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Abstract

The Morphology and Semantics of Tense in Arabic and English: A Contrastive Study

This study explores tenses at the morphological and semantic levels in both Arabic and English. It aims at showing the similarities and differences between the two languages in terms of the forms that refer to the different times: past, present, and future. The study also gives details of the markers that add time reference to these forms. Moreover, it shows how Arabic can express time by using different forms that include not only verbs, but also nouns and letters, thereby, contesting the claims that accuse Arabic of being poor in this area.

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(26 :1997)

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(adverb)	(adjective)	(verb)	noun):(Master, 1995)
(determiner)	(preposition)	(conjunction)	(pronoun)
			(interjection)

.(Eckersley and Eckersley, 1997)

pen Mona boy : . : : ()Noun .1
 .Gaza
 :() Pronoun .2

.himself who them you I :

2011

: () Adjective .3
". "The teacher is *honest* "a *clever* student," "a *red* car," .4
own eat play : () Verb .5
() Adverb .6
"He ran *quickly*." "She is *very* beautiful." :
() Preposition .7
"He went *to* school." "Nabil lives *in* Jerusalem." :
() Determiner .8
(the) (many, all, five) :
five *my* book : (my, our)
students
:
many
(determiner) *Many* students passed the exam.
(pronoun) *Many* passed the exam.
:
() Conjunction .9
He is poor, *but* he is happy.
() Interjection
Hello! Ah! Oh! Wow! :
determiner pronoun adverb adjective noun
.conjunction preposition interjection

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(42-17 :1984)

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(35 :1)

:(7 :2) ()

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(140-138 :1985)

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() (87 : 1404)

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(158 :2000)

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(83 :)

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 (158 :2000) ()
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(Quirk & Greenbaum, 1973: 26) (main) (lexical)
 .sleep, eat : (irregular) play, walk : (regular)
 be, have, do (primary auxiliary) (auxiliary or helping)
 shall, should, will, would, can, could, may, (modal auxiliary)
 .might, must, ought to, used to, need, dare

:(Quirk and Greenbaum, 1973: 26-37)

call, drink, put	V	(Base)	.1
calls, drinks, puts	V_s	()_s	.2
called, drank, put	V_ed1	(Simple Past)	.3
calling, drinking, putting	V_ing	(Present Participle) _ing participle	.4
called, drunk, put	V_ed2	(Past Participle) _ed participle	.5

V_ed2 V_ed1 V_ed :

....

*to (defective) Modal auxiliaries
! *May! (imperative) *mayed *maying may

(spelling)

1

.stop stopped permit permitted _ing _ed
(AmE) (BrE)

: l, p

	BrE	AmE
signal	signaled signaling	signaled signaling
travel	traveled traveling	traveled traveling
worship	worshipped worshipping	worshipped worshipping

V_ed V_s i _y 2

carry carries carried **carrying** : _ing _y

.lie lying : _ing y _ie 3

write writing : V_ing V_ed _e 4

: _ee, _ye, _oe, _ge

agree agreed agreeing
dye dyed dyeing
hoe hoed hoeing
singe singed singeing

(do, have, be) Primary Auxiliaries

:

(*) 1

do	do does did	do not does not did not	don't doesn't didn't
have	have, 've has, 's had, 'd having	have not, 've not has not, 's not had not, 'd not not having	haven't hasn't hadn't
be	am, 'm is, 's are, 're was were being been	am not, 'm not is not, 's not are not, 're not was not were not not being	aren't, ain't isn't aren't wasn't weren't

:

(lexical verb) (do) .1

.done doing

ain't (aren't I) .2

Modal Auxiliaries

can could may might shall should will, 'll would, 'd must ought to	cannot, can not could not may not might not shall not should not will not, 'll not would not, 'd not must not ought not to	can't couldn't mayn't mightn't shan't shouldn't won't wouldn't mustn't oughtn't to

....

used to need dare	used not to need not dare not	usedn't to, didn't use to needn't daren't
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mayn't .1
shan't .2

(simple)
He *teaches* English. : (simple present)
(compound)
(present continuous)
He *is teaching* English at the moment.

_s		Present Simple	
am is are	V_ing		Present Continuous (Progressive)
Have Has	V_ed2		Present Perfect
have has	Been	V_ing	Present Perfect Continuous (Progressive)

2011

() :

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He *does not drink* wine. He *doesn't drink* wine.

They *are not crying*. They *re not crying*. They *aren't crying*.

She *has not finished* the exercise. She *s not finished* the exercise. She *hasn't finished* the exercise.

V_ed1		Past Simple	
was were	V_ing	Past Continuous (Progressive)	
had	V_ed2	Past Perfect (Pluperfect)	
had	been	V_ing	Past Perfect Continuous (Progressive)

() :

:

He *did not answer* the question. He *didn't answer* the question.

They *were not working*. They *weren't working*.

She *had not come*. She *d not come*. She *hadn't come*.

shall will		V	Future Simple
am is are	going to		
shall will			Future Continuous (Progressive)

....

am is are	going to	be V_ing	
shall will		have V_ed ₂	Future Perfect
shall will		have been V_ing	Future Perfect Continuous (Progressive)

:

() -1

:

He'll call. He will not call. He won't call.
 They are not going to play football. They're not going to play football. They aren't going to play football.

shall () will -2

(Quirk and (Southern BrE.)

Greenbaum, 1973: 47)

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2011

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(55 :1964) :
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(9 :) : (42 :1984 178 :3)
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(4 :)
() (ابن هشام، 1969، 1: 19؛ نور الدين،) :
(66 :1964) :
(66 :) :
(الجاحظ: 243) :
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(نور الدين، 1964): : (67)
(ابن هشام، 1969، 1: 31) () :
(116 :) :
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.(60 :1984) ()

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: (22 :1 1327) () .

.(127 :)

: (87 :1964) () .

.(2 :)

: (232 :2 1985) () .

.(60 :)

1327) () () () .

(7-6 :) : (22 :1

(136 :1) () () () ()

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(16 :)

.(9-8 :)

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.(18-17 :)

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.(25 :)

(Eckersley and Eckersley, 1997)

2011

.1

Peter *arrived* at our house last night.
I *went* to the library yesterday.
I *bought* a bag two days ago.

.2

As I *was running* to the station I met my friend.
While the man *was looking* at the picture, the thief *stole* his watch.
I *was playing* tennis all this afternoon. What *were* you *doing*?

'Did you hear about Henry's new job?':

- a) Yes, my wife *was telling* me about it this morning.
- b) Yes, my wife *told* me about it this morning.

.3

Mary *had learned* English before she came to England.
When we got to the field, the football match *had* already *started*.
I didn't go to the cinema because I *had* already *seen* the film.

If I *had known* that you wanted the book, I would have sent it to you.
If he *had worked* hard, he would have passed the examination.

He *wishes* now that he *had taken* your advice.

....

We *had expected* you to stay at least a week. .

:

- a) When he arrived, I *made* tea.
- b) When he arrived, I *was making* tea.
- c) When he arrived, I *had made* tea.

.4

:

When I got to the meeting the lecturer had already been speaking for half an hour.

The telephone had been ringing for three minutes before it was answered.

:

.5

'Bassanio wants to go to Belmont to woo Portia. He asks his friend Antonio, the merchant of Venice, to lend him money. Antonio says that he hasn't any at the moment until his ships come to port; but Shylock offers to lend him 3,000 ducats. '

:

.6

:

I have lost my pen; I am unable to do my exercises.
He has unlocked the door; there is nothing to prevent you from going out.
This watch was working all right a moment ago but now it has stopped.

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1327) () : .2
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. (5 :)

(231 :2 1985) : .3
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: (110 : 1404)

.(3 :)

((Eckersley and Eckersley, 1997

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I *come* to the class every day.
She *speaks* French.
He always *sleeps* with his windows open.
He *does not smoke*.

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.

The earth *moves* round the sun.
We *come* from Palestine.

.

(non-action or stative verbs)

believe, think, guess,) (see, hear, feel, taste, smell)
have, own,) (suppose, wonder, understand, know, mean
: (belong, contain, possess

Betty *loves* swimming, but *hates* diving.
John *knows* your brother.
Henry *understands* Spanish.

2011

I *remember* what you told me. .2

The sun is shining, the bees are humming, the birds are singing, the fruit is ripening. Summer is here. What are you doing? I am resting in a deck-chair.

()

Parent (to Schoolmaster): 'Is my son working hard this term?'

Schoolmaster: 'Oh, yes, he's trying his best now. '

: .3

I *have taught* this class for ten years (and am still teaching it).

I *have not visited* him for ten years.

.4

I *have been teaching* this class for two years (and am still teaching it).

He *has been learning* English for six months.

The boys *have been watching* television since seven o'clock. (... and are still watching now and will probably go on watching for some time).

: .5

:

If Henry worked, he would pass the examination.

If I had a lot of money, I would buy a villa.

:

I wish I had a garden like yours.

Fred wishes he spoke French as well as you do.

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، نحو قول الرسول ﷺ: نَضَرَ اللَّهُ امراً

(سَمِعَ)

سَمِعَ مَقَالَتِي فَوَعَاها ، ثُمَّ أَدَّاهَا كَمَا سَمِعَهَا²

(نَضَرَ اللَّهُ)

(فَوَعَاها، أَدَّاهَا)

.(134 : 1404)

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(183 :)

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(2658 34/5) : ²

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(Declerck, 2006)

If you go (NOT: 'will go') to London, you will see Big Ben.
When you see (NOT: 'will see') Jack tomorrow, remember me to him.

He sets sail tomorrow for New York, and comes back next month.
The train arrives at six.
We attack at dawn.

I shall be twenty-one on Thursday.
If we take the 11 o'clock train we shall be in Oxford at 12.30.
I think it will rain tomorrow.
You'll get wet if you go out without an umbrella.
It looks as if Henry won't be in time for his train.

.(pure future)

shall

(determination or resolution)

'We *shall* defend our island, whatever the cost may be. We, *all* fight on the beaches, we *shall* fight on the landing-grounds, we *shall* fight in the fields and in the streets, we *all* fight in the hills; we *shall* never surrender.' (From a speech by Winston Churchill, June 1940, cited in Eckersley and Eckersley, 1997).

(determination)

(threat)

(promise)

If you work hard, you *shall* have a holiday on Saturday. (*Promise*)

....

You *shall* have the money as soon as I get it. (*Promise*)
 If you children won't do as I tell you, you *shan't* go to the party.
 (*Threat*)
 He *shall* suffer for this; he *shall* pay you what he owes you. (*Threat* and
Determination)
 These people want to buy my house, but they *shan't* have it.
 (*Determination*)
 The enemy *shall* not pass. (*Determination*)

shall :

:

'He *shall* pay you what he owes you,' meaning, 'I (the speaker) will make him do it.'

:)

'They *shall* beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation *shall* not lift up sword against nation, neither *shall* they learn war any more... for the earth *shall* be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.' (From the Bible, cited in Eckersley and Eckersley, 1997)

will

(determination) (promise) (willingness)

:

All right; I *will* pay you at the rate you ask. (*Willingness*)
 I *won't* forget little Margaret's birthday. I *will* send her a present.
 (*Promise*)
 I *will* make this radio work even if I have to stay up all night.
 (*Determination*)
 'Will you take this woman to be your lawful wedded wife?'
 'I *will*.' (*Willingness. Promise*)

: (assumption) (possibility)

That man with the umbrella *will* be the Prime Minister.

(Eckersley and Eckersley, 1997: 166-167) **going to**

: (intention)

2011

I *am going to* write to Margaret this evening.
Mr. Brown says he is *going to* buy a new car next year.
When *are they going to* pay you the money they owe you?
I know what you are *going to* say.

: (strong probability)

I think it is *going to* rain (i.e. I think it is very probable that it will rain).

I am afraid that the repairs to our house *are going to* cost a lot of money.

: (speaker's certainty)

Look out! That milk is *going to* boil over.
My wife's *going to* have a baby.
He's *going to* regret the day he ever wrote that letter.

(pure future)

going to

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: _____

*I *am going to* be 15 years old in May.

*Today is the 19th of October; tomorrow is *going to* be the 20th.

.3

:

What *will you be doing* this time tomorrow?
This time tomorrow I *shall be flying* to Spain.
My friend *will be waiting* for me at Madrid airport. I hope the plane will arrive on time. If it is late *he will be wondering* what has happened.

:

.4

:

It is now 6:30 p.m.; I *shall have finished* my work by 8 o'clock.
The taxi *will have arrived* by the time you finish dressing.
In another year or so, *you will have forgotten* all about him.

:

When I leave the school next week, I *shall have taught* this class for ten years.

....

On December 18th, *we shall have been married* for 25 years.

:

You *will have heard*, I expect, that Elizabeth is going to be arrived.
It's five o'clock; *they will have arrived* home by now.

.5

:

On April 2nd, 1960, *we shall have been living* in this house exactly thirty years.

In another month's time; Henry *will have been working* in the Weavewell Woolen Company's office for five years.

:

.6

John *is coming* here next week and *is staying* here until August.
What *are you doing* next Saturday?

(Wright, 1967)

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