The Expression of present and future Time in English and Arabic: A contrastive Study

By
Abdul-Fattah Deeb Abdul-Fattah Ahmad

Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the requirements of the M.A. degree in Linguistics in Jordan University

Supervisor:
Prof. Dr. Lewis Mukattash

July, 1988
ABSTRACT

This study is meant to provide a linguistic analysis of the forms and constructions which are usually employed in the expression of present and future time in English and Arabic with the purpose of finding similarities and differences between them. Unlike previous Contrastive works which were devoted to the study of the different functions of the verb in two or more languages, the present study analyses the linguistic elements, verbal and non-verbal as used in the expression of present and future time. Therefore, this work deals with time as a universal semantic concept and tries to investigate its expression in both Arabic and English.

Time is usually realized in events and actions which are expressed by means of linguistic forms. Consequently, this study is concerned with the linguistic expression of such events. The study of the linguistic representation of time is manipulated with reference to the following:

i. Temporal signification as a major function of tense.

ii. Verbal and non-verbal linguistic forms such as the verb, ?ismil-faa9il, ? alma5dar and so on.

iii. The contextual elements, mainly adverbs, used as time specifiers.

The findings of this study may contribute to the linguistic knowledge in general. It might be exploited by researchers in the field of linguistic study, particularly, those who are concerned with Contrastive analysis.

On the other hand, although this study is not intended to
fulfil any practical purposes, its findings may also be useful in teaching and translation. The study falls into four chapters.

Chapter one includes a brief review of the historical development of contrastive analysis as well as the scope, the significance and the limitations of the study.

Chapter Two incorporates a review of previous related studies, traditional and contemporary.

In Chapter Three we present an analysis of the expression of present and future time in Arabic.

Chapter Four is concerned with a detailed contrastive analysis of the expression of present and future time in both Arabic and English as well as general conclusions.