The Indicative Mood in Arabic

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Abstract
In this paper the indicative mood of Arabic has been tackled and we talked about the significance of this mood. We also mentioned the form of the imperfect “Present” verb which is used to represent such a type of mood in Arabic. Besides, we highlighted the most common topics which are used in order to represent indicative mood in Arabic such as “The subject and predicate, the imperfect, Kaana’s noun ---etc”. We notified the different usages of indicative mood of Arabic. We clarified the main points and topics and supported the full explanation with examples.

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1- Introduction

In Arabic grammar, mood in general is a category of verb use, commonly expressing the truth “fact” (Indicative mood), Wish (Optative mood) or conditionality (Subjunctive mood), Command (Imperative mood) and question (Interrogative mood).

Pearsall (1989, P. 1849) Indicative mood صيغة الرفع that will be discussed in this paper. According to Arabic grammar is defined as: That mood of a verb which is used to express the real actions or events which happened, occur or will occur.

Indicative mood can be represented by the imperfect verb الفعل المضارع in Arabic. On the top of that, indicative mood صيغة الرفع can be represented by the topics other than the imperfect verb such as the subject and predicate اسم كان المبتدأ والخبر, Kaana’s noun المبتدأ والخبر, the subject and the predicate إن الفاعل. For example:

The doctor works in the hospital.
2- Aims:
This paper aims at investigating the indicative mood and its relation with the imperfect verb in Arabic. On the top of that, the study is valuable for Arabic researchers and others who are interested in the study of Arabic grammar in general and indicative mood in particular. This paper sheds the light on how the different topics can represent the indicative mood thoroughly through giving examples in Arabic.

3- Research Questions:
1- Is there indicative mood in Arabic?
2- What is the indicative mood in Arabic?
3- Which topics can represent the indicative mood in Arabic?

4- Hypotheses:
This study is carried out with some general hypotheses in mind.
- The use of indicative mood is essential for expressing the real actions or events in Arabic.
- The indicative mood is available in Arabic grammar and it can be represented not only by the imperfect verb form but also by topics rather than the imperfect verb.

5- Indicative Mood:
There are two forms of the verb in Arabic: The imperfect verb “Al- Mudhaari” which reveals unfinished actions. While the perfect verb ‘Al-Madhi’ which denotes finished actions. On the top of that, This verb always inflectable ‘Mu’rab’ which can inflect different morphological characteristics including moods like Indicative, Subjunctive and Jussive.

The indicative mood indicates that the addresser talks about real actions or events i-e actions which happened, occur or will occur.

According to Ibn Aqeel (1964, P.160) the imperfect verb ‘Al-Mudhaari’ expresses the indicative mood when it is not preceded by subjunctive or jussive particles. For example:

1- “يذهب التلميذ إلى المدرسة” → Imperfect
2- “This professor teaches philosophy”.
3- “He teaches this science”.
4- “Al-Mutanabbi wrote this poem” (ibid)

The indicative mood has an aspect of the unmarked mood. He also asserted that the imperfect ‘Al-Mudhaari’ is derived from the triliteral perfect verb
الفعل الماضي الثلاثي

by putting one of the following prefixes ‘أنيتُ’ as shown in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>Imperfect in Arabic</th>
<th>In English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>أ</td>
<td>أكتب</td>
<td>I write</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ن</td>
<td>نكتب</td>
<td>We writes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ي</td>
<td>يكتب</td>
<td>He writes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ت</td>
<td>تكتب</td>
<td>She write</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Aziz, 1989, P.33)

Al – Jarf (1994, P.95) added that the imperfect ‘Al-Mudhaari’ المضارع in indicative mood does not only have prefixes but it also has suffixes in order to denote number and gender.

a- The suffix ‘u’ dhamma is the short vowel can be used with the following person’s pronouns “I, we, you, masc, singular, he and she”. He asserted that the indicative mood is recognized by the imperfect verb ‘Al- Mudhaari’ and it is identified by the suffix ‘u / dhamma’. He points out that the ‘u / dhamma’ suffix is added to the standard form of the verb to get the indicative mood like ‘yaktubu / يكتبَ’.

b- The long vowel ‘uu’ can be placed before the suffix ‘na’ in the 2nd and 3rd persons masculine plural and after ‘ii’ in the second person feminine singular like ‘taktubuuna / تكتبونَ’ and ‘taktibiina / تكتبينَ’.

c- Using the long vowel ‘aa’ before the suffix ‘ni’ to make the dual forms like ‘taktibaani / يكتبانِ’.

Look at the following table to clarify how these suffixes enter to the imperfect ‘Al-Mudhaari’ المضارع for the verb ‘كتبَ’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Dual</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First person</td>
<td>Aktubu</td>
<td>تكتبَ</td>
<td>تكتبونَ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second person M F</td>
<td>taktabu Taktubiina</td>
<td>يكتبَ انيتُ</td>
<td>تكتبونَ taktabu Taktubiina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third person M F</td>
<td>yaktabu Taktubu</td>
<td>يكتبَ انيتُ</td>
<td>تكتبونَ yaktabu Taktubu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Haywood & Nahmed, 1965, P.111)

From the table above, some grammarians like Haywood & Nahmed (1965, P.111) and Faruk (2018, P.147) notice that the triliteral verb الفعل الماضي المضارع ‘Al-Madhi’ in the perfect tense ‘Al-Madhi’ الماضي has 3 patterns of vowel in the middle letter. The following are rules that corresponding the vowels for the middle letter in the imperfect tense ‘Al- Mudhaari’ الماضي. So, if the middle letter in the perfect ‘Al- Madhi’ الماضي has fatha then the middle vowel of the imperfect ‘Al-Mudhaari’ الماضي can be fatha or dhamma. Look at the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perfect ‘Al- Madhi’ الماضي</th>
<th>Imperfect ‘Al- Mudhaari’ المضارع</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ذهب</td>
<td>يذهب</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>كتب</td>
<td>يكتب</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>عسل</td>
<td>يغسل</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>دهابba</td>
<td>yaðhabu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>كتبba</td>
<td>yaktubu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>غسلاa</td>
<td>yaghsilu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If there is kasrah, then the middle vowel of the imperfect المضارع is in almost all states fatha. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perfect ‘Al- Madhi’ الماضي من الماضي</th>
<th>Imperfect ‘Al- Mudhaari’ المضارع من الماضي</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>شرب shariba</td>
<td>يشرب yashrabu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If there is dhamma, then the middle vowel of the imperfect will be dhamma too. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perfect ‘Al- Madhi’ الماضي من الماضي</th>
<th>Imperfect ‘Al- Mudhaari’ المضارع من الماضي</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>كرم karuma</td>
<td>بكرم yakrumu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Faruk, 2018, P.147)

On the top of that, the indicative mood can be used in the factual statements, the report or interrogative. Look at the following sentences:

5. أنا اكتب خطابات كثيرة.
الخبرية
“I wrote a lot of letters”.

6. لماذا تحب؟
الاستفهام
“Why do you like him/ it?”

7. قال أنَّه ناقض هذا الموضوع.
ثابتي
“He said that he discussed this topic.” (Bulbul, 2018, P.4-5)

So the grammarian Wright (1996, P.18-19) talked about the imperfect indicative المضارع المرفوع and he explained that the imperfect indicative المضارع المرفوع does not represent any idea of time in and of itself; it is just a beginning, unfinished, continuing existence in the imperfect المضارع , perfect الماضي , and future المستقبل. So, it indicates:

a- An action that does not occur at any one moment. For example:

الانسان يذكر و الله يقدر.

b- An action that, though started at the moment of saying, continues during the current time (the definite present). For example:

الله يعلم بما تعملون.

c- An action that will happen in the future (the simple future) in order to emphasize the futurity, the adverb ‘Sawfa’ or its shorter ‘Sa’ is attached to the beginning of the verb. As shown in the following example:

بسببه في موضوعه.

It should be noted that ‘sawfa’ might be preceded with an emphatic ل. For example:

لم تسهو يعطق ربك فرضي.

d- An action that happened in the future in relation to the historical period about which we are speaking without the involvement of any particle, the imperfect المضارع is simply added to the preceding perfect and creates with its complement, a secondary subordinate phrase reflecting the condition الحال which the subject of the previous perfect found himself when he executed the deed represented by that perfect حال مقدر.

For instance:

ياجتله يعفدو.

e- An action that is still in progressive in the past, in this case, the imperfect المضارع is added to the perfect الماضي without any connective particle and creates a secondary subordinate phrase with its complement, representing the condition الحال which the subject of the prior perfect الماضي found himself when he accomplished what that perfect describes حال مقارن.

For example:

ياجتله يضحك.

After all this, Arab grammarians believed that the imperfect indicative المضارع المرفوع is employed to represent both present and future time.
5.1 Cases other than Imperfect verb:
The following sections will highlight how these different cases can represent the indicative mood in Arabic.

5.1.1 The Subject ‘Al- faa’il’:
Some grammarians like Ibn- Aqeel (1964, P.658), Aziz (1989, P.165) and Al-Samara’ee (2007, P.179) confirmed that there are two main types of sentence in Arabic: the nominal sentence and the verbal sentence. We are going to concentrate with the subject ‘al-faa’il’ which is considered as one of the most important element in the verbal sentence and it can represent the indicative mood because it always occurs in nominative case ‘Al- Murfuu’ in Arabic. For example:

13. يقرأ الطالب الدروس.
The pupil reads the lesson.

According to Haywood & Nahmad (1965, P.97) mentioned that the main component of the verbal sentence is the verb which comes first in the sentence followed by the subject ‘al-faa’il’, the direct object, adverb and other matter. So the structure will be ‘verb + subject + direct object + adverb + other matter’. Our concerning is with the subject ‘al-faa’il’ which always appears in the nominative case in order to express the indicative mood in Arabic.

According to Al-Samara’ee (2007, P.97) the subject ‘al-faa’il’ in Arabic refers to the person who doer the action in a sentence. For instance:

14. الفاعل الفاعل
The hunter killed the lion.

Sawaie (2014, P.1) stated that every verb needs a subject ‘al-faa’il’, the person who performs the action (The doer of the action). The subject ‘Al- faa’il’ can be in different forms as a pronoun, nouns or as a noun which can either be hidden or explicit. The nominative case is always used for an expressive noun that functions as a performer.

In the formal Arabic writing system, the subject ‘al-faa’il’ appears in the nominative case ‘Al- Marfuu’ which represents the indicative mood. The following examples show the subject ‘al-faa’il’ in different nominative situations which express the indicative mood:

15. الفاعل الفاعل
The supervisor visited the school.

zar المشرف المدرسة
16. الفاعل الفاعل
The muslims victory on their enemy.

أدا التلميذان وأجهموا
17. الفاعل الفاعل
The two pupils did their duty.

حضور محمد
18. الفاعل الفاعل
Zaid came.

قل الحق ولا تكذب
19. الفاعل الفاعل
Say the true and never lie.

5.1.2 The Subject and The Predicate:
As Ryding (2005, P.85) mentions that Indicative mood in Arabic can be expressed not only by verbal sentence but also by nominal sentence.
Some grammarians try to describe the nominal sentence in Arabic in different ways.

According to Wright (1996, P.250), Ryding (2005, P.58) and Al-Samara’ee (2007, P.443) stated that the nominal sentence is a sentence which begins with a noun or a noun phrase. Al-Samara’ee (2007, P.442) believed that there is no doubt that the nominal sentence is more stability and verification than the verbal sentence because the subject is a noun and the noun is not coupled with time. The nominal sentence denotes to the imperfect tense and it does not need verb to ‘be’. Because in Arabic there is no ‘is’ between the subject and the predicate ‘al-xabar’ and there is no particular word for ‘is’. For example:

20. البيت كبير. → There is subject and predicate but no ‘is’ in Arabic
The house is big.


The following diagram shows the components of the nominal sentence:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The nominal sentence</th>
<th>The subject ‘al-mubtada’</th>
<th>The predicate ‘al-xabar’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>المبتدأ</td>
<td>الخبر</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>الأسماء المرفوعة</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

They mentioned that both the subject ‘al-mubtada’ and the predicate ‘al-xabar’ can be considered as nominative nouns. For Crystal (2008, P.328) the term ‘nominative’ is the form which taken by a noun when it is the subject of a verb. In Arabic the nominative case operates basically in two situations, the subject ‘al-mubtada’ and the predicate ‘al-xabar’ in the nominal sentence.

The predicate ‘al-xabar’ can be in adjective or noun. Consider the following examples:

21. الكتب صديق. → The subject ‘al-mubtada’ is in definite form and the predicate ‘al-xabar’ is in indefinite and adjective form.
The book is a friend.

22. الفريقان متنافسان. → The subject ‘al-mubtada’ is in dual form
The two teams are rivals.

23. المعلمون مجهدون. → The subject ‘al-mubtada’ is in regular masculine plural
The ‘male’ teachers are hard working.

Other grammarians such as Abo Almakarm (2007) and Alkhazy (2016, PP.22-23) mentioned that the subject ‘al-mubtada’ occurs at the beginning of the nominal sentence and refers to what we are talking about or what the sentence is talking about. The subject ‘al-mubtada’ can be represented by the following forms: relative pronoun, the base form ‘Masdar Ma’aowal’, broken plural, regular feminine plural, demonstrative noun or a definite noun like a name of person or a place or proper noun with placing ‘al’ which is similar to ‘the’. For example:

24. الذي يدرس يتفوق. → The subject ‘al-mubtada’ is relative pronoun
Who studies succeed.

25. الأصدقاء أوفياء. → The subject ‘al-mubtada’ is broken plural
Friends are loyal.
The subject ‘al- mubtada’ is regular feminine plural
The ‘female; teachers are hard working .
The subject ‘al- mubtada’ is Demonstrative noun
This is easy lesson .
The subject ‘al- mubtada’ is a proper name
Sarah is a student .
The subject ‘al- mubtada’→ The subject ‘al- mubtada’ is ‘Masdar
An + تصوموا + خير لكم .
To fast is better for you . (Holy Quran)
According to Al- Samara’ee (2007, P.445) The predicate ‘al- xabar’ can be defined
as a noun which completes the meaning and give a full information about the subject
‘al- mubtada’ or topic spoken about. The predicate ‘al- xabar’ reflects
the subject ‘al- mubtada’ . He described the predicate ‘al- xabar’ as the essential
part in the sentence . The predicate ‘al- xabar’ comes after the subject . He
confirmed that the predicate ‘al- xabar’ can be divided into three parts single word
like noun or adjective, sentence “nominal or verbal” and semi- sentence
The semi- sentence must contain adverb, preposition which comes after the subject ‘al-
mubtada’ . For example :
The predicate ‘al- xabar’ is a noun
The Euphrates is a river .
The predicate ‘al- xabar’ is an adjective
The information is wrong .
The predicate ‘al- xabar’ is a nominal sentence
The essence of poetry is emotion .
The predicate ‘al- xabar’ is a verbal sentence
The boy is playing football .
The predicate ‘al- xabar’ is a prepositional phrase
The student is in the class .
The predicate ‘al- xabar’ is an adverb
the girl is in front of the house . (ibid: 474)

5.1.3 Kaana’s Noun:
Kaana’s noun can express the indicative mood which takes a
nominative case and it has the suffix ‘u/ dhamma’ which is located over the final
letter of the noun al- mubtada . Our concerning is to show how Kaana’s noun
represent the indicative mood in Arabic .
But Ibn- Aqeel (1980, P.263) considered Kaana and its sisters
as verbal abrogators. They enter to the subject ‘al- mubtada’ and the predicate
‘al- xabar’ . They make al- mubtada in nominative case ‘الخبر’ which is similar to the
subject ‘al- faa’il’ which is called ‘Kaana’s noun’ and make the predicate
‘al- xabar’ in accusative case which is similar to the object ‘almufal’ which is called ‘xabar Kaana’ .
Al- Zajjaji (1984, P.41) claims that the verb Kaana has four types : The first one is
defective Kaana which needs a noun al- mubtada and a predicate al-
exbar to complete the meaning . The second form is absolute Kaana which
needs a noun without predicate and implies the existence of the action . The third form
is redundant Kaana and finally the form which the noun is implied . Look at
the following sentences:
Life was beautiful . (Nacereddine, 2009, P.31)
In above example, The verb ‘Kaana’ كان has two elements the subject al-mubtada’ الحياة which takes a nominative case and the predicate al- xabar الخبر will be in accusative case. So this example represent the defective Kaana كان الناقصة. 37-

The matter happened. (Sibawayhi, 1988, P.46)
The above instance shows that the verb ‘Kaana’ كان is used to indicate the action of occurring and it is therefore absolute verb كان التامة. So, there is need for a predicate al-xabar الخبر because predication occurs within the verb ‘Kaana’ كان . 38-

ما كان احسن زيدا. No one was better than Zaid.

In above sentence, the verb ‘Kaana’ كان does not use in the sentence. So, it doesn’t take a nominative or accusative. So, a redundant Kaana كان الزائدة. 39-

كن محتهبذا. Be hardworking.

In above example, in Arabic the verb ‘Kaana’ كان can be used in imperative form and here the noun is implicit.

5.1.4 Inna’s Predicate: خبر إن

Inna’s predicate خبر إن can be used to express Indicative mood صيغة الرفع in Arabic and it can be regarded as the main element of ‘Inna’s sentence’. It always occurs in nominative case منصوب and it is marked by the suffix ‘dhamma’ الضمة. The majority of grammarians like Al-Zajjaji (1959, PP.337-949), Sibawayhi (1988, P. 131), Al- Samara’ee (2007, P. 262) and Ryding (2005, P. 422) considered ‘Inna and its sisters’ إن وآخواتها as particles ‘Huruf’ حروف which like verbs (verb resembling particles) حروف مشبهة بالفعل. Traditionally, In Arabic the nominal sentence الجملة الاسمية can be introduced by particles such as ‘Inna and its sisters’ إن وآخواتها. Let’s talk about such a kind of nominal sentence which consists of two main elements: The subject المبتدأ which comes after ‘Inna and its sisters’ إن وآخواتها and will be called ‘Inna’s noun’ اسم إن. 40-

Indeed, Muhammed is generous.

They confirmed that the predicate ‘Inna’s predicate’ خبر إن can be divided into three parts single word like noun or adjective, sentence “nominal and verbal” and semi-sentence شبه جملة. The semi- sentence must contain adverb, preposition. For example:

 إن الحياه جميلة. Inna’s predicate is single word ‘Adjective’

Indeed, life is beautiful.

 إن الولد في البيت. Inna’s predicate is semi- sentence ‘Preposition’

Indeed, the boy is in the house.

 إن زيداً يدرس في الدار. Inna’s predicate is verbal sentence.

Indeed, Zayd is studying at home.

 إن هذه الولد نكي جدا. Inna’s predicate is nominal sentence.

Indeed, this boy is very smart.
Other grammarians like Ibn aqeel (1964, P. 159), Hassan (1963, P. 630) and Ryding (2005, P.176) called ‘؟ینَna and its sisters’ النواسخ إن وأخواتها or abrogators is the concept which is used by the grammarian Ryding (2005, P.176) who described the abrogators as converters to accusative or as the words which cause a shift to the accusative case. They change the form and meaning of the nominal sentence. Especially, when they change the subject’s case from nominative to accusative which is always has the suffix ‘أ / fatha or tanween’ which is located over the final letter. For example :

45
طالب متقدم .
The student is hardworking .

46
طالب متقدم .
The student was hardworking .

6- Conclusion :
The following remarks have been concluded from this paper. The indicative mood is commonly used in Arabic. The indicative mood صيغة الرفع in Arabic is used in order to state something and refers to the real actions. On the top of that, this paper concludes that the indicative mood صيغة الرفع can be represented by the imperfect ‘present’ verb الفعل المضارع. It also sheds the light on that the indicative mood صيغة الرفع can be represented not only by the imperfect ‘present’ verb but also by other cases such as the subject الفاعل, the subject and the predicate المبتدأ والخبر, Kaana’s noun اسم كان and Inna’sPredicateخبر إنَ.

References


