

NOM Prénom : Fayssal Tayalati

Nature de la mission (séjour de recherche, participation à un colloque. . .) : participation à un colloque

Lieu et date : June 26-28, Al-Akhawayne, University, Ifrane, Morocco

Frais de mission attribués par le laboratoire : Billets + Séjours (2nuits) + Frais d'inscription au colloque

Description de la mission (par ex. résumé de l'intervention proposée/activités de recherche réalisées au cours de la mission. . .) :

Abstract :

Semantic and syntactic properties of two event nominal expressions in Arabic

Arabic lexicon includes a nominal form, traditionally called *masdar*, whose meaning and form is (more or less) related to that of a verb. Following Grimshaw (1990), Fassi Fehri (1993), Kremers (2003, 2007) and Bardeas (2009) among others distinguished three types of *masdars* illustrated in (1-3).

(1) qasfu l-ʔamri:kiyyi:na l-madi:nata khallafa dama:ran kabi:ran
 bombing.N the-Americans.Gen the-city.FAcc caused destruction.Acc.Indef big.Acc.Indef
 « Americans' bombing the city caused a lot of damages »

(2) quasfu l-ʔamri:kiyyi:na li-l-madi:nati khallafa dama:ran kabiran
 bombing.N the-Americans.Gen to-the-city.Gen caused destruction.Acc.Indef big.Acc.Indef
 « Americans' bombing of the city caused a lot of damages »

(3) kuntu cha:hidan 3ala: qasfin mur3ibin
 be.Past.1stPers witness-Indef on bombing.Gen-a frightening.Gen.Indef
 « I was a witness of a frightening bombing »

Masdar illustrated in (1) (equivalent to English gerunds) corresponds to those named by Grimshaw 'Complex Event Nominals (CEN)'. Compared to those in (2/3), it possesses properties that are more verbal than nominal: it refers to an action and retains the verb's argument and event structure.

However, it is necessary to add to the current typology a fourth type of *masdar* (4) which also has properties more verbal than nominal.

(4) quasfu l-madi:nati (min tarafi l-ʔamri:kiyyi:na) khallafa 3iddata daha:ya
 bombing.N the-city.FGen (on part the-Americans.Gen) caused many victims
 « The bombing of the city (by Americans) caused many victims »

The aim of this work is to discuss *masdar*'s semantic and syntactic properties, illustrated in (2) and (4). They clearly have different properties. Only *masdars* illustrated in (4), like those in (1), preserve the verb's properties (meaning and argumental structure, manner adverbial modification, lack of morphological determiner and plural). However, both can

refer to an event (Van de Velde 2006) which raises an important question concerning the (ontological) nature of event they predict.

We follow Van de Velde (2006) to support that masdars illustrated in (2) and (4) refer to distinct events, distinguished by several semantic (and syntactic) properties. The first one denotes a 'particular event' whose principal property is that it has a *real* existence both in time and space. The second one denotes however a 'generic event'. Generic event can exist *really*, but also *ideally*. This difference explains for example why masdars of the type illustrated in (2) can appear only in factual context (5), and never in counterfactual ones as shown by (6).

(5) qasfu l-ʔamri:kiyyi:na (li-l-madi:nati) khallafa ʕiddata daha:ya:
bombing.N the-americans.Gen (to-the-city.Gen) caused many victims
« Americans' bombing of the city caused many victims »

(6) *qasfu l-ʔamri:kiyyi:na (li-l-madi:nati) sayukhallifu ʕiddata daha:ya:
bombing.N the-Americans.Gen (to-the-city.Gen) cause.Fut many victims

The counterfactual interpretation is possible only for masdars of the type mentioned below:

(7) qasfu l-madi:nati (min tarafi l-ʔamri:kiyyi:na) sayukhallifu ʕiddata daha:ya:
bombing.N the-city.FGen (on part the-Americans.Gen) cause.Fut many victims
« The bombing of the city (by Americans) would cause many victims »

More generally, a study of semantic properties (often neglected) of masdars, and not only their morphological or syntactic ones, reveals new properties and contributes to a better classification of the whole class.

Bénéfice de la mission (pour le chercheur/l'enseignant-chercheur, pour le laboratoire) :

La dimension internationale du colloque a permis d'établir des contacts avec des spécialistes de la linguistique arabe.
