اللغة العربية

One *I'rāb*ic Status to Combination of Two Words

Question

فضيلة الشيخ

In:

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ حَمْداً كَثِيراً طَيِّباً

Can حَمْداً كَثِيراً together become *mawṣūf* for طَيِّباً?

Faḍīlat al-Shaykh Dr. V. Abdur Rahim (حفظه الله) replies:

In the Indian subcontinent, a combination of two words - in some cases - is treated as one with regard to *i'rāb*.

E.g., in:

<div align="center">

الْقُرْآنُ كِتَابُ اللهِ

</div>

it is said that كِتَابُ is *muḍāf*, and لَفْظُ الْجَلَالَة : اللهِ is *muḍāf ilayhi*, and the combination of the *muḍāf* and the *muḍāf ilayhi* is the *khabar*.

In the same way in:

<div align="center">

قَرَأْتُ كِتَاباً جَدِيداً

</div>

it is said that كِتَاباً is *mawṣūf* and جَدِيداً is *ṣifah*, and the *mawṣūf* and the *ṣifah* combined are the *maf'ūl bihī*.

This idea is alien to Arabic grammar.

I'rābic Status

In Arabic grammar each word has its *i'rābic* status. In the first example كِتَابُ, is *marfū'*. Why? Because it is the *khabar*. It has nothing to do with the following word.

We may say الْقُرْآنُ كِتَابٌ and the sentence is complete.

Each word has its *i'rābic* ending which determines its *i'rābic* status. If the *i'rābic* status is to be given to a combination of two words, then the combination should have only one ending at the end of the second element.

A Sentence

Yes, a sentence may have an *i'rābic* status, e.g.:

١. جَاءَنِي وَلَدٌ يَضْحَكُ.

٢. رَأَيْتُ وَلَداً يَضْحَكُ.

In example 1) the sentence يَضْحَكُ is *fī maḥalli rafʿ* because it is a *naʿt* of the *marfūʿ* noun وَلَدٌ.

In example 2) يَضْحَكُ is *fī maḥalli naṣb* because it is a *naʿt* of the *manṣūb* noun وَلَداً.

A مَصْدَر مُؤَوَّل

In the same way a مَصْدَر مُؤَوَّل has an *i'rābic* status. E.g.:

١. يَبْدُو أَنَّهُ مَرِيضٌ.

٢. أُرِيدُ أَنْ أَنَامَ.

In example 1) the *maṣdar muʾawwal* أَنَّهُ مَرِيضٌ is *fī maḥalli rafᶜ* because it is the *fāᶜil* of the verb يَبْدُو .

And in example 2) the *maṣdar muʾawwal* أَنْ أَنَامَ is *fī maḥalli naṣb* because it is the *mafᶜūl bihī* of the verb أُرِيدُ .

But both these elements - a sentence and a *maṣdar muʾawwal* - have no ending.

Once a noun has an ending - whether apparent or latent - it should have an *iᶜrābic* status.

Your idea seems to be based on this Indo-Pak thinking which, as I mentioned before, is alien to Arabic grammar.

والسلام,
abdur rahim