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# *The Case Assignment And V-movement In Verbal Sentence In Arabic Syntax: A Minimalist Approach*

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## **ABSTRACT**

This paper discusses the concept of government and case-system proposed by Traditional Arab Grammarians, (see Haque (1984), Wright (1984) and Abdulhamid (1980)). They, basically, regarded the system of overt morphological realizations and the transitivity theory but not government as primary factors for it to assign the case of an NP. As their approach is unable to account for the assignment of the nominative case without a governor, we opt for case - theory of Chomsky (1995) to solve this and other problems. X-bar syntax as a module of case theory guarantees the assignment of case to a DP in the presence of a case - assignor. The DP must be governed by specific case - assignor in its maximal projection. This theory introduces the principle of Exceptional Case Marking as a mechanism that guarantees the assignment of the accusative case by the matrix verb to the subject of IP under government. In this process, we depend on the Spec-head relation to achieve this kind of assignment in X-bar syntax.

## ملخص

### تحديد حركات الاسم في الجملة الفعلية العربية: المنهج التخفيضي

يناقش هذا البحث منهج تطبيق النحويين العرب لفهوم السيطرة Government وتأثيره المباشر على عملية إعراب الاسم في الجملة، بحيث اعتمدوا شكل حركات الإعراب ونظرية التعدي باعتبارها عوامل أساسية لتطبيق هذا المفهوم. وبما أن هذه الفرضية غير قادرة على إعطاء مسوغات قواعدية دقيقة بتحديد عوامل وجود بعض حركات الإعراب ومنها الرفع على سبيل المثال، فقد اعتمدنا في بحثنا هذا نظرية Case-Theory للعالم 1995 Chomsky لحل مثل هذه المشاكل وغيرها. تؤكد النظرية الجديدة من خلال مبدئها X-bar-syntax أن إعراب الاسم يعتمد كلياً على مفهوم السيطرة وبوجود عامل الإعراب Case-Assignor وسيطرته على الاسم في حوزته Maximal Projection دون استثناء لأي اسم في الجملة. ومن المبادئ الأساسية لهذه النظرية أن كل حركة إعراب لها عامل سيطرة محدد ولا يجوز له التعدي على غيره كما ادعى التقليديون بأن الفعل اللازم إذا تعدى يسيطر على الاسم من خلال حرف الجر. وتؤكد أيضاً أن حركة النصب لفاعل الجملة المحتضنة IP جاء بتطبيق مفهوم السيطرة الجديد وتوفر عامل الإعراب المناسب معاً في مبدأ Exceptional Case Marking.

## REVIEW:

The objective of this paper is to study the case-system in verbal sentences in Modern Standard Arabic syntax within a module of grammar, namely, case-theory of Chomsky (1995). This theory specifies that adjectives, adverbs and infinitival clauses are not case bearers but DPs are. The case properties depend on the governors; namely, TNS or AGR, P and V of VP. TNS or AGR assigns the nominative case to [Spec, AGRsP], V assigns the accusative case to [VP, Spec] and P assigns the oblique case to [PP, Spec]. This paper introduces the principle of Exceptional Case-marking (ECM) as a mechanism used to guarantee the grammaticality of Arabic sentence whose subject is the complement of a matrix verb. The Spec-head relation is the core relation to assign the accusative to such DPs in AGR node.

The Arab grammarians claimed that the nominative case is assigned to

subjects and to any element that functions as a subject on the basis of its morphological realization but not on the basis of a case-assignor (cf. Haque (1984), Wright (1984), Abdulhamid (1980), Alfakhuri (1988) and Makram (1992)). This fact can be illustrated as in ( *kataba al-mu<sup>C</sup>limu al-darsa* 'the teacher wrote the lesson'). They were silent about applying the concept of government to the subject NP *al-mu<sup>C</sup>limu* 'the teacher'. As the verb does not govern the subject either directly or indirectly, they did not talk about its being governed at all. In other words, according to them, the verb governs all the internal NPs in the sentence rather than the external subject. Since they did not claim this case must be assigned under government, it was not necessary for them to point out what governed and assigned the nominative case to the subject NP in the sentence. This, from our point of view, is a shortcoming of government in their analysis.

Their scope of government extends to cover the government of the verb to its object complement and the object of preposition to which the objective cases are assigned, (See Wright (1984): 46-47). The instance, (*?a<sup>C</sup>ta zaidun al-kitāba li hindin* 'Zaid gave the book to Hind') illustrates this point. The verb *?a<sup>C</sup>ta* 'gave' directly governs the accusative case assigned to the NP *al-kitāba* 'the book'. However, it indirectly governs the dative case assigned to the object *hindin* 'Hind' through the preposition *li* 'to'. The traditional grammarians relied on their analysis on the transitivity power of the verb, which can govern beyond its scope(1). The application of government in this style is however a pitfall. This is due to the fact that the subject NP *zaidun* 'Zaid' constitutes a barrier, which blocks the assignment of case to the NPs. For a case to be assigned, the governor and the governee must be adjacent to one another in X- bar - syntax as a principle of case theory. Moreover, prepositions, themselves, are case-governors whether the assigned case is the dative or anyother oblique case. This problem will be bridged with reference to the adjacency parameter.

The grammarians were incorrect in saying a noun and an adjective are case - assignors for the genitive case as in (al-sā<sup>c</sup>atu min dahabin 'the watch is of gold') and (ṭāhiru al-qalbi 'pure at heart'). In these structures in which [NP1 / or AP, NP2], are manifested, NP2 is assigned the genitive case due to the inherent structural relation found between the two elements. The force of the case- assignors li and min 'of', in Arabic, can specify this kind of relation whether the head is an NP or AP. A noun and adjective cannot be the governors for the inherent genitive case because they cannot assign their objects complement either a case or a theta role. This deficiency can be bridged with the introduction of the principle, namely, 'of' - insertion in a, strategy called the 'last resort', (See Chomsky; (1981) : 117-118 and (1995)).

We will agree that these problems of case assignment of the nominative, accusative and genitive can be solved neatly if we introduce case - theory, the concept of government as it is in X-bar syntax, and V-movement in the frame work of the Minimalist Approach as proposed by Chomsky (1995). We will also illustrate that the case - filter accounts for the assignment of case of every phonetically realized NP in the sentence. The concept of VP - internal subject hypothesis in which all the arguments are projected from the VP instead of AGRsP will be our model for the analysis of case - assignment in this paper, (cf. Larson (1988), Pollock (1987) and Chomsky (1995) & (1998)) (2).

## **1. THE ASSIGNMENT OF CASE IN VERBAL SENTENCES IN ARABIC (1)**

### **1.1 AGR, V and P are Case - Assignors in Arabic**

For a case to be assigned, a governor and a governee must be adjacent to each other at an abstract level. If we treat Arabic as VSO at all syntactic levels and apply the case - assignment, we will face the same problems that the Arab grammarians faced. In other words, the concept of government of case

- theory of Chomsky (1995) will not be met. Therefore, we treat Arabic as SVO at the spell-out level to meet the requirement of case- assignment (3). A case in its literal sense is assigned only to overt DPs in the sentence. Adjectives, adverbs and infinitives are not case- bearers (4).

Case properties in Arabic; however, depend on the characteristics of the governors AGR or T to assign the nominative case in [Spec - AgrsP], V to assign the accusative case in [V, DP] and P to assign the oblique case in [P, DP]. We may examine the process of case - assignment and government with reference to the approach of V-movement in case theory with reference to Arabic verbal sentences. The sentence (1) illustrates the assignment of cases of the nominative, accusative and oblique.

1a.	PF					
	wad <sup>c</sup> a	zaidun	al -	kitāb -	a	<sup>c</sup> ala
	put	Zaid	DET	book	ACC	on

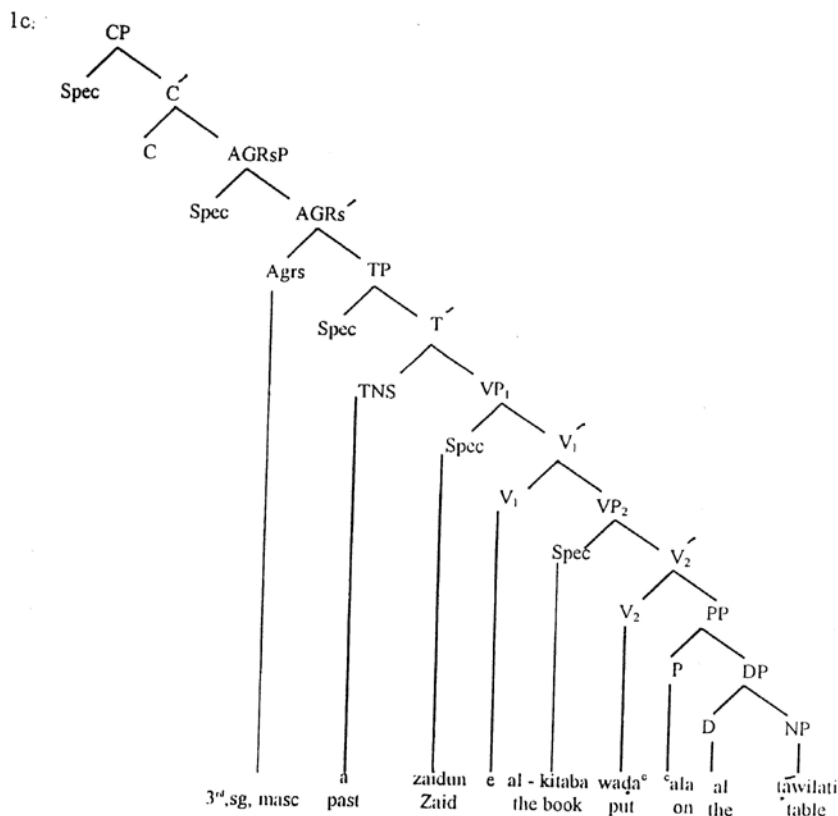
‘Zaid put the book on the table.’

Spell-out

1b.	zaid	-un	wad <sup>c</sup> -	a	al -	kitāb
	Zaid	NOM	put	past, 3 <sup>rd</sup> , sg, masc	DET	book
	<sup>c</sup> ala	tāwilat	-i			
	on	table	Loc			

‘Zaid put the book on the table.’

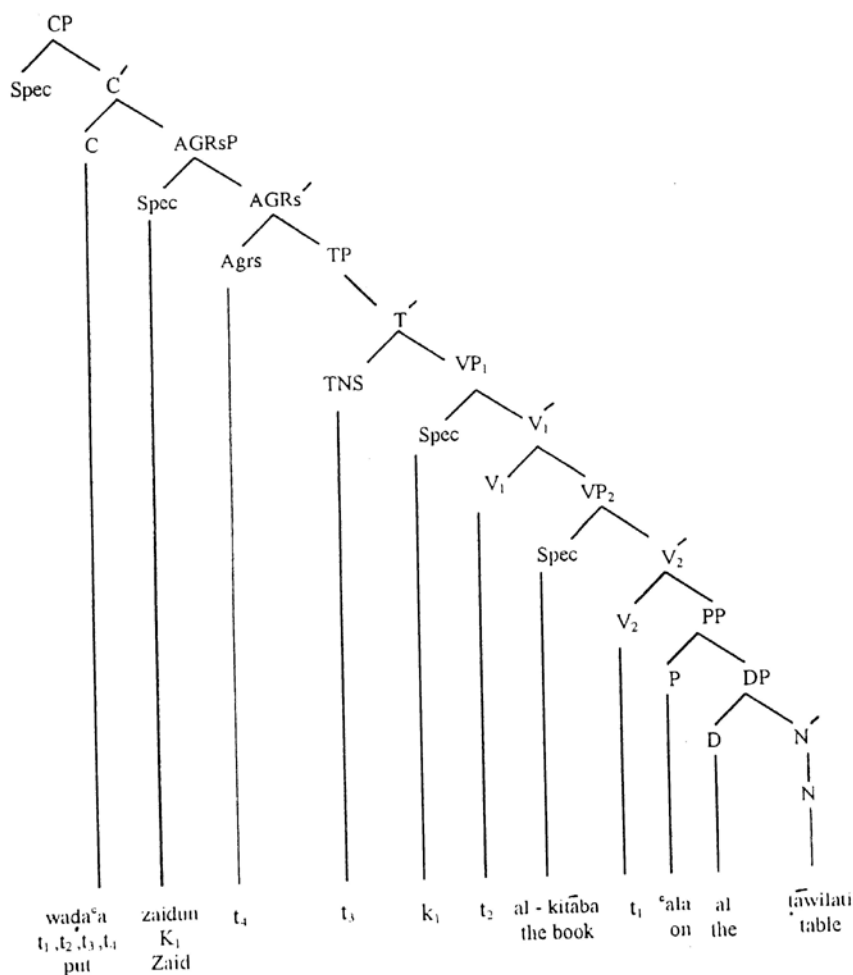
(1c) is the tree - diagram representation for (1b) :



In (1c), the preposition <sup>c</sup>ala 'on' is the governor and it assigns the locative case to the DP al - tawilati 'the table' under the maximal projection PP. V2 wada<sup>c</sup> 'put' in this position assigns the theta-role of location to the PP <sup>c</sup>ala al-tawilati. As it cannot assign a case to al - kitaba 'the book' in this position, it raises to the empty position of V1 to govern this object forming the chain [wada<sup>c</sup>...t1]. In this position, it assigns the accusative case and the theta-role of theme to the object DP al - kitaba 'the book' under VP1 - shell. The DP zaidun 'Zaid' is in a caseless position due to the absence of the governor AGRs, so it overtly raises to the position of [Spec, AgrsP] to be assigned the nominative case by this governor. We may point out that, in this tree - diagram, the internal domain of the chain [wada<sup>c</sup>a,...t1] are the arguments [al -

kitāba, <sup>c</sup>ala al ṭāwilati] and the checking domain of this chain is the DP zaidun. The verb, in a successive movement, raises to the [TNS, T] to check the past tense and becomes waḍa<sup>c</sup>a 'put'. It raises to the [Agrs, Agrs'] to check agreement features with the subject zaidun and in a final movement it lands in the position of [C, C'] to head the sentence at the PF level. These V- movements are overtly visible in (1d) :

Id.



We may note that in (1c) the case relation in Arabic syntax entirely depends on the grammatical as well as the government relations established between the case assignors and the DPs at spell-out level in the sentence. As per this approach, case relation does not follow the question of the overt case markings as the traditional Arab grammarians did. The concept of government, in this approach, helps us to assign cases to DPs in sentences in which a verb has three objects (cf. Alfakhuri 1988 : 403-404). The sentence (2) illustrates the point.

	PF						
2a.	ʔaʕlam	a	zaidun	ʕamran	al -	khagara	
	inform	past, 3 <sup>rd</sup> , sg, masc	Zaid	Amr	DET	news	

Literal Translation

‘Zaid informed Amr the news at correction.’

‘Zaid informed Amr the correct news.’

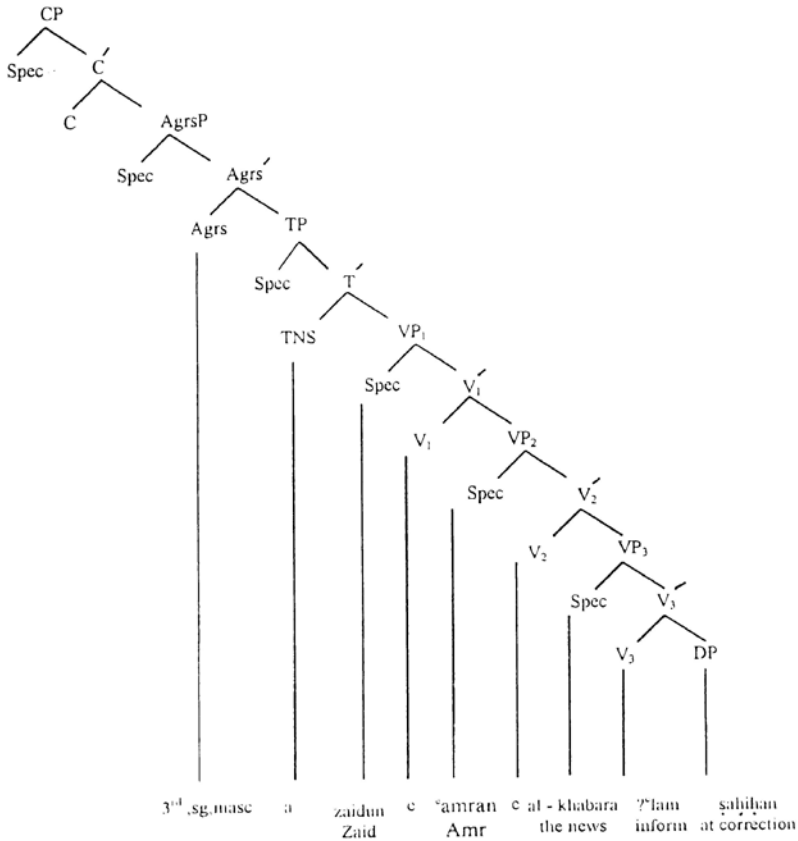
Spell - out structure<sup>(5)</sup>

2b.	zaid	-un	ʔaʕlam	a	ʕamr-
	Zaid	NOM	inform	past, 3 <sup>rd</sup> , sg, masc	Amr
	al-	khagar-	a	ṣaḥiḥ -	an
	DET	news	ACC	at correction	ACC

‘Zaid informed Amr the correct news.’

(2c) is the representation for (2b)<sup>(6)</sup> :

2c.



(2c) shows that the verb ?lam 'inform' governs the DP sahihan 'correct' in the VP3 shell. The verb is posited in this position to assign the theta-role of patient and then the inherent accusative case to it. The verb raises to V2 and assigns the theta-role of theme and the accusative case to the object complement al-khabara 'the news' in VP2 shell. It further raises to V1 to assign the inherent dative case and the theta-role of goal to the indirect object complement ?amran 'Amr' in VP1 shell. In the second - last movement, it checks TNS and Agr and in the last movement it lands in the position of [C,

C] to initiate the sentence at the PF and LF. The verb in this long travel leaves a chain of traces to indicate the movement.

So far, we notice that the case of a DP as per this approach is assigned on the basis of the position and the structural relation it has with a specific case-assignor. In (2d) the [Spec, AGRsP] position is meant for the subject and it is governed by [AGRs]. The position of [Spec, VP2] is meant for the object and is governed by the verb *wada<sup>C</sup>* 'put' in [VP1] shell represented by [t2] after movement. The position of [DP, PP] is meant for the locative oblique case in which *P<sup>C</sup>ala* is the governor. As compared to (2c), the concept of government expands the range of control of the verb *ʔ<sup>C</sup>lama* 'informed' to cover the direct object, the indirect object and the third object as a unique phenomenon in Arabic. The third object *ṣaḥiḥan* 'at correction' occupies the position of [DP, V3] and is assigned the structural accusative case in VP3 shell by the verb *ʔ<sup>C</sup>lama* 'to inform'. As this verb is the only governor in the VP shells, it moves to the position of [V2, V2] to assign another structural accusative case to the direct object *al -khabara* 'the news' that occupies the position of [Spec, VP3]. In a final cyclic movement, in this VP shell, the verb moves to the position of [V1, V1] to assign the dative case to the indirect object *ʔ<sup>C</sup>amran* 'Amr' in VP1 shell. Though the subject *zaidun* 'Zaid' lies in the position of [Spec, VP1], it cannot get any case because there is no governor. It moves to [Spec, AGRsP] to be assigned the nominative case by the governor AGRs at the spell - out level. Thus, we notice that in (1d) and (2c), the case is assigned in Spec-head relation. If this condition is not fulfilled, a case cannot be assigned to any DP. Through out our analysis, we realize that a verb governs all the DPs in its shells. A preposition is a governor for its object complement in its shell and the notational AGR is the governor for the subject position in AGRsP. As far as the article *al* 'the' is concerned, it is able to restrict the form of the case-marker as discussed earlier.

## **1.2 A noun and an Adjective are not Case - Assignors in Arabic**

We have already considered the case assignment as a structural property of verbs, prepositions and AGR. We have decided that these heads are case assignors and will case - mark any DP governed in their shell. Chomsky (1986a and 1995) proposes two types of case assignment : (a) structural case assignment, which depends solely on government and the configurational property of the case - assignor and (b) inherent case assignment, which is dependent on two conditions : (i) theta - role assignment and (ii) government. In other words, the inherent case assignor must govern and theta - mark the DP which it case - marks. We have assumed that a noun and an adjective are not case - assignor as they cannot assign the inherent case to their complement(7). As a solution, Chomsky (1986a) offers an explanation to this phenomenon. He uses the strategy of the last resort to account for the assignment of the genitive case when no other case - assignor is available in the configuration [NP1/ or AP, NP2]. He proposes that a noun or an adjective assign the genitive case inherently by means of the overt preposition 'of' in English. This is represented in the inherent case condition (3).

3. If A is an inherent case assignor, then A assigns case to an NP if and only if A theta - marks the NP. (Chomsky, 1986a :194).

The inherent case condition (3) entails that a noun or an adjective can assign the genitive case to its complement DP if it can assign it a theta - role.

If we apply this condition to Arabic, we find that the means of the prepositions *li* and *bi* 'of' assign the inherent genitive case and the theta - marking. Without these properties, the noun and the adjective are unable to govern either a case or theta - role of its complement. For instance, we may look at (4) to illustrate the point.

4a.	*ḥasadu envy	zaid Zaid	-in GEN	umi mother	hi his
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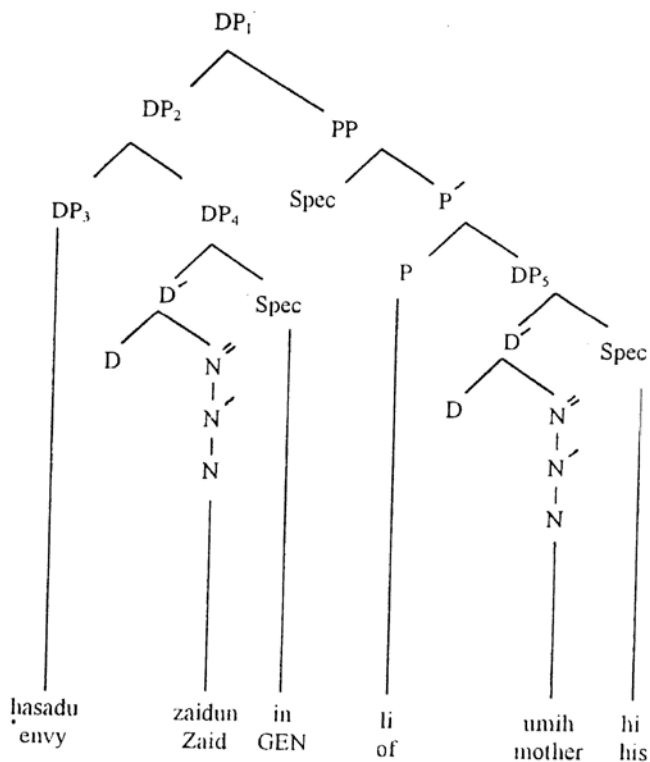
'\*Zaid's envy his mother'.

4b.	ḥasadu envy	zaid Zaid	-in GEN	li of	umi mother	hi his
-----	----------------	--------------	------------	----------	---------------	-----------

'Zaid's envy of his mother'.

(4c) is the tree-diagram representation for (4b).

4c



In terms of government - theory (4a) is ungrammatical because the compound DP2 ḥasadu zaidin 'Zaid's envy' fails to assign case and theta - role to its complement umihi 'his mother' which violates the case - filter and theta - marking. The DP ḥasadu zaidin contains the element (GEN) i.e. POSS(8) in the specifier position and represented by the genitive marker in. This inherent genitive case is assigned to zaidin because of the structural relation between [NP1, NP2]. (4a) can be made grammatical with the means of li 'of' insertion as in (4b). The realization li 'of' in (4) as a governor shows its ability to link the semantically related DP together with DP2 to form one argument to be ready for theta - marking. However, the genitive representation of the governor li is shown in the pronoun hi 'his' in the specifier position, which is without overt marker. In short, the preposition li assigns the genitive case to umihi 'his mother' and joins it to DP2 to get the theta role of theme. In this case, ḥasadu zaidin has nothing to do with the assignment of theta marking.

A similar pattern is found with the adjectival complementation in (5).

5a.	*zaid	-un	fakhūrun	?ibni	-hi
	Zaid	NOM	proud	son	his

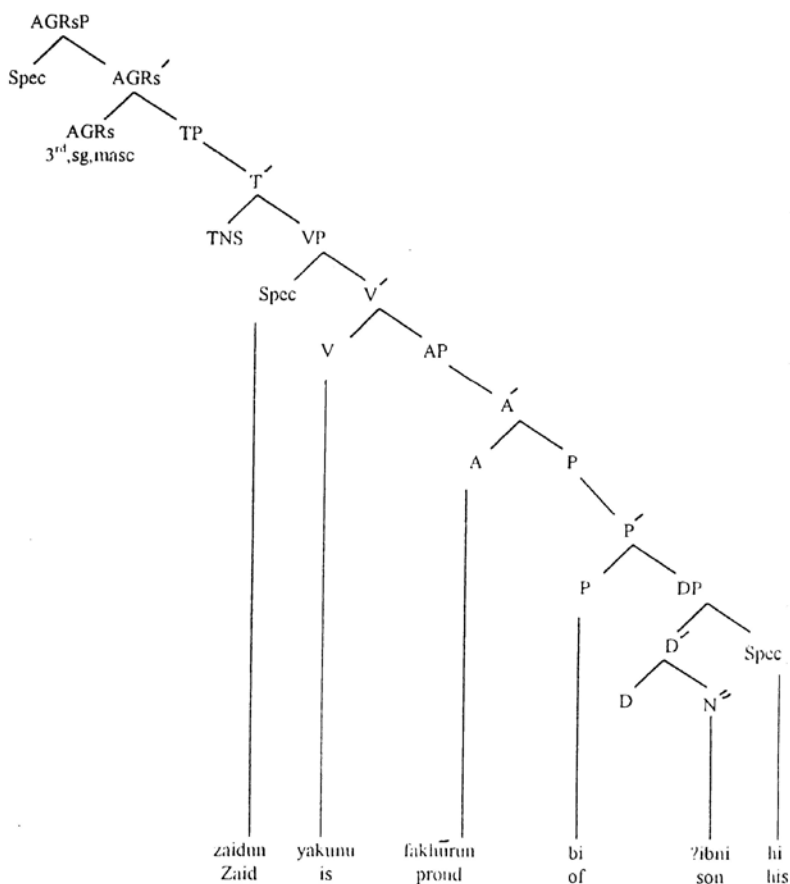
'\*Zaid is proud his son'.

5b.	zaid	-un	fakhūrun	bi	?ibni	-hi
	Zaid	NOM	proud	of	son	his

'Zaid is proud of his son'.

(5c) is the spell-out tree-diagram representation for (5b):

5c.



In (5a), though the DP *ʔibnihi* 'his son' is assigned the theta - role of theme by the predicate *fakhūrun* 'proud' in the small clause AP shell, the structure is ill - formed since this DP is without a case. The structure (5a) can be made well - formed if it has the force of the preposition *bi* 'of' as in (5b). In the spell - out level, (5c) has the preposition *li* as the genitive case assignor for the DP *ibnihi* 'his son'. The inherent case is indicated by the genitive pronoun *hi* in the specifier position. This preposition links this DP to its predicated *fakhūrun*, which will be assigned the theta role of theme by the verb *yakūnu* 'be' in the VP shell in the spell-out. As TNS and AGR are the properties of V and not the AP, the DP *zaidun* gets the nominative case by the AGR of this verb in the position of [Spec, AGRsP] after movement. The adjective *fakhūrun* does not have this ability to assign this case because it is tenseless; therefore, the imposition of this verb in this structure is obligatory to do these essential functions to account for the well formedness of the sentence at all levels of syntax in Arabic. The verb *yakūnu* 'to be' is deleted after checking TNS and AGR in the course of movement as it has no significance in initiating the sentence. In short, we realize that the inherent case in (4c) is assigned to *umihi* by the preposition *li* but not the DP *zaidin*. (5c) has the property of the same preposition but not the predicative adjective *fakhūrun* to assign the genitive case to *ʔibnihi*.

To sum up, we are justified in the hypothesis (3) that N and A can never be case assignors because they cannot ask for complements as V does. The genitive case is assigned to NP2 in [NP1 / AP, NP2] because of its structural relation and not of N or A as it was claimed by the traditional grammarians. NP2 is not projected for NP1, Or AP. If we assume so, we must have grammatical structures at the sentential level as in (4a) and (5a), but it is not the case. The structure [NP1 / AP, NP2] itself is a projection for case - assignment depending on its position. For instance, in (4c), it is the property of AGR to assign the nominative case to *hasadu*. However, in (5c) *fakhūrun bi*

ibnihi is an argument but not a DP and cannot be assigned a case as per this theory.

### **1.3 Government and Exceptional Case - Marking**

The situation in which the matrix verb governs and assigns the accusative case to the subject DP of IP is often referred to as Exceptional Case-Marking (ECM). The AgroP node provides us with a proper solution to assign this case under the condition of Spec head relation of case-theory. It is interpreted as raising of a DP covertly to [Spec- AgroP] and a V to [Agro, Agro<sup>1</sup>]. In this movement, the DP crosses the trace of the V in the VP shell. The sentence (6) illustrates this point.

- 6a.   ?ajbar       a                   zaidun       ʕamran       ʔan       yaʔti  
      coerce       past,3<sup>rd</sup>,sg,masc   Zaid       Amr       to       come

‘Zaid coerced Amr to come.’

Spell - out Structure

- 6b.   zaid -   un       ʔajbar   a                   ʕamr -   an       ʔan   yaʔti  
      Zaid   NOM   coerce   past,3<sup>rd</sup>,sg,masc   Amr   ACC   to   come

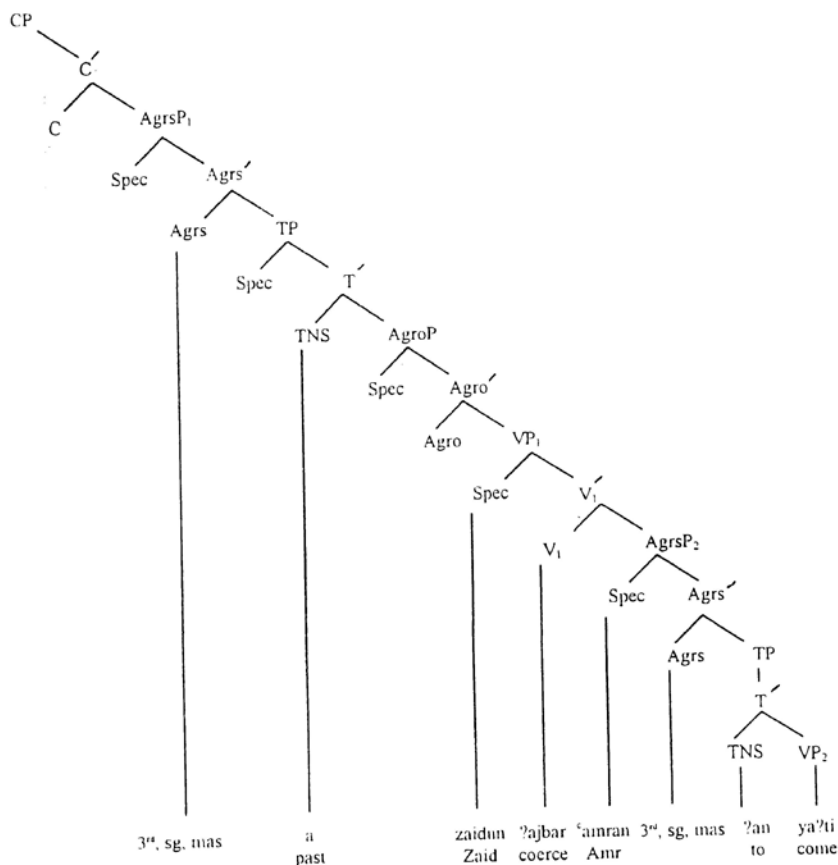
‘Zaid coerced Amr to come.’

- 6c.   \*zaid -   un       ʔajbar   a                   ʕamr -   an       yaʔti  
      Zaid   NOM   coerce   past,3<sup>rd</sup>,sg,masc   Amr   ACC   come

‘\*Zaid coerced Amr come.’

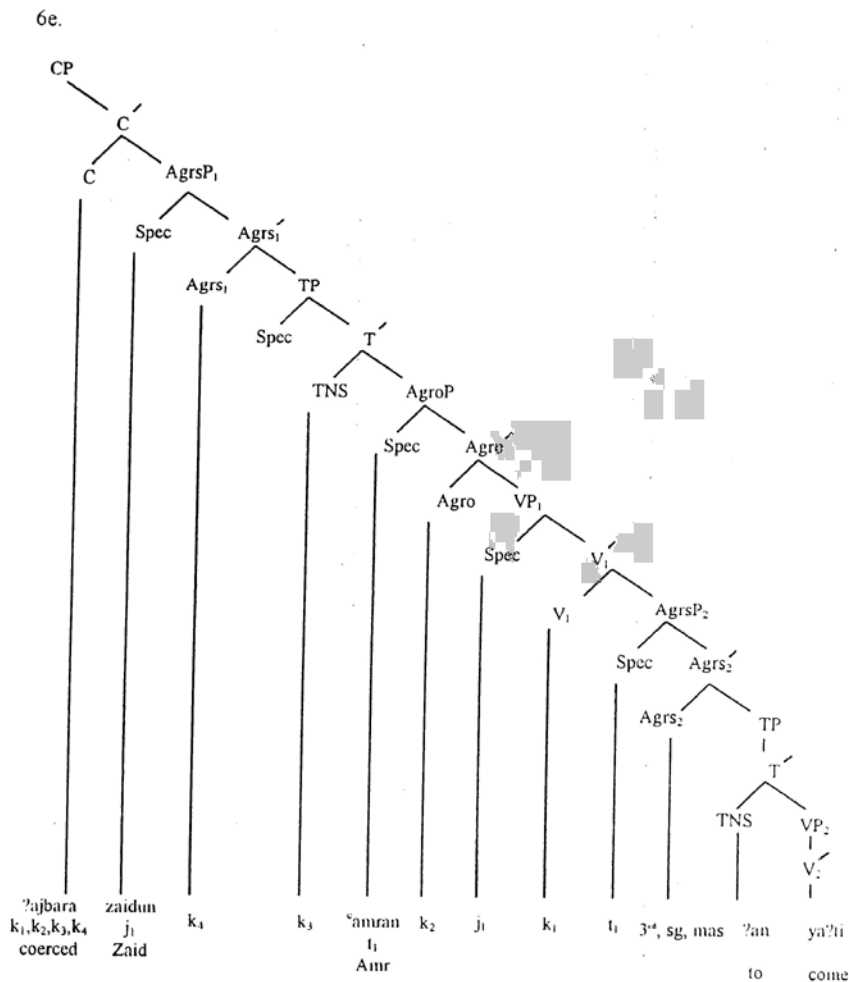
(6d) is the tree - diagram representation for (6b) :

(6d).



(6c) is incorrect as the DP <sup>C</sup>amran cannot be assigned the accusative case by the verb ya'ti 'come'. (6d) Shows that the V<sub>1</sub> merges with an [Agro, Agro'] constituent to which the verb ?ajbara 'coerced' is adjoined. The DP <sup>C</sup>amran 'Amr' raises to [Spec - AgroP]. The objective case features carried by the DP <sup>C</sup>amran and by the transitive verb ?ajbara are checked at this point via Spec - head relation between the verb ?ajbara in [Agro, Agro'] and its specifier camran in [Spec, AgroP]. However, the DP zaidun 'Zaid' moves to

[Spec, AgrsP1] to get the nominative case assigned to it by AGRs. The verb ?ajbara raises to TNS and Agrs to check tense and agreement features to meet the requirements of the subject zaidun respectively. As (6d) is a verbal sentence, the VP complex i.e., V, TNS and AGRs raise to [C, C'] to head the sentence at PF level as in (6e):



'Zaid coerced Amr to come'.

In (6e), the DP  $^C$ amran gets its accusative case because of the spec-head relation found between it and the verb ?ajbara 'coerced' in the AGRoP shell in the course of derivation. The movement of the two entities covertly took place because the infinitival clause ?an ya?it 'to come' is not a case - assignor. The verb ?ajbara is located in  $[V1, V1']$  to be adjacent to the argument  $^C$ amran ?an ya?ti to assign it the theta-role of theme. The requirements of case assignment and government of the DP  $^C$ amran are met in AGRoP but not AGRs. However, the agreement features for this noun are met in AGRsP2. There are two AGRs in this sentence. The first one is checked between ?an yati and  $^C$ amran in AGRsP2 and the second is checked between the subject zaidun and the verb ?ajbara in AGRsP1. The former agreement took place before the subject camran moves to get the case in AGRo but the latter took place after the subject DP zaidun moves to  $[Spec, AGRsP1]$ . The verb ?ajbara checks TNS and AGRs and moves to  $[C, C']$  to initiate the sentence.

In short, the concept of government in X-bar theory as per the new approach enables us to assign the accusative case to the subject zaidan in (6d) outside IP. The spec - head relation as a principle of case - assignment enforces the covert movement of the governor the verb ?ajbara and the governee zaidan to meet case requirements if the subject of IP is overt. Theta marking is insufficient to render the sentence well- formed; the case properties of this DP make it correct. Chomsky (1995) projects this kind of case assignment outside IP because its V is not a case - assignor. In this case, the matrix verb governs this subject in AGRo. The new hypothesis is preferred over the traditional one because the concept of government in the former is systematic and able to give justifications for any case though the case assignor is not always adjacent to the DP.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

This work has tried to test whether case - theory of the Minimalist Program of Chomsky (1995) can be suitably applied to Modern Standard Arabic and we have found that it is the case. We have looked at various data and we found that case theory specifies the governor and the governee for every position in the sentence. Secondly, it relies on Spec-head relation as the core for the process of case - assignment in the maximal projection of the case - assignor. Due to these conditions, we have found the transitivity theory as it was traditionally regarded the primary factor for deciding the scope of government is of no significance. It is obvious in the cases where the verb jumps the subject to assign the accusative to the object, or jumps both the subject and the object to assign the dative case to the object of preposition. The new approach considers AGR as the case - assignor for the subject, which the Arabs were silent about it. The verb is the governor for the accusative case; whereas, the preposition is the governor for the dative or oblique. Case - theory made it clear that it is the structural relation between two DPs to have the genitive case but not because of a noun and an adjective to be case - assignors. It is made obvious that a noun and an adjective are non- case - assignors. ECM as a principle of case theory is a mechanism used in this work to specify that infinitive is also not a case assignor because it is of a nominal nature. According to this theory, AGR, V and P are the only case - assignors; however, N, A, Adv and IP are not in Arabic. DPs are the only case - bearers, as they constitute primary arguments for the predicate. We feel that referring to case theory (1995) is fit and successful in handling the problems of case and government through its universal Principles and Parameters.

## **FOOTNOTES**

- (1) we agree with the Arab grammarians in the sense that the preposition directly governs its object to which an oblique case is assigned as in the specimen (kasara al-waladu al-zujāja bi ḥajarin 'the boy broke the glass with a stone').
- (2) The analysis of VP - internal subject hypothesis is proposed by Speas and Fuki (1986), propagated by Larson (1988) and then adopted by Chomsky (1995).
- (3) The verbal sentence will be treated as SVO at the spell-out level for the case - assignment and VSO at the level of PF and LF. For more discussions on this subject, (See Jalabneh 1996 and 1998).
- (4) Case - filter "Every phonetically realized NP must be assigned (abstract) case", (See Chomsky (1995 : 111).
- (5) For the analysis of case - assignment at S-structure and D-structure, (See Jalabneh 1992 and 1996).
- (6) In (2b) the position of the verb at the spell-out level is decided as SVO. Since we have three objects, the position of the verb lies before the 3rd object to ensure the government of case-assignment. In a successive movement, it moves to other positions meant for it to assign other cases to the respective DPs.
- (7) The interested reader is referred to the discussion in Chomsky (1986a : 190) and the references cited there. See also Abney (1987) and Haegeman (1991 : 162-168) for the analysis of the genitive in the specifier position.
- (8) For more of the analysis of the POSS in the specifier position in English refer to Chomsky (1986a : 190), (See also Abney (1987)).

TRANSLITERATION OF THE ARABIC WRITING SYSTEM

Arabic letter	Transliteration	Phonetic Value	Arabic letter	Transliteration	Phonetic Value
ء	ʾ	ʾ	ض	d	d
ب	b	b	ط	t	t
ت	t	t	ظ	z	ʔ
ث	t;th	θ	ع	c	ʔ
ج	j	dʒ	غ	ġ,gh	ʔ
ح	ḥ	h	ف	f	f
خ	x;kh	x	ق	q	q
د	d	d	ك	k	k
ذ	ḏ,dh	θ	ل	l	l
ر	r	r	م	m	m
ز	z	z	ن	n	n
س	s	s	هـ	h	h
ش	š,sh	ʃ	و	w	w
ص	ṣ	ʕ	ی	y	y

Vowels

a	a	إ	ā	a:
u	u	و	ū	u:
i	i	ی	ī	i:

The Arabic symbols on the left-hand column are used here for the transliteration of the Arabic text and the symbols on the right-hand column are used for transliterating Arabic names and titles, as is the common practice .

## ABBREVIATIONS

ABL	:	Ablative
ACC	:	Accusative
Agr	:	Agreement
Agro	:	Agreement Object
Agrs	:	Agreement Subject
AgroP	:	Agreement Object Phrase
AgrsP	:	Agreement Subject Phrase
AP	:	Adjectival Phrase
C	:	Complementizer
COMM	:	Commetative
Comp	:	Complement
CP	:	Complementizer Phrase
D	:	Determiner
DAT	:	Dative
DET	:	Determiner
DP	:	Determiner Phrase
ECM	:	Exceptional Case - Marking
Fem	:	Feminine
GEN	:	Genitive
INST	:	Instrumental
LOC	:	Locative
masc	:	Masculine
N	:	Noun
NOM	:	Nominative
NP	:	Noun Phrase
POSS	:	Possessive
P	:	Preposition
PP	:	Prepositional Phrase
Pres	:	Present
Spec	:	Specifier
T	:	Tense
TNS	:	Tense
TP	:	Tense Phrase
V	:	Verb
VP	:	Verb Phrase

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