

## The confrontative approach to the case category in the languages of Azerbaijani and Arabic

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*Abstract:* This paper is devoted to the case category in Azerbaijani and Arabic languages. The confrontative approaches are used for the analysis of case category. Through this method, the author was able to conduct an analysis of the case category in Arabic and Azerbaijani languages and he identified the most significant points and distinctive features in the present languages.

*Keywords:* Irab, declension, locative, accusative, genitive construction, Arabic case category, hal in Azerbaijani language

In order to identify the similar phenomenon in different languages, the definition of language categories is one of the main conditions by referring to the same principles [1, 68]. Each of the world languages has its specific grammatical structure and natural development, whereas they have different grammatical categories. That is, the grammatical categories do not appear in same form in different world languages [2, 94]. Case category is one of the categories that has especial importance in the grammar system. The grammatical structure of a language is one of the dimensions that distinguishes it from other languages. This difference has the appearance in case category too. In different languages, the case category differs from each other both in specific aspect and in terms of number. For example, the number of cases is five in Greek, three in Arabic, four in German, and six in Azerbaijani etc. (3, 23; 4, 73).

As regards the origin of the concept of case category, the analyses show that the roots of this concept go back to the ancient Greek. So, the case in ancient Greek means “ptotis” (πτωσις) that is casus in Latin. It was spoken about case category in the Aristotle's Poetry for the first time [3, 23].

The word of **hālun** [hālun] “state, position, status” is Arabic origin and it expresses the term of ‘case’ in Azerbaijani language. This word has derived from the verb **hāla** [hāla] that means ‘to change, convert, transform, to be changed etc.’ [5, 447] and is used in Arabic as a syntactic

term to describe the adverbial modifier of manner.

Azerbaijani literature language in Azerbaijan Republic is now written in Roman letters. Cyrillic is still encountered, and there is a one-on-one correspondence between the two alphabets, though the order of letters is different. As noted above, Modern Standard Azerbaijani has six cases: Nominative, Genitive, Dative, Accusative, Locative, Ablative. The Nominative has zero ending. The following case endings are:

Genitive (Yiyəlik): -ın<sup>4</sup>, -nın<sup>4</sup> (that is, there are four allomorphs: -ın, -in, -un, -ün)

Dative (Yönlük): -a, -ya

Accusative (Təsirlik): -ı<sup>4</sup>, -nı<sup>4</sup>

Locative (Yerlik): -da<sup>2</sup>

Ablative (Çıxışlıq): -dan<sup>2</sup> [6,154]

The word *irab* signifies the analysis, parsing, syntax, inflection, declension etc. in the grammar and expresses the relations between different elements in speech process. In other words, *irab* means expressing and it is true of system, as it expresses relationships between different elements of an utterance (communication) in very clear and explicit way. In the case marking system, each word is marked by a certain vowel, or suffix for its case, i.e. its function in the sentence [7].

In this paper we will focus on the brief discussions of the most important concepts in the study of declension in Arabic and Azerbaijani and will research the relationships between morphological and grammatical functions, in particular the principles governing the assignment of the grammatical cases, i.e. Nom. and Acc. All work on case distinguishes grammatical or syntactic (Nom., Acc); lexical (to verbal arguments); and semantic (to adverbial adjuncts) kinds

of case-assignment. According to J.Maling, "it is often assumed that the grammatical cases are used to encode grammatical functions (GFs)" [8, 49].

The case category according to its means of expression has morphological character, and according to its function is syntactic character. The double character of the case category comes from the fact that the words are changed by the affixes, and, as a result of the change, they express various grammatical means combining these affixes in the sentence. The meaning of the case category applies to all languages. However, the way of expression of this meaning is not the same in all languages [2,96].

Although we agree partly with the view which is mentioned above, it should be noted that the meaning of each cases can also vary according to the languages. For example, the genitive case is monosemantic in Azerbaijani, however it is polysemantic in Arabic. So, this case in Azerbaijani indicates, as a rule, the possession, whereas in Arabic it expresses both the possession and ablative, genitive, locative and dative by using different prepositions. While speaking of Arabic case category it is important to mention that unlike Azerbaijani, Arabic declension does not only include the nouns, it also contains other parts of speech. This fact is noted by C.Ryding in her book named "Ara-bic: A Linguistic Introduction". The author emphasizes that some parts of speech such as nouns, adjectives, participles, demonstrative and relative pronouns can be declined [9, 91-92]. That is why the Arabic case category is considered to be a general grammatical category [10, 210]. From this we can conclude that the category of the Azerbaijani language can be considered a special grammatical category. It is true that the case category in Azerbaijani appears not only in nouns, but also in other word classes. Because of this feature, some of Azerbaijani linguists refer it to the general grammatical category. All the same, Y.Seyidov does not approve this idea that the categories of case and possession are general grammatical categories. He says: "Let's just say that, in our opinion, the categories of state and possession can never be considered as general grammatical categories. Both of these categories belong only to the noun. In other words, no part of speech is inflected, except the noun." [11, 159-160]. The author accepts the idea that although the other parts of speech take part in the declension, these variations can not be considered as the declension of those parts of speech, because none of these parts of speech has specific inflection forms, or affixes. That is, any part of speech can not to be declined in its real position. Each of these makes declension by the way of substantivization. He states that it is wrong to consider the case category in Azerbaijani as a general grammatical category. In order to justify his opinion, the author cites the incomplete quotation from Salim Jafarov's book named "Theoretical foundations of noun teaching". He writes: "The case category is a category that belongs to noun, however it uses in any parts of speech in Azerbaijani" [11,160-161]. Actually, S.Jafarov considers in his work the case category of noun as general grammatical category [12, 63-64]. In referring to P.Sunik the Azerbaijani linguist A.Akhundof distinguishes two kinds of the grammatical category: general grammatical categories and special grammatical categories. He refers the case category to the row of special grammatical categories [13, 152]. At this point, prof. Q. Kazimov writes: "The case various, that is, inflection are specific



word that changes its suffixes due to the position in the sentence. However the nouns with an uninflected end in the sentence are termed *mabni* (indeclinable) [10,210].

Unlike Arabic there are not in Azerbaijani indeclinable nouns. In Arabic, the term "*irab*" refers not only to the names (nouns, adjectives, participles, demonstrative pronouns, or relative pronouns) but also to the declension of the verbs. We talked previously about the cases and mentioned that there are three kinds of cases in the Arabic language: *marfū* (مرفوع – nominative), *ma'rūr* (مرفوع – genitive), *mansūb* (منصوب – accusative).

**Marfū:** One of the most important points in Arabic is that there are the grammatical signs, or the suffixes for nominative both in definite and indefinite. Thus, "damma" (◌ِ) which is placed on the last consonant of the word and resembles the numeral of 9 (nine), expresses the nominative of definite words and is pronounced as shortly "u". Let us take a look at writing of the word *pen* in Arabic: قلم (al-ga-lam+u), قلم (galam+un). Naturally, this context is only about declinable nouns (*mu'rab*), not indeclinable ones. The nominative mark in Azerbaijani language is zero affix. For example: *kitab* (book), *top* (ball), *meşə* (forest) etc.

**Macrūr:** The genitive case in Arabic is generally used everywhere the nominative and accusative cases are not used. The simple genitive case comes into being by adding *kasra* (the short vowel *i*) to the final consonant of the noun. We use the same ending regardless of gender and number. The following are several definite nouns in the genitive: صديق [as-sadīgi] 'of the friend'; مديناتي [al-madīnati] 'of the city'; قلبي [al-galbi] 'of the heart' etc. In Arabic the second term of *Idafa* is almost always in genitive case. The noun that preceded by a preposition, it takes the genitive case. The indefinite genitive affix is used to express the genitive case of an indefinite noun. Take a look at few examples: صديق [sadīgin] 'of a friend'; مديناتي [madīnatin] 'of a city'; قلبي [galbin] 'of a heart' etc.

Unlike Arabic there is not any marker of indefinite genitive in Azerbaijani. For example: *Bakının gecələri* [Bakinin gecələri], *Bakı gecələri* [Bakı gecələri] (the nights of Baku, or Baku's night).

**Mansūb:** The accusative case, in Arabic, is called *nasb* or *mansūb*. The accusative case in Arabic is frequently used adverbially in instance where the Latin would employ the ablative, or the accusative with a preposition. The accusative in Arabic is sometimes equivalent to the Azerbaijani accusative. The definite accusative case comes into being by adding *fatha* – the short vowel *a* (◌َ) to the final consonant of the noun. The mark of indefinite accusative is *tanvin-fatha* (◌ِ) that is pronounced like *an*. For example:

[kitāba-l-tu ḡ gara] ḡḡḡḡḡḡ ḡḡḡḡḡḡ (2 ;'letter a writing am l' [risalatan aktubu] ḡḡḡḡḡḡ ḡḡḡḡḡḡ (1  
"I have red a book" etc.

In contrast to Azerbaijani, there are not dative, locative and ablative in Arabic language. As we have already mentioned above, the Arabic genitive can express dative, locative and ablative with the help of various prepositions. For example:

ḡḡḡḡḡḡ ḡḡ ;home the at – [bayti-l-fi] ḡḡḡḡḡḡ ḡḡ ;home the to – [bayti-l-ila] ḡḡḡḡḡḡ ḡḡḡ  
[min-al-bayti] – from the home.

Short content: 1) In Arabic language the case category is a general grammatical category and is characteristic for the noun and other parts of speech. But in Azerbaijani the case category it is a special grammatical category and is characteristic for names, however the other parts of speech can be declined after substantivisation.

2) While there are three cases for noun and other parts of speech in Arabic, Azerbaijani language is characterized by six cases of nouns and substantivized words.

3) The mood category in Arabic is identified with the case category. Because, the verbs also are termed marfūḡ, maḡrūr, and mansūb as the nouns while declining. Whereas, the case category of the verbs in Arabic concurs to some extent with the mood category of Azerbaijani according to the content.

4) Even if the declension of the words is named ḡirāb in Arabic, it is termed hal in Azerbaijani language.

5) The word hal in Azerbaijani language denotes the name of the adverbs which expresses the manner of action as a syntactical term.

6) Whereas each of cases in Arabic has definite and indefinite forms, the indefinite form in Azerbaijani belongs to the genitive and the accusative.

7) There is grammatical marker of the nominative case (in definite, or indefinite) in Arabic, however there is no any morphological marker of the nominative case in Azerbaijani language.

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