**Al-Mustansiriyah University**

**College of Arts**

**Translation Department**

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**CONTRASTIVE GRAMMAR**

**Fourth Year/ Morning & Evening Classes**

**Lecture # 9**

**Conjunctions in Arabic**

Arabic has حروف العطف ‘conjunctive particles’. The following ones are coordinatiung:

* الواو additive
* الفاء additive
* ثم additive
* بل adversative
* لكن adversative
* أو disjunctive
* أم disjunctive
* لا negative conjunctive
* إما correlative

Recently , it is proved that these can be both coordinating and subordinating.

(a)الواو : This is an additive conjunctive particle that links nouns, phrases, clauses and paragraphs. It may occur sentence initially and at the beginning of paragraph. It is the most frequently used conjunctive particle. In listing , it is replaced by ‘comma’ in English:

- جاء المعلم والبنت و الولد . The teacher ,the boy and the girl came

-اكل الولد وشرب . The boy ate and drank.

In translation , الواو can be omitted , as in:

* غادرت البيت وهي تحمل طفلها. She left the house carrying her baby.

When used at the beginning of each paragraph, in a narrative , الواو has a textual function , which is to signal the beginning of a new event or episode.

(b)الفاء: This inseparable sequential particle links constituents and implies sequencing or succession of events الترتيب. It does not ,however, necessarily imply an interval between the occurrences of the two actions. It has two meanings:

i-الترتيب / التعقيب gradation/succession

* وصل الرئيس فالوزراء. The President arrived and then the ministers.

ii-التعليل reason/cause

* مرض فمات. He became sick and died.

( c)ثم: then/thereupon/ next. Like الفاء, this additive conjunctive particle is sequential, but it implies an interval between the occurrence of the two actions:

* جلس ثم نهض . He sat down and then got up.

(d) بل but / but rather . This conjunctive particle expresses an adversative meaning اضراب:

- ما حضر خال بل علي. Khalid did not come but Ali did.

It can also precede by a positive clause:

* رايت زيدا بل عليا. I saw Zayd, but rather Ali.

(e)لكن but.Like بل, this conjunctive particle also expresses an adversative meaning. However, it must be preceded by a negative or prohibitive clause:

- ما شربت ماءٌ بل عصيرا. I didn’t drink water but juice.

(f)أو or. This particle is disjunctive and denotes

i- choice among inclusive alternatives.That is, it allows the possibility of more than one disjuncts being true:

- تعال اليوم او غدا. Come today or tomorrow.

ii- divisiuon التقسيم

- الكلمة اسم او فعل او حرف . The word is a noun , a verb , or a particle.

iii- doubt or uncertainty الشك

* لبثنا يوما او بعض يوم. We stayed (perhaps) a day, or part of a day.

(g)ام or. This particle is disjunctive, but it denotes choice between two mutually exclusive alternative. That is , it does not allow the possibility of more than one of disjunct being true:

- احترم صديقك فقيرا كان ام غنيا. Respect your friend whether he is poor or rich.

(h)لا and not .This negative conjunctive particle links noun phrases:

- افعل خيرا لا شرا. Do good rather than evil.

(i)إما ، إما...... وإما ، إما ....... لو. Either ….or. These correlative conjunctives express exclusive meaning:

- إما أن تجلس أو تنصرف. Either you sit down or you leave.

- اقرأ إما نحوا وإما صرفا. Read either syntax or morphology.