Realisation of Constituents in English and Kurdish

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Abstract
This study entitled "Realisation of constituents in English and Kurdish languages" focuses on the definitions of constituent then on some ways by which they are realized. It shows the words that form constituents . It indicates that one word or more can be a constituent. The problem here is that learners are unable to realise constituent and its type in a sentence .This is due to their lack of knowledge about phrases and their functions .So a constituent can be defined as some word plus all the words depending on it, either directly or indirectly .In other words, that word plus all the dependency chains lead up to it. These constituents have various functions hinging upon the positions they occur in sentences. Here ,the immediate and ultimate constituents are dealt with too. The aim   of this study is not to show the functions but would rather show the tests that make readers be sure that a part is a constituent. These tests may or may not vary in each language. In Kurdish language mainly,the types of constituent (immediate ,intermediate and ultimate) are dealt with too. In this study, the tests that are indicated for establishing constituent are shown in both English and Kurdish languages. The most widely used tests for constituents in syntax are : topicalization, proform substitution , fragments , clefting , vp-ellipsis ,pseudo clefting .The significance of the research lies in the fact that different other topics are dealt with for dealing with this subject. Readers or learners can benefit from them ,for example, types of constituents ,proform, clefting ,….in case their researches are about one of these topics. Finally,It is concluded that for a part to be a constituent, it should not meet all the tests or conditions of constituents. But if it meets one or two condition(s)or tests, it would be considered a constituent. In English there are many tests that assure us that a part is a constituent but in Kurdish there are not many tests for this purpose. In both languages ,the same types of constituents ;immediate ,intermediate and the ultimate are realized and identified.

Keywords: constituents , tests ,intermediate , ultimate.

1.Constituents in English
Constituent as Finegan and Besnier show is "a syntactic unit that functions as part of a larger unit within a sentence" On the other hand ,Merriam Webster states that
 constituent is a structural unit of a definable syntactic, semantic, or phonological category that consists of one or more linguistic elements (such as words, morphemes, or features) and that can occur as a component of a larger construction. Some may think that constituent is a group of words that function together as a unit. It is also defined by Bussmann(1996:98) as "a term used in structural sentence analysis for every linguistic unit ,which is part of a larger linguistic unit. Several constituents together form a construction". Starosta (1988: 105) may define it better by saying that constituent is " any word plus all its direct or indirect dependents" It can thus be concluded, from the above definitions, that constituent is a unit occurring inside another unit usually larger which is called sentence. So it can be a morpheme, word, phrase, or clause. Sentences can consist of subject, verb ,complement ,adverbs and object. Then a sentence is analysed into its parts .This is known as parsing. In another word, it is parsing sentences into their constituents.

2.Tests for realization(identification) of constituents in English
All sentences have constituents. This means that to make a sentence meaningful a sentence needs to be made up of parts .These parts are constituents .Syntax is recursive. A clause ,like

a noun phrase or any other phrase can be placed inside another clause. All languages appear to have recursion, although they have not the same type. For syntax is recursive, there is no limit as concerned with the length of a sentence. So constituents are factors for showing this recursiveness because inside one constituent there can be other phrases or clauses namely ;other constituents.

On the other hand of the scale ,the researcher sheds lights on the realization of constituents ,as prior to know about recursiveness .we should know about constituents. So this is the main concern of the research which is identification of constituents. Consider some of the most common tests for realizing constituents :

2.1 Substitution

This is one of the tests for realizing constituents. It is also known as pro-form . The substitution test replaces one word namely one noun or sometimes a string in a sentence with a suitable part of speech which is a definite pronoun. So it is as Hartmann and Stork(1976:225) state "a process or result of replacing a linguistic item within a larger unit by another". The following examples may make it clear:

   1. John who is one of the top students is the one who got 70 in Syntax.

In (1)the italicized part is the subject of the sentence ,so it is noun which is replaced by or substituted for he (He is the one who got 70 in Syntax).In this case it is considered a constituent. Constituents can only be substituted with pro-forms.

2.2 Expansion

It is another constituent identification test .It is a grammatical process in which new elements are added to a construction without its basic structure being affected.(Crystal ,2003:170). Thus any element that can be expanded by adding words before or after the head word is a constituent .The italicized part in (2) below is a constituent for it is Tom alone as a head which is expanded by adding the prepositional phrase (in the corner) after the head to become Tom in the corner :

   2. Tom in the corner is his roommate.

2.3 Movement

It is one of the realization tests for constituents. When an element moves from one position to another ,it would be considered a constituent . Example (3) may give much more elaboration .

3.The chicken which was fried ,I liked.

The original sentence is (I liked the chicken which was fried). But here the chicken which was fried is moved from the position of object to the front position before the subject. Thus the italicized part would be a constituent for movement is an operation by which a constituent is displaced from one position in a given structure and comes to occupy another position in the structure.(Radford,2012:394) .

2.4 Topicalisation

The movement operation by which an expression moves from being the complement of something to the front or any position of the overall sentence is traditionally termed topicalisation. (Radford,2012:406).

Bussmann(1996:488),on the other hand, states that it is the placement of a non-subject constituent at the beginning of the sentence :

4.He declared his candidacy *yesterday* vs *Yesterday* he declared his candidacy

In (4) the italicized adverb yesterday(which is ultimate constituent) is topicalised as it is brought to the front position before the subject he. The topicalised part is an adverb not the subject. Hence it is a constituent because as Bussmann (1996)states "in general all major sentence constituents except the subject and the finite verb can be topicalised "

2.5 Cleft and Pseudo cleft
Cleft is a construction in which some element in a sentence is moved from its normal position into a separate clause to give it greater emphasis. (Nordquist , 2019)
Cleft sentence is introduced by it being followed by verb phrase whose main verb is generally be. What comes next is the part which is emphasized on. The remainder of the sentence is introduced by relative pronoun. Take into consideration the following example:

5.Talar met her teacher the day before.

The sentence (6) can be rewritten in several ways like below:
i: It was Talar who met her teacher the day before.
ii: It was the day before that Talar met her teacher.
iii: It was her teacher who was met by Talar the day before.

So here in (5i),(5ii) and (5iii) the focus is on Talar(specifically is immediate constituent) ,the day before and her teacher in the cleft sentences. Thus they are considered to be constituents because they are the parts that are given much emphasis.
On the other hand ,pseudo-cleft is another test for establishing constituents which is very close to cleft . In Macmillan dictionary ,it is defined "as a way of emphasizing part of a sentence by using a "what" clause as its subject or complement , with a form of " be" as a main verb". So what is focused on is considered a constituent which usually precedes or follows the "what "clause . Consider the Macmillan example of the pseudo-cleft below:

6.A holiday in the mountains is what I really need.
In the pseudo-cleft sentence (6) a holiday in the mountains is the part which is concentrated on and is brought to the front position because the original sentence which is the non-emphatic alternative sentence is "I really need a holiday in the mountains". In this case ,it can be said that a holiday in the mountains is the pseudo-cleft part therefore it is constituent as it precedes the "what" clause and is much focused on.
Thus pseudo-cleft is a process that transforms a simple sentence by taking out a phrase ,turning the rest of a sentence into a kind of a relative clause and putting the two pieces back together with the verb be in between.(SIL International ,2003)
7.What the Cat drank was the milk
Here "the milk" is a constituent because it is the focused part and is pseudo –clefted. The original sentence is "The Cat drank the milk". The constituent part this time follows the "what" clause . In (7)we can also consider "drank the milk" as a constituent because it follows the "what "clause and it is the part which is focused on. So it is pseudo-clefted like "What the Cat did was drinking the milk".

2.6 Answers to Questions
A group of words is considered a constituent when it is the answer of a question questioned by a question word .Usually this type of question is information question. Here the string of words can stand alone.
Let us take Anderson's example in his book Essentials of Linguistics:

8.Rhea's sister baked these delicious cookies.
8.A: What did Rhea's sister bake? These delicious cookies.
8.B: Who baked these delicious cookies? Rhea's sister.

In example 8 there are two questions asked by using the two question words what and who .Here the answers of the questions in both (8.A) and (8.B) are considered constituents because they can stand alone and the sentences are grammatical .In the former the answer is the subject of the sentence ,while in the latter the answer is the object of the declarative sentence.
Although this is not our main concern in this research, according to the types of constituents :immediate, intermediate ,ultimate constituents, it can be said that in the examples before from 1 till 8 the types are as below:

In example (1)from(John……students) and from (is…..syntax)are immediate constituents.
In example (2)from(Tom……corner) and from (is…..roommate)are immediate constituents.
In example (3) (I) and from (liked…..fried)are immediate constituents.
In example (4) (He) and from (declared…...yesterday)are immediate constituents.
In example (5)from(Talar) and from (met…..before)are immediate constituents.
In example (6)from(A…mountains) and from (is....need)are immediate constituents.
In example (7)from(What….drank) and from (was….milk)are immediate constituents.
In example (8)(Rhea's sister) and from (baked…..cookies)are immediate constituents.
Here words(John, I, he, Talar……) in the examples above are ultimate constituents .But the intermediate constituents are those phrases and constituents that are inside immediate constituents .For example in (1) (is one of the students) and (got 70 in syntax)are intermediate constituents because they are phrases inside immediate constituents.

All in all ,it can be said that in the above-mentioned examples,intermediate constituents are smaller than immediate but ultimate constituents are usually words and are smaller than intermediate constituents. This may be different or the same in Kurdish language. This is going to be discussed in the coming section.

3.Constituents in Kurdish Language
Haegman(1998) states in generative syntax that constituents of sentence are represented by one of the these ways: either through tree diagram , phrase structure rules or by bracketing.
In Kurdish language many of the tests mentioned above can also be applied here .This is because English and Kurdish grammars are similar to each other in many respects. But yet they are different in certain other points .

4. Realisation (Identification)of constituents in Kurdish
There are some tests (not all those that are applied in English language) that Kurdish language depend on for the realization of constituents. The tests here are randomly chosen, we mean not as indicated in the English language above . They are like below:

4.1 Topicalisation
Consider this sentence example for this test :

9.Mindalaka ba dlnyayiawa shirakay xwardawa
For Sure ,The child drank the milk

The example in (9) is a syntactic sentence .One may think the constituents in the example as words .To analyse the sentence, traditionally words are not considered immediate constituents but are ultimate ,of a sentence .Phrases are in between . They are smaller than sentences but

bigger than words .This means that phrases consist of words ,while sentences consist of phrases .

(Fattah,1997:188) (Huddleston,1984:3)

So here (ba dlnyayiawa)is a constituent because of the existence of this adverb.In this case ,it can be prepositioned and post positioned. Thus the sentence can appear like (10) and (11) :

10.ba dlnyayiawa Mindalaka shirakay xwardawa   or
11.Mindalaka shirakay xwardawa ba dlnyayiawa

4.2 Answers to Questions
For this test ,consider the example below:

12.Azad la malakay xoyda Nawzady kusht
Azad , in his own house, killed Nawzad

First,it is needed to know if there is any test to tell us (Nawzady kusht)is a constituent or not. It is a vp. If ,in fact, (la malakay xoyda Nawzady kusht) is a constituent. So there is generation of other different sentences as in (14) below:

13.Twana prsy ke Nawzady kusht.? Azad krdi (Twana asks who killed Nawzad , Azad did it)
14.Azad chy krd? La malakay xoyda Nawzady kusht.(What did Azad do? in his house, he killed Nawzad)
In (13) the constituent is Azad because he is the answer of the question. While in (14) ,the constituent is (La malakay xoyda Nawzady kusht) because it is the answer of the question.

4.3 Pseudo cleft
In this test ,Kurdish language has got many examples. It is also used for emphasis like English language.
15. Away Azad krdy awabu Nawzady kusht. (What Azad did was killing Nawzad)   wh cleft
It is indicated in (15) that (Nawzady kusht) is a constituent because it can co-occur with its own group and is pseudo clefted i.e it comes after the what-clause "away Azad krdy ".

4.4 Substitution
This is a very common test for the realization of constituent in Kurdish. Consider example (16) for this purpose:

16. Lana clakan dashwat (Lana is washing the clothes)

It is indicated that "clakan dashwat" (washing the clothes) in "Lana clakan dashwat " is a constituent because it can ,like an antecedent of different proforms, play the role of a function. So we can say (Lana daykat). Here (daykat) is a pro-verb that substitutes for (washing the clothes) .The pronoun like (she)can also replace (Lana) in (16) above. So, (Lana) can become a constituent too.

4.5 Ellipsis
This test is common in Kurdish but perhaps it is informally used by the people. Look at the example (17) below :

17. Lana sama dakat , harwaha Trifash .(Lana is dancing ,so is Trifa)

This test ,in Kurdish language can appear only in case of using adverbs. This is because there is no any other word that can replace the whole vp. as it is found in English language. For example in (17) above ,the adverb (harwaha)can replace the ellipted words like (sama dakat). Here in Kurdish ,there is no auxiliary to replace the whole vp.

4.6 Insertion (Expansion)
It is another test which is mainly called insertion in Kurdish language. But in English ,expansion is normally used instead.
The example (18) below

18. Azad Nawzady kushtu ray krd. (Azad killed Nawzad and ran)
Becomes (19)
 19. Azad la malakay xoyda Nawzady kusht(Azad in his own house killed Nawzad)
In (18) ,it is shown that (Azad) is a constituent ,but after we insert or add the adverb (la malakay xoyda) after the head (Azad),the whole phrase (Azad la malakay xoyda)becomes a constituent.

5. Conclusion
During the analysis of sentence structure ,the units that are first thought about may be words of the sentence. It is concluded that for a part to be a constituent, it should not meet all the tests of constituents. But if it meets one or two condition(s) or tests, it would be considered a constituent. In English language, there are many tests that are depended on to say that a part is a constituent but in Kurdish there are not many tests for this purpose. In both languages ,the types of constituents ;immediate ,intermediate and the ultimate are indicated. The test of ellipsis is used normally for constituent realization in Kurdish language. While in English language ,this test has little or no role. In the expansion test ,words can also be inserted inside the constituent in English language ,but in Kurdish it can mainly be added at the margins of the constituent.

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حاته مر ولیا محمد

زانکوی سه لاحه ددین/ کولیزی به روه رده / به شی کوردی

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زانکوی سه لاحه ددین/ کولیزی به روه رده / به شی ئنکلیزی

پوخته

ناونیشانی ئه‌م توێژینه‌وه‌یه ناسینه‌وه‌ی پێکهێنه‌کانه له هه‌ر دوو زمانی کوردی و ئینگلیزیدا). لێکۆڵه‌ران له‌م لێکۆڵینه‌وه‌به‌دا پشتیان به کۆمه‌ڵێک تاقیکرنه‌وه بستووه که بۆ ناسینه‌وه‌ی پێکهێنه‌کان به‌کارده‌هێنرێت. ئامانجی لێکۆڵینه‌وه‌که‌ش ئاشکراکردن و دیاریکردنی ئه‌و ئێسته‌نه‌یه که له ناسینه‌وه‌ی پێکهێنه‌کاندا به‌کارده‌هێنرێت هه‌ر له چوارچیوه‌ی ئامانجی لێکۆڵینه‌وه‌که‌شدا لێکۆڵه‌ران هه‌وڵیانداوه که جۆری پێکهێنه‌کان و پێکهێنه راسته‌وخۆکانی پێکهێنه کوتایی و پێکهێنه مامناوه‌ندی و ڕسته له هه‌ر دوو زمانی کوردی ئینگلیزیدا ئاشکرا ودیاری بکه‌ن. کێشه‌ی لێکۆڵینه‌وه‌که‌ش له‌وه‌دایه که قوتابیان ناتوانن پێکهێنه‌کان و جۆره‌کانیان له ڕسته‌دا دیاریکه‌ن به‌هۆی نه‌شاره‌زاییان ده‌رباره‌ی مه‌رجه‌کانی ئه‌و تاقیکرنه‌وانه به‌ڵام مه‌رج نییه که زنجیره که‌ره‌سه‌یه‌کی دیاریکراو هه‌ر هه‌موو ئه‌و تاقیکردنه‌وانه‌ی سه‌ره‌وه‌ی به‌سه‌ردا پیاده‌بکریت بۆ ئه‌وه‌ی وه‌ک پێکهێنێک بناسرێته‌وه و دیاریبکرێت بەڵکو ئه‌و زنجیره که‌ره‌سه‌یه ته‌نها له‌بارێکدا ده‌بیته پێکهێن (فره یز) ته‌نها ئه‌گه‌ر یه‌کێك یان زیاتر له مه‌رجه‌کانی تاقیکردنه‌وه‌کانی تێداهه‌بێت له هه‌ر دوو زمانی کوردی و ئینگلیزی.

خلاصة

عنوان هذا البحث هو تعريف او تشخيص كنستيتيونتس في اللغتين الانكليزية و الكوردية. اعتمد الباحثين في هذا البحث عن مجموعة من اختبارات التي يستعمل في سبيل تعارف او معرفة كنستيتيونتس. وكذالك ركزت عن انواع كنستيتيونتس. هدف البحث هو بيان اختبارات الذى استعملت لتشخيص كنستيتيونتس .ووضحت الباحثين ايضا ,من ضمن اهدافه خصوصا في اللغة الكوردية , عن تعين انواع كنستيتيونتس مثل مباشر, متوسط و نهائي. ومن مشكلة البحث هي ان المتعلمين لا يتمكن باخراج او تعين كنستيتيونتس وانواعه من الجمل بسبب عدم معرفتهم عن شروط (اختبارات) تعريف كنستيتيونتس. استنتج الباحثين بان لا يجب ان يكون عدد من الشروط الذى ذكرنا كلهم موجودين لتعين او تشخيص كنستيتيونتس, شرط او تيست واحد يكون كافية لهذا الغرض. و جاءت ايضا بان انواع كنستيتيونتس الذى اشارت في اللغة الانكليزية يكون ايضا موجودين في اللغة الكوردية وتعينهم ليس من السهل فى كلا اللغتين.