdish, scholars can get significant insights into the intricacies of language structure and use. This comparative approach not only illuminates how speakers construct meaning within sentences, but it also reveals the underlying syntactic rules that govern both languages. Furthermore, such a comparative approach can be useful in a variety of fields, including language learning, translation studies, and theoretical linguistics.

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