The Arabic Equivalent of The Egyptian Conditional Particle "jr"

The conditional clause introduced by "if", "when", or "should" in English is called the protasis 'فعل الشروط', and the main clause is known as the apodosis'جواب الشرط'. Conditional clauses regularly precede the main clause(1).

Egyptian language as well as Arabic language have several methods to express conditional clauses(2). This research will deal with the most considerable particle in this meaning, i.e. "jr" as a conditional particle. It will be suggested that "jr" could act as an equivalent to each one of the following Arabic conditional particles:

أما الشرطية
لو الامتناعية
conditional amma(3).

The Egyptian particle "jr" will be analysed here from two different perspectives:

1- The origin of "jr"
2- The uses of "jr"

1- The origin of "jr"

Like many other Semetic languages, the protasis of a conditional sentence in Egyptian language is treated as an adverbial topicalized verbal sentence. Hence, it was suggested that the Egyptian particle "jr", which normally introduces the protasis and can be translated as "if", "when", or "as", is originally considered as the full form of the preposition "r" "as to, concerning, with respect to" (4). But, it is not unlikely to decide that "jr" was originally an actual particle.

2- Uses of "jr"

Whatever the origin of this particle, it was used in two different ways:

(i) Before verbal patterns to express either real condition or unreal condition.

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(2) In general, there is a great variety in the particles used by Semitic languages to express conditions: Lipinski E., Semitic languages, § 61.2.

(3) جبرال بن أبي سفيان: "الى الشروطية: كلية الآثار - جامعة القاهرة".

Before non-verbal patterns to make a stress on an element in the sentence

The two types of conditions (real or unreal) will be explained as follows:

(I-a) Real condition:

Since M. E.g., protasis of a hypothetical clause is introduced by "jr" plus the set of $sdm.f$ forms (5). Later, Egyptians first derived a variety of patterns in which the particle "jr", the more classical morpheme, is followed by a $sdm.f$ for past tense or by "jw.f $sdm$" for present or future. The conditional particle "jmn" (6), was also used to express real-condition. It seems to be that this latter is much more colloquial, and could be followed by a past, present or future form. Occasionally, "jr" was omitted in L. E.g., but in Demotic, this particle was no longer written (7). In Coptic, all these options were reduced to a clause conjugation pattern in which the circumstantial prefix is frequently followed in the positive form by the morpheme $\alpha\omega\alpha\gamma > \epsilon\rho\omega\alpha\gamma$ (8). Constructions in which real conditions were expressed are as follows:

(I-a-i) "jr + $sdm.f$"
(I-a-ii) "jr + $sdm.tw.f$"
(I-a-iii) "jr + wn/wnm"

"jr" as an equivalent to the Arabic

Like the Arabic conditional إن "en" (9), Arab grammarians describe the شرط المحقق as a particle denotes what is possible. It is followed by two


(6) This particle seems to be the ancestor of Demotic "jn-nâ", see: Johnson J., Demotic verbal system, p. 248.


(8) Both Černy and Vycichl give "jr(s)/hn" as an etymology for er$\tilde{\nu}$an: Černy J., Coptic etymological dictionary, p. 38; Vycichl W., Dictionnaire etymologique, p. 46. For a Discussion on the Demotic etymology of this Coptic conditional particle see: Johnson J., "šan and ene in Demotic” JNES 32 (1973), pp. 167-69.

(9) حي ببال النحاة العرب إن لو الشرطية غير الامتناعية شبيهة بأن الشرطية: عباس حسن، المرجع السابق، ص. 149-150;
correlative clauses, in both clauses, the verbs have either a present or a future significance i.e. imperfect (10), for instance:

"ولر نتغف أصدأنا بعد موتها ومن دون رسمبا من الأرض مسبب"

Sometimes, the perfect is used instead of the imperfect either in the protasis or apodosis and occasionally in both clauses to denote future tense, as in:

"وليخشى الذين لو تركوا من خلفهم ذرية ضعفاء خافوا عليهم" (11)

**Egyptians examples:**

(I-a-i-1) Urk. I, 130, 6-8: "jr hs.f m-ε.k r dpt jr rmt j[y]krw"
"If he goes down with you to the boat, appoint excellent people"

(I-a-i-2) Urk. I, 39, 13: "jr js prij jht nb(t) m r n hm.f hpr hr- wj"
"If anything goes out from the mouth of his majesty, it happens immediately".

(I-a-i-3) Pt. 507-508: "jr sdm-k mn ddλ.nj n.k wmn shr.k nb r h.yt"
"If you listen to that which I have told you, all your plans will make a progress"

(I-a-i-4) Peas. B II, 98 – 99: "jr sm grg jw.f tnm.f"
"If falsehood walks (outside), it goes astray"

(I-a-i-5) P Chester Berty III, rt. 7, 25: "jr m33 sw s m rswt pr ht r 3tij.f dw drj kmf pw"
"If a man sees himself in a dream, his bed catching fire, bad; it means driving away (divorce) his wife"

(I-a-ii-6) Gardiner, Eg.Gr. Exers. XVI, 5: "jr swj.tw phrt tn jn ntj mrt n ht.f snb.f hr- wj"
"If this remedy is drunk by the patient (lit; one is in whose body are pains), he will become healthy immediately"

(10) Wright W., op. cit., vol. II, §§ 5, 6, note a, b;
(11) Quran, 8, 31.
We note from the previous examples that the protasis were in imitative meaning by using perfective "sām.f" form and the apodosis is either a prospective "sām.f", or an explicit imperative.

"jr" as an equivalent to Arabic "lau" in the compound "lau kana":

Sometimes, Arabic conditional is followed by the existential "incompleted kana" in the compound "lau kana" to carry the meaning of real condition. It seems that this use was common in modern Arabic colloquial. In classical Arabic this compound is replaced by another one i.e. "kān" to carry the same meaning, for instance:

إن كان قميصه قد من قيل الصحة - إن كنت تتحون الله فاتبعوني." (13)

The Egyptian concerned construction here is "jr wn/wm", which originally represented a sentence with adverbial predicate introduced by "jw". Where this latter can be converted into hypothetical clause by transforming it into a verbal sentence governed by a grammaticalized form of the verb "wn/wm" "to be" (14).

Considering that, the Egyptian "jw" was formally correlated in one of its uses with Arabic الموصول الحرفي "مقولته المهمة" (15), so, it is better to translate the

(12) Compare the example; "mk wj k3.k" "here am I, you shall say", see: Gardiner A., Eg. Gr., § 436.
(13) Qur’an, 12, 26. In modern Arabic colloquial, the distinction between "lau" and "en" tends to be muddled to express a real condition: Lipinski E., op. cit. § 16.6.
construction "jr wn / jrwnn" as i.e. "jn = لج يكون - لو يكون / لو كان
wn = كان / wnn =
Especially that, in Arabic morphology لو غير الامتناعية should not be followed by أن منفتوحة الهمزة

Examples:
(I-a-iii-9) Urk. I, 218, 8: "jr wn mrj.tn hzj tn nsw wnn jmnj.tn hr ntr-º3 dd.tn"

"If you want that the king praise you and to be praised by the great god say ..."

(I-a-iii-10) Pt. 264-65: "jr wnn.k m ssmj hr sdm.k mfw sprw"

"If you are a (true) leader, (you will be pleased ) when you hear the word of the petitioner"

(I-a-iii-11) Eb. 49, 12: "jr wnn.f m hrd wr, m.f st m "m"

"If he be a big child, he shall swallow it down, "lit.: Swallow it with a swallowing"

(I-a-iii-12) Sinuhe 125: "jr wnn jb.f r ch3 jmj dd.f hrt jb.f"

"If his mind will be towards fighting, let him say what he has in mind"

(I-a-iii-13) O.DM. 303, 3-4: "(tw.j m-adj.k mj p3 c°3) jr wn bsk jn p3 c°3 hr jr wn wnn jn p3 jk"

"(I'm for you like a donkey), if there is work, bring the donkey (I), if there is food, bring the bull (another person)."

From the preceding examples, we note that the existential verb in all cases is an auxiliary verb. But in the last example, it is to be taken as a main verb translated as Arabic كان الكامة which also means "exist, happen" (18). Although

(15) قال النحاة العرب أن "لوالشرطية غير الامتناعية لا تدخل على أن وعمولها" عباس حسن، المرجع السابق، ص 44.
(17) Neveu F., La Langue des Ramses, 33.2.1.4 (Ex. 10).
(18) عباس حسن، المرجع السابق، ص 49.
the prospective "wmn" is the normal form of the verb "wmn" after "jr" in middle Egyptian than "wn", the verb "wmn" in the previous examples could be translated as "كان" rather than " يكون / حيكون". This is because that is considered here literally a past verb in present or future meaning. The apodosis is an imperative in some cases.

(I-b) Unreal-condition:

This is the condition, which implies contrary-to-fact. In ß Eg. and M. Eg., the unreal condition was expressed by using "jr" before the sentence. Later, the particle hr-wn / h3-wn Coptic ene was used beside "jr". The concerned Arabic particles expressing unreal-condition are as follows: لو "lau" if, لو أن "lau anna" "if that", لو كان "lau kana" "if was". The verbs in both protasis and apodosis have usually the signification of pluperfect or occasionally imperfect, for instance:

(22) لو شاء ربك لجعل الناس أمة واحدة

In the following paragraph, we will offer the Egyptian constructions in which unreal-condition are expressed:

(I-b-i) "jr + sdm.n.f"
(I-b-ii) "jr + passive sdm.f"
(I-b-iii) "jr + subordinade circumstantial form"; "jr jw.f (hr) (tm) sdm"; "jr jw.f o.p.

"jr" as an equivalent to Arabic "lau":

The Arabic لو "lau" (Heb. Lu, Ugar. Lau), expressing unreal condition, is called by grammarians "إدة شرط امتتاعي". It implies that what is supposed either does not take place or is not likely to do so. It is signifying the impossibility of both protasis and apodosis, or the impossibility of the apodosis alone. لو تعلم الجاهل لنفشد الامة "إمتتاع لو يوجد امتتاع للناس، لاستراح القاضي." (23)


(20) In general, irrealis has been dealt with by Till in ZAS 69 (1933), 112-117.
(21) Wright W., op. cit., vol. II, § 4 (a). In general, irrealis has been dealt with by Till in ZAS 69 (1933), 112-117.
(22) Quran, 11, 18
(23) Wright W., op. cit., vol. II, § 188;
Examples:

(I-b-i-14) P. Berlin 3019, 2, 3: "jr ssp.nj zs h\textsuperscript{\textregistered} w m drt.j jw dj.nj h' t hmw

"If I had made (lit. taken) hast, (with) weapons in my hands, I should have caused the cowards to retreat"

(I-b-ii-15) Adm. 12, 6: "jr znm.n.tw.n n gm.nj tw"

"If we had been fed, I would not have found you"

لعل أسمعنا / أمضينا لما وجدتكم

"jr" as an equivalent to Arabic "lw a)n" in the compound "lau anna" and "lau kana":

Arabic compound "lau anna" is generally used instead of "lw a)n" before nominal clauses, as

ولو أن أهل القرى أمنوا و أتقووا لفتحنا عليهم بركات من السماء والأرض

Arab grammarians suggest that the compound "lau anna" originally means لو كان و لو أن

Examples:

(I-b-iii-16) PBM 10052, 8, 21-22: "jr jw kj hr jj.t mtw.f s'k.k jrr.j"

"If another comes and accuses you, I shall act"

(I-b-iii-17) O Wien NB, H9\textsuperscript{75}: "hr jr jw\textsuperscript{28} bn sw hr djt.f n.k jw.k hr jnj n.j b3j.f hnk"

"And if he doesn’t give it to you, you should bring me his hnq"

(I-b-iii-18) Wen.2, 60-62: "jr jw.j ph r p3 ntj.j A jm mtw.f ptr psj.k shn m psj.k shn jjr.(f) jih n.k nk\textsuperscript{17}"
"If I reach the place where A is, and he sees your commission, it is your commission (i.e. what you have done) he will procure something for you"

"لو أن وصلت إليه حيث يرصد فلا تمر على ما وصبت به فسيجعله إلى هذه الترمية بعض الشيء"  

Occasionally Arabic extiential verb كأن is placed between لو and the perfect in the protasis of the sentence, as:  

","لاو كان فيهما آلهة ألا اهتدى"

(29).

Examples are quite rare:

(I-a-iii-19) P Smith 4, 2-3: "jr rz:f mr(w). . . tm.f wnw rz:f pw mdw.f"

"If his mouth is tied..., that means he can not open his mouth to speak"

"لو (كان) فسه مربوطا... فهذا يعني أنه لا يستطيع فتح فمه ليتكلم"

(I-b-iii-20) Wen.2, 10-11: "jr p3 hks n kmt pw p3 nb n p3j.j... nnwn jrr.f djt jnt hd nbw"

"If the Ruler of Egypt had been the Lord of what is mine..., would he have sent silver and gold (when issuing his orders)"

"لو (كان) حاكم مصر هو سيدي ما املك (وأنا خادمه), فهل كان سيرسل لي ذهبا وفضة (عندما افتد)

أو أمره".

In the last example, the element pw could be grammatically analyzed as follows:

It could be taken as a counterpart of the so-called ضمير النصب which is used to distinct between the subject and predicate rather than كان الزائدة. Since the conditional particle should be followed by a verb in Arabic syntax, so the existential verb كأن should be inserted in the Arabic translation after لو in the two examples.

(I-c) "jr" as a particle of rebuke or urgency (التحذير والتربيخ):

The conditional particle لـ كأن is also used with other Arabic particles, such as "lula" "if not" and ألا "ala", to express urgency or rebuke, as:

"لو هتمز القرآن, فتأمن العقوبة, لا تسهم في الخبر فتثب".

These particles are used before the imperfect to incite one to perform an act, and before the perfect to rebuke the neglect of it (30), for example:

(29) Qur'an 21, 22.
According to Arabic syntax, when "lo" carries the implication of the meaning of
impulse or urgency, its apodasis can be mentioned or not depending on context.
The concerned form here is "jr + sdm.f" form:

Examples

(i-o-i-21) Peas. BI, 85-87: "jr hsj.k r sj n.j mːt skd.k jm.f m mːw n m kfr nbj.t
hir.k"

"If you go down to the sea of righteousness and sail on it with (the right
wind), no storm will strip away your sail".

(i-o-i-22) LRL 1, 11: "jr jrd,j hhn n bts bj jrd,j wː nfr"

"(Even) If I have done millions of mistakes, can I do not one good
thing?".

(i-o-i-23) P. D’Orbiny 8, 2: "jst jr shj.k wː n hjn jst bw jr.k shj wc n
nfr m-r3 pw wː n nkt jw jrd,j sw n.k"

"Now, if you remember a bad thing, can not you remember a
good or anything at all that I have done to you?"

From the preceding examples, we note that:
1- In the first example, both protasis and apodosis are mentioned in
imperfective to carry the meaning of urgency.
2- In the two last examples, apodosis is omitted and the annexed clause
introduced by interjection ادء اسقفار للتنبية ألا in perfect to carry the
meaning of rebuke.

We note also that Arabic construction ألا...ألا corresponds here to the Egyptian
"jst...bw", where "bw" is a negative particle, and ألا is used
in the same sense as ألا "nonne" compound of ألا, but with less force, as ألا...ألا.

(11) As Yousef A. has suggested, "jst" is an equivalent to Arabic إذا ver. إنذإ "then" : Yousef A., "the particles "jst" and "jst" - an Arabic approach to Egyptian grammar", BIFAO 80

(12) The verb expressed or understood in a clause preceded by ألا even if/though, has the same
qualification as that of the clause to which it is annexed, as ألا من ضروب ألا...ألا "Weight W., op. cit., vol. II, § 5(b)."
Otherwise, the use of the conditional clause followed by an -ألا- clause is attested in classical Arabic, for instance:

"وإذا قيل لهم ماذا أنزل ربك قالوا أساطير الأولين ليحملوا أوزارهم كاملة يوم القيامة ومن أوزار الذين يضلونهمغير علم ألا ساء ما يزرون" (II) When the particle "jr" was used before non-verbal patterns or was not followed directly by verbal forms, it could be correlated to the Arabic particle أاما الشرطية conditional amma (34) (Akk. amma, umma), which have double meaning; to mark a topological element in the sentence, and to give the meaning of condition at the same time, for instance: "واما" وأما تعود فهديناهم " وأما ده" and the Arabic example: "اما المختصر، فعالم" 'أما المختصر، فعالم' will be shown in the following table:

Actually, Arabic أاما الشرطية must not be taken as a real conditional particle, but it replaces the conditional مهما in the phrase: "Whatever the case مهما يكن من " مشا " أاما المختصر، فعالم"، والتقدير مهما يكن من شيء فالمختصر عالم". However, it is not unlikely to say in Arabic "اما أنت غني فتصدق". Here أما can be taken as an actual conditional particle (37) The Egyptian particle "jr" when placed before a word emphasize its meaning (as for, as to), the resulting expression then is an adverbial phrase in anticipatory emphasis (38).

A syntactic comparison between the Egyptian example: "jr sf wsjr pw " أما المختصر، فعالم" and the Arabic example: "اما المختصر، فعالم" will be shown in the following table:

(33) عباس حسن، المرجع السابق، المسألة (111).

(34) The particle أاما مفتوحة المهمة amma is preserved in Pre-classical and classical Arabic where it appears as a variant of إما مكورة المهمة imma "if", in formally nominal clauses which are followed by a verbal clause introduced by the prefix "fa-". The particle إما " is considered a compound of conditional particle أما " = "en" + ماما "ma " which is used to strengthen the conditional meaning, as: "فأما تعلمون في الحرب فشد بهم" Lipinski E., op. cit., § 61.2; Wright W., op. cit., vol. II, § 20(d).

(35) Qur'an 41, 17.

(36) ألا ليست أصيلة الشرطية، وأما هي مكورة بسبب نباتها عن اسم الشرط "هما" الواجب حلف جملة الشرطية هنا: عباس حسن، المرجع السابق، المسألة (111)، ص. 504.

(37) عباس حسن، المرجع السابق، ج1، ص. 583.

(38) Gardiner A., Eg. Gr. § 149; Allen J., Middle Egyptian, § 18.4.
The Egyptian constructions in which “jr” could be considered as an equivalent conditional *amma* will be shown in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Construction</th>
<th>Egyptian Example</th>
<th>Arabic Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>I. “jr” + noun + verbal or non-verbal form.</strong></td>
<td>Orb.1,1: “hr jr[j]npw sw [hr]j pr hry hmt” As for Anubis, he had a house and a wife “اما انوبيس, فكان له بيتاً وزوجة”</td>
<td>اما الرباء, فخلق اللائم. اما البتيم, فلا تظهر.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>II. “jr” + A. P or P. P.</strong></td>
<td>P Ebres 247: “jr jrr.w n.f nb phrt tn” As for everyone for whom this remedy is made, he gets well immediately “اما من صنع له هذا الدواء فإنه سيشفى في الحال”</td>
<td>فاما من خخت موازينة.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>III. “jr” + pτ ntj”.</strong></td>
<td>Hs,2-6 jr pτ ntj jw.s dd.tw.f jw.n jr.f” As for what she had said, we had done (it) “اما ما قالته, فقد فعلناها”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IV. “jr” + jnk.</strong></td>
<td>Sauneron O.DM. 569, 5: jr jnk tw.j sdr.kwj jw.f jj As for me, I was lying (i.e. taking a nap), when he came “اما علىى، فكنت مضجعاً عندماأتي”</td>
<td>اما علىى, فمسافر.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Several of the above examples indicate that carrying the meaning of condition, a frequent motive for the use of "jr" was the desire to lighten the sentence by placing outside it some lengthy and cumbrous member\(^{(39)}\).

**Conclusion**

The Egyptian particle "jr" has several Arabic equivalents according to its function:

1- When expressing a real condition, it could be considered as an equivalent to "لم تأثر":
   
   (a) During O. Eg. and M. Eg., the protasis could be in perfective "sdm.f" form to carry the meaning of imperfect, and the apodosis could be in prospective "sdm.f" form or imperative.
   
   (b) The conditional particle "jr" appears as more classical particle used in literary text (religious and official texts) as a parallel to the later conditional particle "îmê", which was more colloquial used in non-literary texts. Especially that, the construction "jr sdm.f" was quite rare in non-literary Late Egyptian manuscripts\(^{(40)}\).
   
   (c) In the field of real condition, the especial construction "jr wî/wî" could be translated as "lau kana" which was more conventional in modern Arabic colloquial.

2- When expressing unreal condition, "jr" could be considered as an equivalent to "لَوْ كَانْ لاَوَانَا", "لَوْ كَانْ لاَوَانَا":
   
   (a) When "لَوْ" is used, both protasis and apodosis were "sdm.n.f" form giving the meaning the pluperfect.
   
   (b) When the protasis is a non-verbal pattern, then "لَوْ أنْ لاَوَانَا" or "لَوْ كَانَ" is used.

3- Most of apodosis are prefixed by the Arabic conjunction "فَأَمَّا", "لَمَّا جَوَابَ الْشَرْطَ" or "لَمَّا جَوَابَ الْشَرْطَ" \(^{(41)}\) which introduce a clause that expresses the result or effect of a preceding clauses \(^{(42)}\).

4- When expressing a requirment with urgency or rebuke, then "لَوْ" is used as a counterpart of "jr" before "sdm.f" form.

\(^{(39)}\) Gardiner A., Eg. Gr. § 148-149.


\(^{(41)}\) Wright W., op. cit., vol. II, § 15 (d).

\(^{(42)}\) In Semitic conditional apodosis may be marked off from the protasis by a conjunction "and" (-ma, wa-, fa-). It depends mainly on the writer's or speaker's discretion and on the common usage of any particular language; Lipinski E., op. cit., § 61.12, § 56.8.
5- When expressing a condition case and marking a topicalized element in the sentence at the same time, "jr" could be as an equivalent to conditional "amma" (var. إما الشرطية conditional "emna").