

The Strong Feature in the Declarative C of the Colloquial Egyptian Proverbs

by

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Abstract

In the syntactic structure of the proverbs of Colloquial Egyptian Arabic as cited in Ahmad Taymuur Basha's book of "The Colloquial Proverbs" (1986), there is always a phrasal or a clausal category which is in a position prior to the matrix IP as indicated by its prominence-leading accent. (Chomsky, 1971) In accounting for the syntactic behavior of these focused categories within the framework of the Minimalist Program (Chomsky, 1995), this paper shows that the word order pertaining to these declarative sentences is not really free because it is motivated by syntactic and semantic considerations. Syntactically, the C of these declarative sentences has a strong feature, which in turn requires the overt insertion of a base-generated phrasal or a clausal category in the COMP of these declarative sentences due to the element of focus that is required in them. Thus, it is the presence of this strong feature in the C of these declarative sentences that activates this rhetorical operation and that enables us to distinguish between these declarative sentences from those declarative sentences of the same dialect that are non-proverbial. The former declarative sentences are always of the CP structure as described by C. Doherty (1997) with a strong feature in their C; whereas the non-proverbial declarative sentences may either be of the CP or of the IP structure.

These focused elements may be divided into focused arguments and focused adjuncts. The former (be they CPs or NPs) are associated with internal positions within their major syntactic structures that determine their semantic interpretation; while the latter (be they PPs, IPs, or CPs) are not associated with internal positions within their major syntactic structures for the determination of their semantic interpretations. Accordingly, the focused arguments are base-generated in an A-position; while the focused adjuncts are base-generated in an A'-position. But both the A-position and the A'-position for the base-generation of these focused elements are prior to their major syntactic structures. This distinction of the focused elements as being either arguments or adjuncts is in keeping with Chomsky's (1995) distinction between specifiers and adjuncts in his bare theory: the focused arguments may be regarded as the specifiers; and the focused adjuncts are the adjuncts.

Choosing a lexical -type of analysis for these focused categories has helped in accounting for the fact that when the focused NP has an overt Case marker, it is genitive Case, rather than nominative Case. The fact that the focused NP has genitive Case differentiates it from the topic NP in these declarative sentences even though both NPs are base-generated in A-positions prior to their respective major syntactic structures. The former is assigned Case by its having a Spec-head relation with a C with a strong feature; while the latter is assigned Case by being the multiple specifier of T. This lexical -type of analysis has also enabled me to account for the difference in syntactic behavior between the focused NP and the topic NP as regards the rules at the phonological component: as the topic NP is the specifier of T, it subsumes to a phonological rule that leads to its extraposition from its base-generated position. But as the focused NP is the specifier of C, it does not subsume to any of these optional rules. Finally, the lexical -type of analysis is also a necessity in order to maintain Chomsky's (1995) assumption that θ -role assignment is the property of the base, allowing us to differentiate between the domain in which the focused argument is assigned a θ -role and that in which the topic NP is assigned a θ -role. Being in a Spec-head relation with its Cs in its base-generated position, the focused argument be it a CP or an NP is assigned a θ -role by its head, thereby maintaining Chomsky's (1995) assumption that "an argument without a θ -role violates FI." (314) Likewise, the topic NP without an overt complementizer in the proverbial declarative sentence is assigned a θ -role by T because it is base-generated as its multiple Specifier.

1: Introduction

Taking Ahmad Taymuur Basha's book of "The Colloquial Proverbs" (1986) as the corpus upon which this study is based, it can be said that there are different

types of these proverbs, depending on their difference in structure. A sample of each type of these proverbs is found in section 2.. In section 3., there is a discussion of the relevant literature and section 4. has the proposed syntactic configurations based on the framework of the Minimality Program for each type of the above discussed proverbial sentences. Section 5 provides an analysis of these proverbial sentences, and section 6 has the conclusion.

2: Description of the Data ¹

2.1: A CP introduced by a Subordinator :

The first type has a CP that is introduced by a subordinator such as /ʔin/ or /ba9dima/ generated prior to the matrix IP.

2.1.1: A CP introduced by /ʔin/:

i. /ʔin faatak -ilmiiri ʔitmaray fi turaabuh /
conditional+pron.infl(3rd per.,masc.,sing.)+ perfective verb+ pron.infl(2nd per.,masc.,sing.)+def.art+noun+ pron.infl(2nd per.,masc.,sing.)+ imperative verb+prep+noun+ pron.infl(3rd per.,masc.,sing.)

*Lit :If the governmental job leaves you behind, immerse yourself in its dust.
There is nothing better than a job in the public sector.*

2.1.2. A CP introduced by /ba9dima/:

(i) / ba9dima šaab wadduu -ilkuttaab/

temporal ² +pron.+ pron.infl(3rd per.,sing.,masc.)+perfective verb+ pron.infl(3rd per.,pl.)+ perfective verb+ pron.infl(3rd per.,sing.,masc.)+def.art+noun+ pron.infl(pl.)

Lit. After his hair became grey , they sent him to school ie he has been asked to do something that is inappropriate for him.

2.2: A CP introduced by an NP Operator:

The second type has a CP that is introduced by an NP operator such as the relative pronominal /ʔilli/ or the interrogative pronominal/min/ generated prior to the matrix IP.

2.2.1: A CP introduced by the Relative Prenominal /ʔilli/:

i. / ʔilli yistoro rabbu ma yifdahuuš maxluu? /
relative pron. + pron.infl(3rd per.,masc.,sing.)+ imperfective verb+ pron.infl(3rd per.,masc.,sing.)+ noun+ pron.infl(3rd per.,masc.,sing.)+ negative particle+ pron.infl(3rd per.,masc.,sing.)+ imperfective verb+cont.of the negative particle+ pron.infl(3rd per.,masc.,sing.)+ noun

Lit: Whosoever God shelters, nobody can expose (him).

2.2.2: A CP introduced by the Conjunctive Particle /min/:

i. /min tarak ʔadiimu taah/

conjunctive particle.+ pron.infl(3rd per.,masc.,sing.)+ perfective verb+noun+
pron.infl(3rd per.,masc.,sing.)+ pron.infl(3rd per.,masc.,sing.)+ perfective verb
Lit: Whoever leaves his old (friend) is lost.

2.3: An IP with an Imperative Verb:

The third type has an IP that has an imperative verb generated prior to the matrix IP.

i. /?imši duyri yihtaar 9aduwwak fiik /
pron.infl(2nd per.,masc.,sing.)+ imperative verb+adv.+ pron.infl(3rd
per.,masc.,sing.)+ imperfective verb+noun+ pron.infl(2nd
per.,masc.,sing.)+prep+ pron.infl(2nd per.,masc.,sing.)
Lit: (If you) follow the straight path,your enemy will not know how to attack you.

2.4: An NP Operator :

The fourth type has an NP that is generated prior to the matrix IP. This NP may be a nominal with an overt Case marker or a nominal that does not have an overt Case marker but has some other overt marker. This NP may also be a pronominal that is a strong personal pronominal or an indefinite pronominal.

2.4.1: An NP with a Nominal head :

i. / xayrin ti9mil šarrin til?a /
noun+genitive Case+nunation+pron.infl(2nd per.,masc.,sing.)+imperfective
verb+noun+accusative Case+nunation+ pron.infl(2nd per.,masc.,sing.)
+imperfective verb
*Lit: Good (being) done, evil returned. Instead of the reward of the good, you get
evil in return of doing good.*

ii. / xeer -irriggaala yibaan 9aššabbah /
noun+def.art.+noun+pron.infl(masc.,sing.)+pron.infl(3rd per.,masc.,sing.)+
imperfective verb+prep+ def.art.+noun
Lit: When a women's husband is rich ,it is evident from her appearance.

iii. / deel -ilkalb 9umru ma yin9idil /
noun+def.art.+noun+adv.+negative particle+ pron.infl(3rd per.,masc.,sing.)+
imperfective verb
Lit: The tail of the dog, it is never upright ; i.e. old habits die hard.

iv. / da waghak wala dayyi -il?amar /
dem.pron.(masc.,sing.)+noun+pron.infl(2nd per.,masc.,sing.)+conj+emphatic
particle+ noun+def.art.+noun
*Lit: This, your face and not the glitter of the moon (is its equal) ; i.e. a very
cordial greeting complimenting someone on his appearance.*

v. / dabbuur wi zan 9ala xaraab 9iššu /
noun+conj+ pron.infl(3rd per.,masc.,sing.)+ perfective verb+prep+noun+ noun
+ pron.infl(3rd per.,masc.,sing.)+

Lit: A wasp ,and it kept on buzzing to destroy its nest. Some people harm themselves.

2.4.2: An NP with a Pronominal head:

2.4.2.1: With a Personal Pronominal:

i. / **heyya** ?ilhiddaaya tirammi katakiit/
strong pron. (3rd per.,fem.,sing.)+def.art.+noun+ pron.infl(fem.,sing.)+pron.
infl(3rd per.,fem.,sing.)+ imperfective verb+noun+ pron.infl(pl)

Lit: She- the kite throws away chicks (which she has caught to eat)? Is it possible that the kite would throw away the chicks that she has caught for herself?

ii. /**huwwa** -lkalb yi9ud widn -axuuh/
strong pron. (3rd per.,masc.,sing.)+def.art.+noun+ pron.infl(masc.,sing.)+
pron.infl(3rd per.,masc.,sing.)+ imperfective verb+noun+ noun+ pron.infl(3rd
per.,masc.,sing.)

Lit: He- the dog bits his nephew's ear? Is it possible that people would really hurt others of their own kind or race.

2.4.2.2: With an Indefinite Pronominal:

i. /**waahid** šaayil da?nu wittaani ta9ban leeh /
indefinite pronominal +nominal predicate(active participle)+noun+ pron.infl(3rd
per.,masc.,sing.)+conj+numeral+nominal predicate +interrogative particle
Lit: One has removed his beard and the other one ,why is he upset? One should not meddle into other people's affairs.

ii. / **waahid min da** wala meyya min da /
indefinite pronominal +prep+dem.pron.+conj.+emphatic particle+numeral+
prep+dem.pron.
Lit: One from that; and not a hundred from that. It is the caliber that counts, and not the number of people you know.

2.4.3: An NP Operator introduced by a Votive:

i. / **ya ?ard** ?inša??i wibla9iini/
votive particle+noun+imperative verb+ pron.infl(2nd per.,fem.,sing.)+
conj.+ imperative verb+ pron.infl(2nd per.,fem.,sing.)+ pron.infl(1st per., sing.)
Lit: You earth, crack-up and swallow me. I was so ashamed that I wished I could hide anywhere even it meant my being devoured by the earth.

ii. / **ya ?ard** ma 9aleeki ?illa - na/
votive part.+ noun+negative particle+prep+ pron.infl(2nd per.,fem.,sing.)+
prep+s'rong pron (1st per., sing.).
Lit: You earth, no one is on you but myself. A description of an arrogant and conceited person.

iii. / **ya baxt** min ?idir wi 9ifi /
votive part + noun+conjunctive particle.+ pron.infl(3rd per.,masc.,sing.)+
perfective verb+conj+ pron.infl(3rd per.,masc.,sing.)+ perfective verb
Lit: Lucky (is he) who has the capacity to punish his wrongdoer ;and yet he forgives.

iv. / **ya ?alb yakataakit ya ma fiik winta saakit/**

vocative part.+ noun+ vocative part.+ noun+ vocative part.+ relative pronoun+prep+ pron.infl(2nd per.,masc.,sing.)+conj+ strong pron.(2nd per.,masc.,sing.)+active participial predicate

Lit: Oh heart, Oh poor young chick, Oh what is in you; and you are silent. My poor little heart is overthrown with sadness.

v. / **ya ma taht ?issawaahi dawaahi/**

vocative part.+ relative pronominal+prep.+def.art.+noun+ noun +pron.infl(pl.)

Lit: Oh whatever is underneath this inadvertence is misdeeds.

2.5: An NP Operator introduced by a Preposition

The fifth type of these proverbs has an NP that is introduced by a preposition generated prior to the matrix IP.

2.5. 1: An NP introduced by /been/:

i./ **been -ilbaayi9 wiššaari yiftah ?allah /**

prep+def.art.+noun+conj.+def.art.+noun+pron.infl.(3rdper.,masc.,sing.)+ imperfective verb+ def art.+noun

Lit. Between the seller and the buyer, God is the Provider. God may provide the seller and the buyer if they do not agree with one another to consummate the transaction.

2.5. 2: An NP introduced by /9ala/:

i./ **9ala lisaani wala tinsaani /**

prep.+noun+ pron.infl(1st per.,sing)+conj.+negative particle+ pron.infl(2nd per.,sing.,masc.)+ imperfective verb+pron.infl(1st per.,sing)+

Lit. On my tongue ,and do not forget me ; i.e. do not forget me as I have not forgotten you.

2.5. 3: An NP introduced by /ba9d/:

i./ **ba9d -il9iid ma yinfitalši lkahk/**

temporal part.+ def art +noun+negative particle+ pron.infl(3rd per.,sing.,masc.)+imperfective verb+ def.art+noun

Lit. After the feast, the cookies are not made; i.e. there is a time for everything.

2.5. 4: An NP introduced by /fi-/:

i. / **fiha laxfiha/**

prep+ pron.infl(3rd per.,sing.,fem.)+emphatic particle+ pron.infl(1st per.,sing.)+imperfective verb+ pron.infl(3rd per.,sing.,fem.)

Lit:(I am) in it (else) I will dispose of it; i.e. if I am not part of it, I will put an end to it.

ii. / **fi lmišmiš/**

prep+def.art.+ noun

Lit: In the season of apricots. This proverb denotes the unlikelihood of an action taking place as the season in which apricots grow is very short.

2.5. 5: An NP introduced by /zayy /:

i./zayy -ilmagaziib kulli saa9a f haal/

prep.+def.art.+noun+ pron.infl.(pl.)+universal quantifier+ noun+
pron.infl.(fem.,sing.)+prep+noun

Lit. As with the crazy people ,each hour in a different condition; i.e. he is very moody like the lunatics.

ii./zayy -ilmarakbeyya ma yiftikruuŝ rabbina ?illa wa?t -ilzara?/

prep.+def.art.+noun+ pron.infl.(pl.)+negative particle+ pron.infl.(3rd per.,masc.,pl.)+imperfective verb+ discontinuous negative particle+ noun+
pron.infl.(1st per.,pl.)+prep+noun+ def.art.+noun

Lit. As with the sailors, they only remember God at the time of drowning.

3: Review of some of the Relevant Literature:

3.1:The Minimality Program (Chomsky ,1995):

“ Since “there is no clear evidence that order plays a role at LF or in the computation from N to LF” (335), it is assumed by Chomsky (1995) that ordering applies to the output of Morphology, assigning a linear (temporal, left-to-right) order to the elements (334),all of which are X^{os} though not necessarily lexical items. (335) Accordingly, he regards ordering as “surface-effects” on interpretation, such as in the case of topic-focus and theme-rheme structures and feels that they “seem to involve some additional level or levels internal to the phonological component , postmorphology, but prephonetic.” (220) In other words, “the distinction made in early transformational grammar between ‘stylistic’ rules and others” (324) is still maintained by Chomsky (1995).

Holding that this “divide has been sharpened further by inquiry into languages of the sort that Baker (1995) describes in terms of his ‘polysynthesis parameter’”, (324) Chomsky (1995) now maintains that the syntax of such languages is “in large part word-internal and arguments [are] attached as adjuncts associated with internal elements.” (324) In these languages , the scrambled element is “a kind of adjunct, external to the major syntactic structure, associated with an internal position that determines the semantic interpretation (hence the obligatory ‘reconstruction’).” (324) Full reconstruction, which is the formation of operator-variable constructions driven by FI , leaving part of the trace-intact at LF and deleting only its operator, is ,then, restricted to the special case of A'-movement that involves operators (326) because “reconstruction in the A-chains does not take place, so it appears.” (327). This in turn demonstrates that on strictly minimalist assumptions the only possibilities for adjunction are word formation and that the order assumed in the adjunction of a head to another head “seems rather obscure and may have no general answer.” (340)

While he still maintains that the computational system in human language has Move α as indicated by the fact that the “output conditions reveal that items commonly appear ‘displaced’ from the position in which the interpretation they receive is otherwise represented at the LF interface” (316), he now also holds the view that any displacement in language is basically reducible to morphology -

driven movement and that the problems related to XP adjunction do not really belong to the Minimality framework. It follows that "the primary and perhaps only case is α -adjunction to X^o , α a feature or (if the operation is overt) an X^o ." (323) This is because this framework is concerned with Last Resort movement driven by feature checking within the computation with the basic assumption that " α adjoined to nonminimal K is not in the checking domain of H(K)" (319).

As for the operations of C_{HL} in this bare theory, these recursively construct syntactic objects which are rearrangements of properties of the lexical items. The first operation of this computation, which is called *Select*, is a procedure that takes a lexical item from the numeration and introduces it into the derivation. Then, the operation *Merge* takes a pair of syntactic objects and replaces them by a new combined syntactic object so that it may be interpreted at the LF interface. There are no D- or S- structures, making C_{HL} derivational, rather than representational; and "a guiding intuition of the Minimalist Program is that operations apply anywhere." (231) But at some point in the computation to LF there is an operation *Spell-Out*, which applies to the structures formed stripping away from them elements not relevant to LF; i.e. the elements that belong to the phonological component, about which Chomsky "will have little to say". (229) Whereas pre *Spell-Out* is overt, the computation to LF after *Spell-Out* is the covert component and the structures go to the module of "Morphology, a system that presumably deals only with wordlike elements" and which he takes to be X^o categories and their features (i.e. "either an item H selected from the lexicon or such an item with elements adjoined to it to form $H^{o\ max}$ " (319)).

However, due to the disparity and complementarity between morphology, with its feature checking, and θ -theory, with its assignment of semantic roles, it may be the case that by the strict merger of two elements or by the raising of an element, forming a chain CH with both elements then merging (322), there are two terms but only one LF role (i.e. "each of these is a category that is visible at the interface, where it must receive some interpretation, satisfying FI." (322) Chomsky goes on to say that such a structure is "permissible if α is an adjunct that deleted at LF, leaving just one term; (322) such as when we have a case of "full reconstruction at LF, eliminating the adjunct entirely", thus the structure "[_{IP} YP [_{YP}...t...]] is only interpreted at the trace." (323) In such a case, "scrambling [is] interpreted by reconstruction" (323), where the two-segment category, formed by adjunction, will be interpreted as a word by Morphology.

Accordingly, "adverbials cannot be adjoined by Merge to phrases that are θ -related (arguments or predicates)" (330) because "the adjunction of an adverbial to an XP that has a θ -role at LF to form the two-segment category [_{NP}.XP], projecting from X is barred when an XP is AP or VP." (323) Apart from the fact that "adverbs seem to have no morphological properties that require XP-adjunction" and the empirical evidence "that adverbs do not form chains by XP-adjunctions" (329), Chomsky believes that adverbs can "be 'base-adjoined' only to X^o or phrases headed by v or functional categories." (330) In other words, "an adverb in pre-IP position cannot be interpreted as if raised from some lower position" (330) and "the problem of optional raising" of the adverb can be solved by the Larsonian solution, in which α is incorporated without raising since it "appears in some higher position." (Chomsky, 1995:331)

Unlike the "adjunction of YP to XP" (323), which does not fit easily into this general approach, the notion of a strong feature plays an important role in the Minimalist Program. The strong features are non-substantives that call for a

category in their checking domains. In the lexicon, there are substantive elements such as nouns, verbs, etc., with their idiosyncratic properties and some of the functional categories such as "complementizer (C)". (240) There are functional categories that have semantic properties such as T, D, and C: T may be + or - finite, D may be the locus of referentiality; and "C is basically an indicator of mood or force; i.e. declarative, interrogative etc." (240) These functional categories also have phonological properties: "T in English is dental" and "declarative C is *that* with a null option." (240)

When the functional category C (complementizer) is Q, it is Interpretable, in which case it need not be checked unless it is strong. And when it is strong, it must be checked by Merge or by Move by substitution or adjunction before Spell-Out. If, on the other hand, a language has weak Q, it will remain in situ at PF. Apart from C, it is only D and T that may have strong features; and they differ in this respect from Case and ϕ -features, which are - Interpretable and may not have strong features. In referring to the discourse properties of English, Chomsky (1995) says that there is a null variant of the declarative C that must have been introduced covertly and must be weak since strength is only motivated by PF manifestation. However, despite the fact that "covert insertion of strong features is indeed barred" (294), he still maintains that it "is not barred" (294) if this "covert insertion of complementizers has an LF effect."

3.2: A Brief Discussion of some other Relevant Literature:

Not being for the nonconfigurational assumption that the possible word orders of languages such as Japanese are strictly *optional*, Shigeru Miyagawa (1997) provides evidence that this apparent flexible word order of IO - DO and DO-IO is base-generated (i.e. a lexical -type analysis), rather than involving optional VP -adjunction scrambling (i.e. a strictly optional movement operation). He also provides evidence that these two word orders involve A-positions since they have A-properties such as binding, which can only take place in an A-position. As regards the IP-adjunction in Japanese in which case the VP-internal material such as the object appears to the left of the subject, he says that it involves both A-movement, which is motivated by Case-agreement features, and A'-movement, which is motivated by focus. The object moves and adjoins to the IP for Case reasons (i.e. accusative Case is licensed by the same functional category, which is I. He assumes that languages like Japanese allow multiple specifier positions for a single head, where the fused functional head (i.e. Agr_o incorporates into Agr_s) fuses into a unitary functional head, checking both the nominative subject, in the lower IP, and the accusative object, in the higher IP node created by adjunction, forming [IP Obj-acc [IP Subj-nom ...Agr_o-Agr_s]].

The notions of Focus and Topic have an acknowledged status in UG: Focus has been analyzed by Chomsky (1976) by analogy with Quantifier Phrases: it operates a quantification, effecting a partition of the universe (May, 1985) and can occur either in overt syntax or in Logical Form (LF), consequently a Focus can be realized both fronted and *in situ*. Phonologically, a Focus constituent has always been associated with a prominence-leading accent (Chomsky, 1971). On the other hand, a Topic is deaccented and separated from the sentence by an intonational break (i.e. when a Topic is non-branching, it keeps a separate I-domain in slow rates of speech where speakers generally make a short pause

between the Topic and the phrase adjacent to it. As far as the syntactic analysis of the Topic is concerned, Mara Frascarelli (1997) maintains that there is no general agreement among authors whether a Topic is extracted by movement from its argument position (Rochemont, 1989) or base-generated as an extrasentential constituent, coindexed with a predicate internal gap or clitic. (Cinque, 1990). Mara Frascarelli (1997) goes on to say that one point is generally agreed on which crucially distinguishes a Topic from a Focus: the Topic extraposed position is either an Adjunct or a base-generated construction, while a Focus is neither. Also, there can be only one Focus while multiple Topics are allowed. A Focus cannot be resumed by a pronominal clitic and cannot enter into coreference relations: it can only bind a pronominal provided it c-commands it because a Focus is a syntactic operator.

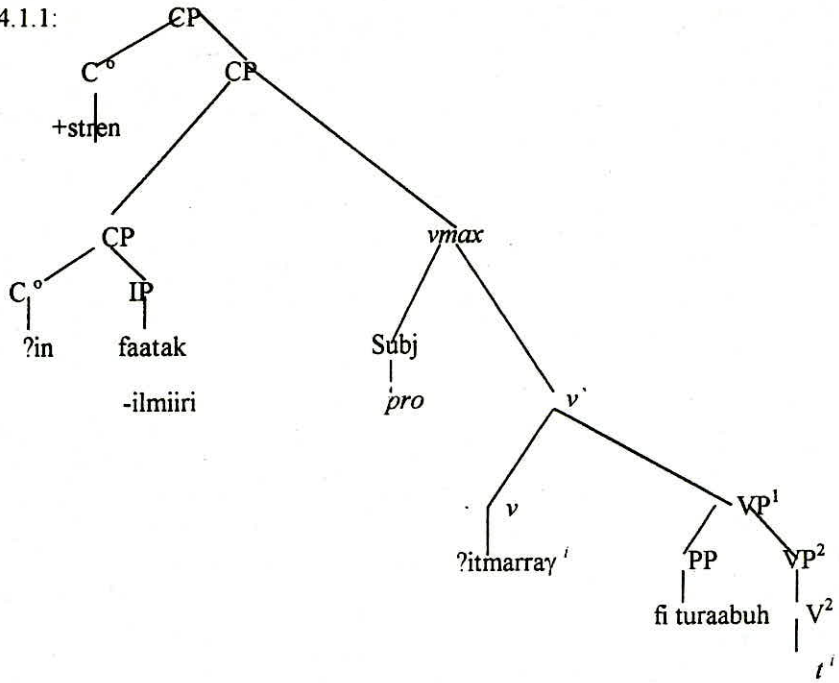
The CP-hypothesis whether by adopting a rule of "that-deletion" or through the lexical insertion of a null C^0 (e.g. Chomsky and Lasnik, 1977) with its central claim that finite clauses with or without complementizers share a common syntactic structure has been refuted by Cathal Doherty (1997) by his showing that there are significant differences between *that* and *that*-less clauses with respect to adjunction possibilities. He provides evidence from adverbial adjunction, showing that he is in favor of the IP hypothesis, which assumes that finite subordinate clauses in English which lack an overt complementizer (*that*-less clauses) should be analyzed as finite IP complements, rather than as CPs with a null head (the CP-hypothesis). For him, the CP projection is only present if there is overt evidence for it: i.e., if its head is overt or if it acts as a landing site for movement. As for the ability of IPs and CPs to co-ordinate, he says that this is because they are categorically non-distinct members of the extended (verbal) projection and because verbs select a complement proposition be it CP or IP, as proposed by Pestscky's (1991); i.e. he is for s-selection, rather than c-selection.

4: Proposed Syntactic Configurations in the light of the Minimality Program for each type of the above Proverbial Sentences

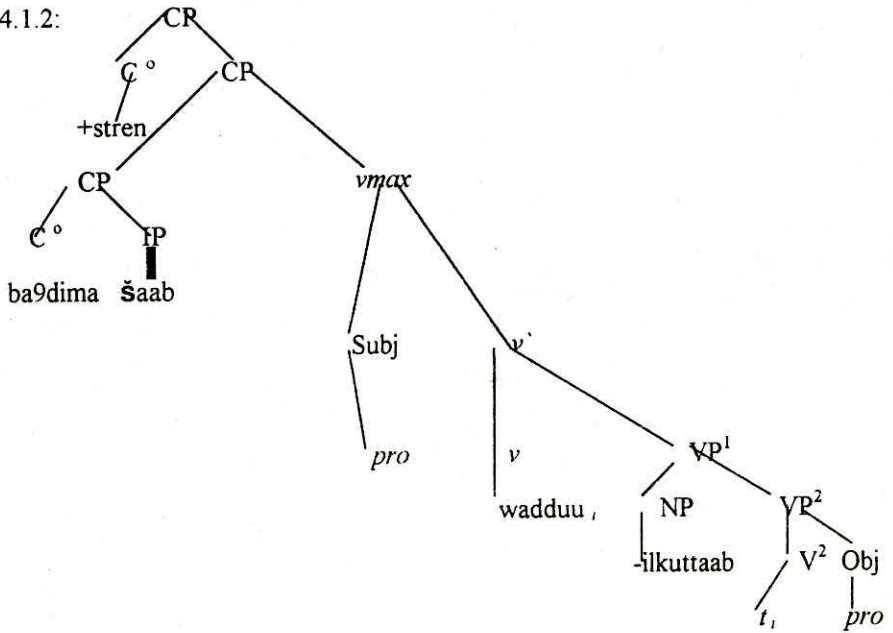
As "there should be no adjunction to a θ -related phrase (a θ -role assigner or an argument, a predicate or the XP of which it is predicated)" (Chomsky, 1995:323), I have made use of the "Larsonian solution" (331), in which the elements of the internal domain (whether as arguments or not) appear in some higher position in the following syntactic configurations for the different types of the proverbial sentences above mentioned. These configurations have also made use of the simple transitive verb construction of Chomsky (1995) before T is added to form TP.

4.1: Analysis of the First Type of these Proverbs:

4.1.1:

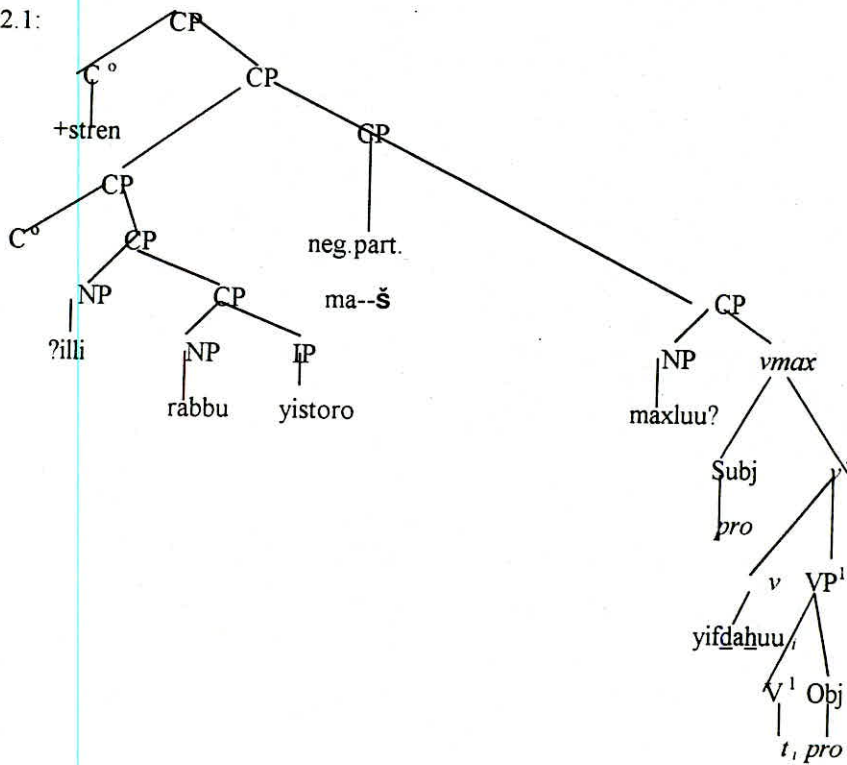


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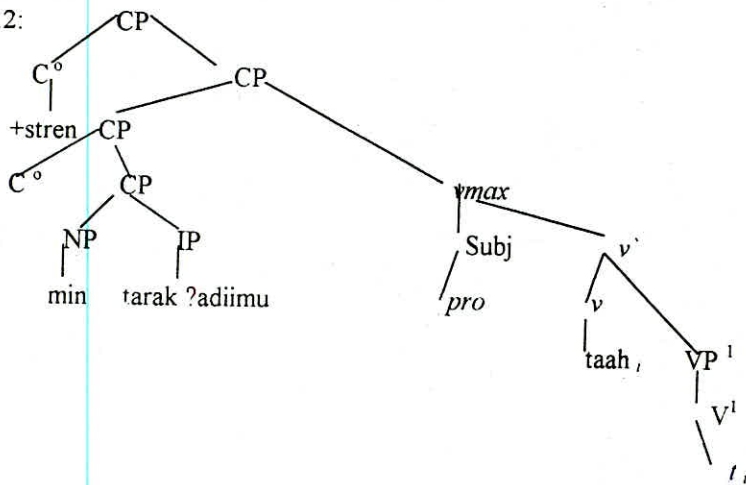


4.2: Analysis of the Second Type of these Proverbs:

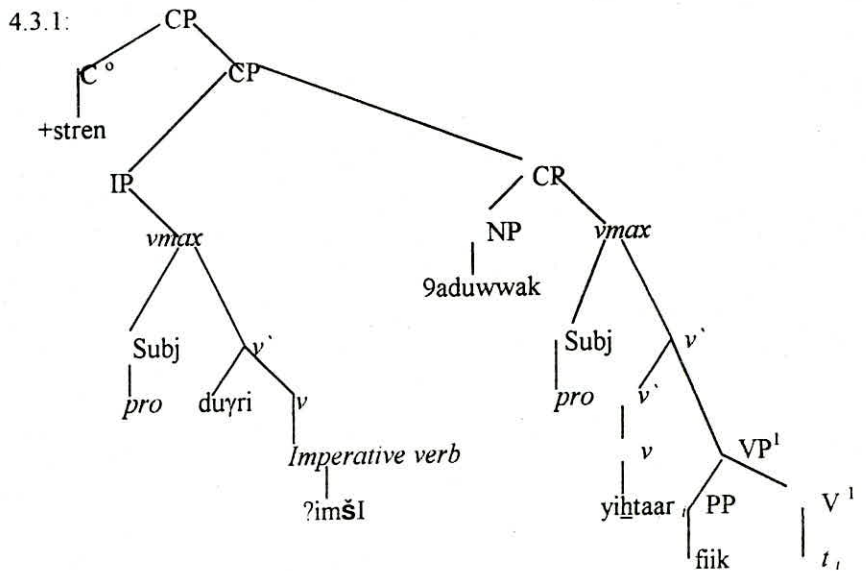
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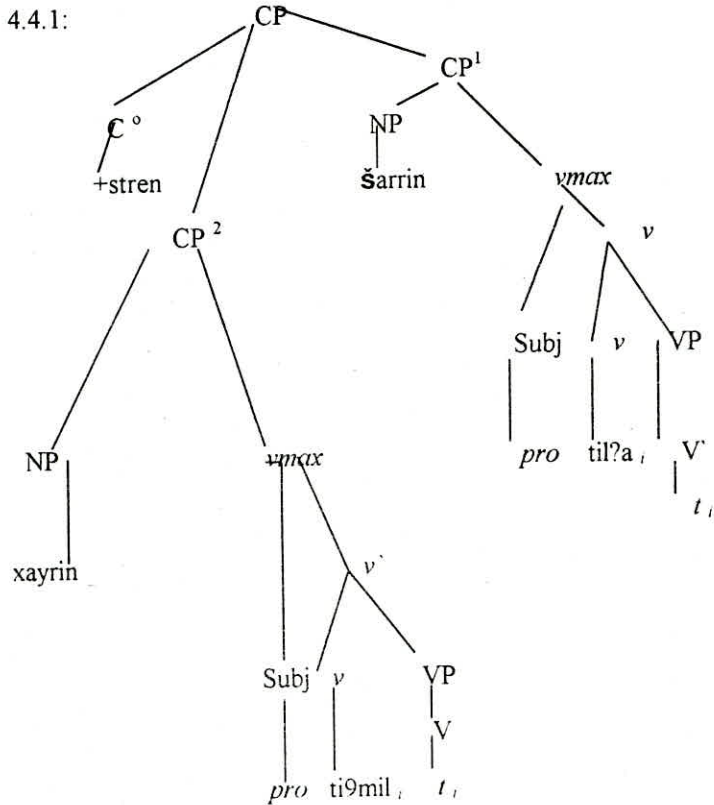
4.2.2:



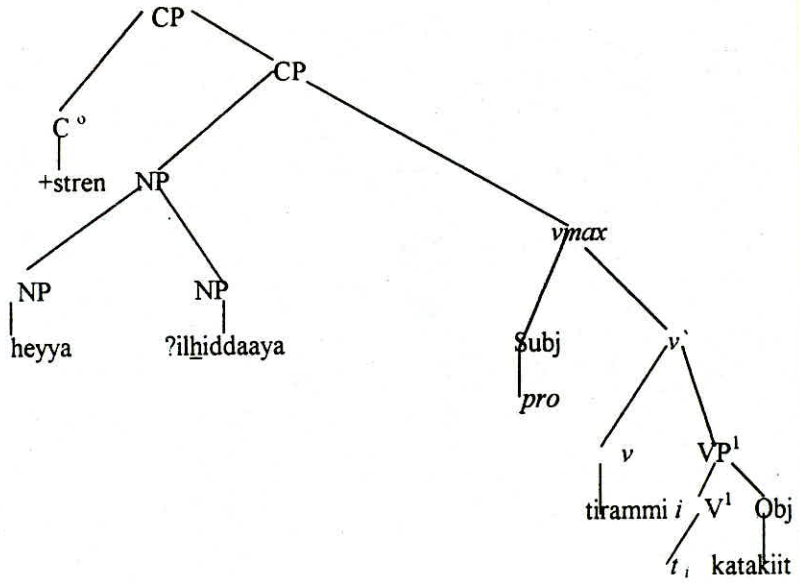
4.3: Analysis of the Third Type of these Proverbs:



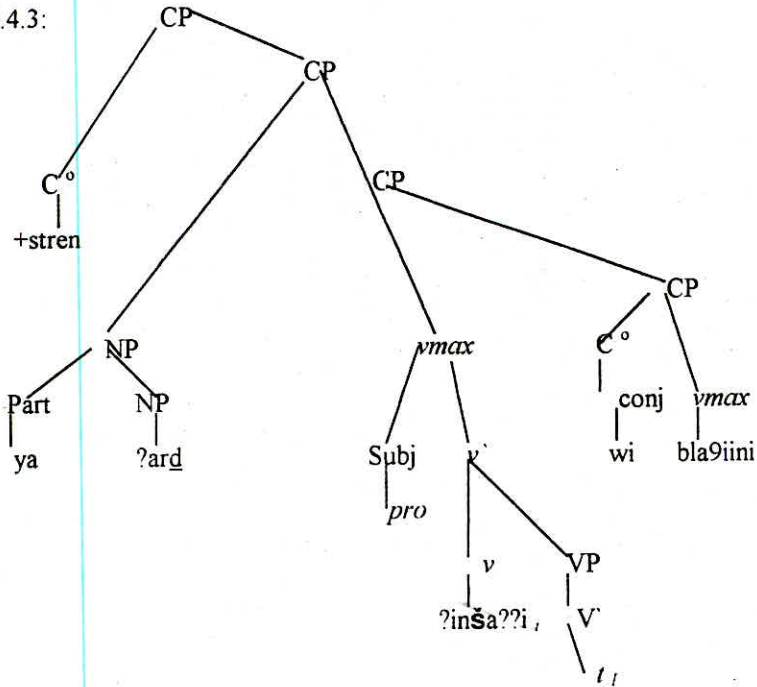
4.4: Analysis of the Fourth Type of these Proverbs:



4.4.2:

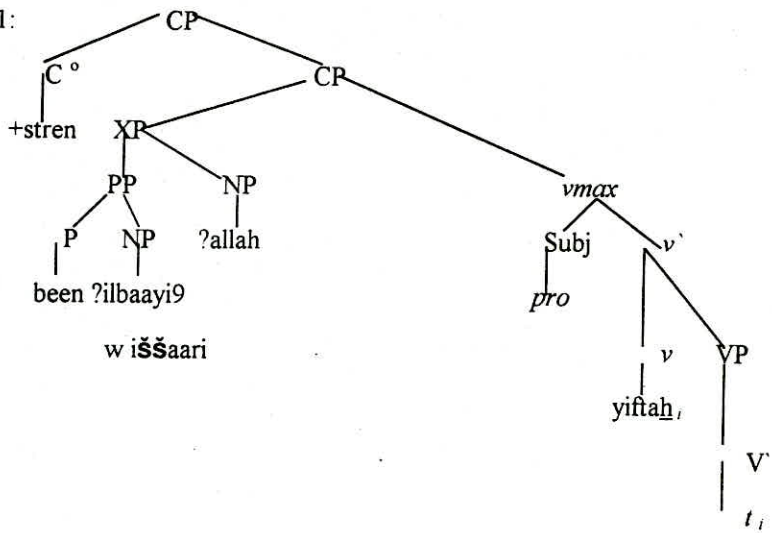


4.4.3:

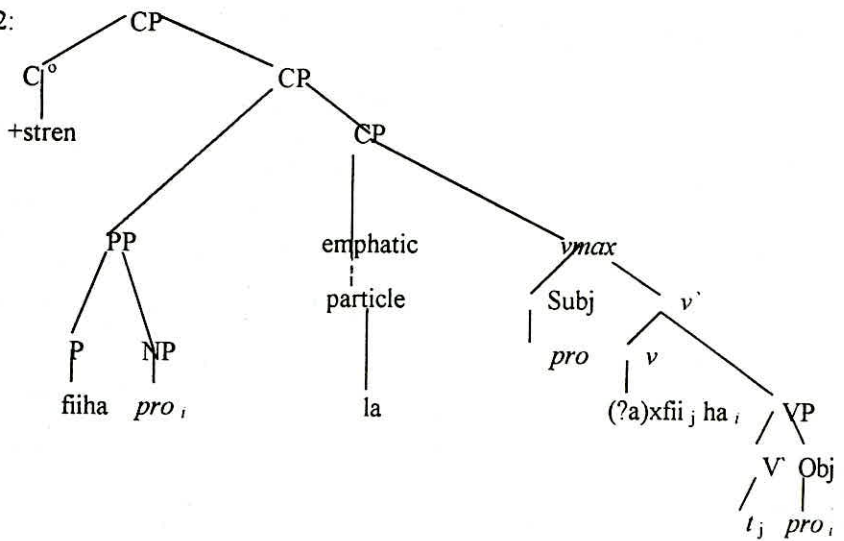


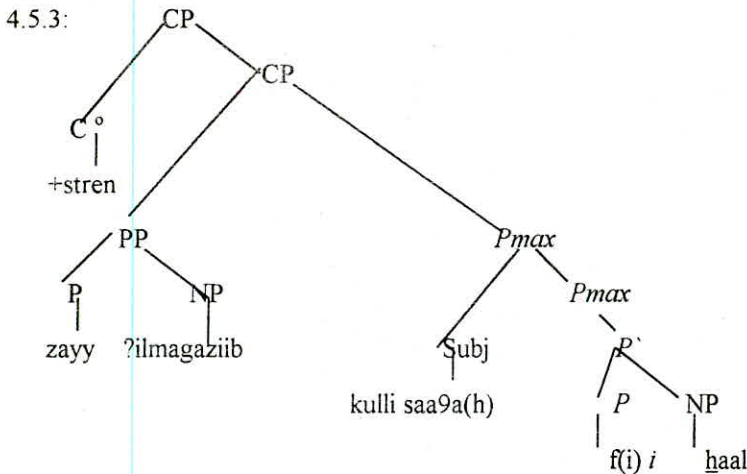
4.5: Analysis of the Fifth Type of these Proverbs:

4.5.1:



4.5.2:





5: A Proposed Analysis of the above Proverbial Sentences

If strength is only motivated by PF manifestation (Chomsky, 1995), then it may be said that the strength of the C of the matrix CPs in sentences 4. 1. is overtly manifested by the base-generation of the embedded CPs as the focused element. These embedded CPs are adjunct CPs: in 4. 1. 1., the embedded CP is an adverbial of time, which is introduced by the temporal /ba9dima/; and in 4. 1. 2., the embedded CP is an adverbial of condition, which is introduced by the conditioner /?in/. I have adopted the view that these embedded CPs are 'base-adjoined' (Chomsky, 1995: 330) in the COMP of these matrix CPs due to the strong feature in the C of these matrix CPs. This is because "adjunction of YP to XP does not fit easily into this general approach." (323) and "adverbials cannot be adjoined by Merge to phrases that are θ -related (arguments or predicates)." (330) In other words, this strong feature in the C of these matrix CPs is eliminated by having the focused element (i.e. these embedded CPs) base-generated in its checking domain, rather than by overt movement. Moreover, since there is no specific categorial feature involved in this operation (i.e. the focused element, as shown above, may be an CP, an IP, an NP or a PP); and since overt-movement "is only possible when α is nonsubstantive and a categorial feature of β ." (Chomsky, 1995:252), the lexical - analysis has been assumed here.

As with the sentences of 4.1, the strength of the C of the matrix CPs in 4.2. is overtly manifested by embedded CPs that are assumed to be base-generated in the COMP of their matrix CPs due to the strong feature in their C. But the embedded CPs in 4.2., unlike those in 4.1., have coreferential small *pros* within their matrix CPs; and this reminds us of Chomsky's (1995) assumption that in some languages "arguments [are] attached as adjuncts associated with internal elements." (324) Accordingly, in 4.2.1., this embedded CP is the internal argument of the matrix verb / yifda_{huu}/; and this is indicated by the fact that it has a coreferential object small *pro* in its matrix CP; and in 4.2.2. the embedded CP generated in its COMP has a coreferential subject small *pro* in its matrix CP, making it the external argument of the matrix verb /taah/.

This difference between the embedded CPs in 4.2. and those of 4.1. is because the focused CPs in latter sentences are adjuncts; whereas those of the former sentences are arguments. When the focused CPs are adjuncts, they are not associated with internal elements within their major syntactic structures; i.e. the embedded CPs do not have coreferential small *pros* in their matrix CPs. But when the focused CP is an argument, it does require an internal element within its major syntactic structure for its semantic interpretation. We may, accordingly, assume that the focused embedded CPs in 4.2. must be base-generated in an A-position in the Comp of their matrix CPs; whereas the focused embedded CPs in 4.1. must be base-generated in an A'-position in the Comp of their matrix CPs.

Another basic difference between the embedded CPs of 4.2. and those of 4.1. is that the former embedded CPs are introduced by pronominals: a relative pronominal in 4.2.1. (i.e. /ʔilli/) and a conjunctive particle in 4.2.2. (i.e. /min/). As the relative pronominal (i.e. /ʔilli/) has A-properties such as binding (i.e. in 4.2.1. it binds of the object small *pro*³ in its major syntactic structure), this demonstrates that in this variety of Arabic there is also an A-position in the Comp of these embedded CPs. In 4.2.2., it is the whole embedded CP that is the external argument of the matrix verb, as indicated by its subject small *pro* within the matrix CP. In either case, the pronominal in the embedded CP whether it is relative or conjunctive particle as an operator in relation to the embedded IP it heads; and accordingly may be regarded as the focused NP within these embedded CPs.

In sentence 4.2.1. we also have the noun /rabbu/, which also has A-properties such as binding. It binds of the subject small *pro* in its major syntactic structure. But the noun /rabbu/ is a topic NP, rather than a focused NP in this embedded CP. This assumption is built on two premises: (i) this NP does not function as an operator in relation to the embedded IP it heads; and (ii) it displays a different syntactic behavior from that characterizing focused NPs. Concentrating on the distinct syntactic behavior of the topic NP, we notice that it displays a flexibility of the movement that is not available to the focused NP. It has been extraposed from its pre-IP position, where it is assumed to be base-generated, to a post-IP position. Not being part of the focused element, this topic NP has been moved to the post-IP position. This movement of the topic NP /rabbu/ may be described as "not belong[ing] at all within [this] framework of principles" (Chomsky, 1995: 333) since it is a stylistic variation, which is not applicable to the focused NP.

In an attempt at trying to account for this distinct syntactic behavior of the topic NP without an overt complementizer within the framework of the Minimality Program, we could maintain that this type of NP is base-generated as a multiple specifier of I, along with the subject small *pro*. Since both specifiers are checked by a single head (i.e. I or T), they may be regarded as multiple specifiers.⁴ This indicates that the A-position for the base-generation of a topic NP is distinct from that A-position in which a focused argument is base-generated be it a CP or an NP.

The IP generated in the Comp of 4.3. is similar to the embedded CPs in 4.1. in that they are adjuncts, rather than arguments. Their status as an adjunct is indicated by the fact that they do not have coreferential small *pros* within their matrix CPs. However, the basic difference between both types of proverbial sentences is that in 4.3. the focused category is an IP, rather than a CP, and that the strong feature found in the C of this type of proverbial structure is given overt manifestation by the obligatory presence of the Imperative verb form in the

embedded IP, rather than the Imperfective or the Perfective verb forms. In other words, the strength of the C of the matrix CP in 4.3. is overtly manifested by the requirement that this embedded IP have an imperative verb only.

The structures of 4.4. demonstrate that the proverbs of this type are characterized by their having an NP generated in their COMP; and this in turn provides us with more evidence that there is an A-position in the COMP of these declarative sentences for the focused argument be it an CP or an NP. However, there are different types of these proverbial sentences, which have NPs in their COMP and which are exemplified by 4.4.1. and 4.4.2. In each type of these proverbs that have NPs base-generated in their COMP, the strong feature in its C is overtly manifested in a different way. In 4.4.1., the strength of the C of the matrix CP is overtly manifested by the presence of a focused CP that has a focused NP with an overt genitive Case marker base-generated in the COMP of that matrix CP; while in 4.4.2. the strong feature in the C of the matrix CP is overtly manifested by the base-generation of a focused NP with a strong personal pronominal that has a rhetorical function in its COMP.

Analyzing sentence 4.4.1. first, we find that there are overt Case markers and overt indefinite markers in the nouns /xayrin/ and /šarrin/. The presence of overt Case markers and overt indefinite markers, in 4.4.1., is a marked phenomenon because in Colloquial Egyptian Arabic there are no overt Case markers or overt indefinite markers associated with nouns. Also, the fact that the Case marker carried by the nouns /xayrin/ and /šarrin/ is genitive, rather than nominative or accusative Case as indicated by the vowel /i/, is in itself a marked phenomenon. As a matter of fact, it is the presence of the genitive Case marker on these nouns that enables us to maintain that they are base-generated in a Comp A-position, rather than in an A-position within IP. Despite the fact that both nouns in 4.4.1. (i.e. /xayrin/ and /šarrin/) are the internal arguments of their respective verbs (i.e. /ti9mil/ and /til?a/), they both have genitive Case, rather than accusative Case. This is because each of these nouns is a focused NP in its respective CP with the CP with /xayrin/ itself being base-generated in the Comp of the matrix CP; i.e. the CP with /šarrin/. In turn, these Comp base-generated NPs (i.e. /xayrin/ and /šarrin/) acquire their genitive Case by being in a Spec-head relation to their respective Cs. They are assumed to be base-generated in C, rather than in IP, not only because they are focused NPs but also because there is probably a deleted preposition. A more liberal interpretation of this sentence would be ?in 9amalt šee? min -ilxeer til?a šee? min- iššarr. The presence of the preposition leads to the meaning that we are talking about a portion of *good* and a portion of *evil* because no one can possibly do all *good* and receive all *evil*. It is the focusing of these nouns that has led to their generation as specifiers of C, rather than as specifiers of P, even though this fairly limited notion of *good* and *evil* still prevails.

Sentence 4.4.1. also demonstrates that when the scrambled element is an argument whose semantic interpretation is determined by its overt Case marker, there is no need for it to be associated with an internal element within the major syntactic structure. This is probably why the NP with the noun /xayrin/ does not have a coreferential small pro within its major syntactic structure; nor does the NP with the noun /šarrin/ have a coreferential small pro within its major syntactic structure. In other words, the presence of the overt Case marker alleviates the need for an internal element within the major syntactic structure of each of these nouns. ***

Despite the fact that sentences 2.4.1. (ii) - (v) differ from sentence 4.4. 1. in that it is only the latter sentence that has overt Case markers, yet the strength in the C of the former sentences, which are also proverbial declarative sentences, is nonetheless given PF manifestation. In 2.4.1.(ii) and (iii), there is a nominal construct base-generated in these sentences' Comp. ;and in the latter sentence there is also the adverbial particle /*ʔumru* / and the negative particle /*ma*/ , both of which provide further evidence that this nominal construct must be in a position external to the major syntactic structure. In 2.4.1.(iv) the strength of its C is indicated by the emphatic particle / *la*/ , the demonstrative pronominal /*da* /; and the conjunction /*wa*/, all of which are generated in order to focus the noun /*waghak*/. In other words, the demonstrative pronominal in this sentence does not have a deictic function nor does the conjunction have a co-ordinating function. Similarly ,in sentence 2.4.1.(v) the presence of the conjunction /*wi* /, which has lost its co-ordinating function, focuses the noun / *dabbuur*/.

It is to be noted that since the NPs generated in the Comp of sentences 2.4.1. (ii) - (v) do not have overt Case markers they have coreferential small *pros* within their major syntactic structures. It is only in sentence 2.4.1.(iv) that there is no internal element that determines the semantic interpretation of the NP that is base-generated in its Comp. This is because sentence 2.4.1.(iv) is a nominal sentence , in which case it is not possible to have a subject small *pro* . The nominal predicate, unlike the verbal predicate in Arabic, does not have inflections heavy enough for the local determination of a subject small *pro*.⁵

In sentence 4.4.2., the strong feature of its C is basically indicated by the base-generation of the strong personal pronominal (i.e./*heyya*/) in its Comp. Having lost its deictic force, this strong personal pronominal simply sets the whole sentence into a rhetorical question, which rhetorically questions the state of affairs in which a kite would ever let go of its prey. This strong personal pronominal is base-generated prior to another noun that is also assumed to be base-generated in a pre-IP position: it is /*ʔilhiddaaya*/. As with sentence 4.2.1. ,this sentence again provides evidence that in this variety of Arabic there is not only an A-position in Comp for the base -generation of these focused NPs but also another A-position in a pre-IP position for the the base -generation of a Topic NP without an overt complementizer. But this NP may be regarded as a multiple specifier ,along with the subject small *pro* since both specifiers are checked by a single head (i.e. I). As for the focused NP ,it is checked by a distinct head from that which checks the subject small *pro*. It is checked by a declarative C with a strong feature ,and it has an operator-like function.

Despite the distinctness of these two pre-IP base-generated NPs in sentence 4.4.2., they nonetheless constitute one NP in relation to the rest of the sentence; and this is indicated by the agreement in gender and number between them (i.e. the pronominal /*heyya*/ and the noun /*ʔilhiddaaya*/) . As both of them represent the contrastive element in this sentence, together they constitute the focused element since there can be only one Focus (M. Frascarelli ,1997), forming one phonological unit associated with a prominence-leading accent (Chomsky,1971). Both NPs together rhetorically ask if the proposition within its major syntactic structure is true [i.e., they constitute a syntactic operator analyzed by analogy with Quantifier Phrases, effecting a partition of the universe. (May,1985)

Sentences 2.4.2.2. (i) and (ii) are similar to sentence 4.4.2. in that they have pronominals generated in their Comp with the function of a syntactic operator by analogy with Quantifier Phrases ,but in the former sentences we have an

indefinite pronominal, rather than a strong personal pronominal. The indefinite pronominal in sentence 2.4.2.2. (i) is base-generated in the COMP of the embedded CP, which is itself base-generated in the COMP of its matrix CP. In sentence 2.4.2.2. (ii), the indefinite pronominal is likewise base-generated in the COMP of the embedded CP. Thus, the strength of the C of these sentences is given PF manifestation by the presence of embedded CPs with the indefinite pronominals that are base-generated in their respective COMPs. It is also to be noted that in sentence 2.4.2.2. (ii) the emphatic and the contrastive effect is made even more overtly manifested by the emphatic particle /a/ and the conjunction /wa/, which has lost its coordinating function by assuming a focalizing function.

In sentence 4.4.3 and those of 2.4.3. (i) -(v), the strong feature in their C is given PF manifestation by the base-generation of a focused NP that is introduced by a vocative particle. As the vocative NP in this variety of Arabic does not have an overt Case marker, it is, likewise, associated with an internal element that determines its semantic interpretation within the major syntactic structure. In 4.4.3., these internal elements are the coreferential subject small *pros* in both CPs; while in sentence 2.4. 3.(ii), the vocative NP is the internal argument of the preposition /ʔaleeki/ in the underlying nominal sentence /ʔana ʔaleeki/ "I am on you", in which there is a prepositional predicate and an object small *pro*.

Sentence 2.4. 3.(ii) illustrates an important characteristic of this type of proverbial declarative sentence: it is the fronting of the prepositional predicate, placing it next to the vocative NP and changing the assumed underlying structure /ʔana ʔaleeki/ "I am on you" to /ma ʔaleeki ʔilla -na/ "Not on you except me." This fronting is to emphasize that predicate and by addressing the internal argument of that prepositional predicate and making it the vocative NP (i.e./ ya ʔard/ "Oh, you Earth"), the emphatic effect is even made greater. In other words, with the base-generation of this focused element (i.e. the vocative NP) in the Comp of this type of the nominal sentence (i.e. with a prepositional predicate), the fronting of the prepositional predicate is obligatory. But this obligatory fronting of the prepositional predicate, which takes place in the nominal sentence with a vocative NP base-generated in its Comp, can only be regarded as falling within the domain of the rules that have been referred to by Chomsky (1995) as the "surface-effects". (220) 7 This is because this fronting is only contingent on the presence of a vocative NP in a sentence with a prepositional predicate, and not contingent on the presence of a strong feature in a non-substantive category. This obligatory fronting of the prepositional predicate in the nominal sentence with a vocative NP base-generated in its Comp is not only found in sentence 2.4. 3.(ii) but also found in sentence 2.4. 3. (v), in which /taht ʔissawaahi/ is fronted due to the generation of the vocative NP (i.e./ya maa/).

Another important characteristic of these proverbial sentences (i.e. with a vocative NP) is demonstrated by sentences 2.4. 3. (iii) and (iv): it is the recursiveness of the focused element. However, despite this recursiveness of the focused element, there is only one Focus in the sentence; and this is indicated by the fact that all these focused elements, which are recursive, must be coindexed with one another. Taking sentence 2.4. 3. (iii) as an example, if we assume that sentence 2.4. 3. (iii) is derived from the underlying structure /ʔilli ʔidir wi ʔifi baxtu kwayyis/ Lit. "whoever has the ability to punish and yet forgives has good luck", then the vocative NP (i.e./ ya baxt/) refers to the one who is in possession of this good fortune due to his having the above qualities. The other focused element in this sentence is the compound verbal clauses (i.e. /min ʔidir

wi 9ifi/), which describes the qualifications of the one who is in possession of this good fortune.

Sentence 2.4. 3. (iv) provides us with further evidence of this reursiveness of the focused element in this variety of Arabic. It has three focused elements: the first vocative element is the NP (i.e./ya ?alb/) ,which describes the object she is addressing. Being the first vocative ,it is base-generated prior to the other vocatives in this sentence's Comp. The second vocative NP, which is /yakataakit/ , is base-generated adjacent to the first vocative NP, describing her little heart as a little chick. This provides an even more focalizing effect to the first vocative NP. The third vocative element is a nominal clause (i.e. / ya ma fiik/) , which describes the second vocative NP as being so full despite of its small size. In other words, the first vocative addresses the heart, the second describes the size of that heart ,and the third vocative states the full capacity of that heart with the conjunction /wi-/ , focalizing these focused elements. It is to be noted that the proposition in this sentence's major syntactic structure is not deleted: it is /?inta saakit/ "You (masc. sing.) are quiet and tolerant"; while in sentence 2.4. 3. (iii) the proposition in its major syntactic structure is deleted. The proposition in the major syntactic structure of sentence 2.4. 3. (iv) is not deleted because it is emphasized ,as shown by its having the strong pronominal form (i.e./ ?inta /) as the subject NP. In other words, the meaning of this sentence would not be complete had the proposition in its major syntactic structure been deleted.

Looking now at the PPs in sentences 4.5., they are also regarded as being base-generated in the Comp of their sentences because "adverbs do not form chains by XP-adjunctions" (Chomsky,1995:329) and because "the adjunction of an adverbial to an XP that has a θ -role at LF to form the two-segment category [_{XP},XP] ,projecting from X is barred when an XP is AP or VP ". These PPs in sentences 4.5. are also similar to the embedded CPs in sentences 4.1. in that they are focused elements that are adjuncts ;and this is indicated by the fact that they do not have coreferential small *pros* within their major syntactic structures. Accordingly, these PPs are generated in an A'-position in their Comp. As with the adjunct CPs in 4.1.,these PPs in 4.5. have been regarded as adjunct operators (Rizzi ,1990) that are base-generated in the specifier position of CP when they modify that IP.

It is to be noted that the topic NP (i.e./?allaah/) in sentence 4.5.1. is not part of the focused element ;and this is probably why it has undergone a "surface-effect" rule , moving it from its base-generated pre-IP position down to a post-IP position. That the topic NP (i.e. the noun /?allaah/) has been moved from a pre-IP position is indicated by the fact that it is assigned an external thematic role and nominative Case, rather than accusative Case by the verb adjacent to it. Being a topic NP with no overt complementizer, it has been regarded as the multiple specifier of the I head, along with the subject small *pro*. Moreover, the lack of coindexation between the topic NP and the focused element in sentence 4.5.1. indicates the fact that they do not constitute one unit ,which is the Focus in this sentence⁶

6.Concluding Remarks

Maintaining Chomsky's (19995) assumption that features may either be weak or strong , it has been assumed in this study that the C of this type of the declarative sentence has a strong feature ,requiring an overt head. Thus, the proverbial declarative sentence has been shown to be syntactically distinct from the non- proverbial declarative sentence because the former declarative sentence requires an obligatory Focused element in a pre-IP position as a rhetorical device. This pre-IP position has been regarded as a position in COMP because the Focused element functions as a syntactic operator as regards the IP it heads . It follows that the non- proverbial declarative sentence that does not have an overt head with an overt complementizer in this variety of Arabic may be regarded as having an IP structure, rather than a CP, because it has a weak feature in its C, rather than a strong feature. This latter assumption maintains Chomsky's (1995) belief that discourse properties confirm that there is a null variant of the declarative C and that this null variant of the declarative C is introduced covertly. Therefore, the notion that there are strong and weak features does not only distinguish between interrogative sentences and declarative sentences in English but also between the different types of declarative sentences in this variety of Arabic.

The focused elements in these proverbial declarative sentences have been divided into focused arguments and focused adjuncts. The focused arguments (be they CPs or NPs) are associated with internal positions within their major syntactic structures that determine their semantic interpretation. As for the the focused adjuncts (be they PPs ,IPs, or CPs) , they are not associated with internal positions within their major syntactic structures for the determination of their semantic interpretations. Accordingly, the focused arguments are base-generated in an A-position; while the focused adjuncts are base-generated in an A' - position. But both positions (i.e. the A-position for focused arguments and the A' - position for focused adjuncts) are external to the major syntactic structure; i.e. in Comp.

This study has also shown that the difference in the syntactic behavior between the focused NP and the topic NP warrants the assumption that they are base-generated in different A-positions in a pre-IP position. This difference is that it is only the topic NP that has the ability to subsume to rules at the phonological component, leading to its extraposition from its base-generated position , and in turn displaying some flexibility in the word order of these proverbial declarative sentences. Accordingly, the topic NP without an overt complementizer has been regarded as a multiple specifier of the head I or T ,allowing it to be extraposed.

This distinctness of the focused NP and the topic NP is also indicated by the fact that each type of NP is assigned a different Case, providing further evidence that they must be base-generated in two different A-positions. Being the Spec of C, the focused NP is assigned genitive Case, rather than nominative Case; and this is overtly manifested when there is an overt Case marker carried by the focused NP. As for the topic NP that does not have an overt complementizer, it is assigned nominative Case because it is the multiple specifier of I or T of Chomsky(1995). Thus, it is only when the declarative C is strong that it has the capacity to assign a distinct Case to the NP it holds a Spec-head relation with; i.e. it assigns genitive Case to the focused element and not nominative Case.

The lexical -type of analysis assumed for these focused elements is in keeping with Chomsky's (1995) assumption that θ -role assignment is the

property of the base. It has enabled us to differentiate between the domain in which the focused argument is assigned a θ -role and that in which the topic NP is assigned a θ -role. Being in a Spec-head relation with its C in its base-generated position, the focused argument be it a CP or an NP is assigned a θ -role by its head. Likewise, the topic NP without an overt complementizer is assigned a θ -role by its T because it is base-generated as its multiple Specifier. Finally, the lexical -type of analysis in this study is because the word order of these focused elements is not really free.

End Note

1. Key to the Symbols Used in the Transcription of these Proverbs

Consonantal Phonemes:

Stops:

- /b/ voiced bilabial stop
- /t/ and /d/ voiceless and voiced apical dental stops
- /k/ and /g/ voiceless and voiced velar stops
- /ʔ/ voiceless glottal stop
- /q/ voiceless uvular stop

Fricatives

- /f/ voiceless labio-dental fricative
- /s/ and /z/ voiceless and voiced dental grooved fricatives
- /ʃ/ voiceless palatal fricative
- /h/ voiceless glottal fricative
- /x/ and /ɣ/ voiceless and voiced uvular fricatives
- /ħ/ and /ʕ/ voiceless and voiced pharyngeal fricatives

Emphatics

- /t̤/ and /d̤/ voiceless and voiced dental, apical emphatic stops
- /s̤/ and /z̤/ voiceless and voiced dental emphatic fricative

Resonants

- /r/ trilled resonant
- /l/ lateral resonant

Nasals

- /m/ bilabial nasal
- /n/ dental nasal

Semi-Vowels

- /w/ velar semi-vowel
- /y/ palatal semi-vowel

It is to be noted that /q/ has been regarded as a phoneme in Egyptian Arabic because there are some words that can only have /q/ such as /qaahira/ "Cairo" and /qurʔaan/ "Quran"

Vocalic Phonemes

- /i/ and /ii/ high front, unrounded short and long vowels respectively
- /u/ and /uu/ high back, rounded short and long vowels respectively
- /e/ and /ee/ mid front, unrounded short and long vowels respectively
- /o/ and /oo/ mid back, rounded short and long vowels respectively
- /a/ and /aa/ low central unrounded short and long vowels respectively

There are a great variety of allophonic realizations of each phoneme; but they are not our concern in this study.

2. As adverbials of time such as /ba9dima/) incorporate a relative pronominal (indicated by the bold -typed part of this temporal) ,it seems more exacting to refer to them as "temporals" ,rather than referring to them as simply adverbs. For a more detailed discussion of the temporals in one of the Arabic dialects see H.Ghaly (1988).
3. Shigeru Miyagawa (1997) has stated that binding can only take place in an A-position.
4. Shigeru Miyagawa's (1997) states in accordance with Chomsky (1995) that specifiers only count as multiple specifiers if and only if elements in these specifiers are checked by the same head.
5. Sentence 2.4.1.(iii) is a nominal sentence, which has been defined as the sentence with a non-verbal predicate. This includes sentences with nominal predicates, with adjectival predicates ,or prepositional predicates. See H.Ghaly (1988) for a discussion of the nominal sentences in Arabic.
6. See sentence 4.4.2. in which both the topic NP (i.e. /?ilhiddaaya/) and the focused element (i.e. the strong personal pronominal (i.e./heyya/)constitute one unit which is the Focus in that sentence.

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السمة القوية التى تسمى Strong Feature فى رأس الجملة الخبرية C(omp)

عند تشومسكى سنة ١٩٩٥ و الطرق المختلفة لظورها

فى جمل الأمثال الصرية

للدكتورة هدى محمد غالى

فى إطار البحث عن سمات مشتركة universality فى لغات العالم يهدف هذا البحث الى معرفة التركيبية اللغوية لبعض الأمثال الصرية الموجودة فى كتاب أحمد تيمور باشا سنة ١٩٨٦ ، ويوضح هذا البحث أنه يوجد نوعان من الجمل الاخبارية فى اللهجة القاهرية: نوع للجملة الاخبارية العادية ونوع للجملة الاخبارية الخاصة بالأمثال، الأولى تستلزم وجود جملة مساعدة أو شبه جملة أو اسم فى مقدمة الجملة الأساسية ، حيث أنه حسب نظرية تشومسكى سنة ١٩٩٥ تفترض وجود فى رأس الجملة الاستفهامية الأساسية سمة قوية تسمى Q ، وعلى هذا النهج يفترض فى الجملة الاخبارية الخاصة بالأمثال باللغة الصرية أن يوجد أيضا سمة قوية ولكن توجد فى هذه الحالة فى C(omp بما أنها الجملة خبرية، و يتطلب وجود سمة قوية فى الجملة الاخبارية الخاصة بالأمثال باللغة الصرية وجود جملة مساعدة أو شبه جملة أو اسم فى مقدمة الجملة الاخبارية الأساسية كوسيلة بلاغة تميز هذا النوع من الجمل الاخبارية من النوع العادى.

أما النوع الآخر من الجمل الاخبارية الذى يخص الجمل العادية فليس من الضرورى أن يكون فيه سمة قوية، فلذلك ممكن أن تكون فى الجملة الاخبارية العادية جملة مساعدة أو شبه جملة أو اسم فى مقدمة الجملة الأساسية، وأيضا ممكن الا يكون فى الجملة الاخبارية العادية جملة مساعدة أو شبه جملة أو اسم فى مقدمة الجملة الأساسية، و لكن عندما يكون فيها جملة مساعدة أو شبه جملة أو اسم فى مقدمة الجملة الأساسية فلا بد أن يكون فيها سمة قوية فى C(omp .

و يوضح البحث أن هذه الجملة المساعدة أو شبه الجملة المساعدة أو الاسم الموجود فى مقدمة الجملة الأساسية تولد فى موقعها وليست منقولة لذلك الموقع بحركة رفع، وهذا الافتراض يتمشى مع تشومسكى سنة ١٩٩٥ حيث أن تشومسكى سنة ١٩٩٥ يفترض أن توليد

الوحدات اللغوية فى موقعها أفضل من نقلها بحركة رفع، فبهذا يختلف تشومسكى سنة ١٩٩٥
عن تشومسكى قبل هذه التاريخ.

بهذا الافتراض يوضح البحث أن السمة القوية فى C(omp) تميز ما بين نوعين من
الجملة الاخبارية فى اللهجة القاهرية بينما ا تميز ما بين الجملة الاخبارية والجملة الاستفهامية
فى اللغة الانجليزية. وبما أن اللهجة القاهرية تختلف عن اللغة الانجليزية فى تركيبها اللغوية
فكان لابد أن توجد وسيلة لطبيق نظرية تشومسكى سنة ١٩٩٥ بأكملها على هذه اللهجة
العربية لتفسير كيف أن الأسماء عربت Case checked فى إطار هذه النظرية و أيضا كيف
تم إعطاء معنى لهذه الأسماء فى إطار هذه النظرية Theta marked

