

A Brief Study of Clitics in English Linguistics

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Received: Nov 11, 2024

Revised: Jan 18, 2025

Accepted: Jan 28, 2025

Keywords

- Clitics
- Linguistics
- Morphology
- Phonology
- Syntax

Abstract: This research article comprehensively analyzes English clitics and the process of cliticization. The cliticization process explores clitics' linguistic significance and functional roles, which are linguistic elements that share characteristics with both words and affixes. Clitics rely on their hosts for pronunciation and meaning, distinguishing themselves as an essential yet often overlooked grammatical feature. While many learners recognize the concept of "contraction," a subcategory of clitics, a significant gap exists in understanding the broader linguistic aspects of clitics. This study aims to bridge this gap by examining the types of clitics, their phonological and syntactic functions, and their relevance in English grammar. Clitics, classified as simple and special, exhibit unique features that require detailed exploration. This qualitative research leverages online academic resources, books, and peer-reviewed articles complemented by library research to ensure thorough analysis. The collected data was systematically organized based on relevant research questions. The findings provide detailed examples of clitics, their typologies, and the grammatical processes they entail, offering deeper insights into their structure, function, and application.

Cite as: Asir, M. H. (2025). A Brief Study of Clitics in English Linguistics.

Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities 2(1), 72-85.

<https://doi.org/10.62810/jssh.v2i1.20>



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INTRODUCTION

Clitics represent a complex yet significant aspect of linguistics, often overshadowed by more commonly studied elements such as words and phrases. These linguistic units function as independent morphemes, resembling free morphemes and affixes, while remaining distinct in their dependency on host elements for phonological and syntactic realization. Despite their importance, clitics have received limited scholarly attention, with few studies differentiating them from affixes. This research dedicates significant effort to addressing this gap by offering a comprehensive analysis of clitics, aiming to enhance understanding their role in English linguistics.

Although clitics are often perceived as a minor phonological phenomenon—such as contractions used in communication—this study reveals their multifaceted nature,

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encompassing morphological, syntactic, and phonological dimensions. By focusing exclusively on English clitics, this research seeks to unravel their complexities, enriching theoretical and practical linguistic knowledge. The study also aims to demonstrate how clitics contribute to the structural meaning of phrases and their application in both formal and informal language contexts.

In this study, a detailed and accessible analysis of English clitics has been undertaken, particularly in Afghanistan. While prior literature addresses clitics in other languages or provides limited insights into their significance, this study distinguishes itself by offering a simplified yet comprehensive examination of their structure and efficacy. Readers will gain a deeper appreciation for this seemingly simple grammatical feature, which has profound implications in English linguistics.

Several linguists have contributed to understanding clitics, shedding light on their structure, function, and role in grammar.

According to Nordquist (2019), clitics combine two words to form a new phonological word. Conversely, Hassan (2002) defines clitics as technical linguistic elements that might be easily confused with English particles. He further elaborates that clitics are phonologically dependent elements that rely on host words for their meaning and pronunciation. Anderson (2005) categorizes clitics into pronominal and auxiliary clitics, frequently used in formal and informal contexts. A common example of pronominal clitics is the contracted form of “them” (e.g., ‘em), whereas auxiliary clitics such as “’ll” (a contraction of “will” or “would”) are widely employed in English. These auxiliary contractions are crucial in forming tenses and expressing modality, showcasing their application across formal and informal discourse.

Zwicky (1977) argues that clitics exhibit diverse characteristics, and their analysis can vary significantly across languages. He divides clitics into two categories: simple and special. As he explains, these categories are foundational to understanding clitics and their behavior, with simple clitics being unaccented chunks resembling contracted auxiliary forms. A detailed examination of these categories will be presented in subsequent sections of this study. Similarly, Huddleston and Pullum (2002) assert that certain auxiliary verbs, such as “have,” exhibit cliticized forms when they merge phonologically with their host words. For example, “we have” becomes “we’ve” and “he will” becomes “he’ll.”

Rigau (2002) emphasizes the complexity of clitics, noting that they possess phonological, morphological, and semantic features. As such, clitics cannot be strictly classified as free morphemes or bound morphemes, making their classification an ongoing subject of debate among linguists. Rigau also highlights that clitics may incorporate prosodic features, though their alignment with broader linguistic rules remains contested. Furthermore, he underscores the syntactic ambiguity of clitics, as there is no consensus among linguists on whether pronominal clitics should be categorized as arguments or functional heads.

Hancock (2000) argues that clitics, despite their ubiquity, differ from other syntactic components due to their phonological dependency on adjacent elements. Clitics typically

appear attached to neighboring words, rendering them distinct from independent syntactic elements. However, Zwicky (as cited in Singh, 2022) proposes that clitics may exhibit word and affix characteristics, further complicating their classification. Conversely, Quirk (2003) highlights the productivity of affixes, particularly prefixes (e.g., pre-, post-) and suffixes (e.g., -ful, -less), and points out the significant relationship between these affixes and clitics. Trask (2007) illustrates that clitics are grammatical elements appended to free morphemes, resulting in their collective pronunciation as a single phonological unit. Despite their phonological unity, clitics and host words retain syntactic functions.

Maggie (2025) refers to clitics as “half-words” because they do not function as standalone syntactic elements. Instead, they attach to individual words or word groups, creating an intersection between syntax and morphology. Haspelmath (2023) extends this notion by suggesting that content and function words can act as clitics in some languages. For example, in Spanish, the function word “te” (you) is considered a weak clitic form in contrast to its strong form “ti.” However, given the focus of this study on English clitics, the discussion on clitics in other languages will not be elaborated further.

Harris and Williams (2020) identify two primary types of clitics in English grammar: proclitics and enclitics. Proclitics precede their host words, whereas enclitics follow and attach to them. A notable example of an enclitic in English is the possessive marker “-’s” (e.g., Mike’s bag). Although the possessive “-’s” is among the eight commonly used affixes in English inflection, it cannot function independently as a syntactic element. Oxford (1997) describes proclitics as weakly pronounced words that become integral to the host word. For instance, when the auxiliary verb “do” combines with “you,” the resulting phonological word “d’you” emerges. While such instances are limited in English, they are frequently utilized, particularly in spoken language.

Trask (2007) praises the efficiency of clitics, noting that their use facilitates concise and effective communication by reducing unnecessary elements, especially in spoken English. Brown (2019) supports this claim, arguing that the versatility of clitics allows them to convey social and local linguistic variations, making them integral to daily conversations and certain dialects.

Zwicky (1994, as cited in Halper, 2022) highlights clitics' morphological and semantic potential. He asserts that clitics, such as the contraction “won’t” (from “will not”), exemplify language evolution and the transition between formal and informal registers. Doe (2022) corroborates the significance of clitics, emphasizing their role in navigating the intersections of morphology, syntax, and phonology.

Bonet (2019) explores the prosodic limitations of clitics, describing them as particles that lack the grammatical independence of other parts of speech. As such, clitics are associated with closed-class syntactic categories like determiners, auxiliaries, and negative adverbs. Due to their phonological composition, some clitics cannot form syllables, as they consist of clusters without vowel sounds. Klausen (2000) characterizes clitics as “prosodically

defective," as they rely on adjacent words for phonological support. Arregi and Nevins (2020) introduce the concept of mesoclitics, where clitics are placed within a word. While clitics in English are generally unstressed, languages like Italian sometimes feature accented clitics, with the stress arising from the interaction between the host word and the clitic.

Zwicky (1977, as cited in Halper, 2017) argues that clitics lack significant syntactic consequences due to their phonological dependence on host words. Unstressed words like prepositions often function as simple clitics within prepositional phrases. While this analysis emphasizes the prosodic characteristics of clitics, their syntactic role includes weak pronouns observed in Romance languages, which typically appear before the main verb in a clause. Ultimately, clitics' morphological and syntactic functions demonstrate their multifaceted roles and diverse distributions within linguistic systems.

Bonet (2019) describes clitics as prosodic particles that cannot function grammatically as independent elements of parts of speech. Consequently, they are considered imperfect and are typically associated with various closed-class syntactic categories, including determiners, auxiliaries, and negative adverbs. Certain clitics cannot form syllables due to their composition, often consisting of clusters devoid of vowel sounds. Moreover, bound morphemes, a subset of clitics, rely prosodically on their adjacent words, whether preceding or following them. This dependency highlights their phonological connection to other linguistic elements. Klausen (2000) describes clitics as "prosodically defective or imperfect," emphasizing their inability to stand alone as independent linguistic units, unlike free morphemes.

Instances of clitics embedded within words, referred to as mesoclitics, have been noted by Arregi and Nevins (2020). While clitics in English are generally unstressed, languages like Italian occasionally feature accented clitics. This stressed characteristic, however, arises not from the clitics themselves but from the interaction between the host word and the clitic. Functionally, clitics—such as modal verbs, conjunctions, or modal participles—operate as grammatical words. Despite their functional resemblance to suffixes, particularly when following host words, clitics are distinct except for an apostrophe.

Zwicky (1977, as cited in Halper, 2017) asserts that clitics may lack syntactical consequences due to their phonological dependence on host words. Commonly, unstressed words are classified as simple clitics. For instance, a preposition may be a simple clitic when its vowel is unstressed within a prepositional phrase. Syntactically, such prepositions fall under prepositional phrases, while prosodically, they are identified as clitics. In contemporary Romance languages, clitics frequently use weak pronouns positioned immediately before the main verb within a clause. Thus, the morphological and syntactical functions of clitics encompass various elements with diverse roles and distributions, illustrating their intricate integration within language systems.

The term "clitic" is closely linked to weak syntactic elements that occur immediately before or after other sentence components, as noted by Zwicky (as cited in Halper, 2022).

This term originates from ancient Greek linguistics and pertains to elements primarily functioning syntactically within a sentence while remaining phonologically dependent on other words. The process of cliticization bears a strong resemblance to affixation. However, Baker (2021) highlights a key distinction: in affixation, bound morphemes attach to root words, whereas in cliticization, a free morpheme functions similarly to an affix. Clitics depend prosodically on adjacent host words, forming a morphological unit. Some linguists conceptualize clitics as unaccented or weak elements that are neither fusional nor agglutinative morphologically. Himmelmann (2008) argues that clitics are more appropriately associated with syntax than morphology or phonology, given their dual qualities of free and bound morphemes within word structures.

Smith (2023) identifies cliticization as a process primarily associated with the morphological alteration of words, though it also applies to discussions of phonological word properties. Jones (2020) debates whether the absence of a free accent in clitics results from a reduction process or a natural linguistic phenomenon, concluding that clitics must merge with the accentual structure of another morpheme. This host structure facilitates the pronunciation of the combined elements. Additionally, clitics' inherent dependency and incapacity to function as standalone utterances provide a clear basis for distinguishing them from other linguistic units. These characteristics underscore the hybrid nature of clitics, which straddle the boundaries of syntax, morphology, and phonology.

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

This study employs a qualitative research design to facilitate an in-depth analysis of various English clitics. A qualitative approach is particularly well-suited for exploring the intricate subject matter of clitics, as it allows for a detailed investigation into their diverse formations and functions. By adopting this design, the researcher seeks to delve deeply into the complexities of English clitics, uncovering insights that may otherwise be challenging to discern. Alongside examining different types of clitics, the study also aims to investigate their various aspects within diverse linguistic contexts. To achieve this, a wide range of examples has been included to clarify the function of clitics across multiple settings.

Data Collection

As outlined in the methodology section, the data for this study has been sourced from both online and library resources. These sources include various academic articles, journals, and digital books. Collectively, these references cover contemporary linguistic research and provide the foundational material for exploring the functions and classifications of clitics. The reliance on reputable scholarly sources ensures that the study is grounded in up-to-date and relevant linguistic scholarship.

Data Analysis

Given the predominance of a descriptive approach in this research, the collected data has been thematically analyzed to classify the morphological information systematically. This analysis involved identifying and explaining various types and functions of English clitics, with particular attention to their syntactic roles. The data were methodically integrated to ensure clarity in understanding the primary linguistic functions. The thematic exploration further allowed for classifying clitics into distinct categories while examining their morphological and syntactical properties.

Research Limitations

As with any academic endeavor, this study encountered several limitations, many of which were context-specific. For example, in Afghanistan, frequent power outages and lack of reliable electricity significantly hinder the research process, making it challenging to work on such scholarly projects consistently. Furthermore, accessing academic articles and reliable data sources often requires payment methods, such as PayPal, which are not readily accessible to researchers in Afghanistan. These challenges pose significant obstacles to this study and other academics striving to produce high-quality research. If one considers these limitations metaphorically as drops of rain, then the academic writing process for professors and researchers in such contexts could be likened to being under a constant downpour or flood of obstacles.

Ethical Considerations

Descriptive studies such as this one often rely heavily on secondary data. Although researchers are committed to maintaining academic integrity, there is always a risk of inadvertently resorting to plagiarism, even when unintentional. To mitigate such risks, this study has adhered to rigorous citation practices and ethical guidelines to ensure the originality and credibility of its findings.

FINDINGS

This research has thoroughly examined English clitics' usage, placement, and syntactic properties, revealing several critical aspects of their functions within linguistic structures. Based on the analysis, English clitics are broadly categorized into two main types: pronominal and auxiliary. Pronominal clitics are commonly utilized in informal and colloquial communication, whereas auxiliary clitics are prevalent in formal and informal contexts. Auxiliary clitics play a vital role in shaping the syntactic structure of sentences, serving as essential components of grammatical construction.

The study further dissects clitics into subcategories, including proclitic, pronominal clitics, prepositional clitics, verbal clitics, and adjectival clitics. Each subcategory exhibits distinct functions and characteristics, contributing to English's syntactic and morphological diversity. Furthermore, the research explores the syntactic placement and patterns of cliticization, shedding light on how clitics interact with other linguistic elements.

In addition to its specific findings on clitics, this study enhances our broader understanding of syntax, morphology, and phonology. Examining clitics' nuanced roles within grammatical structures also offers insights into more extensive linguistic concepts, including sociolinguistics. The intricate nature of clitics underscores the complexity of language and highlights the rich peculiarities embedded in daily communication.

English clitics closely resemble words but differ in a fundamental way: they cannot function independently as standalone words. Instead, clitics must attach to a host word to form a complete syntactic structure. Another significant difference lies in their phonological characteristics. While full words possess independent stress, clitics lack such stress and rely on the host word for both pronunciation and meaning.

Assigning clitics to a specific group of morphemes is challenging because they occupy an intermediate position between free and bound morphemes. Clitics exhibit phonological, morphological, and semantic properties, enabling them to impact various grammatical elements. This multifaceted nature contributes to their diverse functionality within language systems.

The Difference Between Clitics and Affixes

One distinguishing feature of clitics is that their attachment is not restricted to specific parts of speech. Clitics can attach to entire phrases or even other clitics, a flexibility that sets them apart from affixes. In contrast, affixes are attached to a limited range of stems or bases and are categorized into two distinct types: derivational and inflectional. Derivation involves forming new words through affixation, whereas inflection modifies the grammatical categories of existing words without altering their core meaning.

Consider the possessive clitic 's or the verbal clitic 've in the following examples. Some clitic expressions may be commonly used in spoken language but are not represented orthographically. This distinction further illustrates the unique nature of clitics within the broader framework of linguistic analysis.

Table 1: *The difference between clitics and affixes*

Clitics	Affixes	Difference
The worker's hat is on the table	The workers are in the yard.	's and bare -s
The students of physics' assignment.	The students got good scores in physics.	
The boys that we invited's books.	The boys that we invited are smart.	
The worker wearing a ring's helmet.	The workers wearing rings are polite.	
His work has been finished, but the woman's've not finished yet.	The women's work has not been completed	

Generally, clitics have evolved over time, and this process has been termed grammaticalization. As a result of grammaticalization, some free morphemes have lost their original characteristics in particular contexts, so they have taken the features of bound morphemes instead. After losing its autonomous morphological properties, this element has

become known as clitics, which morphologically resembles an affix but syntactically functions as a free morpheme.

Kinds of Clitics

As already mentioned, clitics are formed by combining two morphemes. However, this process differs greatly from concatenation and non-concatenation, where complex and compound words are formed. For instance, in enclitics, if the function word “not” is contracted and attached to a free morpheme like the auxiliary verb “do,” the new word “do not” appears that is phonologically pronounced as a simple word. Sometimes, auxiliary verbs are contracted and attached to the initial part of a host word, such as “d’you” instead of “do you” and “t’is” in place of “it is.” In these examples, one can notice that the initialization process contradicts the enclitic process already discussed, so this reversed process is known as proclitics. Though orthographically, in either of the processes, two words are merged to form a new word and phonologically sound the same, they are not considered isolated words because they consist of two words morphologically.

In enclitics, the “to be” verbs are combined without contracting the host verb except for (am not), the contracted of which becomes (ain’t).

Table 2: *The contracted forms of the ‘to be’ verb*

To be + adverbs of negation	Contracted form	Examples
Is not	Isn’t	He isn’t at home now.
Are not	Aren’t	You aren’t working now.
Was not	Wasn’t	He wasn’t studying at home yesterday.
Were not	Weren’t	They weren’t living here last year.

Table 3: *The isolated consonants shaping the structure of the clitics of ‘have’*

The auxiliary verb ‘have’	Contractions	Examples
Have	‘Ve	I’ve finished the work.
Have	‘Ve	You’ve completed it.
Has	‘S	He’s a book in his bag.
Have	‘Ve	They’ve been here for two years.
Have	‘Ve	You’ve finished your work.

On the other hand, modal auxiliaries like (will) have more frequent applications than other English clitics. They are used in both formal and informal English and build up the foundation of tenses that state modality.

Table 4: *The isolated consonants making up the structure of some modal auxiliary verbs*

Model auxiliaries	Contractions	Examples
Will	‘ll	I’ll go home soon.
Would	‘d	He’d like to buy a new house.
Shall	‘ll	I’ll stay here until the end of my life.
Should	‘d	You’d study hard.

In the above examples, the auxiliary verbs (be, have) plus the modal auxiliaries (will, would, shall, and should) have not undergone any internal structure alterations.

Linguists classify clitics differently; however, the most frequently used clitics in English grammar are the simple and special ones. In order to clarify the differences, some linguists use the terms phonological and morphological clitics instead of simple and special. To exactly identify the position of the attachment of these clitics to their hosts, the terms enclitics and proclitics are applied.

Proclitics

Proclitics associate with their host words based on a phonological relation. They are often unaccented and have no autonomous phonological status.

Example: ‘**The** house is beautiful.’

In the above sentence, when the determiner (the) precedes the phrase “the house”, it is unaccented because the vowel sound is reduced.

In addition, some other major kinds of clitics in English are chiefly related to the lexical categories of the words to which they are attached. These extra types of clitics range from pronominal clitics to prepositional clitics.

Pronominal Clitics

Pronominal clitics, as their name suggests, are pronouns that appear in clipped or contracted forms. They include contractions such as (em), which is the reduced form of the pronoun (them), and ('s), the reduced form of (is) or (has). In speech, these contractions simplify utterances and reflect a tendency towards elision and reduced forms.

Table 5: *Some examples of English pronouns contractions.*

Pronouns	Contracted forms	Examples
Them	‘em’	I have seen ‘em’.
You	‘ya	I saw ‘ya’ in the park.
Her	‘er’	I asked ‘er’ to help me.
Him	‘im	I could not convince ‘im’.
Modal auxiliaries	Contractions	Examples
Will	‘ll	I’ll go home soon.
Would	‘d	H’d like to buy a new house.
Shall	‘ll	I’ll stay here until the end of my life.
Should	‘d	You’d study hard.

Prepositional Clitics

Although prepositional clitics are not frequently used in the English language, there are still some instances they may be annex to certain hosts. Remember that this is more common in spoken English than formal written English.

Table 6: *Some commonly used prepositional clitics in English*

The genuine prepositions	Prepositional clitics	Examples
Before	Fore	I have done it'fore.
Around	round	This is'bout your friend.
Until	Til	You should study'til death.
Amongst	mongst	She was'mongst the top-ten.
Except	Cept	All'cept two voted for him.

Verbal and adjectival clitics

Verbal clitics may easily be identified verbal clitics based on the verbs that they depend on, while adjectival clitics are very similar to their adjectivized affix counterparts and are formed by the derivation process of a word into an adjective.

Table 7: *English full verb forms and their clitics*

Full forms	Clitics	Examples
Have	've	I've worked hard.
Is / has	's	He's a student. He's a book.
Will	'll	They'll return.
Would/had	'd	We'd do it.
Am	'm	I'm a teacher.
Not	'nt	She isn't here.

The above table demonstrates verbal clitics attached to verbs to indicate grammatical relations. These clitics are always connected to their hosts, so they are inseparable.

Simple Clitics

A simple clitic is prosodically weak and has to be annexed to an adjacent word or phrase to sound like a word phonologically. These simple clitics are formed due to the derivation of some basic lexical categories, appearing in different parts of the sentence. Such clitics are usually considered as parts of speech; however, the only difference is that they are naturally unaccented. An example of a simple clitic is the contracted form of 'not', which appears as ('nt).

Table 8: *Full forms verbs and their simple clitics.*

Full Forms	Clitics	Examples
Is/has	's	He's a president.
Are	're	You're a kind man.
Will	'll	He'll come tomorrow.

Special Clitics

Special clitics are words that depend on adjacent host words. Like all other clitics, special clitics are also weak or accentless and signify a free morpheme variant containing the stressed syllable. Although both variants contain identical meanings and phonological forms, special clitics depend upon a host word as a prop and are unstressed.

The following makes an even more precise distinction between simple and special clitics. Simple clitics usually have a non-clitic form and are used in syntactical positions set for non-clitics. In most of the world's languages, clitics are often used in the second position in a clause. One of the main issues researchers are interested in is whether the syntactic position of special clitics follows the syntactic features or the phonological/morphological properties.

While some languages allow clitics to form pairs, some other clitic languages still go beyond these boundaries, mixing clitics with clusters, a sequence of more than one clitic. This phenomenon requires a more thorough study to determine the factors that regulate such an initialization sequence, such as syntactic movement, morphosyntactic properties, or template analysis. Inharmoniousness of clitics is another main cause of such problems. After the combination process, the inharmoniousness of clitics may undergo morphological changes, which means the incompatibility of clitics. For example, clitics that are quite similar cannot be combined because there is a case limitation for a grammatical person. The rule is that the first or second-person direct object clitic can only combine with a third-person indirect object clitic. Such rules may cause changes within the structure of the clitic. In this respect, morphological and syntactic analyses must be made to explain such irregularities with the initialization. Though less common in formal or academic writing, there are many such clitics in spoken and informal English, easing pronunciation and writing by reducing auxiliary verbs or some negation adverbs. Some examples of special clitics are the contracted forms of (well, is) and the possessive ('s). They are termed special clitics because they have specific grammatical roles but cannot be used freely. Like bound morphemes, they rely on the host words to convey complete sense.

Syntactic Placement and Cliticization Patterns

Although clitics are commonly attached to a preceding host, they can also follow words. The syntactic patterns of phrases can specify this property of clitics. This characteristic of certain clitics annexed to the preceding words demonstrates their role as an immediate syntactical element.

- Verbal Clitics: The contracted forms "s, 'll, 'd, 've, 're, 'm, 'nt' are attached to verbs or subjects of the verbs.
- Pronoun clitics: The contracted form is attached to pronouns such as 'he's, she's' etc.

Auxiliary clitics are used to modify the tense and aspects of grammar, which will also leave a semantic impact on the interpretation of the sentence. However, pronominal clitics do not significantly play a special role in conveying grammatical information; they simplify phrase structure in daily communications. Auxiliary clitics also provide ease in stating actions and

states demonstrating ways to identify aspects and tenses. On the other hand, pronominal clitics provide simpler utterances and control the speech rhythm and fluency in casual communications.

DISCUSSION

The weird features of English contractions that are professionally termed clitics have motivated me to delve into the depths of this important grammatical phenomenon so that the functions and properties of these elements are unraveled. The results above demonstrate how clitics have a multi-functional property in creating new phonological words, altering meaning, and the syntactical and morphological functions of the senseless elements. The English clitics analysis leads to very complex aspects of grammar, which usually functions as a bridge between syntax and morphology, semantics and morphology. The main goal of writing this article was to reveal the intricate qualities of English clitics and to unravel the theoretical models of this phenomenon. Those who read this article will be intrigued by the intricacies of English clitics, so this study will simplify their academic journey into deeper investigations in this field.

Superficial analysis just relate English clitics to syntax, which deals with the structure of sentences; however, deeper investigations has revealed that this phenomenon has shared intersections with other branches of linguistics, such as morphology, phonology, and semantics. This precise study paves the path for other researchers to discover the parts that may be expected inexplicably. In such situation, it, like a strong academic stimulus, will push us forward to grasp the virtue of other disciplines of linguistics that may have a direct or indirect relation with cliticalization.

One important aspect of clitics that has been clarified and found in this short study is that clitics are phonologically independent morphemes but syntactically bound to their host words. The clitics, such as the contraction of have not, and the possessive s, have the features that defy the parts of speech. In order to maintain their freedom, clitics may be annexed to any adjacent words; this stabilizes their close relations with morphology and syntax.

The second important finding in this precise study is that other syntactical elements of English linguistics regarding placement and dependency are dissimilar to clitics. Until now, we have been discussing how clitics are attached to the preceding or following host words, so this intricate behavior of English clitics requires that henceforth linguists should review their past explanations and viewpoints regarding the syntactical rules to accommodate such new phenomena.

CONCLUSION

Although concise, this research has provided a great deal of important information about different types of English clitics. The writer believes everything has pros and cons, so this study is also not an exception. For an even better analysis of English clitics, other researchers may conduct further studies to unravel the intricacies left unexplained in this paper. The parts

that may require more explanations are associated with prosody interaction and their impact on word stress and sentence intonation. If willing, future researchers may also explore on how children and those who study English as a second language acquire clitics. To broaden the extent of the study, it is also possible to study how clitics are used in different dialects and varieties of the English language.

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to those who helped me write this research paper. First, I want to thank Abdullah Noori, my colleague and best friend in the English department, who diligently contributed to refining and formatting my paper. This paper would not have been completed without his positive feedback and contributions. I am also grateful to Mr. Farhekhta, who has constantly motivated me to write research articles throughout the years.

Conflict of Interest: The author declares no conflict of interest.

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