

On Linguistic Reviews of Arabic and Bangla: A Comparative Study

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Abstract—This research work sets out to explore the major distinctions between Arabic and Bangla—the languages with unidentical origins. Comparing and analyzing the various aspects of these two languages requires huge linguistic expertise in the respective fields as it is a most complicated job for anyone to accomplish. Arabic and Bangla are two of the leading languages of the world, specially in terms of the number of speakers, tourism, religion and the growing demands in world affairs. As Arabic and Bangla are from unlike families of languages, they differ a lot in the word class, grammar, pronunciation, usage, writing style and so forth. In particular, the sentence structure in Arabic is divided into two types, such as, verbal i.e. V+S+C and nominal i.e. S+C; while the typical Bangla sentence pattern is inflexion-based i.e. S+C+V. Like any other vocalized language, Arabic does not have vowels in the alphabet which is recognized as an ‘abjad’ meaning a ‘consonantal alphabet’. Therefore, a syllable or word in Arabic is formed without the help of any vowels. However, Bangla has eleven vowels to constitute a syllable or word. Moreover, Arabic is read and written from right to left, whereas Bangla is from left to right. Despite all these differences, Arabic and Bangla have some similarities as well. For instance, they do not have any differences between the upper case and the lower case. Besides, Arabic and Bangla are both phonetic and rhotic languages. Nevertheless, there are a few more minor differences between Arabic and Bangla. Hence, this paper is intended to provide the learners, users, as well as teachers of the two languages with some important facts and features which are often faced, essentially in the areas of writing, speaking and translating.

Index Terms—alphabet, grammatical word class, punctuation, language family, triconsonantal root, writing system

I. INTRODUCTION

Language is basically an arbitrary means of human communication. It has a lot of subclasses called dialects which are spoken by the ethnic groups in some areas of a country or region. However, the objective of the current study is to find and evaluate the main differences between the standard varieties of Arabic and Bangla which are two prevalent languages of the world with respect of the number of users, natural resources and globalization. To differentiate between the characteristics and properties of any two languages of discrete origins has always been a very intricate job that necessitates bilingual expertise to a great extent. Arabic occupies the fifth position in the world having

approximately 371.4 million native speakers which is 4.64% of the world population spreading primarily in the regions of the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia, Western Asia and some other areas; and on the other hand, Bangla is the sixth language on the globe with 280.9 million native speakers which is 3.51% of the world population mainly used in Bangladesh and some parts of India—West Bengal, Tripura and southern Assam (Ethnologue, 2023). The main reason for the variation between Arabic and Bangla is that they belong to two very different language families. This paper is, therefore, envisioned to provide the learners, the teachers as well as the researchers of the two languages with some important facts and features in the standard variety so as to learn, use as well as teach these languages with proper accuracy.

II. DISCUSSION

Arabic is a very old language, but Bangla is a relatively newer one. The formal introduction of Arabic to the Bangla language is primarily due to religious causes, most importantly for being the language of the Holy Quran during the time of Muslim rule. Arabic is also the third official language of the United Nations Organization. It has some varieties used in the Arab countries. However, Bangla has got the glory of the Language Movement taking place on the 21st of February in 1952 which is now being officially celebrated as the International Mother Language Day all over the world after being declared by UNESCO on the 17th of November, 1999 (Banglapedia, 2021). As far as language family is concerned, Arabic is from the Afro-Asiatic languages, while Bangla is from the Indo-European languages. In addition, Arabic has got enormous significance among the global communities for two main reasons: the Arab world is a naturally well-off area where Arabic is the *lingua franca*, and it is the language of the Holy Quran—the Muslim scripture (Akan et al., 2023). Despite some similarities, these two languages have different alphabets, writing styles, sounds, vowel patterns, pronunciations, genders, numbers, nouns, adjectives, articles, prepositions, conjunctions, structures, punctuation, capitalization etc.

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

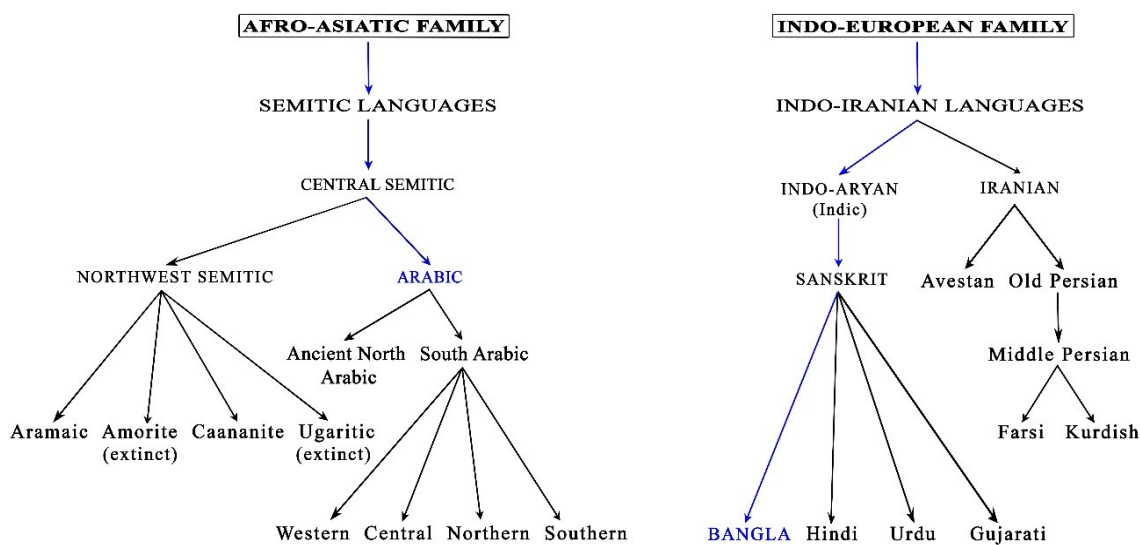
Although numerous comparative researches between two languages of the same origin have been carried out so far, the studies between languages of different origins are still a few. However, Arabic has had a great influence on other languages, such as Bangla, English, Urdu, Spanish etc, specially in vocabulary, due to the religion of Islam and the Muslim rule in those areas and classical Arabic literature. Unlike Arabic, Bangla belongs to the family of Indo-European languages. This is why there is little similarity between Arabic and Bangla in vocabulary and grammar (Banglapedia, 2021). Various studies have been undertaken over the space of a thousand years to examine the differences between the verb systems used in Arabic and those used in other languages (Eisele, 1990; Zollmann et al., 2006). All expressions in Arabic are effected with the help of consonants but there are signs to indicate vowel sounds. However, they do not generally appear in writing. This makes reading the script a little complicated (Banglapedia, 2021). “One of the main distinguishing features of Semitic languages is their root-and-pattern morphology” (Watson, 2002, p. 3). These two languages have very dissimilar sentence patterns. Arabic has, for example, two patterns: (i) nominal– subject and complement as well as (ii) verbal– verb, subject and complement while Bangla has one, i.e. subject, verb and complement (Akan et al., 2023). Arabic may be the only language that has not undergone radical changes; since an educated Arab today is able to read books from classical times and ancient manuscripts but the situation in the case of the Indo-European languages is different (Dajani & Omari, 2013). So far as we have come to know that many issues are still unexplored and unmapped between the Arabic and Bangla languages. We have, therefore, ample scope for further researches in the field of contrastive linguistics for two dissimilar languages of great impotence like Arabic and Bangla for many reasons.

IV. RESEARCH FINDING

All languages are believed to have emerged from the same origin. Later, they get changed for various reasons, such as geographical, ethnical, political, historical etc (McWhorter, 2004). Here, we will try to compare and contrast the standard varieties of the Arabic and Bangla languages under the following headings to find out the important facts about them:

Language family: A language family represents all the different languages descending from a particular common ancestral language. This very language is called a ‘protolanguage’. Most languages belong to a language family but a few languages do not. They are called language isolates or isolated languages. Usually, maximum languages emerging from or a member of the same origin or family functions in the similar way. There are 136 language families in the world (Ethnologue, 2023). Arabic is a very widespread Semitic language of the Afro-Asiatic family and Bangla is from the Indo-Iranian branch of the Indo-European family of languages. However, the Indo-European language family is larger than the Afro-Asiatic family in terms of the total number of languages. The Indo-European language family comprises of 448 languages, while the Afro-Asiatic family includes 300 languages spreading over different geographical areas of the world. The genealogy of the two languages highlighted with blue is shown in the following diagram:

Diagram 1. Language Family



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Alphabet: The size and nature of the Arabic and Bangla alphabets are quite different. The Arabic alphabet is called an ‘abjad’ (i.e. ‘أبجد’ /abdjad/) which means a ‘consonantal alphabet’ (Daniels, 1992). But it is now considered an ‘impure abjad’ with other impure ‘abjads’ such as the Hebrew alphabet, scribes later devised means of indicating vowel sounds by separate vowel diacritics. Although the vowel signs (i.e. diacritics) have been developed as ‘َ’ (fathah), ‘ِ’ (dammah) and ‘ِ’ (kasrah) for the non-Arabs who learn Arabic as a second or foreign language, they are not at all a part of the Arabic alphabet. Nevertheless, these signs are primarily found in religious texts and are rarely seen in newspapers and magazines. Although ‘ا’ /a/, ‘و’ /w/ and ‘ي’ /j/ are used in Arabic as long vowels depending on their positions in the syllable, they also play the role of weak consonants. The Arabic alphabet consists of 28 letters where all of them are consonants i.e. there are no vowels in the Arabic alphabet (McWhorter, 2004). But Arabic has tri-consonantal roots as its basis of combining letters to form syllables and/or words. So, Arabic syllables (or words) could be formed without any vowels. For example, ‘قلم’ /qalam/ (i.e. a pen) where ‘ق’ /q/, ‘ل’ /l/ and ‘م’ /m/ are consonants. On the other hand, the Bangla alphabet is termed a ‘বর্ণমালা’ /bornomala/ meaning a ‘garland of letters’. Bangla has got 49 letters which is divided into two separate parts: (i) vowels and (ii) consonants. Like any other vocalized language, Bangla has its own set of vowels, for example, ‘অ’ /o/, ‘আ’ /a/, ‘ই’/‘ঈ’ /i/, ‘উ’/‘ঊ’ /u/, ‘ঋ’ /ri/, ‘এ’ /e/æ/, ‘ঐ’ /oj/, ‘ও’ /o/ and ‘ঔ’ /ow/. They help join letters so that a syllable and/or word can be achieved. Like Arabic, Bangla has no functional long vowels.

Writing system: The reading and the writing system of Arabic are quite different from those of Bangla. Arabic reading and writing start from right (to left), whereas Bangla is read and written from left (to right). But in both languages, the writing system of numbers is the same that is it starts from left (to right). e.g. ১২৩ vs. ১২৩ (i.e. 123). Arabic texts are written in a cursive script, but in the Bangla text, the cursive writing is not mandatory. An Arabic letter or character may have up to four shapes depending on the position of the character itself, its predecessor and its successor. So, there is an isolated or clear shape, a right-connected shape, a connecting or middle shape and a left-connected or initial shape. For example, the letter ‘غ’ /g/ in Arabic, may have up to four shapes in a word, for example, ‘غ’, ‘غ’, ‘غ’ and ‘غ’ whereas Bangla has, in general, three shapes of a letter, such as, isolated or clear, half clear and unclear: ‘ম’ /m/ has the forms like /ম/, /ম/ & /ম/.

Arabic and Bangla have no use of capitalization at all as they don’t have any distinction between the upper case and the lower case. Consequently, all the letters are written in the same way all the time. Although Arabic is often written in a cursive way, the cursive writing style could often be used in both the languages.

Spelling: The spelling in Arabic and Bangla is much easier than some other languages since they have one specific letter for each single sound. When an Arabic and/or Bangla word is spelt, it is almost always written as one hears it. Arabic is an Afro-Asiatic language which is notable for its *nonconcatenative* morphology. Besides, Bangla is more phonetic than Arabic as a language in which each letter clearly denotes a single sound. Arabic syllables or words are consonant-based, but Bangla syllables or words are formed based on vowels. That is, in Arabic, word roots are not themselves syllables or words, but instead they are isolated sets of consonants. Most Arabic words or parts of speech are formed by combining the three-root consonants with a fixed vowel pattern and, sometimes, an affix. The Arabic consonantal root ‘ك – ت – ب’ /k – t – b/ can have different but semantically related meanings. e.g. ‘كتاب’ /kita:b/ i.e. ‘a book’, ‘كتب’ /kutub/ i.e. ‘books’, ‘كاتب’ /ka:tib/ i.e. ‘a writer’, ‘كتّاب’ /kutta:b/ i.e. ‘writers’, ‘كاتب’ /kataba/ i.e. ‘He wrote’, ‘يكتب’ /jaktub/ i.e. ‘He writes’—all derive from the same root i.e. ‘ك – ت – ب’. On the contrary, as Bangla is an Indo-European language, its word roots are themselves either syllables or words. For instance, ‘বই’ /boi/ i.e. ‘a book’, ‘বইগুলো’ /boigulo/ i.e. ‘books’, ‘লিখক’ /likʰok/ i.e. ‘a writer’, ‘লিখকগণ’ /likʰokgɔn/ i.e. ‘writers’, ‘সে লিখে’ /ʃe likʰe/ i.e. ‘He writes’,

‘সে লিখলো’ /ʃe likʰlo/ i.e. ‘He wrote’ etc.

Morphology: Morphology refers to that branch of linguistics which is known in Bangla as ‘রূপতত্ত্ব’ /rūptattṭṭo/ and in Arabic as ‘علم الصرف’ /ʕlm asʕsʕrf/. It deals with the formation of words (Akan et al., 2023). Let us look at the formation of Arabic verbs from its root or base ‘ذهب’ /ðahab/ with their Bangla equivalents and English meanings. e.g.

‘ذهب’ /ðahab/ (i.e. the root word for ‘go’) vs. ‘যা’ /dʒaɦ/ (i.e. the root word for ‘যাওয়া’ /dʒawa/)

‘يذهب’ /jðhab/ (i.e. go/goes) vs. ‘যায়’ /dʒaɛ/

‘ناهب’ /ða:hib/ (i.e. can go) vs. ‘যেতে পারে’ /dʒete pare/

‘ذهب’ /ðahaba/ (i.e. went) vs. ‘গেলো’ /gælo/

‘سنذهب’ /sanaðhab/ (i.e. (We) shall/will go) vs. ‘যাবো’ /dʒabo/

(Akan et al., 2023)

Again, we can have a look at the formation of adjectives (deriving its forms from its root word) in Arabic and Bangla. e.g.

‘صغير’ /sʕayir/ vs. ‘ক্ষুদ্র’ /kʰudro/ (i.e. small)

‘أصغر’ /asʕar/ vs. ‘ক্ষুদ্রতর’ /kʰudrotoro/ (i.e. smaller)

‘الأصغر’ /alasʕar/ vs. ‘ক্ষুদ্রতম’ /kʰudrotomo/ (i.e. the smallest)

Phonetic symbol: Arabic and Bangla are primarily phonetic languages. But they differ largely in terms of sound symbols. For instance, some sounds of Bangla (both vowels and consonants) do not exist in Arabic, such as, ‘অ’ /ɔ/, ‘এ’ /e/æ/, ‘ঐ’ /oj/, ‘ও’ /o/, ‘ঔ’ /ow/, ‘ঘ’ /gʱ/, ‘ঙ’ /ŋ/, ‘চ’ /tʃ/, ‘ছ’ /tʃʰ/, ‘ট’ /t/, ‘ঠ’ /tʰ/, ‘ধ’ /dʱ/, ‘প’ /p/, ‘ফ’ /pʰ/, ‘ভ’ /bʱ/, ‘ড়’ /r/, ‘ঢ়’ /rʰ/ etc, but Arabic ‘ث’ /θ/, ‘ز’ /z/, ‘خ’ /x/, ‘ص’ /s/, ‘ض’ /dʕ/, ‘ط’ /tʕ/, ‘ظ’ /ðʕ/, ‘ع’ /ʕ/, ‘غ’ /ɣ/, ‘ق’ /q/ etc are not exactly found in the Bangla alphabet too. Bangla has no long sounds in pronunciation whereas Arabic has. As some Bangla sounds are missing in Arabic, it uses some approximant sounds to pronounce those sounds. Some substitute Arabic sounds for Bangla are as follows:

TABLE I
BANGLA AND ARABIC PHONETIC SYMBOL

Bangla sound	Bangla word	Arabic sound	Arabic word
‘প’ /p/	‘পান্ডা’ /panda/ [animal]	‘ب’ /b/	‘بندة’ /bandah/ [animal]
‘ভ’ /bʱ/	‘ভুল’ /bʱul/ [mistake]	‘ف’ /f/	‘فل’ /ful/ [not a word]
‘চ’ /tʃ/	‘চিতল’ /tʃitol/ [fish]	‘س’ /s/	‘سنتل’ /ʃitol/ [not a word]

Bangla is phonetically richer because it has more sounds than Arabic. So, when Arab speakers attempt to pronounce Bangla words appropriately using Arabic sounds, they face severe pronunciation problems. e.g. ‘চিতল’ /tʃitol/ vs. /ʃitol/. However, both the languages are rhotic. So, they have the /r/ sound pronounced in all positions. It is worth mentioning that Bangla has three /r/ sounds with a subtle pronunciation variation and quality while Arabic has only one. e.g. ‘র’ /r/, ‘ড়’ /r/ & ‘ঢ়’ /rʰ/ (Bangla) vs. ‘ر’ /r/ (Arabic).

Word stress: Arabic is a stress-timed language. Word stress is very regular in Arabic. So, a change in stress causes change in meaning of an Arabic word. But any changes of stress in a Bangla word never pose any changes in meaning. Instead, an Arabic word is pronounced with a different short vowel even when it is spelt the same. For example, ‘كتب’ /kutub/ (i.e. books) and ‘كاتب’ /kataba/ (i.e. He wrote) have the same spelling but different meanings because of the change in the short vowel. Nonetheless, Bangla is a syllable-timed language. Thus, the change in meaning does not take place in Bangla when any alteration of any long vowels in a syllable occurs. e.g. ‘বাড়ি’ /baɽi/ (i.e. a house) and ‘বাজু’ /baɽi/ (i.e. a house)—the earlier one contains a short vowel sound whereas the latter one takes a long vowel sound which does not cause a change in meaning.

Phonology: Phonology is concerned with sounds and their effects on the meaning. It may sometimes be significant for meaning in a text, particularly in places where sounds are more significant than senses. Arabic and Bangla have different phonologies. However, two languages may have different phonology but the same phonetics. Sounds are also important in language when they appear in different patterns to give different shades of meaning (Akan et al., 2019). In support of the importance of sounds, Lawson (1979, p. 97) states that “much more meaning is conveyed by rhythm and stress than we recognize”.

Vocabulary: Vocabulary is the building block of language. Arabic has got a strong vocabulary of its own. Thus, it has the least number of borrowings from other languages. However, when it coins a new word, it receives it by changing the pronunciation and spelling to some extent. However, to cope with the Western world, it uses alien words in parallel with the Arabic ones while Bangla has huge number of borrowings. Arabic has almost no parallels or substitutes for some Bangla words, on the contrary, there are many substitute words with a little change in pronunciation (but not in meaning) in Bangla. e.g. ‘أذان’ /aða:n/ (Arabic) to ‘আযান’ /azan/ (Bangla) i.e. ‘a call for the prayer’, ‘نبي’ /nabi/ (Arabic) to ‘নবী’ /nobi/ (Bangla) i.e. ‘a prophet’ etc. Here, it suggests that the borrowing takes place mainly from Arabic to Bangla.

Determiner: The type and use of articles in Arabic and Bangla are not the same. The indefinite article does not exist in Arabic but Bangla often uses it in some way. In Arabic, there is a definite article, but there is no such article in Bangla. Bangla has some words, such as ‘টি’ /ti/, ‘টা’ /ta/, ‘খানা’ /kʰana/ and ‘খানি’ /kʰani/ but they are used as definite determiners instead of definite articles. So, their use is not identical to the use of the definite article in Arabic. Although

indefinite articles are always omitted in Arabic, they are at times expressed in Bangla as indefinite determiners. In Arabic, the definite article looks like a prefix in a word, phrase or sentence. e.g. 'القرآن' /alqura:n/ vs. 'কুরআনটি' /qurantj/ i.e. the Quran

In Bangla, abstract words referring to ideas, attributes or qualities are used without the definite determiner to refer to that idea or that attribute which belongs to everybody or everything.

Noun & Pronoun: Nouns are a very important part of vocabulary in any languages. They are words used to name a person, animal, place, thing, or an abstract idea. Apart from Bangla, Arabic nouns are usually either masculine or feminine. So, a masculine noun is used when it refers to a male and a feminine noun is used when it denotes a female. The feminine noun, in most cases, is formed by adding a special character, for example, 'ة' or 'ة' (i.e. ta marbutah) to the end of the masculine noun. Unfortunately, not all feminine nouns end in 'ta marbutah' in Arabic. However, Bangla nouns have no such markers, they are identified by the meaning. Unlike Bangla, Arabic pronouns are either male or female.

But the pronouns in the two languages have the same differences while nouns are always in the third persons. So, the comparison between Arabic and Bangla nouns could be shown here:

TABLE 2
BANGLA AND ARABIC NOUN AND PRONOUN

Arabic Noun	Bangla Noun
Gender: masculine, feminine	Gender: masculine, feminine, neuter, common
Number: singular, dual, plural	Number: singular, plural
Case: nominative, accusative, genitive	Case: nominative, dative, genitive
Humanness: human, non-human	Humanness: human, non-human
Cardinal & Ordinal Number: Yes	Cardinal & Ordinal Number: Yes

Adjective: Arabic has no attributive or pre-modifying function of adjectives. It has only post-modifying or post-positive adjectives. That is, adjectives in Arabic follow the noun they qualify. e.g. 'سيارة بيضاء' /saija:rəh baidz/ i.e. 'car white' (post-modifying function). So, it is placed just after the noun it modifies or qualifies. But Bangla has both attributive and predicative use of adjectives. e.g. 'সাদা গাড়ি' /ʃaɖa gaɖi/ i.e. 'white car' (attributive function). Here, the adjective precedes the noun it modifies. But in predicative use, adjectives are placed just after the linking verb. e.g. 'গাড়িটি হল সাদা' /gaɖiʃi hɛ ʃaɖa/ i.e. 'The car is white'. The comparison and contrast between Arabic and Bangla adjectives are shown below:

TABLE 3
ARABIC AND BANGLA ADJECTIVE

Arabic Adjective	Bangla Adjective
Gender: masculine, feminine	Gender: masculine, feminine
Number: singular, dual, plural	Number: singular
Case: nominative, accusative, genitive	Case: N/A

Gender & Number: Arabic has only two genders i.e. a word is either masculine or feminine and there are no neuter and common genders. But Bangla has four genders, namely masculine, feminine, neuter and common. Unlike Bangla, Arabic differentiates between male and female in most of the parts of speech: nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs and also in sentence structures. Moreover, all Arabic pronouns and nouns have specifications for male and female, singular, dual and plural. No pronouns and verbs, but some nouns and adjectives in Bangla have male or female distinctions. A few Bangla nouns and most adjectives have grammatical genders like Arabic. Thus, we have for Arabic nouns, such as, 'طالب' /tʃalib/ (i.e. a student– male) vs. 'طالبة' /tʃalibah/ (i.e. a student– female) and for Bangla, 'ছাত্র' /ʃʌtʃr/ (i.e. a student– male) vs. 'ছাত্রী' /ʃʌtʃri/ (i.e. a student– female) and then for Arabic adjectives, 'جميل' /dʒami:l/ (i.e. beautiful– male) vs. 'جميلة' /dʒami:lah/ (i.e. beautiful– female) and for Bangla, 'সুন্দর' /ʃundʒr/ (i.e. beautiful– male) vs. 'সুন্দরী' /ʃundʒori/ (i.e. beautiful– female). Arabic and Bangla have their own sets of numbers (e.g. ١, ٢, ٣ etc vs. ১, ২, ৩ etc i.e. 1, 2, 3 etc) although they were originally borrowed from the Indian subcontinent (Smith et al., 1911). Arabic has three types of numbers: singular, dual and plural but Bangla has two: singular and plural. In classical Arabic, the use of the dual is mandatory whenever exactly two objects, persons etc are referred to, regardless of whether the 'two-ness' of the objects or persons is explicit or not.

Adverb: Adverbs in both the languages can modify verbs, adjectives, clauses, other adverbs and answer the questions, such as, *how, when, where, why, how long, how often* etc. In most cases, adverbs are formed by adding some suffixes (for Arabic and Bangla) and many prefixes (for only Arabic) to the adjective or in some other ways. Sometimes, prepositions or prepositional phrases can act as an adverb in both the languages. Adverbs frequently modify many parts of speech in Arabic and Bangla. Here, the adverb 'fast' in the sentence 'He runs fast' could be shown in Arabic as 'بسرعة' /bisurʃh/ and in Bangla as 'দ্রুত' /druʃt/. e.g.

Arabic: يركض بسرعة || jarkud bisurʃh ||

Bangla: সে দ্রুত দৌড়ায় || se druʃt dourʃaɛ ||

Here, in the above Arabic sentence, the adverb 'بسرعة' modifies the verb 'يركض' and answers the question 'how'.

Again, in the Bangla sentence, the adverb ‘কৃত’ modifies the verb ‘দৌড়ায়’ as well as answers the question ‘how’. The other similarities and differences between Arabic and Bangla adverbs are represented in the following table:

TABLE 4
ARABIC AND BANGLA ADVERB

Arabic Adverb	Bangla Adverb
Types: adverbs of time, place, manner, frequency Gender: masculine, feminine	Types: adverbs of time, place, manner, frequency Gender: N/A

Verb & Tense: Arabic and Bangla have no auxiliary verbs. But they have some linking verbs which are omitted in formal Arabic and often implied in a few Bangla sentences, specially in the present simple and passive forms in the present. Even the Arabic sentence may not contain a verb at all, for example, Arabic nominal sentences are formed without any verbs. Furthermore, Arabic verbs have two types of tenses: past and present, and no continuous and perfect tenses, the present tense is used to indicate the future as well (Banglapadia, 2021). There is an absence of formal markers for the progressive and perfect aspects of the Arabic verb. The futurity is expressed by adding ‘س’ /s/, ‘سوف’ /saufa/ and ‘ب’ /ba/ (informal) to the Arabic verb base in simple present tenses (Reishaan & Ja’far, 2008). Nevertheless, in Bangla, there are three major types of tenses, such as present, past and future with four subcategories (i.e. simple, continuous, perfect and perfect continuous). So, Arabic has only two verbal forms, a prefix conjugation and a suffix conjugation while Bangla has more than ten suffix conjugation forms. The prime differences between the two verbs are as follows:

TABLE 5
ARABIC AND BANGLA VERB

Arabic Verb	Bangla Verb
Main & Linking: main, linking Operator: Yes Voice: active, passive Mood: imperative, declarative Tense: past, present Person: first, second, third Number: singular, dual, plural Gender: masculine, feminine	Main & Linking: main, linking Operator: N/A Voice: active, passive Mood: imperative, declarative Tense: past, present, future Person: first, second, third Number: singular, plural Gender: N/A

Question: Bangla has no use or existence of the verb ‘Do’ as an operator (i.e. Do/Does and Did) for Yes/No-questions. It rather uses some question word such as ‘কি’ /ki/ in all tenses. But the verb ‘Do’ for Yes/No-questions have the Arabic equivalent as ‘هل’ /hal/ for both present and past tenses. As there is a one-to-one equivalent for each Bangla question word in the Arabic language for Wh-questions, there is no complication involved in the translation. The Arabic counterparts of Bangla question words are shown in the brackets: ‘কী’ /ki/ ((هو/هي)) ما /ma: (hua/hia)/– What), ‘কোন্টা’ /konta/ (أي) /aiw/, or (هو/هي) ما /ma: (hua/hia)/– Which), ‘কে’ /ke/ ((هو/هي)) من /man (hua/hia)/– Who), ‘কাকে’ /kake/ ((هو/هي)) من /man (hua/hia)/– Whom), ‘কার’ /kar/ (لمن) /liman/– Whose), ‘কেন’ /kaeno/ (لماذا) /lima:ða/– Why), ‘কীভাবে’ /kib^habe/ (كيف) /kaif/– How), ‘কোথায়’ /ko^hae/ (أين) /aina/– Where), and ‘কখন’ /ko^hon/ (متى) /mata/– When) etc in addition to others. For example,

Arabic: هل يعرف | hal jarif | vs. ماذا يعرف | ma:dza jarif |

Bangla: সে কি জানে? | se ki dzane | vs. সে কী জানে? | se ki dzane |

Here, the first Arabic and Bangla sentences are Yes/No-questions (i.e. Do you know?), whereas the second ones are Wh-questions (i.e. What do you know?). But the two Bangla sentences with ‘কি’ and ‘কী’ make huge difference in meaning though they sound the same in speaking.

Negation: We usually add some negative words like ‘না’ /na/, ‘নয়’ /ne/, ‘নাই’ /nai/ etc in Bangla after the verb to form negative expressions but in Arabic, it is used at the beginning of a sentence. So, we have ‘ما’ /ma:/, ‘لا’ /la:/ (Present), ‘لم’ /lam/ (Past), ‘لن’ /lan/ (Future) etc negative equivalents in Arabic. e.g.

لا أعلم | la: aqlam | vs. আমি জানি না | ami dzani na | (I do not know.)– Present

لم أعلم | lam aqlam | vs. আমি জানতাম না | ami dzan^ham na | (I did not know.)– Past

Syntax: The sentence structure of Arabic and Bangla is not alike. However, Arabic is syntactically more flexible than Bangla. For an Arabic sentence, there are generally three acceptable word orders: (i) VSC (i.e. verb + subject + complement), (ii) SVC (i.e. subject + verb + complement) and (iii) VCS (i.e. verb + complement + subject). However, in Arabic, the typical structure of a sentence is SVC: the ‘subject’ followed by a ‘verb’ which is further followed by a ‘complement’ but in Bangla, it is SCV: the ‘subject’ followed by a ‘complement’ which is further followed by a ‘verb’ (Abdelmajd & Akan, 2018). But with some change in meaning, the word order of Bangla would also be different. So, the sentence ‘The boy ate the apple’ in the two languages could be represented as:

Arabic: أكل الولد التفاحة | akala (V) alwaladu (S) attuffa:h (C) |

Bangla: ছেলেরা আপেলটা খেলো | t^heleṭa (S) apelṭa (C) k^helo (V) |

However, Arabic has two types of sentence patterns: verbal (i.e. with verbs) and nominal (i.e. without verbs) whereas Bangla has only one. So, the structure of the sentences of the two languages is quite different. The Arabic sentence

patterns or structures are displayed below with the help of tree diagrams for a clearer comparison and better understanding:

Diagram 2: Arabic Verbal Sentence

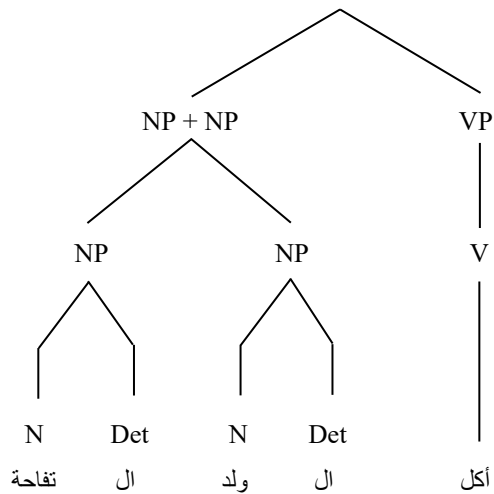
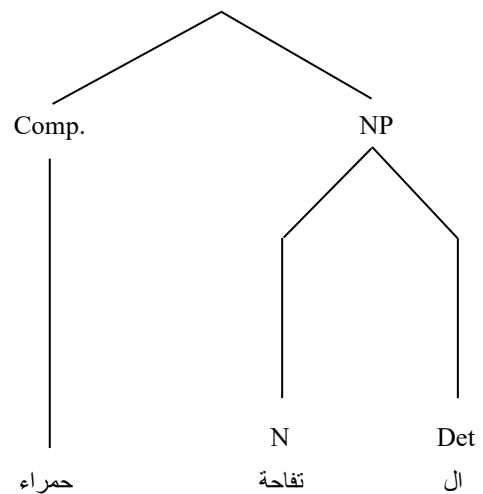
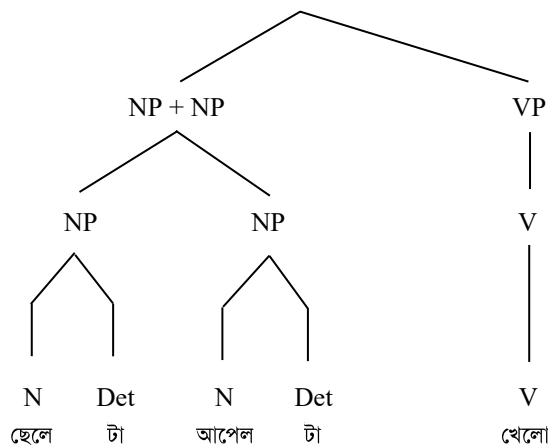


Diagram 3: Arabic Nominal Sentence



The structure of a typical Bangla sentence could be represented as the NP (i.e. noun phrase) and the VP (i.e. verb phrase) which is traditionally known as ‘subject’ and ‘predicate’ respectively are shown in the diagram below. Then the NP is again subdivided into a determiner and a noun. The VP is not divided here though it could have been. However, some Bangla sentences in the present simple tense have the verbs (i.e. usually the linking verbs) omitted (i.e. not semantically) but it is implied if desired by the writer. Here, the VP is a single word which, sometimes, may be modified by a group of words. Although Bangla sentences are not verbal, the verb can be kept implied in the present simple tense. That is to say, Bangla sentences may not be verb-based all the time, it is affix-oriented, indeed. Let us have a look at the structure of the Bangla sentence ‘ছেলেটা আপেলটা খেলো’ in the diagram below:

Diagram 4: Bangla Sentence (One type)



Preposition: Prepositions are the grammatical items that connect the preceding and following words. They pose a great difficulty in Arabic since various prepositions in Arabic have the same function. Nevertheless, prepositions seldom have a one-to-one correspondence between Arabic and Bangla as an Arabic preposition may be translated in more than one way for Bangla. In fact, Bangla has fewer uses of prepositions. For example, ‘من’ /min/ (Arabic) vs. ‘থেকে’ /^heke/, ‘হতে’ /^hote/ etc (Bangla) to mean ‘from’

Punctuation & Conjunction: The punctuation system varies largely in the two languages. The punctuation mark for a comma in Arabic looks like ‘,’ but in Bangla, it is as ‘,’. Moreover, the Arabic question mark appears as ‘?’ whereas Bangla question mark shows like ‘?’. Arabic ‘و’ /wa/ is equivalent to Bangla ‘এবং’ /ebong/. But the other punctuation marks in the two languages are almost the same or similar in usage and function. In Arabic, each item in a series is preceded by the conjunction ‘و’ /wa/. But in Bangla, items in a series are separated by commas and the coordinate conjunction ‘এবং’ /ebong/ is used just before the last item. Moreover, there is another conjunction ‘ও’ /o/ in Bangla which can substitute the conjunction ‘এবং’ /ebong/.

V. PEDAGOGICAL IMPLICATION

It is important for the learner to be familiar with the key similarities as well as the differences between one's L1 (primarily mother tongue) and L2 (the target language) before learning any languages. As learners' inability to understand the rules of L2 results in grammatical and usage mistakes, they find it, in particular, challenging to understand L2 forms without clear and identified meanings. Thus, learning linguistic diversities and developing their linguistic abilities in Arabic and Bangla can both be facilitated by this contrastive analysis. The syntactic, semantic and phonological rules of these two languages demonstrate how word order, sound combination, and the meaning of a word, phrase, or text are slightly related or distinct in different ways and eventually, how we can apply the knowledge of the analysis to bridge the gaps between the vocabularies of the two languages and minimize the phonetic differences. Languages and the differences within them contribute to both the integration and the diversification of culture. The study is essential for fostering a sense of identification and unity through the two languages and for establishing a common platform to maintain them. The synchronic study, which examines how people speak and use languages in a specific speech community at a specific time, and the brief diachronic study, which examines how the two languages changed over time, are both concerned with the key characteristics of the two languages and, in the end, gives us a picture of the linguistic landscape of comparative linguistics.

VI. CONCLUSION

To compare and contrast the Arabic and Bangla languages is a bit more complex job as they have far more differences than similarities because of their unidentical linguistic roots. Although there are many dialects in Arabic and Bangla, one is the standard variety used for the medium of instruction and mass communication. Nevertheless, our focus is the study of standard varieties of Arabic and Bangla. Bangla borrows many words from Arabic, and these lexical similarities show long-standing societal and cultural affinities between the two specific speech communities. Moreover, the religious and cultural variations among the users have a vital influence on both languages. So, this cooperative research will probably have significant benefits for a wide range of people, including instructors, researchers, students majoring in translation, as well as everyday users of the two languages. Of course, the need for further research cannot be overemphasized.

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