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A CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF COMPLEMENT CLAUSES IN ENGLISH AND PERSIAN

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Abstract
A complement clause is a clause that is introduced by a complementizer like “that” or “whether”. A complement clause is connected to a preceding noun, verb, or adjective. In Persian, however, there is only one complementizer, “Ke”, equivalent to “that” complementizer in English. There are different types of complement clauses in English and Persian which will be discussed in details. This article aimed at discussing the similarities and differences of complement clauses in English and Persian. The findings of this study can be useful for English learners who are interested in learning Persian and vice versa.

INTRODUCTION
Any noun, noun phrase, or noun clause which completes the meaning of a subject, object, verb, or adjective is called a complement. It is worth mentioning that the word “complement” alone does not have any meaning in grammatical sense, but it is grammatically meaningful when used with other words such as subject, object, verb, adjective. In grammar, a complement is a word or word group that completes the predicate in a sentence. In contrast to modifiers, which are optional, complements are required to complete the meaning of a sentence or a part of a sentence. But as David Crystal has observed, "the domain of complementation remains an unclear area in linguistic analysis, and there are several unresolved issues" (Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics, 2011). Complements are often
also arguments (i.e., expressions that help complete the meaning of a predicate). There are indicative as well as non-indicative complements in languages. Non-indicative complements follow the appropriate complementizers. Indicative complements do not follow complementizers, but instead are included with special markers and clauses.

**Contrastive analysis**
Contrastive analysis explores the similarities and differences between pairs or small sets of languages with the purpose of providing input to applied disciplines such as foreign language teaching and translation studies. With its largely descriptive focus, contrastive linguistics provides an interface between theory and application. It makes use of theoretical findings and models of language description but is driven by the objective of applicability. In the twentieth century, applied linguists tried to study two languages in contrast. In the end, the accumulation of contrastive and comparative data on pairs of languages led to Contrastive Analysis Hypothesis (CAH). CAH was originated from the behavioristic and structuralist approaches. It stated that the interference of the first language system with the second language system is the main barrier to second language acquisition and linguists and language teachers would be able to predict the difficulties a learner may confront through a structural, scientific analysis of pairs of languages (Brown, 2007).

Fries (1952) a structural linguist believed that a linguist can describe the two languages in question through slot-filler grammar. Behaviorism on the other hand believed that human behavior is made of the sum of components. They highlighted *interfering* theory to convey that where there is no interference, there is no difficulty and it leads to positive transfer (Brown, 2007).

**The Importance of Contrastive Analysis**
It is believed that the errors may occur because of native language interference. It means EFL learners unconsciously use knowledge of Persian in English. There is no error if the linguistic systems are the same. The native language may interfere with the foreign language if the linguistic systems are different. Therefore, EFL learners need systematic comparison of linguistic features of English and Persian to familiarize with similarities and differences between the two languages (Yarmohammadi & Rashidi, 2009).

**Types of Complement Clauses**
There are different types of complement in English which are as follows:

- Subject complement: This complement is always used after a linking verb. It refers to the subject of a sentence and explains it. A subject complement can be a noun, which is also called *predicate noun* or *nominative*. It can also be an adjective, which is also called *predicate adjective*. Look at the following examples (The examples are taken from www.Englishnice.com):
  a. Sheila is an English teacher. (*Sheila yek moalem e zabān āsf*)
  b. Her favorite hobbies are reading and writing. (*khāndan va naveshtan sargarmi haye morede alaghe ou hastand*)
  c. She was sad about her illness. (*ou narahat e bimariash bud*)
  d. That man seems kind. (*an mard mehraban benazar mirešad*)

In sentence (a), *an English teacher* is a predicate noun. It is a subject complement which provides some information about *Sheila* that is the subject of the sentence.
In sentence (b), reading and writing are used as the gerund in the sentence and they are used as the subject complement of the sentence because they provide information about the hobbies of the subject.
In sentences (c) and (d), the adjectives sad and kind, are used as subject complement because they describe that man and she.

- **Object complement:** Another type of complement is object complement. This type of complement is always used after the direct subject and is used to complete it. For example:
  a. Tom considers horror movies silly. *(Tom filmhaye tarsnak ra ahmaghane midanad)*
  b. She found the work hard. *(Ou fahmid ke kar sakht ast)*
  c. Our teacher realized the English test difficult. *(Moalem e ma azmoon e zabban ra sakht tashkhis dad)*
  d. He makes me very angry. *(ou mara khili asabani mikonad)*
  e. You kept me waiting. *(To mara montazer gozashti)*
  f. They elected Martin their president. *(Anha Martin ra be onvane reis jomhureshan entekhab kardand)*

In sentence (a), for instance, the adjective silly, is the object complement because it provides information about the direct object, that is, horror movies.
In sentence (b), the adjective hard is object complement because it give information about the direct object work.
In sentence (c), the adjective difficult is the object complement because it describes the direct object English test.

- **Verb complement:** A verb complement is actually the direct object or indirect object which completes the meaning of the verb in a sentence. A verb complement can be a noun, a pronoun, a word, or a group of words which are used as a noun. For example:
  She gave my toy to Betty. *(ou aroosak e mara be Beti dad)*
  He lent his umbrella to Erica. *(ou chatrash ra be Erika dad)*

In the above-mentioned examples, my toy and his umbrella are direct objects and Betty and Erica are indirect objects which, based on the definition, are verb complements.

- **Adjective complement:** This complement always comes after an adjective and refers to the preceding adjective and explains about it or describes it. An adjective complement is usually a noun phrase or a prepositional phrase. For example:
  a. They are happy that Mike returned home. *(anha khoshhal hastand ke Mike be khane bargasht)*
  b. I am curious what color it is. *(man konjakav hastam oon che rangie)*
  c. Are you afraid or spiders? *(aya to az ankaboot ha mitarsi?)*
  d. We were shocked by the news. *(ma az khabar shoke shodim)*

As can be seen in the above examples, the noun phrases “that Mike returned home” and “what color it is” as complements describe the adjectives happy and curious. Moreover, the prepositional phrases “of spiders” and “by the news” describe the adjectives afraid and shocked and proved us with more information about them. That’s why, they are called adjective complements.

**Complement clauses in Persian**

A complement in Persian language is a noun phrase that follows a preposition without which the meaning of the verb is incomplete. Complement transitive verbs
are the verbs which, in addition to a subject, require another noun phrase for making a meaningful sentence. This noun phrase is called a complement and is used with a preposition. Verbs have their own specific preposition, that is, they are used with only one specific preposition, such as the verb *tarsidan* (be afraid of) that is followed by the preposition *az* (=of). For example (taken from Bahrami (2016):

*Man az in tariki mitarsam.* (I am afraid of this darkness)

In this sentence, the noun phrase *tariki* (darkness) is a verb complement and the verb *tarsidan* cannot be used in other forms. Therefore, the following sentences are wrong:

*man be tariki mitarsam
*man ba tariki mitarsam
*man bara ye tariki mitarsam.

In the following example, the meaning of the verb is incomplete with the complement. That is, we cannot delete it from the sentence and the verb *andishidan* is only used with the preposition *be* (= about) and other prepositions are not possible.

*Har ensani be karhaye ruzane ye khod miandishad.* (Everybody thinks about his/her daily work)
*Har ensani az karhaye ruzane ye khod miandishad.
*Har ensani ba karhaye ruzane ye khod miandishad.

Since the concept of complement is very extensive and because there are some complements that the verb does not need, some types of Persian complements are mentioned here:

1. **Verb complement:** A noun phrase which is required by the verb and without which the sentence is incomplete.
2. **Noun complement:** Words which are needed by the noun which comes before or after them. However, these words are not needed by the verb.
3. **Adverb complement:** An adverbial phrase which is not required by the verb but can be deleted from the sentence.

There are some nouns which are used with a preposition in the sentence. It is impossible to differentiate them from complements. For instance: maharat *dar*, tasalot *bar*, alaghe *be*. When these words are used in a sentence they must be used with the prepositions mentioned above. For example: *ou bar ketab mosalat ast*.

Tabibzadeh (2007) divides dependent clauses into the following categories:

1. Adjectival clause: adjectival clauses describe nouns.
2. Adverbial clause: adverbial clauses which are used as the adverb of a sentence describe the whole sentence.
3. Complement clause: complement clauses are considered as verb complements.

is in the third person singular case and depending on the meaning of the sentence, it can be used in the subjunctive or declarative mood. Look at the following examples:

a. Lazeem bood ke man anha ra bebibam (It was important that I see him)
b. Maloom hast shoma koja miravi? (Is it clear where you are going?)

Subject complement clause is another kind of complement clause in Persian which is used as the direct object of the verb of the main clause. For example:

Oo goft ke [O] vaqht nadarad. He said he doesn’t have time

In this example, the omission of the subject in English makes the sentence ungrammatical whereas in Persian, the subject of the complement clause can be omitted if the subject of the main clause is the same as the subject of the complement clause. Payne (2006) believes that this is true when the sentence is not so complicated that the recognition of the subject of the object complement clause is not difficult. Another important point about the object complement clauses in Persian is that the conjunctive ke can be omitted. The same is true in English language where the conjunctive can be omitted in the object complement clauses. For example:

a. I knew [O] you are left-handed. (midanim to chap dast hasti)
b. I knew that you are left-handed. (midanim ke to chap dast hasti)

Payne (2006) believes that English language, like Persian, can have zero complementizer as can be seen in example a.

Using or not using conjunctives in Persian or English has no effect on the order of the components of object complement clause. In Persian, the verb of the main clause must be inflected and using the infinitive form of the verb in the complement clause makes the sentence ungrammatical.

Example:

Oo ghol dad ke ghaza bekhorad (he promised to eat food)

As can be seen in this example, the subject of the main clause is the same as the subject of the complement clause, the subject of the complement has been omitted. In the following example, however, the verb of the subordinate clause is inflected and therefore it is ungrammatical:

The ghol dadan ke ghaza bekhorad.

Since this structure is different in English and Persian, Persian speakers who are learning English tend to make mistakes when learning complement clauses in English.

Another category of complement clauses in Persian is the prepositional complement clause. This structure is used with verbs which require a prepositional object. This object can appear as complement clause. Ahadi (2001) states that verbs which can take a direct and an indirect object can use a prepositional complement clause to describe one of the subjects. For example:

a. Ali movafeghat kard ke in barnanjeh ra ejra konim. (Ali agreed to implement this plan)
b. Ali ba ejraje in barnanjeh movafeghat kard. (Ali agreed with the implementation of this plan)

Another kind of verb complement which can be used as a complement clause is prepositional accusative marker. This kind of object which is attached to the non-verb particle of compound verbs through a vowel point that is symbolized as (v- in Persian appear in the form of a complement clause. For example:

1. Oo baase ekhraj kardane man shod. (he was the cause of my expulsion)
2. *Ou baes shod ke man ra ekhray konand.*

A prepositional accusative marker can be used with *(ra)* in Persian.

Example:
1. *Ou dastoore hamle ra dad.* (he ordered the attack)
2. *Ou dastoor dad ke hamle konand.* (he ordered that they attack)

Ahadi (2001) believes that verb complements in Persian are divided into two distinct types: *prepositional complement and prepositional object complement* (using “*ra*”). He introduced two more types of verb complement in Persian, namely, *noun complement* and *adjective complement* which can be used in the form of complement clauses. He mentioned the verbs such as *be nazari residan* (seem) and claimed that this type of verb can be used as an adjective complement.

Examples:
   a. *Ou khlaste be nazari miresad.* (He seems tired)
   b. *Be nazari miresad ke ou khaste ast.* (It seems that he is tired)
   c. *Ou khaste ast.* (He is tired)

There is controversy over this type of verb complement among grammarians. Tabibzadeh (2006) claims that the verb *be nazari residan* (seem) can be replaced by the verb *boodan* (to be), this verb can be categorized as a linking verb in Persian. Therefore, we can put noun complements and adjective complements in the same category. This group of Persian verb complements which can be used in the form of subordinate clauses is called *predicative complement clause*.

Examples:
   a. *Ou moaleme riazi be nazari miresad.* (He seems to be a math teacher)
   b. *Be nazari miresad ke ou moaleme riazi ast.* (It seems that he is a math teacher).

There is another group of verbs in Persian which can have a complement clause as a mandatory complement of the verb. In other words, an object can only appear through a subordinate clause.

*The position of complement clause in Persian*

Complement clauses in Persian usually have a post-verb usage. In Persian, the use of the pronoun *in* (this) is obligatory only when the subject complement clause is in the pre-verb position (before the verb of the main clause). In other words, if the subject complement clause in the following sentences is used in the post-verb position, there is no need to use the pronoun *in*.

   a. *Lazem bood ke man tora bebinam.* (It was necessary that I see you)
   b. *In ke man ou ra bebinam lazem bood.* (That I see him was necessary)
   c. *Man ou ra bebinam lazem bood.* (Seeing him was necessary)

In sentence (b), the subject complement clause has been move to the pre-verb position of the main clause. Therefore, the use of the pronoun *in* (this) is mandatory. The same is true for object complement clause. The use of the pronoun *in* (this) is mandatory in the following sentences where the complement clause is moved to the pre-verb position of the main verb.

   a. *Maryam midanad ke man enruz entehan daram.* (Maryam knows that I have an exam today)
   b. *In ra ke man enruz entehan daram, Maryam midanad.* (That I have an exam today, Maryam knows)
   c. *Man enruz entehan daram. Maryam midanad.* (I have an exam today. Maryam knows)
Another important point to mention about Persian complement clauses is that Persian complement clauses can be made with or without the use of pronouns depending on their usage. Consider the following examples:

a. *Man (az in) khoshhalam ke to dar emtehan ghubul shodi.* (I am happy about your passing the exam)

b. *Az inke to dar emtehan ghubul shodi khoshhalam.* (That you passed the exam, I am happy about)

The use of the preposition *az* (about) is optional as long as the complement clause is used after the main clause. However, if the complement clause is moved to the pre-verb position of the main clause, the use of the preposition *az* and the pronoun *in* is obligatory.

**CONCLUSION**

This article investigated the similarities and discrepancies between complement clauses in Persian and English. Although there are a lot of similarities between the two languages regarding their complement clauses, the differences between them might cause confusion for English speakers who are trying to learn Persian. One of the differences between English and Persian complements is that the former follows an SVO pattern whereas the latter follows an SOV pattern. Another difference is that in Persian language, the verb of the main clause is inflected and the use of infinitive in the complement clause makes the sentence ungrammatical while this is not true about complement clauses in English. Another discrepancy between Persian and English complement clauses is concerned with the use of pronouns. In Persian, the use of the pronoun *in* is obligatory when the subject complement clause is in the pre-verb position and the use of subject complement clause in post-verb position without pronoun is not mandatory.

**References**


