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## **Gerund in English and Arabic: A Contractive Study**

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# بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

"ومن یتبع غیر الاسلام دینا فلن یقبل منه وهو فی الآخرة من الخاسرین "

سوره آل عمران الآیة ۸۵

*In the name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Compassionate*

And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, It will never be accepted of him and in the thereafter he will be one of the losers.

# **Dedication**

To all my family

# *Acknowledgements*

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My great gratitude goes to all the teachers who guided and supported me during the years of my study in the department.

## **Abstract**

Gerund has a semantic duty as nouns, in other words, it has function of nouns though their forms are basically taken from verbs. Gerund forms can be used as adjectives and objects. It can exist after prepositions and other expressions. Gerund is derived from verbs by adding ( ing) at the end. It is worth mentioning that there are words that end with the ( ing) inflection, but they are not gerunds. Gerunds expresses all time action and moreover sometimes indicates by other parts of the sentences.

**Keywords:** Gerund, Function, Noun, Sentence, Action

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## Chapter One

### Introduction

#### **1.1 The Problem**

1. What is Gerund and what is its function in the sentences?
2. What are the differences between gerund in English and Arabic?
3. What are the similarities between gerund in English and Arabic?

#### **2.1 The Aims**

The study aims at:

1. Identifying the meaning of gerund and explaining the function.
2. Finding out the differences between gerund in English and Arabic.
3. Investigating the similarities between gerund in English and Arabic.

#### **3.1 The Hypotheses**

It is hypothesized that:

1. Gerund is a syntactical term which is widely used in English and Arabic.
2. The main difference between gerund in English and Arabic is that, gerund in English comes from verbs by adding (ing), while in Arabic it comes from many forms.
3. The main similarities between gerund in English and Arabic is that gerund in both languages expresses an action.

## **4.1 The Procedures**

1. Presenting a theoretical background about gerund in English and Arabic .
2. Conducting a contractive analysis between gerund in English and Arabic focusing on the similarities and differences between gerund in both languages.
3. Coming up with certain conclusions.

## **5.1 The Limits**

This paper is limited to the study of gerund in English and Arabic and explain the differences and similarities between the two languages.

## **1.6 The Value**

This paper is hoped to be of value for learners of English as a foreign language. and to pave the way for further research.



## Chapter Two

### Theoretical Background

#### 2-1 The Definition of Gerund in English

Crystal (1987:421) states that gerund is a noun derived from a verb by adding (ing) at the end of a verb, as found in Latin grammar such as laughing, playing.

Allen (1959:170) says that a gerund is a word which looks like a verb, but it's actually a noun. Or it is a word which is formed by adding (-ing) to the base form. In another word, a gerund is a verb form with which (-ing) is attached at the end. A gerund in another definition is word which changes the part of speech into a noun. It is, indeed, another way of expressing a verb changing it into a noun.

Thomson and Martinet (1986:164) state that gerund has exactly the same form as the present participle: running, speaking, working etc. It can be used in the following ways:

- (a) as subject of a sentence: "Dancing bored him".
- (b) as complement of a verb: "Her hobby is painting".
- (c) after prepositions: "He was accused of smuggling".
- (d) after certain verbs
- (e) in noun compounds: a 'diving board (a board for diving off). The gerund here carries the main stress.

#### 2-1-1 The Syntactic Functions of Gerund

a. Subject :

- 1- "Seeing is believing".
- 2- "Eating too much is harmful".

B. Direct object :

- 3- "I like teaching English".
- 4- "He likes studying chemistry".
- 5- "He impeded me of working hard".

C. Subject complement:

6- "The hardest thing in learning is understanding the subject".

7- "What I like is flying in plan".

d. Appositive:

8- " The fact, telling the truth, is unbelievable".

9- "His presence , my controlling over his property by fake, is merely a lie".

e. A prepositional complement:

10- " I am tired of hearing bad news".

11- "He is preferring of leaving home country".

f. Adjectival complement:

12- "My son is busy doing his homework".

13- "The girls are busy putting make-up".

14- "The time for making excuses is late".

g. Adverbial

15- "They noticed me entering the police station".

16- "The students never took the exam without complaining".

17- He spent the night touring through the main city.( Kollen &Robert, 2012:168)

## **2-1-2 The Use of Gerund after Certain Expressions**

a. It's no use + -ing:

18- We cannot persuade her. It's no use worrying about.

b. It's no good + -ing:

19- It is no good doing such risky movements.

c. It's worth + -ing:

20- I told you to write this point. it's worth nothing.

d. It's not worth +- ing:

21- We live a few minutes from here. it's not worth taking a bus.

e. Have difficulty + -ing:

22- Do you have any difficulty getting a visa for Britain.

f. Have trouble +-ing:

23- She always has no trouble having a place to stay.

g. Be busy + -ing:

24- Our kids were busy building sandy castle .

h. Spend time + -ing:

25- He spent a lot of time repairing the house .

i. Waste time + -ing:

26- My wife wasted long time chatting with her neighbor.

J. Can't help /can't stand + -ing:

27- We can't stand waiting for a queue for a long time.

### **2-1-3 Gerund and Passive**

Swan (2002: 7) notes that gerund can make formal differences as far as voice and aspect concerned by having different forms that are similar to these differences.

55. She is fond of writing poetry. (simple)

56. Ali refused having change his mind. (perfective)

57. He can possibly have an opportunity on ground of being working part-time.  
(progressive)

58. He is afraid of being shown on TV. (passive progressive)

59. He is afraid of having shown on TV. (passive perfective)

60. He is ready for getting the meat cooked. (mandative)

61. The meat having got cooked, he sent it to the workers to be eaten.

(perfective mandative)

### **2-1-4 Gerunds after prepositions**

When a verb is placed immediately after a preposition the gerund form must be used:

62- What can you do besides typing?

63- I have no objection to hearing your story again.

64- Touch your twist without bending your knees'.

65- He is good at diving. She is fond of climbing.

66- I'm not keen on gambling. I'm too afraid of losing,

67- He was fined for being drunk in charge of a car.

68- I'm against saying anything/I'm for saying nothing.

69- I'm tired of arguing. I'm fed up waiting, (colloquial)

70- This is a tool for opening tins. Do you feel like going out?

71- After swimming I felt cold.

72- She disapproves of jogging.

73- What about leaving it here and collecting it later?

74- He is thinking of emigrating.

75- I'm sorry for keeping you waiting.

76- There's no point in waiting.

A number of verb + preposition/adverb combinations ('phrasal verbs') take the gerund. The most common of these are be for/against, care for, give up, keep on, leave off, look forward to, put off, see about, take to.

77- I don't care for standing in queues.

78- Eventually the dogs left off barking.

79- I am looking forward to meeting her.

80- He put off making a decision till he had more information.

81- He took to ringing us up in the middle of the night.

Hughes (2001:121) admits that gerund is followed by a *possessive adjective* :

82- I appreciate **having** some time off work. (I'm having the time...)

83- I appreciate your **giving** me some time off work. (You're giving me the time...)

**Excuse, forgive, pardon** can be followed by an object and the gerund or for + object and the gerund (both common in spoken English), or a possessive adjective + gerund (more formal and less likely to be said):

84- Excuse me **interrupting**.

85- Excuse me for **interrupting**.

86- Excuse my **interrupting**.

**Propose** is followed by the gerund when it means 'suggest':

87- John proposed **going** to the debate

88- but by the infinitive when it means 'intend':

89- The Government proposes **bringing** in new laws.

**Prevent** is followed

**EITHER** by a possessive adjective + gerund:

90- You can't prevent my **leaving**.

**OR** by an object + from + gerund:

91- You can't prevent me from **leaving**.

## 2-2 Gerund in Arabic

Ammar (1999: 14) states that gerund is a derivational noun obtained from an Arabic verb. It expresses the principal idea of an action, or an action that has no reference time. there exist seven sub-types.

Each sub-type of gerund has specific criteria representing the base for its construction. First, the Gerund-Mojared “مجرد مصدر” can be obtained from an un-augmented verb (فعل مجرد / fi'l mo Jared). In addition, this type of Gerund has several types or forms (i.e. regular and irregular). To construct regular forms, for example, we are based on the schema of verb transitivity (i.e. transitive or intransitive) descriptions (Darwish, 2016:16)

While, the irregular forms for the gerund Mojarad can have several patterns either by adding one or more letters such as “(و,w) / (ى,y) / (ة,t) / (ا,A)”, either by modification of vocalization, or by the combination of two cases of change. For example, the two verbs (>فتح< / >زرع< to plant>) have the same schema (fa'ala\_yaf'alou / ل يُفَعِّلُ فعل) (and the same type “Intact” but we can't apply the same rule to obtain the Gerund-Mojarad (>فتح< the opening> / >زراعة< the planting>). In fact, the first forms of gerund-Mojarad (i.e. >فتح< the ) is an irregular form obtained by modifying the vocalization (Dichi, 2010:23)

Forms can be obtained with regular method applied to an augmented Arabic verb (مزيد فعل / fi'l mazid). In fact, this type has 15 patterns according to the schema of verb. By the way, for the gerund-Mimi “الميمي المصدر” we add generally, the prefix “م” to an Arabic verb. If the verb has three letters, the vocalization of the prefix will be either “/ma” or either “/mou”.

For the gerund-*Alsinaa*'i “الصناعي المصدر”, “it is a noun that can be obtained from a participle noun or active noun or superlative noun or proper noun or another type of gerund such as the gerund-*Mimi*. In fact, for each type of this noun, we add the sign of the feminine, the letter “ة/t”. For example the active participle “عالم/Scientist/’aalimoun” will be “ةعالمي / International/’aalamiyatun” for the gerund-*Alsinaa*'i. The Gerund-*Almarra* “المرّة مصدر” means that the verb is applied only once. In fact, if the verb is composed by three letters, this type of gerund became transformed to the schema “فعلّة / fi’latun”. But otherwise, this type became transformed according to schema of its verb with adding the letter “ة/t” at the end. Moreover, with the same way, we can obtain the gerund-*Alnaw*'i “النوع مصدر” but we can distinguish between them if they appear in a sentence as illustrated in examples (Ismail,2017:25)

وثبتت وثبة Wathabtu wathbatan, I leaped a leap

وثبتت وثبة الأسد Wathabtu wathbata alasadi, I leaped the lion’s leap

The gerund-*Almarra* should be a simple word . However, the gerund-*Alnaw*' should have after it a word describing the way of this type of gerund . According to this linguistic study, we conclude that each sub-type of gerund has specific patterns. Indeed, we need for some patterns the semantic level of the verb mainly for the gerund-*Mojarad* construction ( Darwish,2016:23)

The used lexical rule transforms the verb “زرع / zar’a/ to plant” to the gerund-*Mojarad* “زراعة / ziraa’atun/ the planting”. Indeed, this rule adds the feature “ARGS” to describe the original verb. In fact, this verb must have the meaning of “hirfa” in its semantic description presented in real feature. Moreover, it must be a trilateral verb with the scheme “fa’ala” represented respectively in radical and scheme features. Besides, all types of gerund are a derived noun obtained by a specific pattern described in the feature Sing scheme ( Ismail,2017:28)

The gerund-*Alsinaa* 'i can be obtained for example from an active participle that it is also a derived form. This type of form is obtained from an Arabic verb. the patterns construction of Arabic gerund need a complete description of the verb .In fact, the semantic description is represented in the feature “RELN”. Moreover, the morphological description is represented in the features: “TYPE”, ”RADICAL”, and “SCHEME”, “VFORM” and “ROOT ( Haddar,2014:12)

```
:= lex-verb-complet-sain-intact &
SCHEME ,   يَفْعَلُ
RADICAL ,   مجرد_ثلاثي
VFORM      متعدي
CONT.RELS  RELN      حرفة
```

The gerund in Arabic noun is inherited from the variable noun type and the noun that is a general type. As well as the Arabic noun is inherited from the base sign “tete”. Since the gerund is a derived form from an Arabic verb, it is necessary also to specify the type hierarchy of Arabic verbs (i.e. type. tdl and lex- type. tdl). the verb “ زرع / zaraa/ to plant” is an instance from “lex-verb-complet-sainintact”. This lexical rule contains all the verb of type intact “ سالم ”. Each verb is specified by phonetic feature “PHON”, morphological and semantic features. In fact, this verb is a trilateral “ مجرد\_ثلاثي ” and transitive “ متعدي ” verb. Besides, its semantic description is a craft “ حرفة / hirfa”. This constraint is necessary in the specification of the morphological rules to generate the gerund-*Mojarad* ( Darwish,2016:25)

By adding two letters to the last letter of the verb. They belongs to the set of letter called " MOJARED" one before “ /a” and another after(ة ) “ /t”. This rule is applied to a set type of verbs combined in the type “TYPE1” such as intact verb.



Moreover, these types of verb must belong to a set of scheme regrouped also in “scheme\_mas”. This rule combines all forms of gerund-Mojarad generated in the same manner. As the gerund can be a derived form from a verb, it can be also a derived form from an active participle (a derived form from a verb). This type of gerund is called the gerund-*Alsinaa’i*. we give two morphological rules generating the active participle from a verb then a gerund-*Alsinaa’i* from an active participle. These two rules are related and specified with a chronological order. This order is treated through morphological operations. that allow the concatenation respectively between a lexeme/word and word/word with adding specific and proper constraints to generate each step ( Dahdah,1992:18)

The morphological rule that generate the two types of gerund: gerund-*Alnaw’i* and gerund-*Almarra*. These types of gerund have as Sing Sheme “ فعلة / fi’latun”. In fact, we add the letter “ /t” as a suffix to an Arabic verb ( Haddar,2014:22)

The foreword oriented verbs in Arabic differ completely from English since they accept both overt and modified derived nominal. These are like Yatawaqqa9 'expect', ya'mal 'hope', yuxaTeT 'plan', yureed 'want' yanwy 'intend', yuSamem 'insist' Consider the following examples:

92 a. yatawaqqa9 zayd-un an yaSal axaah men s-safar l-yawm  
Expect Zayd-nom that arrive brother-his from travel the day.  
'Zayd expects his brother to arrive from travel today'

b. yatawaqqa9 zayd-un wosool-a axeeh men s-safar l-yawm  
Expect Zayd-nom arrival brother-his from travel the day.  
'Zayd expects his brother arrival from travel today'

93 a. ta'mal hind-un an tanal-a n-najaaH haDi s-sanah.

Hope Hind-nom that get the success this year.

'Hind expects to have success this year'

b. ta'mal hind-un nayla n-najaaHaa haDi s-sanah.

Hope Hind-nom having the success this year

\* 'Hind expects having success this year'

94- a. yoreed-u zayd-un an yaqra'a l-qeSSa

Want Zayd-nom that read the story

'Zayd wants to read the story'

b. yoreed-u zaydun qeraa'ta l-qeSSa

'want Zayd-nom reading the story' (Fehri,1993:23)

## Chapter Three

### A Contractive Analysis of Gerund in English and Arabic

#### 3-1 The Similarities

- 1- Both languages have a gerund.
- 2- Gerund in both languages is derived from a verb.
- 3- Gerund in both languages is derived from regular and irregular verbs.
- 4- Gerund in English and Arabic has pattern and form.
- 5- Gerund in both languages has a semantic features.
- 6- It expresses the principal idea of an action.
- 7- Both languages use lexical verbs to transform gerund.
- 8- Arabic and English languages are a Semitic languages that are very rich by morphological phenomena (i.e. inflectional and derivational). Thus, the automatic treatment of Arabic morphological forms is primordial for syntactic analyzer. It contributes to the construction of extensional lexicon with a wide coverage and guarantees the reusability of the resources, mostly using a unification grammar. In fact, this kind of formalism offers complete representation with a minimum number of rules. Among the most complicated derivational forms, we find the gerund for Arabic nouns.
- 9- In Arabic the native speaker can choose one form over the other and that the semantics of verb behavior plays a major role in this overt and modified derived nominal dichotomy. It is the same in English.

### 3.2 The Differences

1- Gerund in English is a noun derived from verb by adding (ing), While gerund in Arabic derived from a verb ( ثلاثي ) or ( رباعي ).

2- Gerund in English can occur in different places in the sentence such as:

Subject : Seeing is believing.

direct object: I like speaking French.

subject complement: The hardest thing in reading a story is getting the meaning.

appositive: The fact, telling the truth, is unbelievable.

prepositional complement: I am tired of cooking every day.

adjectival complement: My father is busy working all night.

While gerund in Arabic can occur only as a abject.

3- Gerund in English can occur in passive form. Gerund in Arabic can't occur in passive form.

4-Gerund in English can occur after a preposition, in contrast gerund in Arabic can't occur after preposition.

5-Gerund in English has a reference time, while gerund in Arabic has no reference time.

6-Gerund in English has just one form by adding ( ing), gerund in Arabic has many forms and types .

7- Gerund in English has one pattern, while Gerund in Arabic has many pattern.

8- Gerund in English can be operates many functions in sentences such as:

a. **SV**

I admire her (S) thinking (V).

b. **SVO**

I assure his (S) speaking (V) some words (O).

c. **SVC**

I like her (S) being (V) polite (C).

d. **SVA**

I hate his (S) staying (V) at home (A).

e. **SVOO**

The staff rejected her (S) electing (V) him (O) a model (O).

f. **SVOC**

Their (S) choosing (V) him (O) monitor (C) displeased them.

g. **SVOA**

Your having (S) the material in your notebooks took (V) more time (O) than expected (A).

## Chapter Four

### Conclusions

Gerund in both languages is useful and in two languages has many functions and many types. Some grammarians of English claim that the gerund carries the idea of action only. In line with this, they assure that these forms refer to action related to the concept of time. Gerund expresses all-time action. The gerund has both structure and semantic realizations. Structurally, it is subject to strict places in sentences, whereas semantically, it expresses meanings and time of doing actions. The '- ing' form of a verb has both noun and adjectival or adverbial uses. In either case it may function as a non-finite verb (taking direct objects), or as a pure noun or adjective. It is called a gerund in the noun case when it behaves as a non-finite verb and a present participle in the adjectival or adverbial case. Uses as pure nouns or adjectives may be called deverbal uses.

Gerund is a syntactic term which is composed of the base form plus the suffix 'ing'. It can be a word like in "calling ,reading, living, etc. or the principal part of a phrase like "living in England it is sometimes called "gerundial construction" or gerundive. In syntax ,the gerund overlaps with the present participle "ing" form used in progressive tenses.

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