A Contrastive Analysis between French Vs English

1. A Contrastive Analysis to the languages French Vs English

The following section contains tables which present the differences between the French and English languages. The differences are made in order to help English learners whose native language is French avoid any interference when using the English language.

Phonology	
French	English
▪ *Information /ɛ̃fɔʁma**sjɔ̃** / ▪ *Gouvernement /guvɛʁnəm**ɑ̃** / ▪ *Mesure / mə**z**yʁ/	▪ Information / ɪnfəˈmeɪ**ʃən** / ▪ * Government/gʌvnm**ənt** / ▪ * Measure /mɛ**ʒ**ə/

Table 01 : Phonological Differences between French and English

Regarding the phonological aspect, there are diffrenet endings which are pronounced in diffrenet ways in the French and English languages. Examples of such differences include phonological endings like « tion », « ment », and « sure ». In the French language the final suffixes :

- « tion » is pronounced /**sjɔ̃**/ while in english, it is pronounced /**ʃən**/
- « ment » is pronounced /**ɑ̃**/ while in english, it is pronounced /**ənt**/
- « sur » is pronounced /**z**/ while in english, it is pronounced /**ʒ**/

Hence, when English students whose native language is French start using words with these endings such as *government, information*, and *measure*, they automatically pronounce the three phonological endings (*tion / ment / sur*) in the French way. In other words, they try to apply the same French pronunciation rules to the English context.

Syntax		
	French	English
Object Pronouns	Le chat boit le lait (-) interference: le chat boit **le** (+) le chat **le** boit	The cat drinks the milk (+)The cat drinks **it**
Possessive Pronouns	Ma mère (féminine) Mon père (masculin)	My mother (feminine) My father (masculine)
Conjugation	different for each grammatical person	different only for third-person singular

Table 02 : Syntactic differences of French and English

Like the phonological aspect, the French and English languages have some differences in the aspect of syntax. The first element which usually results an interference is the placement of the object pronoun. In the French language, the object pronoun is always occurred before the main verb. While in the English language, this type of pronoun comes after the verb directly. An example of such interference is illustrated as *« le chat boit* **le** *lait//////////The cat drinks* **the milk »**. When using the object pronoun, the sentences become *« Le chat* **le** *boit ///// the cat drink* **it** ».* Students whose native language is

French can make this interference « the cat it drink » simply because they think that object pronouns are also replaced before verbs in the English language.

Another syntactic difference refers to the possessive pronouns where the English language focuses on the possession of the subject pronoun whether « my, your, his, her, their, and its » without paying attention to the gender of the object possessed (either it is a male or a female). However, in the French language, if the object being possessed is a male, it should be used with possessive pronoun « mon », and if it is a female, it is used with a possessive pronoun like « ma ». For example, in the English language, speakers can say « my father or my mother ». Despite that the two words being possessed « father and mother » are different in gender, but they are used with the same possessive pronoun « my ». On the other hand, the French language differs in this rule. Language users need to use « mon » with male (mon père) and « ma » with female (ma mère). As a result of such difference, English students whose native language is French feel afraid when it comes to using the possessive pronouns in the English language.

One last difference related to syntax is the way verbs are conjugated. In the French language, all verbs seem to have different forms of conjugation with each personal pronoun. In contrary, the English verbs are not conjugated differently with each personal pronoun. That is, a verb in English conjugation has two main forms. The first form concerns the personal pronouns « I / you/ they / we » and the second form incorporates personal pronouns such as « she / he / it ».

Morphology		
	French	English
Plural form	Informations *le bateau=les bateaux* *le genou = les genoux* Œil === Yeux	information = information Boat = boats Knee = Knee s Eye === Eye s
Prefixes	Réel == irréel Juste == injuste	Real == Unreal Fair == unfair
Suffixes	*Dépendant,* *Leçon* *qualité*	Dependent, Lesson Quality

Table 03 : Morphological differences of French and English

Regarding the morphological aspect, both French and English languages have some differences. In order to compose the plural form of words in the French language, students are required to add suffixes such as « aux », « *oux* », and/ or « *eux* ». However, in the English language, plural words are generally formed by adding « *s* », « *es* », and /or « *ies* ». Hence, English students whose native language is French hesitate to make the plural form of English words simply because they expect to add different suffixes and change the word form itself.

Suffixes used to form adjectives and nouns of English language differ from the French language. Therefore, students usually make spelling mistakes when

writings these nouns and adjectives. For example, students whose native language is French write the adjective « dependent » with « **ant** » instead of « *ent* ». This is automatically attributed to applying the rule of the French language « *dependant* with ***ant*** » to the English language.