

Unsupervised-Based Information Extraction from Unstructured Arabic Legal Documents

Khudhair J.Kadhim, Ahmed T. Sadiq, Hasanen S. Abdulah

Computer Sciences Department, University of Technology, Baghdad, Iraq.

Abstract

In order to make the unstructured or semi-structured traditional legal texts that are meet the requirements of high-level application such as A.I applications in legal, must overcoming on challenge how to extract and analyze structured information from the legal documents automatically. This paper proposes architecture that using a combined approach that utilizes features, lexical and rules based approaches to extract the needed information from traditional legal documents. This research uses a dataset that is collected from Iraq federal court of cassation decisions documents to extract two sets of information, the first is a set of general information, including reference law category, date of decision, court of jurisdiction name, and document no., decision type that are called valuables attributes information, and the document essence is a focused legal information that include principle, arguments, opinions legal, and facts of the case which can used in any analysis phase. This research is a part of big project entitled "The Arabic documents opinion extraction using argumentation mining", and the preliminary results were quite promising.

Extracción de información basada en supervisión de documentos legales árabes no estructurados

Resumen

Para que los textos legales tradicionales no estructurados o semiestructurados que cumplan con los requisitos de la aplicación de alto nivel, tales como las aplicaciones de A.I en legal, deben superar el desafío de cómo extraer y analizar información estructurada de los documentos legales automáticamente. Este documento propone una arquitectura que utiliza un enfoque combinado que utiliza características, enfoques léxicos y basados en reglas para extraer la información necesaria de los documentos legales tradicionales. Esta investigación utiliza un conjunto de datos que se recopila de los documentos de decisiones del tribunal de casación federal de Iraq para extraer dos conjuntos de información, el primero es un conjunto de información general, que incluye la categoría de ley de referencia, la fecha de la decisión, el nombre del tribunal de jurisdicción y el documento no. , el tipo de decisión que se denomina información de atributos de valores. y la esencia del documento es una información legal enfocada que incluye principios, argumentos, opiniones legales y hechos del caso que pueden usarse en cualquier fase de análisis. Esta investigación es parte de un gran proyecto titulado "La extracción de opinión de documentos árabes utilizando la minería de argumentación", y los resultados preliminares fueron bastante prometedores.

1. Introduction

Texts included in the legal documents are express about conditions what is permitted, forbidden or mandatory, which written in natural language in the context they regulate [1]. These traditional decisions and judgments of court or legal texts are unstructured documents, which cannot meet the requirements of high-level application of legal such as A.I applications in legal and other. On the other side, automated legal applications need to process formal information to achieve its desired aims.

The growing area of applications that are concerned with legal domain, such as AI systems which are backing coming to legal inferences or formulating legal argument or legal advisory systems and other, which aims to overcome difficulties that facing decision makers in recognize and analysis problems. The search operations in law area is time consume. Whatever their purpose, whether to retrieval information from texts of legal documents or analyze the content of those documents to support final decisions or both [2]. In addition, the manually achievement any of those aspirations is a very costly job, therefore became motivate to highlight the importance of Information Extraction (IE) as a key Phase or critical factor in enhance and improve the performance of those applications.

The IE problem is referring to the automatic extraction of structured information from noisy unstructured textual sources. IE problem from text documents is an important and a research topic in different computer science communities, such as: databases, information retrieval, and artificial Intelligence [4]. The effectiveness of IE methods from documents greatly are affect by layout, content and relations between them of the documents under consideration[3]. Although this is a general domain problem, it has a special relevance in the legal domain.

The nature of writing documents that using with proposed approach in this paper is impose an additional challenge to the known challenges (legal domain and Arabic language) in IE, plus the sentence boundary detection challenge. Target documents in this paper are written as paragraphs each one in a single sentence only without punctuation indicate for boundaries of sentences or phrases except rarely and many different layouts used in each paragraph (will be explained later in 3).

Extracting, distinguish, and identifying particular information from cassation decisions documents which handling in this paper, is possible for the expert, but in same time is range limited and time exhaustion. The task seems impossible or at least difficult from point of view who are outside the specialty. This paper tries to answer the following question: How to exploit combines the document structure with multi-techniques of NLP to extract a set of general information and important parts of legal text such as principle, opinions, legal reasoning, and facts of the case automatically in court cassation decisions?

The answer will be through the approach which followed in this paper. The remaining paper sections is structured as follows. Section 2, relevant previous works discussed. Section 3, highlights about the paper application domain. Section 4, presented the proposed approach design. Section 5, discusses the proposed approach implementation. In last two sections, a brief explaining about evaluation of the proposed system and the conclusions. 2. Related Works

The task of extracted and identify information in legal documents treatment automatically is an urgent need for law applications area, which received investigated extensively in the literature. But, noteworthy is the scarcity in similar works which related to Arabic legal documents if compared with their counterparts in English or other Languages and is still open problem. There are several approaches that related to the proposed approach which are listed as follows:

In 2010, [8] approach try to develop a mechanism that support effective search to identified and extracted the relevant information to characters' role and events in a case semi-automatically from collection of legal documents, which support lawyers' activities in corporate litigation. In information extraction phase from this approach is using NLP tool and information of entity related and identifying other factors (topic, time and location of event and character role in event). The approach based on Xerox Incremental Parser (XIP) as a for linguistic processing such as chunking, dependencies, NER, morphological analyzer, POS and patterns over chunks sequences where event recognition. In 2016, the proposed approach [7] is utilize the IE techniques to improving legal information retrieval from Arabic legal texts (Tunisian laws). Approach is relying on ontology domain with tools of NLP in the process of IE. Approach is used a general structures schema to identify general class for legal document and the structure elements of class with taken into consideration the relations between these types, because the references to other texts is exist. By applied the syntactic grammar for extracting "table of contents" of document, that allow to recognize the key terms in document's headers, which in the end is information about the document's main topics. In order to overcome challenges of the natural language in legal texts, this approach used an especially NLP tool called "NooJ" combine with morphological a dictionary for Arabic legal terms to extract the matching sequences and builds a concordance. In 2017, approach in [1] proposed unsupervised technique, which combines different NLP techniques to automated extraction of rules from Australian legal "Telecommunications consumer protections code" documents. Exploits WordNet to process variability in natural language expressions of legal texts, and relying on the Stanfordparser to obtain the grammatical representation of the sentences. In other words, uses methodology which combines syntactic-based together with a logic-based, that exploited the logical dependencies between chunks of text. Results of evaluation for this work are rely on compared with manually rules which produced by an analyst. In 2017, approach in [3] proposed an environment called (CLI-EL). The main idea in this approach is organize the document text in a way accessible manner, then easy extraction the information. This work used mechanism relying on documents layout detection phase and a set of JAPE grammar rules to extract information from commercial law documents. First, applies a rule-based NLP model to split documents based on section boundaries of text (e.g. titles and indexes), and Gazetteer for names of entities to produces annotate documents file in XML format in a hierarchical data structure. Each text unit is representing by node, where the sections headings in level, the subsections headings in the next level and so, the leaves contain the actual text. The second, are applied to parsed the annotations for specific information which will extracted and stored. In 2017, the work in [5] proposes a model that exploit knowledge-supporting of a domain in IE process as a key factor, call it controlled domains, which refer to relatively a free and open text domain e.g. news articles. This work focus on handling Arabic texts to extraction the atomic concepts and relations in the beginning, while concepts and relation composite extract using description logic (DL) later. The proposed model uses pattern-matching techniques to employs the syntactic elements and semantic elements to extracting concepts and them relations and to overcome language variation which can be appear from syntactic pattern, thus used description logic in validated of information accuracy which extracted.

3. Application Domain of Proposed Approach

The absence of Arabic legal texts corpus and unavailable support sources for law Arabic documents, that give a motivation to build corpus concerned with one of legal documents types, which will besharing it in the future after increase the number of documents.

This paper targets a set of 60 paper documents of Iraq Federal Court of Cassation decisions paper documents. They are collected randomly while ensuring diversity of cases, references laws, and formats. Manually converted to digital copies. The corpus of documents used increases complexitydue the format, writing style, and language factors. Different format of documents context is arising from difference in reference laws (cross-references). In terms of the writing way these decisions are written, each section is represented by a paragraph, written Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) in a free human language and does not use punctuation in most of the document sections, so each section can be visualized as a long sentence.IE suffers from challenges of Arabic texts like other technique from high inflectional, rich morphology, diversity and other features in Arabic language, that could be considered a reason for lack of Arabic-based related work.

Although most cassation decisions documents tend to be organized in

semi-standard sections, but the variety in the ways of present, arrangement, and content of information depending on the type of court of jurisdiction and law. cassation decisions document is often divided into four basic sections with variable lengths, in addition document number. First section includes information about category of governing or reference law and date of commission formation. Second section includes names of plaintiff and defendant, has been overlooked in this work (The privacy is the main reason behind its ignoring. Its belong to the first type of information extracted "general information". That can be directly extracted, it is clear and free of filler text). The third, its contain the name and decision of the court of jurisdiction along with the main reason for litigation and the facts of the case. The last, for the cassation commission opinion and the legal principle based, supported by legal arguments.

4. The Proposed Approach design

The proposed work methodology is adopting combine document's structure and NLP techniques to extract the legal information from legal texts in unstructured documents. In particular, approach implemented exploits many elements to achieve its goals, which are:

i) Document's structure to identify types of information extracted. document's structure is one of the valuable sources to information extracted process from court of cassation decisions. In actuality, distinguishing between the layout or hierarchical of document helps to automatically extraction for general information types and other information derived from these documents texts.

The order of parts in document's structure is the feature exploited by this proposed approach, which used as a guide in determine the type of information will be extracted from each part. e.g. the part or first paragraph text of the document includes information on the category of the reference law of the case and date of the Commission formation in court of cassation. This approach cited the work [3] which used layout feature of documents but this approach represents each part in document as a node in a tree include only one level after the root, due the nature of the documents content organization as indicated in advance, whose parts tend to be semi-independent. It supports parallel processing of the document. Although there is type of correlation between the last two parts of decisions documents, which is represented by description of some events of the case that occasionally referred to in the decision of the cassation. Their presence in the documents is not guaranteed, to reduce complexity, and

importantly the proposed approach is interested with " The main reason for litigation " of the case as a more general representation for type of legal cases Which are belong to the same legal subdivision rather than focusing on details. e.g. the cases belong to "نندال المعرب للطب المعربين" Revoke argument of permission.

iii) Techniques and libraries of NLP for parsing tree, part of speech (POS) tag for grammatical representation of sentences in order to recognize them. Stanford library is used for doing the syntactic part.

The proposed approach comprises Three main steps, shown in Figure 1 1- Identification the document structure parts:

This step is responsible any section identification of the document' structure that is being processed currently. To content-based section identification, this step used predefined key terms. the output of this step used by small lexical dictionary to determines key terms that relates to the treated section currently. and determines the types of information extractedfrom the selected section.

2- Text processing: This step is preprocessing includes many sub-stepsA. Sentences and phrases separation:

This process is due to the targeted documents texts properties in the current work, no punctuation in text to allows to splitting. Combine the sentence parser tree which generate using Stanford library and a lightweight grammar rule are exploit in phrases separation.

B. Arabic text normalization, Tokenization, POS Tagger, stemming: in This step executed set of processes to initialize the text for processing in next steps, include the normalization is important process and focuses on text Arabic, is process to noisy remove from text Arabic and transforming to standard format. As well as for text stemming processing is grouping different terms with same meaning and forms into standard form. POS Tagger is used by the lightweight sentences patterns

3- Information Extraction: This step to recognize and extracted the phrases that contain Information required from the previous step output. syntactic grammar is apply by rely on lightweight sentences patterns that alteration depending on section identification and in the presence of the lexical dictionary and the sections information's types identifier.

4- Store extracted information: store extracted information: This step to index each document legal decision and the information which extracted.

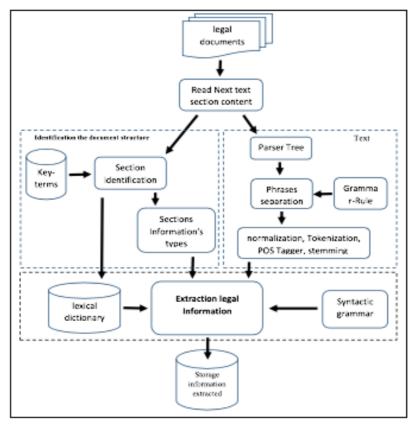


Fig1. The Proposed Approach Architecture

5. The Proposed Approach Implementation

The following algorithm 1 is illustrating a general steps of proposed algorithm, where the input of algorithm consists from lexical dictionary, Grammar-Rule, Syntactic patterns and Legal document text and the output involve the two types from information extracted Valuable attributes and Analytic information.

Algorithm 1: Legal Information Extraction					
Input	: Legal document text, Keyword dictionary, Syntactic patterns				
Output	: Valuable attributes and Analytic information				
Begin					
	Read legal document text For each section in legal document text				
	3. Section Identification (Document structure, Keyword dictionary)				
	4. Parser Tree creation (raw text of section)				
	5. Phrases separation (Parser Tree, Grammar-Rule)				
	6. For each Phrase in Phrases separation				
	NLP-Process Phrases (Phrases)				
	Extract-information (Phrases, Syntactic patterns, lexical dictionary)				
	Storage of extracted information ()				
	Next				
Ne	xt				
7. End					

The proposed algorithm after read legal document text is executing many procedures for each section from document as follows:

1- Section Identification: this procedure based on document structure to identify the section in document used the Keyword to distinguish them section. other sub procedures are Implicit executed once identify section from document structure. Any information which will be extracted from the selected section by Sections Information's types (), and Any Keywords which used to refers to locations of those extracted information by Sections Keyword identification ().

2- Phrases separation: this procedure based on document contents. Started by call the NLP libraries to create sentences parser tree using Stan-

ford library (supports the Arabic language) to represent sentences and phrase in text. This approach exploits parser tree to splitting the section's sentences depend on each initial symbol S, sub-S and Coordinating conjunction. In addition, using the Stanford library to produce Tokenization, POS Tagger. This procedure used other techniques of NLP to remove the noisy from text Arabic, using the normalization and stemmer to transformation terms in different groups to unification standard format.

Extract-information: These steps are applied on each phrase in 3each document section. using the keywords that section specify to refer for the zone which can be contains the target information, one or more of keywords can be appear in text zone and can be located at start, end, middle, or both. Therefore, the using syntactic patterns helps in specific what is benefit from text. It's like a shallow parser which take POS of each tokens of text zone (bigrams, trigrams) and looking for a specific pattern such as (NN+JJ) or (NN+NN+JJ) with trigrams.

6. The Proposed Approach result and Evaluation

This paper targets a sample of legal documents texts to experiments consists of 60 documents from Iraq federal court of cassation decisions, collected and distributed randomly over some classes of the laws references. The Figure 2. presents a sample and structure of the court of cassation decisions document and the table. are shows the two type of information which extracted from that document text.

There is no similar previous works in the same specialization or content can be used to results evaluation. Therefore, used to evaluate a website of Iraq Supreme Judicial Council, that offers an online search service to retrieval some cassation court decisions, which are indexed manually.



Fig2. Decisions Sample Court of Cassat

This information extracted manually include the general information (reference law category, Date of decision, judgment issuer), judgment legal principle and decision text (the entire fourth section from any document). The results evaluation of the proposed approach is distributed into two levels. The first level the extracted the valuable attributes information that used the precision and recall measures and the average of results were 93% and 89% respectively.

• Recall: How many relevant valuable attributes are selected? divided by the total number of existing relevant valuable attributes.

• Precision: How many selected valuable attributes are relevant? divided by the total number of valuable attributes.

The second level the extracted deductive or analytic legal texts, where evaluate results relies on the compared with text extracted manually in website (as shown in Table 2) and present to legal specialists, the results were 85%. The reason is the approach is extract not just the legal principle but the reasons for it from decision text in the form of isolated sentences and pronouns compensate problem in text.

7. Conclusions

This paper is an attempt to founded an efficient approach for information extract from unstructured Arabic legal texts automatic, using unsupervised approach. This paper takes into account the document's structure is a valuable source to determine the relations between target information and using techniques. The combine NLP techniques, lexical terms, and syntactic patterns is supports promising results.

The main idea is exploit document's layout to identify texts sections of legal document, consequently can be determination what the target information in text, and which any keywords which used as a information locations indicators and which any syntactic pattern can be applied to extract the final information from each section in legal document. Can be present the research contributions in brief:

• It's produces two types of extracted information from Arabic legal documents the valuabled attributes and analytic information.

• Improve the indexing, retrieving, and clustering the legal documents automatically.

• To provides a useful foundation and making legal information more available and transparent for legal domain applications.

Ghassan Awad Ibrahim

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Type of information will be extracted	Type of information required	values of information extracted	
	No. document	1283	
	Date of document	2018	
Valuable attributes	Law References	هيئة الاحوال الشخصية و المواد الشخصية	
(specific information called	Date of commission formation	2018-09-07	
data point)	Jurisdiction court Name	الاهوال الشخصية في المشخاب	
	Main reason for litigation	بالزامه بالنفقة المستمرة لهاى لابنتها	
	Cassation State	قرر قبوله شكلا	
	Court Cassation Opinion	وجد انه غير صحيح و مخالف لاحكام الشرع والقانون	
	Facts or Brief of the Case	ان المدعى عليه زوجها قد تركها بدون نفقه او منفق شرعي هي و طفلتها لذا	
Analytic information (part	Jurisdiction court decision	ت محكمة ألمو شوع حكما حضوريا ب حد 82/ ش / 2018 و تاريخ 2018/2/14 حكما وقضي او لا / برد دعوى المدعية يخصرهن مطالبتها ب الثققة المستمر ه لها و	
of legal text)	Legal principles	إذلك أن المدعى عليه لم يهيها بينا شرعيا للندعية تتوقر فيها الشروط الشرعية والقاتونى. إذلك الشابه في جلسات المرافعة أن المدعية تسكن مع زوجها المدعى عليه في بيت اهله. إذلك القابها مستكور اللقافة براعيما المستمرة المستمرة	

Table 1. The Information that Extracted by Approach

Approach Extraction	Manually Extraction	URL	Raw Text of Decision
لان الزوجة تستحق كل المهر المسمى بالدخول	تستحق الزوجة كل المهر المسمى	https://www.h	لدى التدقيق والمداولة تبين أن الطعن التمييزي وأقع ضمن المدة القانونية لذا
دن الروجة لمنتحق عن العهور المعنقي بالتحون استنادا للمادة (21) من قانون الاحوال الشخصية	بالدخول استنادا للمادة (21) من قانون	ic.ig/gview.17	
رقم 188 لمنة 1959 المعل	الاحوال الشخصية رقم 188 لسنة	jc.iq/qview.17	وروافق للشرع والقانون ذلك لأن الزوجة تستحق كل المهرر العسمي بالدخول
رم 188 ملك (1959 المعدن	الكوان المتحصية رغم 188 مسة 1959 1959 المعال.	80/	الموافق تتعرع والعانون ذلك في الروجة لتنتخل في المهر المعتمي بالتحون استنادا للمادة (21) من قانون الاحوال الشخصية رقم 188 لسنة 1959 المعدل
	1939		المستدر المعادة (21) من قانون الاخوان المتحصية رقم 188 لمسة 1959 المعدن لذا قرر تصديقه ورد الطعون التمييزية وتحميل المميز رسم التمييز وصدر القرار
			لة فرر تصديقه ورد الطعون التعييرية وتحمين المعين رضم التعيير وصدر الفرار - بالاتفاق في 18/شوال/1433هـ 2012/9/5 م.
ذلك ان الضرورة الملجنة حالة خاصة بالمزجر	الضرورة الملجنة حالة خاصة بالموجر	https://www.h	
تقرض عليه ولا يسعى اليها وان قيام المؤجر	تقرض عليه ولا يسعى إليها فسكنى	jc.ig/gview.12	قني المانيي والعاولة وجد ان المعنى الميروي معلم عمن العاد العاوية عرر قبوله شكلاً. ولدى عطف النظر على الحكم المميز وجد بأنه غير صحيح ومخالف
المعيز عليها) بايجار الدار بتاريخ 2002/10/24	المؤجر في دار شقيقته وقيامه بإيجار	22/	
والتعور عيها) بيبار التار بدري 10/24 2002/	داره للغير فعودة شقيقته وطلبها سكن	221	المتصون دلك أن المدعي (المعير عيد) لذ الملك في دعوا، هي المدور، المعيد المدون المعيد المديد مدي المديد المدين المديد ال
وعنت في دار منيت رويت مناعم 2002 وعودتها الى العراق وترغب المنكن في دارها	دارها لائعد ضرورة ملجنة وتغنيها تنتن		العقار رقم 87 لسنة 1979 من أنه يسكن الدار العائدة لشقيقة زوجته الواقعة في
وحوصها الى العراق وترعب العلق في دارات المشغولة من قبله لا يعتبر من قبل الضرورة	تحمن الوضع الأمنى حالة عامة وليست		معدار رئم 67 فقطة 1979 من الدوليس الدار العالة العالي وكونها عادت وترغب المكن حي المغرب منذ عام 2002 لمطرها خارج العراق وكونها عادت وترغب المكن
الملجنة كما أن تحمن الظروف الأمنية هي حالة	خاصة بالمزجر		بهارها لتحسن الظروف الامنية وأن محكمة البداءة قضت في حكمها المميز
عامة وليست خاصة بالمزجل وعليه تكون			بتخلية الدار موضوع الدعوى أذ رأت أن الضرورة الملجنة متوفرة في الدعوى
الضرورة الملجنة غير متحققة في دعوى المدعى			مستندة الى ان عودة شقيقة زوجة المدعى كان بعد واقعة ايجار المدعى الدار
(المعيز) (المعيز)			بالاضافة الى تحسن الوضع الامنى . إن ما ذهبت اليه المحكمة غير صحيح ولا
(3,)			يستند على اساس قانوني سليم ذلك ان الضرورة الملجنة حالة خاصة بالمؤجر
			تفرض عليه ولا يسعى اليها وأن قيام المؤجر (المميز عليها) بإيجار الدار بتاريخ
			2002/10/24 وسكنه في دار شقيقة زوجته منذ عام 2002 وعودتها إلى العراق
			وترغب السكن في دارها المشغولة من قبله لا يعتبر من قبيل الضرورة الملجنة
			كما ان تحسن الظروف الامنية هي حالة عامة وليست خاصة بالمزجر. وعليه
			تكون الضرورة الملجنة غير متحققة في دعوى العدعي (العميز) ولما كانت
			المحكمة قد خالفت ذلك مما اخل بصحة حكمها المميز . لذا قرر نقضه وإعادة
			الاضبارة الى محكمتها لاتباع ما تقدم على إن يبقى رسم التمييز تابعا للنتيجة
			وصدر القرار بالاتفاق في 8/رمضان/1429هـ الموافق 8/9/8/2008م.
ذلك ان الماجور خاضع لاحكام قاتون ايجار العقار	ان المادة العاشرة الفقرة (1) من قانون	https://www.h	
وان المادة العاشرة فقرة (1) من القانون تنص على	ايجار العقارر تنص على تدفع سلفا	ic.ig/gview.21	قبوله شكلا ولدى عطف النظر على القرار المميز وجد انه غير صحيح ومخالف
تدفع سلفا اجرة العقارات المشمولة باحكام هذا	اجرة العقارات المشمولة باحكام هذا	00/	للقانون. ذلك ان الماجور خاضع لاحكام قانون ايجار العقار وان المادة العاشرة
القانون باقساط شهرية بصرف النظر عن مدة	القانون بانساط شهرية بصرف النظر		فقرة (1) من القانون تنص على تدفع سلفا اجرة العقارات المشمولة باحكام هذا
سريان عقد الايجار.	عن مدة سريان عقد الايجار ويقع باطلا		القانون بالصاط شهرية بصرف النظر عن مدة سريان عقد الايجار ويقع باطلا كل
	كل انفاق يقضى بخلاف ذلك وعند		اتفاق يقضى بخلاف ذلك وعند امتناع المدعى عليه عن دفع اجرة شهر كانون
	امتناع المدعى عليه عن دفع اجرة شهر		الاول سنة 2013 خلال مدة ثمانية ايام من تاريخ تبلغه بالانذار المسير عن طريق
	كانون الاول سنة 2013 خلال مدة		كاتب عدل في الزبير بدفع اجرة الشهر المذكور لذا من حق المؤجر طلب تخلية
	ثمانية ايام من تاريخ تبلغه بالانذار		الماجور لسبب المذكور . عليه قرر نقضه واعادة الى محمتها لاتباع ما تقدم على
	المسير اليه فللمؤجر حق طلب تخلية		ان يبقى الرسم تابعا الى النتيجة وصدر القرار بالاتفاق في 14/ جمادي الاخر/
	الماجور.		1435 هـ الموافق 2014/4/14م.

Table 2. The Information that Extracted by Approach

References

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