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### Nominal Derivation in Standard Arabic and English: a Comparative Study

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#### Abstract

Standard Arabic and English are highly productive languages, and new lexemes are continually derived into their lexicons. There are many processes used to generate new lexemes from existing ones in both languages. One of these processes is derivation. Derivation is used to create new lexemes out of existing ones and these new lexemes become part of the lexicons of these languages. This paper focuses on the nominal derivation process in both languages. Nominal derivation is a lexeme formation process used to create nouns out of existing nouns, verbs or adjectives. It is a productive process which includes affixation and modification in both languages. This paper attempts to provide a unified account of Standard Arabic and English nominal derivation. It aims at exploring the lexeme formation via nominal derivation in the languages. The objective of this comparative study is to show the morphological behavior of the derived nouns in both languages. The study shows that Standard Arabic morphology is nonconcatenative based on a nonlinear sequence of morphemes whereas English morphology is concatenative based on a linear sequence of morphemes.

**Key words:** lexeme formation, nominal derivation, concatenative, nonconcatenative morphology.

#### Introduction:

Nominal derivation is one of the lexeme formation processes used to generate nouns out of existing lexemes such as nouns, verbs or adjectives. Nominal derivation can be derived by affixation, modification, and affixation and modification together. Affixation is a lexeme derivation process by the addition of an affix to an existing lexeme whereas modification is a lexeme derivation process by altering a segment of a lexeme. This paper investigates the derivation of nouns in Standard Arabic (henceforth, SA) and English by providing a multilevel analysis in the light of the state-of-the-art theories and approaches in modern linguistics. It presents a comparative description of the nominal derivation in SA and English. It focuses on the thematic roles of derived nouns in SA and English and the processes used in the creation of nouns. The processes and the thematic roles of derived nouns that are described in this paper are presented in tables such as agent, theme, instrument, etc. The objective is to show the similarities and differences in the nominal derivation and capitalize on the morphological behavior of the derived nouns in both languages. Besides, the study examines the polysemy of affixes in both languages to show to what extent they are similar or different.

This study has, however, been organized into the following: introduction; the problem of the study; significance of the study; objectives of the study; hypothesis of the study; methodology of the study; literature review; data analysis which includes affixation,

modification, affixation and modification; thematic roles of derived nouns in Arabic and English which include the agent noun, theme noun, diminutive noun, and abstract noun; the polysemy of affixes in SA and English; and conclusion.

#### The Problem of the Study

This study attempts to point out the similarities and differences between SA nominal derivation and that of English. Based on the data collected from SA and English and also from scholars in both languages, this paper seeks to answer the following questions: (i) Are there any similarities and differences with regard to nominal derivation between SA and English? (ii) What are the similarities and differences between Arabic and English nominal derivation processes?

#### The Significance of the Study

Nominal derivation in both languages has been selected for investigation for the following reasons: (i) nominal derivation has recently become a focus of considerable discussion in linguistics, (ii) there is a need to provide a unified account of nominal derivation in SA and English, and (iii) nominal derivation has been at the center of linguists' attention for many years. However, to the best of the researcher's knowledge, the comparison between Arabic and English nominal derivation has not been examined in detail.

### The Objectives of the Study

This study aims to describe the processes of nominal derivation in SA and English. It focuses on the thematic roles of derived nouns in both languages such as agent, theme, location, instrument, etc. It seeks to show the similarities and differences in nominal derivation in both languages. It also examines the polysemy of affixes and shows how it takes place in the morpho-syntax of both languages.

### Hypothesis of the Study

It is hypothesized that nominal derivation in both languages exhibits similarities and differences.

### The Methodology of the Study

This study is based on an analysis of the data collected from materials on the nominal derivation in both languages: Arabic and English. It is supplemented by the data obtained from certain literary work(s) in SA and certain literary work(s) in English as well as the linguistic literature on English. It is also supplemented by the data obtained from the intuitions of the native speakers of both languages.

### Literature Review

Morphology deals with the internal structure of words. A word is composed of morphemes which can be a root, stem, a base and / or affixes. A root is defined in morphological literature as that part of a word which remains after removing all inflectional and derivational affixes whereas a stem is a word which cannot be analyzed in terms of inflectional affixes and to which an inflectional affix can be added. A base, on the other hand, is a word which can be analyzed in terms of inflectional and derivational affixes. The morphological structure of the languages of the world is categorized into concatenative and nonconcatenative (Booij, 2007 and Spencer, 1991). Concatenative morphology involves the combination of morphemes together. It refers to the addition of morphemes to a base. However, nonconcatenative morphology modifies the internal structure of morphemes. SA belongs to the Semitic language family. It is treated as a prime example of languages having a nonconcatenative morphological system. Most of SA derivational morphology does not consist of strings of independently identifiable morphemes. The derivation of SA lexemes is based on what is known as *الميزان الصرفي* *Al-miizaan AsSarfi* (the balance of morphology or the morphological measure) (Haywood and Nahmad, 1976; Holes, 2004; and Wright, 1988). The morphological measure is highly systematic since it organizes the relationship between the root and templatic patterns by representing Arabic lexemes within patterns.

Sibawaih (1966) and Ibn Jinni (1956, 1960) set down the rules of the morphological measure. An SA lexeme is constructed by first creating a lexeme from templatic morphemes or using a nontemplatic

lexeme to which affixational morphemes are added. The process of concatenating morphemes can involve a number of phonological, morphological and orthographical rules that modify the form of the created lexeme.

In English, a root can be free such as 'teach' or bound like '-ceive'. In SA, on the other hand, the root morphemes of verbs are nearly always bound forms. They are virtually unlimited in number. The root morpheme is a sequence of two, three, four or five consonants that signifies some abstract meaning shared by all its derivations. A lexeme is constructed by interleaving a root, pattern and vocalism. However, it is not always a simple interleaving and concatenation of its morphemic constituents. Semitic languages, generally, employ nonconcatenative lexeme formation processes including templatic changes, affixation, gemination and modification to create new lexemes.

Moreover, SA has a highly nonconcatenative morphological system. The lexemes in SA are governed by canonical patterns that include vowels and consonants, conveying particular functional meanings as well as grammatical and syntactic information. The templatic pattern includes consonant positions and vocalic affixes. The consonant root *درس* *d-r-s*, 'study'; for example, has the basic lexical meaning of studying, from which *درس* *darsun* 'lesson', *مدرس* *mudarris* 'teacher', *دراسة* *diraasah* 'study', *مدرسة* *madrasah* 'school' and *دارس* *daaris* 'student' have been derived. In all of these derived nouns, the same consonants *d-r-s* remain constant with the same orthographic order. This can be emphasized by the lexemes *كتاب* *kitaab* 'book', *كاتب* *kaatib* 'writer', *مكتوب* *maktuub* 'written', *كتاتيب* *katatiib* 'Quran schools', *كاتب* *katuub* 'skilled writer', *كتابة* *kitaabah* 'writing', *مكتبة* *makatabah* 'library' and *مكتب* *maktab* 'office' which have been derived from the root 'k-t-b' having the lexical meaning of writing.

McCarthy's approach (1979, 1981, and 1992) is root-based in analyzing SA lexemes. McCarthy and his proponents claim that the consonantal root serves as an independent morpheme that has psychological reality. Within this approach, the root is regarded as a morpheme. The notion of the root may involve cognitive reality. The consonantal root is a basic morphological unit, conveying the core lexical meaning. In SA, the root normally consists of three consonants, and less frequently of two, four, or five consonants. From a root-based perspective, the majority of SA lexemes are derived from two, three, four or five consonant roots. The templatic pattern consists of a series of discontinuous consonants, a series of discontinuous vowels and a pattern.

By contrast, a word-based approach has been proposed to Semitic morphology by a number of linguists such as Ratcliffe (1998). In this approach, a lexeme is derived from an independent word and the

template acts as a constraint to filter the combination of vowels and consonants. The proponents of this approach claim that lexeme formation is based on a whole word input rather than the consonantal root.

Ratcliffe (1998, p. 50) argues that "words rather than three-consonant roots are the primitive lexical entries of the Arabic lexicon," whereas McCarthy (1992, p. 2) argues that "the core of the Arabic nominal system is templatic in character, with templates that conform to prosodic Morphology Hypothesis i.e. templates are defined in terms of the authentic units of prosody." Watson (2002, 2006), on the other hand, points out that both types of lexeme formation, root-based and word-based, can be found in Arabic.

English, on the other hand, belongs to the Indo European language family that employs concatenative morphology in its lexeme formation processes. It is based on prefixation and suffixation. In concatenative morphology, a series of continuous morphemes linked to one another in a linear sequence can form a new lexeme. In his morphological analysis of English, Spencer (1991, p. 50) argues that "all morphology is essential agglutinative."

In generative phonological theory, there are two contrasting approaches: segmental and autosegmental. Within the segmental approach, the representation of morphological and phonological operation is based on the notion of linearity i.e. a linear sequence of elements that interact with each other in one to one behavior according to morphological and syntactic rules. This theory has been applied to languages whose morphology is based on the linear concatenation of morphemes through prefixation and suffixation. Concatenative theory does not serve languages that exhibit significant nonconcatenative non-linear morphology such as SA. For example, the English agent noun 'writer' is formed by adding the suffix {-er} to the verb morpheme {write} whereas the SA agent noun كاتب *kaatib* 'writer' is formed by inserting the infix {-aa-} to the verb morpheme كتب *{katab-a}* 'write' and vowel changes from 'a' to 'i'.

The current study aims at exploring the characteristics of the creation of the derived nouns in SA and English by providing a new comprehensive analysis of derived nouns. The objective of this comparative study is to show the morphological behavior of the derived nouns in both languages. The issue of the derivation of nouns in SA was debated by the Basran

and Kufan schools. The Basran grammarians consider the verbal nouns to be the input of derivation whereas the Kufan grammarians regard the verb to be the input of derivation.

### Data Analysis

In morphology, derivation is the process of creating a new lexeme out of an existing one. It is one of the major of lexeme formation processes which governs the combination of the derivational affixes. Derivational morphology creates the lexemes that become part of the lexicon. Knowledge of the internal structure of lexemes has drawn increasing attention in linguistics because it plays a role in lexical access (Fowler, Napps & Feldman, 1985). Nominal derivation is a lexeme formation process used to generate nouns of existing categories such as nouns, verbs or adjectives.

Furthermore, derivational morphology involves the processes of creating new lexemes. These processes are discussed below:

#### 1. Affixation

Affixation is a morphological process whereby an affix is attached to a morphological base. Affixes mark derivational and inflectional changes and affixation is the most common strategy that human languages employ for derivation of new lexemes and word forms. Depending on their position in relation to a base, affixes can be classified into: prefixes which are attached to the front of a base, infixes which are inserted inside a base, suffixes which are attached to the end of a base, circumfixes which are attached to the front and end of a base simultaneously, and transfixes which are inserted in consonants and vowels within a specified base.

Depending on the position of an affix in relation to its root morpheme, nominal affixes in English are classified into prefixes and suffixes as the following table illustrates.

Table 1. English nominal affixes

Prefixes	Suffixes
miniskirt	teacher
nonsmoker	childhood

However, SA nominal affixes are classified into prefixes, infixes, suffixes, circumfixes, and transfixes. This can be shown in the following table (2).

Table 2. SA nominal affixes

prefixes	Infixes	Suffixes	Circumfixes	Transfixes
موظف <i>muwad'af</i> 'employee'	اللاعب <i>laa'ib</i> 'player'	دحرجة <i>dahragah</i> 'rolling'	تذكية <i>tazkiyah</i> 'rec- ommendation'	محرث <i>mihraaθ</i> 'plough'
ملعب <i>mal'ab</i> 'stadium'	كاتب <i>kaatib</i> 'writer'	طالبة <i>Taalibah</i> 'a female student'	مطرقة <i>miTraqah</i> 'a hammer'	تصوير <i>taSwiir</i> 'photography'
				رافعة <i>raafi'ah</i> 'lifter'
				رجولة <i>ruguulah</i> 'manhood'

In SA and English, derived nouns are created by derivational affixation, modification, and derivational affixation and modification. Derivational affixation is a lexeme formation process by which a lexeme is created by the addition of derivational affixes. In SA, derivational affixes are limited to particular letters: {س} [s], {أ} [ʔ], {ل} [l], {ت} [t], {م} [m], {و}[w],

{ن} [n], {ي} [j], {ه} [h], and {ا} [aa]. They are limited in number and can be exhaustively listed. They are of five types: prefixes, suffixes, infixes, circumfixes, and transfixes. SA nouns are mostly derived from trilateral verbs, but there are a few nouns that are derived from nouns. The following table (3) illustrates the point clearly.

**Table 3.** SA derived nouns

Arabic deverbal nouns	Arabic denominal nouns
قاتل <i>qaatil</i> 'killer'	وطنية <i>waTaniyah</i> 'patriotism'
مقتول <i>maqatuul</i> 'killed'	جنسية <i>janisiyah</i> 'nationality'
موظف <i>muwad'af</i> 'employee'	طالبة <i>Taalibah</i> 'female student'
كاتب <i>kaatib</i> 'writer'	كليب <i>kuliib</i> 'small dog'

On the other hand, derivational affixes, in English, are endlessly created. They are of two types: prefixes and suffixes. English nouns are generally generated from verbs, nouns, and adjectives. This can be demonstrated in the following table (4).

**Table 4.** English derived nouns

English deverbal nouns	English denominal nouns	English deadjectival nouns
teacher	childhood	goodness
development	londoner	happiness
examination	miniskirt	width
arrival	nonsmoker	strength

## 2. Modification

Modification is a morphological process which produces an alteration within a base (Matthews, 1991, p. 136). It is of three types: vowel modification, consonant modification and mixed modification. Vowel modification consists of the substitution of one vowel for another whereas consonant modification is the substitution of consonant with another and mixed modification combines the two previous types. These can be illustrated in the following tables in (5) and (6) in English and SA, respectively.

**Table 5.** English modification

Vowel modification	Consonant modification	Mixed modification
export	advice	bath
perfume	house	life
estimate	excuse	cloth

**Table 6.** SA modification

Vowel modification	Consonant modification	Mixed modification
قتل <i>qatal</i> 'killing'	موت <i>muwat</i> 'death'	قصص <i>qiSaS</i> 'narratives'
عمل <i>amal</i> 'work'	سير <i>sayir</i> 'walking'	عدد <i>adad</i> 'number'
فتح <i>fatah</i> 'open'	ويل <i>wayiil</i> 'woe'	رقية <i>ruqay</i> 'promotion'

## 3. Affixation and modification

In English, both processes affixation and modification can be used to create nouns. The following table in (7) illustrates this:

**Table 7.** English affixation and modification

Examples
width
signal
divinity
wisdom
condemnation

Both processes are also used in SA to create nouns. This is illustrated in the following table in (8):

**Table 8.** Arabic affixation and modification

Examples
كتاب <i>kitaab</i> 'a book'
مدرس <i>mudarris</i> 'a teacher'
صحبة <i>Suhbah</i> 'a companion'
محرث <i>mihraaθ</i> 'a plough'
مطرقة <i>miTraqah</i> 'a hummer'
قلم <i>qulajam</i> 'a small pen'
انين <i>aniin</i> 'a moan'
مكتب <i>maktab</i> 'an office'
خلاط <i>xallaaT</i> 'a mixer'

It can be observed that SA and English employ derivational affixation, modification, and derivational affixation and modification in the creation of nouns. This can be demonstrated in the following table in (9).

**Table 9.** SA and English nominal derivational processes

Language Examples	Arabic Examples	English Examples
<b>Nominal Derivational processes</b>		
<b>Affixation</b>	موظف <i>muwad'af</i> 'an employee' لاعب <i>laa'ib</i> 'a player' خلاطة <i>xalatah</i> 'a mixer' معلمة <i>mu'alamah</i> 'a female teacher'	miniskirt player happiness strength
<b>Modification</b>	قتل <i>qatl</i> 'killing' موت <i>mawt</i> 'a death' عمل <i>amal</i> 'a work' نمو <i>numuu</i> 'growth' عدد <i>adad</i> 'a number' قصص <i>qiSaS</i> 'narratives'	descent export cloth house refund
<b>Affixation and Modification</b>	مدرس <i>muddarris</i> 'teacher' كاتب <i>kaatib</i> 'writer' صحبة <i>Suħbah</i> 'companion' محراث <i>mihraaθ</i> 'a plough' تصوير <i>taSwi:r</i> 'photography' رجولة <i>rujuulah</i> 'manhood' مطرقة <i>miTraqah</i> 'a hammer' حمرة <i>humrah</i> 'redness' مكتب <i>maktab</i> 'an office' كتيب <i>kutijab</i> 'a small book'	description divinity concurrence condemnation signal

### Thematic roles of derived nouns in Arabic and English

In SA and English, derived nouns are created from verbs or other nouns. The derived nouns relate to the semantic roles of the nominalized verb (agent, theme, location, instrument, etc.). There are different thematic roles of derived nouns in both languages. However, this paper focuses on six types, which are as follows:

#### a. The Agent Noun

It is a deverbal noun denoting the doer of an action, process or state. It conveys the meaning of the verb from which it is derived. In SA, for example, كاتب *kaatib* 'writer' is derived from the verb كتب *katab* 'he wrote'; from trilateral verbs, the agent nouns are derived on the basis of the pattern *caacic*. In English, the noun 'writer' is derived from the verb 'write'. In SA, the infix {-aa-} is predominantly involved in the formation of nominal relating to the external argument (agent) while in English the suffix {-er} is predominantly involved in the formation of nominal relating to the external argument. This can be shown in the following table in (10):

**Table 10.** SA and English agent noun

SA Example	English Example
كاتب <i>kaatib</i> writer	writer
قاتل <i>qaatil</i> killer	killer
راكب <i>raakib</i> rider	rider
فاعل <i>faa'il</i> doer	doer

It can also be observed that the SA infix {-aa-} and the English suffix {-er} are very productive within the class of verbs. Schäfer (2011) notes that "every verb projecting an external argument allows an {-er} nominal denoting the external argument... "

In English, there are some other affixes used to create agent nouns such {-or} in actor, {-ar} in beggar, {-eer} in auctioneer. In SA, the agent nouns can also be created by adding the infix {-aa-} after the second letter of the verbal root and doubling the second letter as in طيار *Tajjaar* 'a pilot' or by adding the prefix {mu-} and loss of the germination of the verb root as in مدرس *mudaris* 'teacher' or by adding the prefix {mu-} to the verbal base which has already the infix {-aa-} such as مراسل *muraasil* 'a correspondent' or by adding the prefix {mu-} to the verbal base and omitting the already added prefix {?} such as, مخرج *muxrig* 'a director' or by adding the prefix {mu-} and modifying the vowel from {-a-} to {-i-}, as in مهندس *muhandis* 'an engineer'.

#### b. The Theme Noun

It is a deverbal noun denoting the entity affected by an action or process of the verb from which it is derived. In Arabic, مولود *mawluud* 'a born baby' is derived from the verb ولد *walid* 'he was given a birth'. These nouns are derived on the basis of the pattern *maccuuc* from SA trilateral verbs. In English, 'employee' is derived from 'employ'.

The theme noun is created in SA by the prefix {*ma-*} and the infix {-*uu-*} and in English it is generated by the suffix {-*ee-*}. This can be illustrated in the following table in (11):

**Table 11.** SA and English theme nouns

Arabic Examples	English Examples
مفعول <i>maf'uuul</i> 'done'	employee
مقتول <i>maqtuul</i> 'killed'	trainee
مكتوب <i>maktuub</i> 'written'	payee

Theme nouns in SA are also derived according to some morphological principles. For example, by adding the prefix {*mu-*} and the infix {-*a-*} to the last syllable in the case of the verbs and bases which have four letters or germination such as موظف *muw'daf* 'employee'. If the verbal base begins with the prefix {*?*}, this {*?*} can be deleted before adding the prefix {*mu*} such as مختار *muxtaar* 'an appointee'. In English, the theme can be generated by the suffix {-*ary*} such as 'deposity'.

### c. The Locative Noun

It is a deverbal noun, which indicates the location in which the action of the verb takes place. For example, the SA lexeme ملعب *mal'ab* 'stadium' is derived from لعب *la'ab* 'play'. On the basis of the SA trilateral verb the location nouns are derived from the pattern *maccac*. The English 'bakery' is derived from 'bake'. This can be presented in the following table in (12):

**Table 12.** Arabic and English location nouns

Arabic Examples	English Examples
ملعب <i>mal'ab</i> 'stadium'	bakery
مجلس <i>maglis</i> 'council'	fishery
موقف <i>mawqif</i> 'park'	dormitory

The SA location nouns are derived according to some morphological principles. First, by adding the prefix {*ma-*} such as مصنع *maSna'* 'factory'; by adding the circumfixes {*ma-*} and the suffix {-*ah*} such as مزرعة *mazra'ah* 'farm', by adding the prefix {*ma-*} and modification of the vowel such as موقف *mawqif* 'park'. In English, location nouns are derived by adding one of these suffixes: {-*ery*} as in 'fishery'; {-*ory*} as in 'dormitory'; {-*age*} as in 'orphanage'; {-*y*} as in 'laundry'; etc.

### d. The Instrument Noun

It is a deverbal noun denoting a tool or device used to do the action of the verb. This can be illustrated in the Arabic example مفتاح *miftaah* 'a key' which is derived from the Arabic verb فتح *fataha* 'open' and the English 'mixer' which is derived from 'mix'. In SA, instrument nouns are derived on the basis of the pattern *miccac*. The following table in (13) illustrates the point:

**Table 13.** Arabic and English instrument nouns

Arabic Examples	English Examples
مفتاح <i>muftaah</i> 'a key'	opener
محراث <i>mihraaθ</i> 'a plough'	printer
مضرب <i>mad'rab</i> 'a bat'	elevator

The instrument Nouns in SA are also derived according to some morphological principles by adding the transfixes {*mi-*} and the {-*aa-*} at the same time such as محراث *mihraaθ* 'a plough'; or by {-*aa-*} and {-*ah*} at the same time such as رافعة *raafi'ah* 'lifter'; by adding the infix {-*aa-*} such as رباط *ribaab* 'a tie', by the circumfixes {*ma-*} and {-*ha*} as in مطبعة *maTba'ah* 'a photocopier' or by adding the prefix {*ma-*} such as مضرب *mad'rab* 'a bat'. In English, the instrument nouns are created by suffixes such as {-*er*} as in 'opener', {-*or*} such as 'elevator'.

### e. The Diminutive Noun

It is a denominal noun denoting a small example of something. The SA غصين *euSayn* 'a small branch' from غصن *euSn* 'branch' can illustrate this example in SA and the English *booklet* which is derived from *book* can demonstrate this type in English. In SA, diminutive nouns are derived from trilateral verbs on the basis of the pattern *cucayc*. This is shown in table (14) below:

**Table 14.** SA and English diminutive nouns

Arabic Examples	English Examples
غصين <i>euSayn</i> 'a small branch'	Kitchenette
قلم <i>qulaym</i> 'a small pen'	booklet
كتيب <i>kutayb</i> 'a booklet'	cigarette

The diminutive nouns in SA are derived by adding the infix {-*j-*} and the modification of vowel of the first syllable such as نهير *nuhayer* 'a rivulet' or قلم *qulaym* 'a small pen'; by modification of the consonant such as بويب *buwayab* 'a small door'. In English, the diminutive nouns are created by the suffixes such as {-*ette*} in the 'kitchenette', {-*ee*} in 'boatee', {-*kin*} in 'manikin', or {-*let*} in 'booklet'.

### f. The Abstract Noun

It is a deverbal noun. This noun denotes abstractions. SA examples such as:

عمل *amal*    نعيق *na':q*    سعال *su'aal*    صناعي *Sana: 'iy*  
'work'    'hoot'    'cough'    'man made'

can prove the presence of such derived nouns in SA. In English, there are also derived abstract nouns such as:

*arrival, breakage, development, cookery*

This can be exemplified in the following table in (15):

**Table 15.** Arabic and English abstract nouns

Arabic Examples	English Examples
وطنية <i>waTanya</i> 'patriotism'	kingdom
جمهورية <i>guwmhuurya</i> 'republic'	friendship
جنسية <i>ginsya</i> 'nationality'	childhood

As it can be observed abstract nouns are derived arbitrary in SA and English. In SA, abstract nouns can be

derived by affixation or by modification such as صناعة *Sana:ʔah* 'industry' or عمل *ʔamal* 'work'. In English, abstract nouns are created by affixation such as 'breakage', 'goodness', 'friendship', 'arrival', 'development', etc.

These six types in SA and English can be summarized in the following table in (16):

**Table 16.** Derived nouns in Arabic and English

Language Examples	Arabic Examples	English Examples
<b>Types of Derived Nouns</b>		
<b>Agent nouns</b>	باحث <i>baaḥiθ</i> 'researcher'	Researcher
<b>Theme nouns</b>	مقتول <i>maqtuul</i> 'killed'	Payee
<b>Location nouns</b>	موقف <i>muwqif</i> 'park'	Orphanage
<b>Instrument nouns</b>	مضرب <i>madʔrab</i> 'a bat'	Screwdriver
<b>Diminutive nouns</b>	قلم <i>qulajam</i> 'a small pen'	Kitchenette
<b>Abstract nouns</b>	نعيق <i>naʔiq</i> 'hoot'	development

### The polysemy of affixes in SA and English

It can be noticed that one affix may have more than one meaning. In SA, for example, the infix {-aa-} can refer to the agent of an action such as كاتب *kaatib* 'a writer', the instrument of an action رباط *ribaaT* 'a tie' or the abstraction such as غناء *ʔinnaaʔ* 'singing'. The prefix {ma-} can refer to the location of an action مخبز *maxabaz* 'bakery' or the instrument of an action مضرب *madʔrab* 'a bat'. In English, the suffix {-er} can refer to the agent of an action such as 'a teacher', the

instrument of an action 'an opener', the theme of an action 'a fryer', the location of action 'a londoner' whereas the suffix {-ee} can be the agent in 'escapee', the theme in 'payee' or the diminutive as in 'boatee'.

Tables 17 and 18 below summarize the processes of nominal derivation and the thematic roles of derived nouns in SA and English. They can be of great help to the reader to help him/her realize the similarities and differences in both languages in nominal derivation.

**Table 17.** SA nominal derivation

Arabic Derived Nouns	Agent Noun	Theme Noun	Location Noun	Instrument Noun	Diminutive Noun	Abstract Noun
<b>Nominal Derivational processes</b>						
<b>Affixation</b>	لاعب <i>laaʔib</i> 'player'	موظف <i>muwadʔaf</i> 'employee'				
<b>Modification</b>						عمل <i>ʔamal</i> 'work' موت <i>mawat</i> 'death'
<b>Modification and Affixation</b>	مدرس <i>mudaris</i> 'teacher'  طالب <i>Taalib</i> 'student'	مقتول <i>maqtuul</i> 'killed'  مكتوب <i>maktuub</i> 'written'	ملعب <i>malʔab</i> 'stadium'  مجلس <i>majlis</i> 'council'	مبرد <i>mibrad</i> 'rasp'  مفتاح <i>miftaaḥ</i> 'key'	غصين <i>ʔuSayn</i> 'a small branch'  قلم <i>qulaym</i>	ju-جمهورية <i>muhuryah</i> 'republic'  وطنية <i>waTanyah</i> 'patriotism'

Arabic Derived Nouns Nominal Derivational processes	Agent Noun	Theme Noun	Location Noun	Instrument Noun	Diminutive Noun	Abstract Noun
	معلمة <i>mu'alah</i> 'female teacher'	معمول <i>ma'amuul</i> 'done'	مكتبة <i>maktabah</i> 'library'	رافعة <i>raafi'ah</i> 'lifter'	رافعة <i>raafi'ah</i> 'lifter'	'a small pen'
	طالبة <i>Taalibah</i> 'female student'			مكتسة <i>miknasah</i> 'broom'	كتيب <i>kutayb</i> 'booklet'	اشتراكية <i>iftraakyah</i> 'socialism'
				بياعة <i>bayyaa'ah</i> 'selling machine'	نهير <i>nuhiyer</i> 'rivulet'	جنسية <i>jiniisiyah</i> 'nationality'
				مقلي <i>miqlaa</i> 'frying'	بحيرة <i>buhiyerah</i> 'small sea'	عقلية <i>'aqliyah</i> 'mentality'

Table 18. English Nominal Derivation

English Derived Nouns Nominal Derivational processes	Agent Noun	Theme Noun	Location Noun	Instrument Noun	Diminutive Noun	Abstract Noun
<b>Affixation</b>	teacher	employee	orphanage	stapler	kitchenette	development friendship goodness
<b>Modification</b>	thief		house			
<b>Modification and Affixation</b>						condemnation signal divinity

### Conclusion

It can be observed that SA morphology is non-concatenative which is composed of a series of discontinuous consonants and a series of discontinuous vowels and a templatic pattern. It follows systematic nonconcatenative patterns in deriving nouns. It is also autosegmental which depends on nonlinear sequence in deriving its lexemes. Most of Arabic nouns are derived by derivational affixation and modification. English morphology, however, is concatenative. It is segmental which depends on linear sequence in creating its lexemes. Most of English nouns are derived by derivational affixation. It is also found that there are three processes in deriving nouns in SA and English: derivational affixation, modification, and derivational affixation and modification. The derived nouns in SA and English can be agent, theme, instrument, location, abstract and diminutive. The affixes in both lan-

guages have more than one meaning such as the infix {-aa-} in the Arabic كاتب *kaatib* 'a writer' and رباط *riibaat* 'a tie' and the English {-er} in 'teacher' and 'opener'. It can also be noticed that SA derived nouns are generated according to some morphological principles. For example, SA agent nouns are generated on the basis of the pattern *caacic* from the trilateral verbs such as كاتب *kaatib* 'a writer' and Arabic theme nouns are created on the basis of the pattern *maccuuc* from the trilateral verb such as مكتوب *maktuub* 'written'. The instrument nouns, on the other hand, are derived on the basis of the pattern *miccac* from the trilateral verb such as مفتاح *miftaah* 'a key' whereas the location nouns are derived on the basis of the pattern *maccac* from the trilateral verbs such as ملعب *mal'ab* 'a stadium'. Unlike English, SA relies on mainly nonconcatenative morphological processes in lexeme formation. A lexeme such as كاتب *kaatib* 'a writer' is constructed



by interdigitating the three consonant *k-t-b* with the pattern *caacic*. As has been observed there are simi-

larities and differences in SA and English regarding nominal derivation.

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