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1 List of syntactic (and other) categories in Arabic texts

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SU Subject of preceding verb

V1 Passive verb

V2 Doubly transitive verb

X = Various

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2 Explanations of Syntactic (and other) categories in Arabic texts

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Short explanation of first letters:

A = Accusative, C=Conditional clause, EL=Ellipsis, H=Hal-clause, L=(mostly) preposition li, M=masdar, MA=mâ, MC= main clause, N=Negation, O=direct Object, P=prepositional object, PR=predicate, R=Relative clause, S=subordinate clause, SU=subject, V=verb, X=Various

Detailed explanation:

A1 Circumstantial accusative

Explanation: participle or adjective in accusative indicating a state or mode of behaviour of the subject or completing the content of the verb.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

A2 Accusative of specification (tamyiz)

Explanation: An indefinite noun in accusative expressing modification or specification. Used for adjectives that have no relative, for example participles with adjectival meaning.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

A3 Absolute object (maf3ul mutlaq)

Explanation: a verb is followed by an indefinite masdar (mostly of that same verb) plus an adjective indicating the manner in which the action of the verb takes place.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

AP Accusative Participle (and he/she also ...)

Explanation: Main clause contains a verb with expressive meaning (say, declare, utter etc.) and further on in the sentence we find an active participle of another verb with expressive meaning in the indefinite accusative with the meaning "and he also said/declared/stated ...". This type of combination is also possible with a verb of motion and an active participle of another verb of motion.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

C1 Conditional clause, possible

Explanation: Conditional clause starting with إذا or إن followed by a perfect verb indicating a condition, the main clause expresses the consequences if the condition is fulfilled.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.



C2 Hypothetical (conditional) clause, impossible

Explanation: Conditional clause starting with **لَوْ** plus a perfect verb indicating a condition that is impossible to fulfil. The main clause describes what could have happened if the condition would have been fulfilled.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

C3 Concessive clause (wa law)

Explanation: Subordinate clause with **وَإِنْ** (حتى) meaning 'even if/though', 'although'. Main clause precedes the subordinate concessive clause.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

C1E End of Conditional Clause, main clause continues/starts

Explanation: E indicates the end of the clause. Only indicated if not clear, i.e. if there is no punctuation indicating the end of the conditional clause.

C2E End of Hypothetical Conditional Clause, main clause continues/starts

Explanation: E indicates the end of the clause. Only indicated if not clear, i.e. if there is no punctuation indicating the end of the hypothetical conditional clause.

C3E End of Concessive Clause, main clause continue

Explanation: E indicates the end of the clause. Only indicated if not clear, i.e. if there is no punctuation indicating the end of the concessive clause.

EL Ellipsis: omission of redundant words

Explanation: An ellipsis is a linguistically appropriate omission of words that are mutually understood and thus unnecessary, usually applied where the omitted words would be redundant. The hint will indicate the words that are omitted, thus indicating how the sentence could have been if those words had not been omitted.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

H1 Circumstantial clause (Hal)

Explanation: A circumstantial clause has the same function as a circumstantial accusative (A1, above). It indicates a state or mode of behaviour of the subject or it completes the content of the verb.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.



HE End of Circumstantial clause, main clause continues

Explanation: only indicated if not clear, i.e. if there is no punctuation indicating the end of the circumstantial clause.

L1 Prep. Li- with normal prepositional meaning (to, for)

Explanation: The 'normal' use of the preposition لـ meaning to or for. Only included in this list to contrast with other less evident uses of the same preposition and only sporadically indicated.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

L2 prep. Li- in (complex) construct phrase (meaning 'of')

Explanation: in complex construct phrases with more than two noun constituents and adjectives it happens regularly that the construct phrase is broken into two parts and the second part will start with the preposition *li-*. In this case the possessive relation is expressed by the preposition *li-* instead of the construct phrase relation.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

L3 prep. Li- + masdar (meaning 'so/in order that')

Explanation: If *li-* precedes a masdar with verbal meaning (see M1), the preposition *li-* has a similar meaning as the conjunction *li-* before a subjunctive verb (L7). It means 'in order that' plus the verbal meaning of the masdar.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

L4 Prep. Li- + object of masdar in subordinate clause S4 with masdar or participle acting as verb

Explanation: A masdar with verbal meaning in a subordinate clause (S4) can have its 'subject' as a second part of a construct phrase. If there is a direct object too, this 'subject of the masdar' can be introduced by the preposition *li-*.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

L5 Prep. Li- is fixed preposition with verb

Explanation: If a verb has the preposition *Li* as its fixed preposition, this will be indicated, unless the preposition immediately follows the verb. (L5 is a specific subcategory of P1 - Prepositional object of preceding verb or masdar, L5 was created to contrast with other uses of *Li*)

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

L6 Prep. Li- in fixed expression (للمرة الثانية، لصالح، وفقاً)

Explanation: the use of the preposition *li* in a number of fixed expressions.



Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

L7 Conjunction Li- + verb in conjunctive (meaning 'so that')

Explanation: This is li as a conjunction and NOT as a preposition. It is followed by a verb in the subjunctive and means 'so that' + meaning of the verb.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

L8 Conjunction Li + verb in jussive (meaning 'let us...')

Explanation: The conjunction Li followed by a verb in the jussive results in an incitement (let us go, do ...)

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

L9 Conjunction La before verb in hypothetical cond. clause

Explanation: The conjunction La can occur before a verb in the result clause of a hypothetical conditional clause C2.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

M1 Masdar with verbal meaning (M1)

Explanation: The word is an infinitive (masdar) which can either be translated as a verb or an infinitive. It may have a subject and an object. Masdars with a noun meaning are not coded as masdar.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

M2 Action verb +masdar=verbal meaning

Explanation: action verbs like قام بـ، أجرى، تمَّ in combination with a masdar have the same meaning as the verb from which the masdar is derived. تمَّ + masdar has a passive meaning. You may also encounter the masdars of these action verbs (قيام، إجراء) followed by another masdar.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

M3 3adam+masdar= negation of masdar (with verbal meaning)

The word عَدَم (itself a masdar, meaning 'lack of') in combination with a masdar with verbal meaning indicates the negation of the action of the masdar.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.



M4 'i3âda or verb a'3âda + masdar: repeat action of the masdar

Explanation: أعادَ is also an action verb. It means to repeat the action of the masdar. Very often you will encounter the masdar إعادة of this action verb in combination with another masdar.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

MA1 mâ = indefinite quantifier : a certain ...

Explanation : mâ after an undefined noun stresses the undefinedness, 'a house' become 'a certain house'.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

MA2 mâ = interrogative pronoun

Explanation: mâ as an interrogative pronoun starts a question with 'what'.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

MA3 mâ = compound relative pronoun in relative clause R3

Explanation: mâ as compound relative pronoun can occur in a relative clause of type R3. It means 'that what ...'

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

MA4 mâ =negation

Explanation: mâ as a negation before a perfect verb is rare in MSA, for sake of completeness this function of mâ was included in this coding system.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

MA5 mâ expressing amazement

Explanation: mâ can be followed by an adjective and express amazement about the characteristic expressed by the adjective (this function of mâ is rare in MSA, for sake of completeness this function of mâ was included in this coding system.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

MC-V = Main Clause Verb

Explanation: This code is used to indicate a verb in a main clause, if it is unclear which word in a sentence is the main verb of the main clause. This code is only used in exceptional cases.

MC-SU= Main Clause Subject



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Explanation: This code is used to indicate the subject in a main clause, if it is unclear which word(s) forms the subject of the main clause. This code is only used in exceptional cases.

MC-O = main clause Direct Object

Explanation: This code is used to indicate the direct object in a main clause, if it is unclear which word(s) forms the direct object of the main clause. This code is only used in exceptional cases.

N1 absolute negation *lâ* + noun

Explanation: this is the absolute negation. The particle *lâ* is followed by a noun in the accusative like: لا بَدَّ، لا مَفَرَّ، لا عَمَلَ لِي الْآنَ.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

N2 Negative (main) clause with exceptive expression (la... illa ...)

Explanation: A clause is negated (with *lâ*) but the object of the negation can be excepted (after 'illa). The most well-known example is لا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

O1 Direct Object of preceding verb

Explanation: If DO and verb are separated, the hint before the DO will mention the verb it is related to. If a DO directly follows the verb, there may be no hint.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

P1 Prepositional object of preceding verb (or preceding masdar or participle)

Explanation: If a prepositional object (of a fixed preposition) and its verb are separated (by other constituents), the hint will mention the verb it is related to. If a PO directly follows the verb, there may be no hint. The verb can also be a masdar or a participle. This is mentioned in the argument of the hint.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

P2 Preposition + 'an/'anna/'inna, both relating to preceding verb, beginning of subordinate clause

Explanation: a preposition related to a verb is followed by a subordinate clause starting with أَنْ or أَنَّ. If the preposition and verb are separated, the hint before the preposition will mention the verb it is related to in the argument. If the preposition directly follows the verb, there may be no hint. The verb can also be a masdar or a participle. This is mentioned in the argument.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.



PR Predicate in main or subordinate clause

Explanation: With PR a predicate in a main or subordinate clause will be indicated. The code is only used in complex sentences in which the predicate's function may be unclear.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

R1 Relative clause with definite antecedent (...) (R1)

Explanation: Relative clause starting with a relative pronoun (... الذي، التي). If the relative pronoun is not immediately following the antecedent, the hint will mention the antecedent in the argument. But if the relative pronoun immediately follows the antecedent, the antecedent will not be indicated in the hint.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

R2 Relative clause with indefinite antecedent (...) (R2)

Explanation: Relative clause NOT starting with a relative pronoun (... الذي، التي) because the antecedent is indefinite. If the relative clause is not immediately following the antecedent, the hint will mention the antecedent in the argument. But if the relative clause immediately follows the antecedent, the antecedent will not be mentioned in the argument.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

R3 Relative clause with compound relative pronoun

Explanation: The relative pronoun can itself contain the antecedent (مَنْ = he who ... etc.). This type of relative clause is not connected to an antecedent in the main clause.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

R4 Relative clause with participle as verb

Explanation: A participle as an adjective can specify a noun and this participle can have a verbal meaning, with a subject and/or an object. The participle thus starts a clause that can best be translated as a relative clause.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

R1E End of Relative Clause R1, main clause continues

Explanation: E indicates the end of the clause. Only indicated if not clear, i.e. if there is no punctuation indicating the end of the relative clause.



R2E End of Relative Clause R2, main clause continues

Explanation: E indicates the end of the clause. Only indicated if not clear, i.e. if there is no punctuation indicating the end of the relative clause.

R3E End of Relative Clause R3, main clause continues

Explanation: E indicates the end of the clause. Only indicated if not clear, i.e. if there is no punctuation indicating the end of the relative clause.

R4E End of Relative Clause R4, main clause continues

Explanation: E indicates the end of the clause. Only indicated if not clear, i.e. if there is no punctuation indicating the end of the relative clause.

S1 Subordinate clause ('an/ 'anna/'inna) relating to preceding verb

Explanation: The conjunction 'an or 'anna/'inna is connected to a verb. However, verb and conjunction can be separated by other constituents. If they are separated, the start of the subordinate clause is indicated with this code and the verb is mentioned in the argument. If the clause (almost) immediately follows the verb, there will be no argument.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

S2 Subordinate clause starting with conjunction

Explanation: Subordinate clauses can start with conjunctions like *لَآنَّ*, *حَيْثُ*, etc. The start of the subordinate clause is indicated.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

S3 Temporal subordinate clause

Explanation: A special type of subordinate clause with temporal meaning, starting with conjunctions like *بَعْدَ أَنْ*, *قَبْلَ أَنْ*.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

S4 Subordinate clause with masdar with verbal meaning

Explanation: The use of a masdar with verbal meaning, having a subject or object with it. This can best be translated as a subordinate clause.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.



S1E End of Subordinate clause, main clause continues

Explanation: E indicates the end of the subordinate clause. Only indicated if not clear, i.e. if there is no punctuation indicating the end of a subordinate clause.

S2E End of Subordinate clause, main clause continues

Explanation: E indicates the end of the subordinate clause. Only indicated if not clear, i.e. if there is no punctuation indicating the end of a subordinate clause.

S3E End of Subordinate clause, main clause continues

Explanation: E indicates the end of the subordinate clause. Only indicated if not clear, i.e. if there is no punctuation indicating the end of a subordinate clause.

S4E End of Subordinate clause, main clause continues

Explanation: E indicates the end of the subordinate clause. Only indicated if not clear, i.e. if there is no punctuation indicating the end of a subordinate clause.

SU Subject of preceding verb

Explanation: If a verb and its subject are separated by other constituents, the subject will be indicated.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

V1 Passive verb (V1)

Explanation: Verbs can be passive without this being visible. In this case it is indicated.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

V2 Doubly transitive verb (V2)

Explanation: A verb marked with V2 can have two Direct Objects, both marked with O1.

Examples to be found in file 'Examples Syntactic Codes'.

X = Various

Explanation: The hint can contain various kinds of information not included in the codes mentioned above.

