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Variety of Tense and Time Watch Expressions in Algerian Spoken Arabic, Standard Arabic and English

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Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to my lovely and respectable parents who are the light of my eyes. To my father who supported my decision for higher education, and my mother who encouraged me all the time. To my dear brothers, Abdurrahman and Ahmed. To my lovely sister Soumia, her husband Daif and their coming baby. To my lovely young sister Sonia.

I would like to dedicate this work to all my respectable and authentic teachers especially my supervisor Dr. H. Hamada who has helped me a lot on my way to finish my thesis.

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If I were a car to be here, the love, encouragement and support from my family would be the engine and the encouragement and help from my supervisor would be the oil. Thank you all for everything you have done for me!

Abstract

This Dissertation investigates the variety of time and tense expressions. It focuses mainly on the difference between Algerian spoken Arabic , standard Arabic, and English time watch expressions, but also takes into account the variety of English and standard Arabic tense expressions. A set of English and standard Arabic tense expressions, and 12 Algerian spoken watch expressions-from four different regions, translated into standard Arabic and then into English, are provided for a comparative study. The results of this comparative study that contains differences and similarities will then be revealed and discussed.

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Introduction

1. Scope of the Study

Language is a human behaviour that can be studied from several different points of view: social, cultural, psychological, biological, etc. The social study of language is specified by sociolinguistics which means the study of language in relation to society.

If we speak about language as a phenomenon including all the languages of the world, the term variety of language can be used to refer to different signs of it. This language variation is to be found everywhere.

Time and tense expressions sometimes cause a lot of discussion, especially time watch expressions in the case where they are used by participants who come from different speech communities. Considering the case in Algeria, I notice that there is a misunderstanding of time expressions because each speech community expresses time in different ways. In addition, speakers' different areas do not agree on the notion of time units. Some communities consider 1 minute as unit to measure time, whereas, others use 5 minutes as a unit for measuring time. This study is a comparative analysis; it will consist of expressions of tense and time in both: Standard Arabic, Algerian Spoken Arabic and English.

2. Statement of the problem

This study is an attempt to examine time variety since people use different expressions for indicating time and answer differently. Expressions may vary according to languages and social aspects. Thus, people in some cases, find difficulties to understand each other, especially if time is expressed differently in the same community.

3. Research Questions

Research in this field systematically focuses on questions related to time variety such as:

1. What time is it? Why do people answer this question differently?

2. What are the time expressions?

3. What is time? Why do people ask for time?

4. What are the different ways of identifying time?

5. What is the difference between Standard Arabic, Algerian Arabic time expressions and English ones?

4. Hypothesis

It is assumed, in this study, that all people (learners) ask about time and express it in different ways. We hypothesize that time expressions are subject to language difference and variety.

This study focuses mainly on the difference between English and Standard Arabic tense and time expressions, but also takes into account the variety of Algerian Spoken Arabic time watch expressions which may have negative effects on participants' use of time expressions.

5. Method

Conceiving and carrying out research is as much a creative process as it is a scientific one.

To carry out any research, we need to develop a careful plan, follow a certain strategies and choose the appropriate method. Since I am interesting in time and tense variety, I will talk about English and Arabic tense expressions, then I will pick at random 10 students from four different regions (Constantine, Mila, Oum-el-Boughi and Skikda) to ask them the same question: what time is it? And how do they express time in some precise time indications. I will also examine English tense expressions and Standard Arabic tense expressions to see if they reveal some variation.

Finally, I will compare some Algerian Spoken Arabic time expressions with expressions of standard Arabic and English. This comparative analysis aims at showing that people do not obey the same rule while expressing time. This may have negative effects on the participants' expressions of tense and time in English and standard Arabic.

6. Content of the Dissertation:

This dissertation discusses some aspects of time such as: definition, measurement, identification, and tense. The latter is also discussed to explain and show its close relationship with time and to see the variation of English tense expressions and Arabic ones. The project examines also some Algerian watch expressions from four regions to compare their shift from Algerian dialect to standard language and English. The difference is determined after the comparative analysis and it shows that the participants don't follow the same norms to express and identify time.

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Chapter One:

Time and Tense

Introduction:

Time is a universal, non-linguistic concept. Within any language, reported events are related in time to the moment of speech. Equally, reported events are related to other events that have been already reported. The ability to express time concept is an important aspect of our communicative potential. This is why shed light on some aspects of time and tense. The latter is an obligatory feature of event description because we need to select one tense or another to express an action through time. This chapter clarifies some aspects of time (definition, measurement, and identification), shows the relationship between time and tense and mentions the adverbials that denote time and tense because tense cannot be thought as a property of the verb action alone, but a system of co-occurrence between verbs and adverbs.

1-Definition of Time:

Time is a concept that doesn't need any proof or explanation. In other words, it is self-evident. It is passing without a stop or a break and we can follow it with clocks and calendars. Many terminologies relate to time like: an hour, a day, a minute, a second, a year, etc. An hour consists of a certain number of minutes (a period of 60 minutes), minutes of seconds, a day of hours and so on. The passing of time and the concept of space are closely connected and time is represented through change, such as the circular motion of the moon around the earth. The fact that time is measured by motion and becomes evident through motion is one of the strangest qualities of it.

Elisabeth Eaves (29-02-2008, what is time? Retrieved: 25-04-2009) defines time as something obvious, she says: "We all know what time is. It is the ticking of the clock, the whine of an alarm, the calendar on the wall. And since we all agree about how those things work, time can seem as solid as a rock."

2- Measurement of Time:

When we think of time we tend to think of the ways in which we measure its duration and length, such as a clock or a watch or perhaps a measured interval of time such as an hour or minute. We measure exactly the interval between events, using units that we have chosen for the purpose. We may say, for example , that the next train will be in 5 minutes. While this information maybe very useful for telling us how late the train is when it eventually arrives. (Herbert George Wells and Robert Hardy, 1982, 02.)

3- Identification of Time:

3.1. Using Months of Year:

The year is 12 months and each month consists of a number of days (either 30 or 31 days), except February that always consists of 28 or 29 days. The 12 month of the year are mentioned in the following table with the numbers of days.

nuary	days	جانفي،يناير،كانون الث
bruary	-29 days	فيفري،فبراير،شب
arch	days	مارس،اذ
ril	days	افريل،ابريل،نيس
ay	days	ماي،مايو،ا
ne	days	جوان،يونية،حزير
y	days	جويتية،يولية،تم
gust	days	اوت،اغسطس،
ptember	days	سبتمبر،ايل
tober	days	اكتوبر،تشرين الا
vember	days	نوفمبر،تشرين الا
cember	days	ديسمبر،كانون الثا

Table 01: The Identification of Time Using Months of the Year. (Nekaa Hayat, and Nabil Nouri Dictionary, 233.)

3.2. Using Days of the Week:

There are 7 days in the week and one day is 24 hours.

Saturday السبت	Sunday الاحد	Monday الاثنين
Tuesday الثلاثاء	Wednesday الاربعاء	Thursday الخميس

yadirF الجمعة

3.3. Using Seasons of the Year:

The year is divided into four seasons. Spring is the season which follows winter and comes before summer. In spring the weather gets warmer and plants begin to grow. Summer is the second season of the year after spring and before autumn. It is the warmest season. Autumn or Fall is the season that comes between summer and winter, in autumn the leaves on the trees begin to fall. The last season is winter, it comes between autumn and spring and it is the coldest season.

Spring الربيع	Summer الصيف
Autumn الخريف	Winter الشتاء

3.4. Using the Watch:

3.4.1. The Watch Definition:

A watch is a timepiece or portable clock that display the time and sometimes the day, date, month, and year. In past centuries, these often took the form of pocket watches, which today are seldom carried or worn. In modern usage, watch is usually a contraction of wrist watch, a name for the most popular style of timekeeping device worn on wrist. Because most watches lack a striking mechanism, such as a bell or gong, to announce the passage of time, they are properly called: timepieces rather than clocks.

3.4.2. The Watch Types, Parts, and Movements:

There are many types of the watch. The watch that is worn on the wrist, it is called: the wrist watch. The watch that is designed for travelers, allowing them to see what time it is at home when they are elsewhere, it is named: the dual time watch. In addition to pocket watch, and radio watch (watches that have radio-controlled movements). The watch consists of three parts: the escapement, balance wheel, and the tourbillion. The first two parts are mechanisms within any mechanical watch of classical design, the third one is optional.

A movement in watch making is the mechanism that measures the passage of time displays the current time and possible other information including date, month, and day. The watch movements can be entirely electronic, entirely mechanical or a blend of the two. (Cludius, Julein, Tripplin, Edward Rigg, 1881.)

3.4.3. Watch Functions:

All watches provide the time of day, giving at least the hour and minute, and usually the second. Most also provide the current date, and often the day of the week as well. However, many watches also provide a great deal of information beyond the basics of time and date. Some watches include alarms.

Other elaborated and more expensive watches, both pocket and wrist models, also incorporate striking mechanisms or repeater functions, so that wearer could learn the time by the sound emanating from the watch. This announcement or striking feature is an essential characteristic of true clocks and distinguishes such watches from ordinary time-pieces. (Jersey Devil, 1979, 51).

4. Tense Definition:

Tense is a set of grammatical markings which are used to relate the time of the events described in a sentence to the moment where the words are themselves uttered. Tense is, thus, deictic, that is it points towards time now or time then. John Lyons (1995, 195) defines the term tense as:

"One of the terms of traditional grammar that is widely used in its traditional sense by those who would claim no special expertise in linguistics. It is of course derived ultimately from the Latin word 'tempus', meaning 'time'."

Greenbaun (1991) defines tense as the form taken by the verb so that it indicates the time at which the events described are taking place. Strang (1974,134) who shares this view, argues:

"Tense is anyone of the verb forms in the conjugation of the verb which serve to indicate the different times at which the action is viewed as happening or existing."

Downing and Lock (1992,352) consider that:

"Tense primarily involves visualizing events as points in a sequence, preceding or following a central point which is usually the present moment.
And that:

"Tense systems are language specific and vary from one language to another, both in the number of tenses they distinguish and in the way in which these reflect temporal reference."

5. Tense and Time:

Time is shared by all human beings whatever their language is whereas tense varies from one language to another (Jespersen, 1933). According to Huddeleston (1988) tense is grammatical and time is the semantic basis for the grammatical category of tense. He believes that a language has tense if it has a set of systematically contrasting verb inflections with the primary semantic function of relating the time of the situation to the time of utterance. He concludes that tense involves the grammaticalization of time relations, and he describes it as a grammatical category with time relations as its semantic basis.

Time is the essential element in probably all actions and events. It is specified when something took place relative to the time of speaking or writing and we may specify other time related factors, such as whether an event (or action) was instantaneous or lasted over a period of time. Jack (1990, 76-7) believes that:

"States, too, are specific for time; though some may be considered to be 'timeless'…Equally, some events may be regarded as 'timeless' in that they express an unendingregularity … Few actions can be 'timeless', not least given the morality of humanbeings, unless we predicate them of humans(or, animals) in general, or of God."

The time indicated by a given tense does not necessarily express real time; it could and does in many occasions express the speaker's use of distinctions of timein accordance with the conventions of his language often for grammatical purposes that have nothing to do with time (Strang, 1974). In agreement with him, Downingand Lock (1992, 353) say:

"Tense systems are language specific and vary from one language to another, both in the number of tenses they distinguish and in the way in which these tenses reflecttemporal reference. In English, for instance, it would be erroneous to imagine that thepast tense refers exclusively to events in past time, that there is a present tense to refer exclusively to events in present time."

Indeed, the present tense is not limited to present actions or events and the past tense is not limited to past actions or events. For example, when we narrate i.e. report past events, we may

use the historical present to describe events vividly as if they arehappening in our presence (Leech and Svartrick, 1975).

Tense, however, is not the only linguistic means to express timerelations.

"Tense differentiation should not be thought as a property of the verb action alone, but as a system signaled by patterns of co-occurrence between verbs and adverbials." (Strang, 1974, 143).

6. Adverbials Categories:

Leech and Svartrick (1975) subdivide adverbials denoting time into three categories:

6.1. Time when adverbials denote:

This category includes adverbials that denote a point or a period of time, for example:

E.g.1: Do come and see us again. E.g.2: We lived in Baltimore last year.

E.g.3: The meeting starts tomorrow at 8 o' clock.

As it includes adverbials denote a point of time and the point from which that time is measured, they can occur in front, mid, and end position such as:

E.g.1: Recently, they had an accident.

E.g.2: They, recently, had an accident.

E.g.3: They had an accident recently.

6.2. Time duration adverbials:

They denote duration from some preceding point of time or length of time. They normally have an end- position. The following first two examples exemplify adverbials denoting length of time, and the last two ones exemplify adverbials denoting duration from some preceding point of time:

E.g.1: I'll be in California for the summer.

E.g.2: They were on duty all night long.

E.g.1: Britain has had decimal currency <u>since 1971.</u>

E.g.2: I have been staying here <u>since last summer.</u>

6.3. Time frequency Adverbials*:*

They denote definite frequency for example:

E.g.1: Committee meetings take place <u>weekly.</u>

E.g.2: This week, I'll be in office <u>everyday.</u>

E.g.3: I go to Japan <u>twice</u> a year in business.

And indefinite frequency, for example:

E.g.1: He <u>generally </u>leaves at seven in the morning.

E.g.2: We don't <u>normally</u> go to bed before midnight.

E.g.3: I'm <u>rarely</u> in my office after five.

7. Past Tense:

7.1. Functions of the Past Tense:

Frank Palmer (1971) reported that English past tense does not refer only to past time, it has two other functions. First, the past tense is used clearly for past tense reference. E.g. He came yesterday. Second, we have a past progressive i.e. forms that are past and progressive. E.g. "He was coming yesterday".

The past tense is used also for the past perfect as in: "He had come the day before", and even a past perfect progressive as in: "He had been coming the day before".

The past tense is also used in reported speech in accordance with a sequence of tense rule. For example: "He said he went to London everyday". His words were: "I go to London everyday". The use of 'went' here is determined solely by the use of the past tense form 'said'; it does not itself indicate past time, and in many languages a past tense form would not be used. However. We can use a present tense form if the speaker wishes to indicate that the reported statement is still true.

E.g. The ancient Greek discovered that the world is round, but the Romans maintained that it was flat.

In this case, we can replace 'is' by 'was', but we cannot replace 'was' by 'is' without implying that the world is flat.

Frank Palmer (1971) said that the past tense is often used only to indicate 'tentativeness' improbability or impossibility. There are, perhaps three separate use of this kind. First, in statement and questions it is more tentative or even, or more polite.

E.g. I wanted to ask you something.

E.g. Could you pass me the salt.

Secondly, it is used with 'impossible' wishes.

E.g. I wish I knew.

E.g. I wish I had one.

Thirdly, it is used for unreal conditions. If we compare:

E.g.1: If John comes, I shall leave.

E.g.2: If John came, I should leave.

The verbs in the second example are in the past tense; the difference in meaning is that in the second example there is an assumption that the condition will not be fulfilled, it is 'unreal'. There is no point, then, in talking of 'conditional forms', but uses tense to distinguish real and unreal conditions.

Zydatiss (1986) pointed in McCarthy (1991) that the past simple and the present perfect may correlate in the same text. For example, in hot news, generally the topicalizing sentence uses present simple while the details of the narrative are in past simple.

7.2. Past and the Non Past:

Linguists such as Lyons (1974), leech (1987) and Downing and Lock (1992) believe that all tenses of the English verb map time by means of points of orientation (or point of reference) which roughly indicate the relation of one time to another. The primary point of orientation is either the present moment "now" when the speaker is actually speaking, or sometimes the moment at which he imagines himself to be speaking.

"In principle, tense shows when an event happens: before now (happened), right now (is happening), after now (will happen) or even all the time (happens)." (Hoffman 1993, 121).

Before Now   *Now*   *After Now*

Happened   is happening   will happen

Figure 1: Past versus Present (Hoffman, 1993, 121.)

The past is all that comes "before now" it is:

"The morphologically and semantically marked form, morphologically in that the vast majority of verbs have a distinctive past form and semantically in that the past tense refers to an action that is visualized as remote either in time… or as unreality." (Downing and Lock 1992, 355). Hoffman (1993, 125) explains that:

"This term, does not have any special connection to the present time, i.e. the moment of speaking, and really means (not-preterite). This so called 'present tense' is commonly used for future events that are taken as assumed facts… It can also be used for past events if no time is mentioned."

The present or the non-past as the unmarked form of the verb"… can be used to make specific reference to a future event but not normally to a past event."(Downing and Lock 1992, 355).

This means that we have three times (past, present, and future.)for two tenses (past and present). Blair (1984, 32) supports this idea she argues that:

"Strictly speaking, of course, English has only two tenses, past and present becausethe future is morphologically parallel to those verbs that express our inner attitude, the modal verbs"

In other words, the English verb can be inflected for the present tense and past tense only, For example, presents: work\works; past: worked\drove.

Speaking about the future tense and future time, Lock (1996) says that it is the uncertain nature of future events which puts the future out of the tense system. The future is expressed by means of the auxiliary "will" which is considered as a modal rather than a tense form. According to him, all occurrence of the auxiliary "will" would have to be regarded as expressing not tense but modality. As has been noted, it is sometimes hard to draw a clear line between future tense and modal meanings such as likelihood and intention. This is partly due to the nature of future tense. Future situations are seldom known with the degree of certainty with which it is sometimes possible to know past and present situations. Therefore, reference to a future situation with "will" can often be interpreted was involving a judgment of likelihood on the part of the speaker.

8. Present Tense:

Jake Allsop (1983, 149) defines the present as the moment of speaking and the period of time we are in. According to him the present tense can be:

1. General, universal, true statements including scientific statements.

E.g.1: The Earth goes round the sun.

E.g.2: French people drink more wine than English people.

E.g.3: Most of us probably eat to much meat.

2. Describing the regular or permanent features of one's life:

E.g. I live in a small town on the south coast. I work at home, but I often go abroad on business. I have two children, one is still at school and the other goes to college. I speak French and Spanish, and I know a bit German.

3. Describing an event which depends on a fixed timetable or schedule.

E.g.1: There is a train to London from here every half hour. The next train leaves at 15:40.

E.g.2: I've been accepted by Birmingham University. My course starts on Monday week.

4. Describing a demonstration, events in a play etc, where time is of no interest.

E.g.1: First, I fill the beaker with 100 cc of distilled water. Then I add the crystals and the acid. I heat the beaker and in a few seconds the mixture turns deep yellow.

E.g.2: At moment, Hamlet enters. He goes over to Laertes and speaks to him. Meanwhile, Polonuis decides to.

9. Future Tense:

Frank Palmer (1971) points that morphologically English has two tenses only, as exemplified by: "he likes\ he liked". They are most plausibly referred to as 'present' and 'past'. Other verbal categories, the perfect, the progressive, etc. are achieved by the use of the auxiliaries 'Be' and 'Have'. There is, then, a real sense in which English has no future tense. There are ways of referring to future time, but this is no more a justification for a future tense than the fact that we have ways of referring to near and far (here\there) is evidence of 'spatial' tense.

The paradigm 'I shall', 'you will', 'he will'… is purely a grammarian's invention. Carefully investigation has shown that there is no evidence that I shall, we shall… are the forms regularly used.

'Shall' and 'Will' are modal auxiliaries functioning exactly as can and may. If we establish them as markers of an English tense we ought equally to recognize tense for the other modals.

'Will' is used for functions rather than future tense reference:

E.g.1: I'll come, if you ask me. (willingness).

E.g.2: She will sit for hours. (habit).

E.g. 3: That will be John. (probability).

E.g.4: Oil will float on water. (general truth).

|"Will" can be used to express the future tense as it can be used to indicate willingness, as in the following sentences:

1.   John will come tomorrow. (Futurity). (If John comes)

2.   John will come tomorrow. (willingness).(If John will come).

9.1. Other ways of referring to future time: There are other ways of referring to future time:

- The progressive: I'm flying to Paris tomorrow.

- Going to : I'm going to ask you a question.

- The simple present: Term starts on Monday.

- About to: He is about to speak.

'Going to' is particularly important. It differs phonetically from the progressive form of go.

All these points militate against the traditional view of 'will' and 'shall' as markers of the future. I f the meaning is the test, then, it has been suggested, nouns has tense ex-wife is past, fiancée is future, and grand father is pluperfect.

10. Absolute versus Relative Tense:

When the present or the past tense is used to refer to a present or past action or event, it can take a variety of forms, and each of them will have its absolute tense and its relative tense. Lock (1996, 148-149) believes that there are three absolute tenses:

"1. **Present**: location at the moment of speaking or writing, or an extended periodincluding the moment of speaking or writing. 2. **Past:** a time before the moment of speaking or writing. 3. **Future:** a time after the moment of speaking or writing."

And two relative tenses:

"1**. Present**: (that is, at the same time as the absolute tense selection.) 2. **Past**: (that is, before the absolute tense selection.) "

Relative Absolute Tense Tense	Example	Usual Name
Present in Present	is walking	Present Continuous\ Progressive
Past in Present	Has walked	Present Perfect
Present in Past	Was walking	Past continuous\ Progressive
Past in Past	Had walked	Past Perfect
Present in Future	Will be walking	Future Continuous\ Progressive
Past in Future	Will have walked	Future Perfect
Future with Past	Would have walked	Conditional

Table 02: Absolute versus Relative Tense Selection (Lock, 1996, 149).

11.   Point of Time:

In many, though not all, languages it is scarcely possible to produce a sentence without being involved in expressing time concepts. This is because tense systems tend to require choices based on time. We commonly indicate time by relating an event to the moment of utterance. In this sense, time might be considered partly a deictic category. Wilkins (1976, 25) considers that:

"Although the importance and the exact significance of time indicators vary according to culture they are obviously an important part of the speaker's repertoire. The prominence given to expression of time in language courses is a fair sign of this. Grammatically, points of time are usually expressed through adverbials. For example; now, then, on Monday, yesterday, today, tomorrow, next month… etc"

Time indicators are part from the speaker's background, thus it varies according to culture. They are usually indicated through adverbials.

It is worthy to know how many expressions are deictic. In other words, it is worthy to know the exact time referred to without noting either the linguistic or the situational (temporal) context. While this is evident with expressions like 'now, then, this morning,' it is not apparent with 'on Monday January 1st'. Yet in the context 'I shall have a car …', this can only mean 'next January', that is the first January after the moment of utterance.

Time indicators can be indicated through phrases or clauses. As they can be indicated through embedded sentences. Wilkins (1976,26) says:

"Time expressions are commonly taught as almost fixed phrases with limited productively. However, points of time can equally be indicated through time clauses and through embedded sentences."

E.g.: It must be finished when I come back.

It must be finished by six o' clock.

It must be finished by the time I leave.

In these particular examples the time indicates the termination of an event, but could equally mark its inception or the limits of its duration. The potential for embedding sentences in such time expressions offers a vast range of communicative potential, but, equally, an adequate competence exists even where a speaker has not mastered this kind of grammatical feature. It is likely that in a pedagogic ordering the embedded constructions would be deferred until later stages of learning.

12.   Time duration:

It means the time spent in doing something and the need to express it may not be as important as the need to express point of time. Wilkins (1976, 26) points that:

"The need to express periods of time may not be as essential as the need to expresspoints of time, but languages nonetheless possess a range of resources which can beexploited for this purpose. A period of time may be denoted by explicit statement ofits duration or by reference to its inception or termination."

In English, at least these distinctions are made by use of prepositional phrases:

E.g.: For five years.

Until six o' clock.

Since Monday.

From Monday.

Lexical constructions are also possible including some which in a different context may refer to points of time.

E.g.: all the day

The whole day.

This week.

Last year.

Wilkins (1976, 26-27) argues that:

"A comparable range of clausal constructions is available in English, introduced by such conjunctions as while, when, since and until. Expressions of points of time canbe embedded to indicate the beginning or the end of periods. For example: she stayedat work until just before the clock struck seven. It is not unusual for languages to havthe means of categorizing events as punctual or durative by grammatical devices. Theprogressive (be +-ing) form in English is sometimes described as a durative, althoughthe present tense itself is only occasionally punctual. The system of English requiresthe speaker to mark an event (verb) as durative or non-durative."

Usually languages distinguish the punctual events from the durative ones by grammatical means. For example, in English the progressive form is used for the durative events while the present tense used to indicate the non-durative ones.

13. Time Relations:

Anyone learning a European language faces a major task which is acquiring the formal systems through which time relations are expressed. Events are placed in time by being related to the moment of speech and to time axes that have been established by other events.

A characteristic of European languages is that these relations are expressed principally through verb form (tenses), but this is not universally the case and there are many languages where verb forms are invariable and time relations are expressed by other devices. Wilkins (1976, 29-30) says:

"Time relations are not uniquely expressed through verbs. Notions such as 'anteriorto', 'posterior to' and 'simultaneous with' may be conveyed adverbially or by variouscombinations of grammatical forms. Adverbials introduced by such prepositions asbefore, after, during or conjunction like before, after and while, make these relationsexplicit"

A range of adjectives, nouns, and adverbs provide lexical realizations of these concepts. The following example will show how, in English, verbal and non-verbal markers of time combine:

They sat looking at their watches. John would

at 8 o' clock.

arrive   before 8 o' clock.

after 8 o' clock.

The 'would' establishes that the event is future in relation to the past time axes established by 'sat'; the prepositions establish how the event relates to a specific point in time.

14. Time Order:

Both chronological time and process time are found commonly in any written discourse, with the process time being more frequent.

14.1. Chronological Time:

Chronological time occurs whenever the writer uses a framework of dates, clock times, etc. It is found in historical experiments.

E.g.:   "Since the middle ages the output and consumption of pit coal had been greater in England than in any other country of Europe. Already during the 13th century, domestic coal consumption in London is said to have been so great that restrictive bylaws became necessary to check the increasing smoke nuisance. During the 17thcentury, English coal was already shipped to the continent in considerable quantities. The actual 'coal age', however, set in during the second half of the 18th century whenit became possible to use steam power for the drainage of collieries, thus permittingthe working of deeper galleries under conditions of greater safety." (Hans Straub, 1962, cited in Trimble 1985, 165).

Here the chronological framework is shown by the markers: 'already, during the 13th century '; 'during the 17th century'; and '… during the second half of the 18th century'. In addition, we have a statement of contrast, marked by 'however', and following that, a clear example of causality and result, tied together by 'thus'. (Trimble, 1985, 165.)

14.2. Process Time:

Louis Trimble (1985) introduced that process time is required whenever we have a series of steps leading to a predetermined goal. The following example show a particular type of content can require development by process time.

"The first man to produce a practical steam engine was Thomas Savery, an EnglishEngineer, who obtained a patent in 1698 for a machine designed to drain water frommines. The machine contained no moving parts except hand-operated steam valvesand automatic check valves, and in principle it worked as follows: steam was   generated in a spherical boiler and then admitted to a separate vessel where it expelle much of the air. The steam valve was then closed and cold water allowed to flow overthe vessel, causing the steam to condense and thus creating a partial vacuum. Thisvacuum pulled water from the area to be drained into the vessel. Then by a furtheroperation of the valves, steam was readmitted to the vessel to force

water through avertical pipe to the discharge elevation." (J.F.Sandfort, 1962, cited in Trimble, 1985, 11).

The process time markers are 'then' and juxtaposition sentences describing the activities that make up the process. Along with the process time we have six instances of causality and result. These are marked either by juxtaposition (for example, 'steam… admitted to a separate vessel, where it expelled much of the air') or by lexical indicators: for example, 'causing', 'thus', and 'to' (for in order to). Process time is also found in 'instructional discourse'. This occurs most often in technical manuals and differs from the standard 'paragraph' structure as the text usually consists of a series of numbered steps, often with a kind of 'shorthand' sentence structure and with the verb in the imperative. While we find the core idea of this type of text most frequently in the heading, we seldom find markers to show causality and result or other indicators of relationships unless our series of steps is augmented by explanatory information.

Conclusion:

To conclude the first chapter, we can say that time is so apparent to us and so completely necessary to our every experience in life. It is somehow tied into and dependent upon our consciousness. To relate the time of the events described in a sentence to the moment of speaking we need to use a set of grammatical markings known as: tense system. By tense we understand the correspondence between the form of the verb and our concept of time. Where a range of verbs, adjectives, nouns, and adverbs combine to provide lexical realizations of this concept.

Chapter Two:

Comparative Study

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Chapter Two:

Comparative Study of Tense and Time Expressions

Introduction:

We can be certain about the past; the results of past actions, about the present and general truth. However, we cannot be certain about the future; the time after or later than now, because we are talking about things that have not yet happened. In this practical chapter, we will talk about English and Standard Arabic tense expressions, and then we will exemplify the act of expressing time on the watch by reference to some Algerian Spoken watch expressions. We will try to compare them to standard Arabic then to English in order to show their differences and the problem that they may cause to speakers of English and Arabic.

1. English Tense Expressions:

1.1. The Present Tense Expressions:

Since the present simple refers to regular or repeated events, it often occurs with frequency adverbs like: 'often, sometimes, always, seldom and never'. Because the present simple continuous refers to events happening at the moment of speaking, it often occurs with adverbials like: 'now, at the moment, today, and this week, day, time … etc.'

On the other hand, these adverbials are not the reason for choosing the simple or the continuous form. It is just that in many cases they are associated with the particular circumstances which are the reason for choosing the verb form, for example the adverb 'now' often goes with the continuous form, but it can also go with the simple form. The decision about which form to choose depends on the situation, not on the use of particular adverbials.

1.2. The Past Tense Expressions:

Expressions of time which are used with the past tenses include those referring to frequency like: 'often, constantly… etc'. Those referring to a point of time like: 'last week, day, time, summer, yesterday, earlier, before ... etc'. The adverbial ' ago' is very useful because it fixes the moment in the past. It is used in the pattern 'x + ago' where 'x' is an expression of time. For example: 'three weeks ago, a century ago, some time ago, ages ago, a long time ago … etc.'

1.3. Perfect Tenses Expressions:

All the expressions of time which are used with the perfect tenses are adverbials of unspecified, indefinite time. As soon as the speaker specify a time (last year, in 1979, a few minutes ago, then) his attention shifts to the past.

The pair 'ever' and 'never', meaning at any unspecified time before now and at no time before now respectively, is very common.

'Recently, lately, in the last few (weeks, days…)', are among the useful adverbials. With the past perfect 'last' changes to 'previous'.

'Just' is a very common word to express the idea that something happened in the period of time immediately before the time being referred to. It is often used in the sense simply, or nothing important. For example, 'she just picked up her coat and walked out of the room'.

'Already' is used to indicate that something has happened at an unspecified time before now; and it can also be used in questions as: 'have you already had dinner?'

'Yet' is used in questions and negative statements to mean (not) in period of time between 'before now' and 'now', (not) up to and\or including the present.

With the past perfect, it is better to use the expressions 'up to that point\moment' or ' until then'. For example: 'I had not had a chance to see him up to that moment.'

We can specify the length of the period of time between ' before now' and 'now' using: the present perfect + **since** a point of time or **for** a period of time.

There are other expressions which can be related to 'since' and 'for' like: 'since last July, last year, I was a boy, 1980, the 14th century, the time we…, the last time we…, for years, several months, a long time, ages…etc.' These expressions with 'since' and 'for' can also be used only with the past perfect. 'Since' can be used only with the perfect tenses. 'For' can be used with any tense.

1.4. The Future Tense Expressions:

The classical or simple form of the future is usually given with 'shall' and 'will'. By this form we are making a simple statement of fact about something which will definitely happen or not happen in a moment or period later than now.

The difference in meaning between 'I / we shall' and 'I / we will' is no longer clear. Partly because we now use the short form −'ll for both, and partly because usage is different in different parts of the English-speaking world. (Jake Allsope, 1983, 178.)

1.4.1. The Future with 'Going to':

The form 'going to' (do) is common in speaking and in informal writing. It is a way of referring to a future event which expresses a strong attitude; the time of event is less important.

A statement with 'going to do' is really a statement about the present. We use the form when we want to say that a future action depends on present facts, and that we know what these facts are. The future with 'going to' indicates the time later than now or the moment of speaking. (Jake Allsope, 1983, 186.)

1.4.1.1. 'Going' to or Present Simple:

When the present facts are something published or fixed like a calendar or a timetable, we have to use the present simple. For example: 'Tomorrow is going to be Thursday', makes no sense. It is better to say: 'Tomorrow is Thursday'. The sentence: 'The train leaves in 5 minutes', time in this sentence is a simple statement of fact; we can say, 'the train is going to leave in 5 minutes', time here is likely to be said if you want to say 'hurry up!' 'You where going to miss the train!'

1.4.1.2. 'Going to' or Present Continuous:

When the speaker is talking about plans, decisions or intentions on the basis of the present facts, the difference in, meaning between the two is often very slight. For example: - I'm going to start a new job on Monday.

- I'm starting a new job on Monday.

The first example emphasizes more the speaker's decision (the speaker telling his listener something about himself.). While the second example emphasizes more the change which will now take place according to plan (the speaker wants his listener to know about his new job). When the speaker is not sure it is better to use 'going to'. However, when the speaker is using the present facts to make predictions or to give warning and advices, he has to use 'going to'. For example: 'It's going to rain soon' or 'you are going to fall off', these examples could not be said with present continuous: It's raining or you are falling off.

'Going to' should be avoided with the verbs 'go' and 'come', simply because 'going to go' and 'going to come' do not sound very elegant. (Jake Allsope, 1983, 187).

1.4.1.3. 'Going to' or The Future with 'will' and 'shall':

There are many cases where someone can use either 'going to' or will\shall, depending on attitude. For example: - It will rain soon. (No attitude).

- It is going to rain. (Definite attitude).

There are many cases where only one form would be suitable in the situation the speaker is referring to. For instance: 'I'm going to have a baby'. This is the usual expression 'I'll have a baby'. This suggests the woman has made a conscious decision to have a baby; she is not just making a simple statement of fact.

1.4.2. The Future with 'Is to':

The use of 'Is to' means talking about an obligation to do something. It is similar in meaning to must to or have to, but it emphasizes the fact that certain plans or arrangements have been made for us. It is not common spoken form and it is better to use must to\have to. (Jake Allsope, 1983, 189). For example: 'Nobody is to leave the room until the examination is over.'

1.4.3. The Future with 'Is about to':

'Is about to' indicates the time shortly or immediately after now, or after the moment of speaking. We use it when we want to emphasize that something will happen very soon. For example, when the showman wants to increase the audience's curiosity, he will say: 'Ladies and gentlemen, you are about to see the most amazing spectacle that the world has ever witnessed.' (Jake, Allsope, 1983, 189).

2. Standard Arabic Tense Expressions:

Arabic time expressions are used to indicate the time at\during which an action took place. Common Arabic expressions include:

2.1.Present Forms:

كل يوم، في الحال، الآن، اليوم، هذه الجمعة، هذا السبت...الخ

Everyday, at present, now, today, this Friday, this Saturday… etc.

As well as adverbs of frequency such as:

دائما، أحيانا، عادة، من حين لآخر...الخ

Always, sometimes, usually… etc

2.2. Past Forms:

عندما كنت...، الأسبوع الماضي، الشهر الماضي، السنة الماضية، البارحة،...الخ

When I was …, last week, last month, last year, yesterday … etc

2.3.Future Forms:

الأسبوع القادم، الشهر القادم، العام القادم، غدا، آخر هذا الأسبوع،...الخ

Next week, next month, next year, tomorrow, the next weekend … etc

3. English and Arabic Every Day Time Expressions:

There are plenty of expressions that are used every day in our daily life in order to identify place, events, and time. The following are some English ones that are translated into Arabic. (See Nekaa Hayat, and Nabil Nouri, Dictionary for Beginners, 226-27.)

English	Arabic	English	Arabic

At present	في الحال	Night, at night	ليلا، ليليا
Any time	في أي وقت	To night	الليلة
Late	متأخر	Midnight	نصف الليل
Through out the day	خلال اليوم	Dawn, day break	الفجر
		Dawn prayer	صلاة الفجر
Moment	لحظة	Midday	الظهر، نصف النهار
Second	ثانية	Before noon	قبل الظهر
Minute	دقيقة	Afternoon	بعد الظهر
Hour	ساعة	Late afternoon	العصر، آخر النهار
Yesterday	أمس، البارحة	Sunset	غروب الشمس
Before, just now	قبل الآن	Dusk	غسق
Early	مبكرا	Night	ليل، مساء
Beginning	ابتداءا	Night fall	حلول الظلام
Now	الآن	This day	هذا اليوم
Then	بعد ذلك	Day by day	يوما فيوما
At once	حالا	One day	يوما ما
Afterwards	بعدئذ	Daily	يوميا
Yet	لم يزل إلى هذه الساعة	Day time	نهار
Always	دائما	Noon	ظهر
Never	ابدآ، قط	Month	شهر شمسي
Newly,recentely	حديثا	Moon	شهر قمري
At any rate	على كل حال	Season	فصل
day	يوم	soon	حالا

Table 03: English and Arabic Every Day Time Expressions (Nekaa Hayat, and Nabil Nouri, Dictionary for Beginners, 226-27.)

4. A Brief Comparison of English Tense Expressions and Standard Arabic Tense Expressions:

English tense system has only two basic tenses: the past and the present. No future tense inflection or modification of the verb exists in English. The futurity of an event is expressed through the use of the auxiliary verbs 'will' and 'shall', by the use of a present form, as in 'Tomorrow we go to New York', or by some other devices. Present and past, in contrast, can be expressed using direct modifications of the verb. The indication of the Past tense occurs generally by the addition of 'ed' to the verb, while the present tense is indicated by the addition of the consonant 's' to the verb like: take\ takes. Similarly, standard Arabic tense system consists of only two tenses: the past and the present (الماضي و المضارع). The imperative (الأمر) is not counted. The verb of similarity (فعل المضارعة) is so called because it is considered to denote an event in the present or the future. For example:' يضرب ' this verb denotes an event in the present or the future (he strikes\ is striking\ will strike\ etc). Verbs in Arabic have three forms: present, past, and imperative. (عزيز خليل محمود. 1987.المفصل في النحو و الإعراب). All other verb forms are variation of these three, with or without additions as it is shown in the following examples:

1.' Yaktubu' (يكتب): he writes. (Present simple).

2.'Kataba' (كتب): he wrote. (Past simple).

3.'Uktub' (اكتب): write! (Imperative).

4.'Sawfa yaktubu' (سوف يكتب): he will write. (future indicated by sawfa + present simple).

5.'Sa yaktubu' (سيكتب): he will write. (Future expressed by sa + present simple).

6.'Qad kataba' (قد كتب): he has written. (Present perfect).

7.'Kaana qad kataba' (كان قد كتب): he had written. (Past perfect).

… And so on

The example 5 and 6 show that the futurity in standard Arabic is indicated by the use of the prefix (س) 'sa' which is added to the present tense verb, or by the use of (سوف) 'sawfa' The first is written as a part of the verb:' سيكتب'. Whereas, the later is written as a word (سوف) to indicate the future which always precedes the verb. To indicate the present simple in standard Arabic, the consonants:ت، ي، ن (n, y, t) and the vowel: ا (a) are added to the beginning of the verb in the past, for example: اذهب\اذهب يكتب \اكتب, etc.

Both English and standard Arabic use the present simple to indicate general, universal, and true statements. For example:

'The earth goes round the sun\ تدور الأرض حول الشمس '.

Both English and standard Arabic use adverbials to indicate the past, the present, and the future tense. For example: 'everyday, at present, yesterday, last week, tomorrow, next week etc\الخ...كل يوم، في الحال، البارحة، الأسبوع الماضي، غدا، الأسبوع القادم'.

Both English and standard Arabic have adverbs of frequency such as: always, sometimes, usually etc\الخ...دائما، أحيانا، عادة.

5. The Acronyms A.M and P.M:

A.M is a Latin word which is called "ante meridian" means the time between midnight and midday. P.M is a Latin word too which means "post meridian" i.e. after 12 O'clock. (Lone Wolf, What do you mean by acronyms A.M and P.M, retrieved 20-05-2009)

6. English Watch Expressions:

English language follows certain norms to express time on the watch. The watch is divided into units and each unit contains 5 minutes. The minutes are mentioned first then the hour. The preposition 'to' is used in the English time watch expressions to indicate time after 35 minutes (i.e. to identify the minutes that are missed for the hour termination), while the conjunction 'past' is used to indicate time before 35 minutes (i.e. to identify minutes after the hour.) The following examples illustrate what is said above:

- It is twenty five to seven.   06:35

- It is twenty to seven.   06:40

- It is quarter to seven.   06:45

- It is ten to seven.   06:50

- It is five to seven.   06:55

- It is six O'clock.   06:00

- It is five past six.   06:05

- It is ten past six.   06:10

- It is quarter past six.   06:15

- It is twenty past six.   06:20

- It is twenty five past six.   06:25

- It is half past six.   06:30

7. Standard Arabic Watch Expressions:

In Standard Arabic people express time with fractions. When telling the time they always mention the hour first and then the minutes using the conjunction و. For example: الساعة الخامسة و خمس دقائق (05:05), الساعة الرابعة و عشر دقائق (04:10).

If the time involves the major fractions of the hour such as: quarter, half, and third. Arabs always use these fractions: الربع، النصف، الثلث respectively as in the following examples:

الساعة الرابعة و الربع	04:15
الساعة السادسة و الثلث	06:20
الساعة العاشرة و النصف	10:30

The only time when Arabs use combinations of minutes and fractions is when they tell time with reference to the half of an hour as the case of 35 minutes:

الساعة السابعة و النصف و خمسة دقائق	07:35
الساعة السادسة و النصف و خمسة دقائق	06:35

And they do the same with 25 minutes with the only difference of using إلا as well as the fractions or minutes with reference to the following hour:

الساعة الرابعة إلا ثلثا	03:40
الساعة السادسة إلا الربع	05:45
الساعة السابعة إلا عشر دقائق	06:50
الساعة التاسعة إلا خمس دقائق	08:55

8. Data and Population:

As time expressions vary from one region to another, we are presenting in this section some data collected from Four North Eastern towns of Algeria. Each town is represented by a sample of 10 students who were asked to provide expressions to precise time indication. The informants were asked to answer the following questions in their spoken Arabic:

-what time is it?

- How do you express time when it is: 09:05\ 09:10\ 09:15\ 09:20\ 09:25\ 09:30\ 09:35\ 09:40\ 09:45\ 09:50\ 09:50\ 09:00?

The answers were as follows:

Oum-el- Bouaghi:

09:05	التسعة و درج	09:35	التسعة غير خمسة وعشرين
09:10	التسعة و درجين	09:40	التسعة غير عشرين
09:15	التسعة و ربع	09:45	التسعة غير ربع
09:20	التسعة و عشرين	09:50	التسعة غير درجين
09:25	التسعة و خمسة و عشرين	09:55	التسعة غير درج
09:30	التسعة و نص	09:00	التسعة قدقد

Constantine:

09:05	التسعة و درج	09:35	التسعة غير خمسة
09:10	التسعة و درجين	09:40	التسعة و ربعة
09:15	التسعة و ربع	09:45	التسعة غير ربع
09:20	التسعة وربعة	09:50	التسعة غير درجين
09:25	التسعة و خمسة 09	55:	التسعة غير درج
09:30	التسعة و نص	09:00	التسعة قدقد

Mila:

09:05	التسعة و درج	09:35	التسعة غير خمس دراج
09:10	التسعة و درجين	09:40	التسعة غير ربع دراج
09:15	التسعة و ربع	09:45	التسعة غير ربع
09:20	التسعة و عشرين	09:50	التسعة غير درجين
09:25	التسعة و خمسة و عشرين	09:55	التسعة غير درج
09:30	التسعة و نص	09:00	التسعة قدقد

Skikda:

09:05	التسعة و خمس دقائق	09:35	التسعة غير خمسة و عشرين
09:10	التسعة و عشر دقائق	09:40	التسعة غير عشرين دقيقة
09:15	التسعة و ربع	09:45	التسعة غير ربع
09:20	التسعة و عشرين دقيقة	09:50	التسعة غير عشر دقائق
09:25	التسعة و خمسة و عشرين	09:55	التسعة غير خمس دقائق
09:30	التسعة و نص	09:00	التسعة قدقد

9. Algerian Dialect Watch Expressions:

Algerian people express time starting always with the hour then the minutes. They use the conjunction و (WA) means and; and غير (ghir) which means 'minus' to indicate it. However, they differ in mentioning minutes. They don't agree on the notion of watch units. Some consider 1 minute (دقيقة) as a unit to measure time after the hours, others use 5 minutes (درج) as a unit to measure time after hours. In addition, in some cases people don't mention the unit if it is 1 minute (دقيقة) or 5 minutes (درج), these two words دقيقة and درج can be ellipted.

This difference in the Algerian societies while expressing time can be identified by a comparative study.

10. A comparative Analysis of Spoken Arabic Time Watch Expressions in Algerian regions, to standard Arabic, and English:

In the following table, we provide 12 Algerian time watch expressions from four different regions which are: Oum-el-Bouaghi, Constantine, Mila, and Skikda. The expressions are first compared to each other, and then to standard Arabic, and finally to English. Differences and similarities will then appear in our analysis.

	Oum-el-Bouaghi	Constantine	Mila	Skikda	Standard Arabic	Translation into English
09:05	التسعة و درج	التسعة و درج	التسعة و درج	التسعة و خمس دقايق	الساعة التاسعة و خمس دقائق	It's five past nine
09:10	التسعة و درجين	التسعة و درجين	التسعة و درجين	التسعة و عشر دقايق	الساعة التاسعة و عشر دقائق	It's ten past nine
09:15	التسعة و ربع	التسعة و ربع	التسعة و ربع	التسعة و ربع	الساعة التاسعة و الربع	It's quarter past nine
09:20	التسعة و عشرين	التسعة و ربعة	التسعة و عشرين	التسعة و عشرين دقيقة	الساعة التاسعة و عشرون دقيقة	It's twenty past nine
09:25	التسعة و خمسة وعشرين	التسعة و خمسة	التسعة و خمسة و عشرين	التسعة و خمسة و عشرين دقيقة	الساعة التاسعة و خمسة و عشرون دقيقة	It's twenty five past nine
09:30	التسعة و نص	التسعة و نص	التسعة و نص	التسعة و نص	الساعة التاسعة و النصف	It's half past nine
09:35	التسعة غير خمسة و عشرين	التسعة غير خمسة	التسعة غير خمس دراج	التسعة غير خمسة و عشرين دقيقة	الساعة التاسعة إلا خمسة و عشرون دقيقة	It's twenty five to nine
09:40	التسعة غير عشرين	التسعة غير ربعة	التسعة غير ربع دراج	التسعة غير عشرين دقيقة التسعة غير ربع	الساعة التاسعة إلا الثلث الساعة التاسعة إلا	It's twenty to nine

Time					Standard Arabic	English
09:45	التسعة غير ربع	التسعة غير ربع	التسعة غير ربع		الربع	It's quarter to nine
09:50	التسعة غير درجين	التسعة غير درجين	التسعة غير درجين	التسعة غير عشر دقايق	الساعة التاسعة إلا عشر دقائق	It's ten to nine
09:55	التسعة غير درج	التسعة غير درج	التسعة غير درج	التسعة غير خمس دقايق	الساعة التاسعة إلا خمس دقائق	It's five to nine
09:00	التسعة قدقد	التسعة قدقد	التسعة قدقد	التسعة قدقد	الساعة التاسعة تماما	It's nine O'clock

Table 04: Time Watch Expressions in Algerian Dialect, Standard Arabic, and English.

11. Analysis:

11.1. The Four Regions Expressions Compared to Each Other:

11.1.1. 09:05:

The three regions: Oum-el-Bouaghi, Constantine, and Mila share the same expression to express time when it is 09:05 which is التسعة و درج; simply because they agree on the unit of measuring time, they consider 5 minutes (الدرج) as a unit to express it. While Skikda informants express it using 1 minute (دقيقة) as a unit and they say: التسعة و خمس دقايق.

11.1.2. 09:10:

The expressions given by the informants show that the three areas, Oum-el-Bouaghi, Constantine, and Mila use the same expression to express time when it is 09:10, this expression is: التسعة و درجين (درجينmeans 10 minutes). However, in Skikda all the informants use عشر دقايق instead ofدرجين and they say: التسعة وعشر دقايق.

11.1.3 09:15:

All the informants give the same expression to express time when it is: 09:15, which is: التسعة و ربع (ربعmeans quarter) because all of them agree on the fraction of the hour 15 minutes or a quarter.

11.1.4. 09:20:

This example shows many changes. In Oum-el-Bouaghi and Mila the same expression is used to express time when it is: 09:20, they say: التسعة و عشرين, we notice that the word: دقيقة is ellipted in this expression. While in Skikda, people express time in the same way but they mention the word: دقيقة, they say: التسعة و عشرين دقيقة. In Constantine, people say: التسعة و ربعة to mean التسعة و ربع دراج. The word دراج is ellipted in this expression which cause a serious problem of misunderstanding time to those who are not familiar with such expressions.

11.1.5. 09:25:

In Skikda, the informants say: التسعة و خمسة و عشرين دقيقة to express time when it is 09:25, they mention the word دقيقة. Where as in Oum-el-Bouaghi and Mila it does not work the same way. The informants don't mention the word دقيقة; they say التسعة و and it التسعة و خمسة However in Constantine it is totally different, they say: خمسة و عشرين

is so difficult for people to understand each other if they are from different areas simply because the word دراج is ellipted.

11.1.6. 09:30:

The informants from the four regions give the same expression to express time when it is 09:30, and all of them say: التسعة و نص .

11.1.7. 09:35/09:40:

After 35 minutes, all people in Algeria use the conjunction: غير (means minus), but the difference still to be found in the use of دقايقand دراج. In Oum-el-Bouaghi people say: التسعة غير عشرين / التسعة غير خمسة و عشرين . The same expressions are used in Skikda, but people there use the word:دقيقة which is ellipted in Oum-el-Bouaghi expression, and they say: التسعة غير عشرين دقيقة / التسعة غير خمسة و عشرين دقيقة. While in Mila people use the word دراج instead of دقايق and they say: التسعة/ التسعة غير خمس دراج غير ربع دراج. In Constantine people use the same expressions, however they omit the word: دراج and they say: التسعة غير ربعة/ التسعة غير خمسة.

11.1.8. 09:45:

People in Algeria agree on the expression: التسعة غير ربع to express time when it is 09:45. The same expression is used by all the informants.

11.1.9. 09:50/09:55:

People in Oum-el-Bouaghi, Constantine, and Mila use the same expressions: التسعة غير درج or 09:55.Where as in Skikda since they التسعة غير درجين for 09:50 and consider دقيقة as a unit to express time, they say: التسعة غير خمس دقايق / التسعة غير عشر دقايق.

At this time: 09:00 people in the four regions use the same expression which is: التسعة قدقد to mean nine O'clock.

11.2. The Algerian Watch Expressions Compared to Standard Arabic Expressions:

Algerian time expressions show many changes at the level of vocabulary, grammar, ellipsis, and phonetics when they are transferred to standard Arabic.

11.2.1. Vocabulary:

From the outset, we notice that the word دراج (دراج/درج) دراج is the plural of درج) doesn't exist in the standard Arabic and it is used instead of دقائق/دقيقة in some Algerian dialect expressions. In standard Arabic the word الساعة is mentioned in the beginning of each expression, where as in the Algerian dialect it is not used. The word الثلث is used only in standard Arabic expression to express time when it is nine to twenty minutes where it is replaced by: و عشرين، و عشرين دقيقة، و ربعة، و ربعة دراج in the Algerian dialect expressions. The word قدقد which is a special word used in the Algerian societies to mean O'clock differs from the word تماماwhich is used in the standard Arabic, but they have the same meaning. The word النصف that is used in standard Arabic to mean a half is diminished to نص in all the Algerian dialect expressions.

11.2.2. Grammar:

11.2.2.1.   The Use of Conjunctions:

In standard Arabic, people use the conjunction إلا which means minus or except with an hour to identify time after 35 minutes, where as in the Algerian dialect it is replaced by غير. Both the Algerian dialect and the standard Arabic use the conjunction و to express time before 35 minutes.

11.2.2.2.   The Use of Articles:

We notice that the word الربع in standard Arabic expressions is defined by the definite article: 'ال'. However, in the Algerian dialect expressions, it is not defined by any article: ربع .

11.2.3. Ellipsis:

Halliday and Hassan (1976, 142) define ellipsis as something unsaid because it is implied in the context, they say:

"The starting point of the discussion of ellipsis can be the familiar notion that it is 'something left unsaid'. There is no implication here that what is unsaid is not understood; on the contrary, 'unsaid' implies 'but understood nevertheless.' "

Nuan David (1993) who defines ellipsis as something omitted but can be understood from the preceding context, he says that :"Ellipsis occurs when some essential structural element is omitted from a sentence or a clause and can only be recovered by referring to an element in the preceding text."

Ellipsis is used frequently in the Algerian dialect expressions, but it is not the case with the standard Arabic expressions. The word which is ellipted differs from one speaker to another. In some cases, the word دقائق/ دقيقة is ellipted as in: عشرين التسعة و.

However, according to other speakers who use the words: درج/دراج, these two words are ellipted in some expressions as: التسعة و ربعة the word which is ellipted here is دراج, normally it is التسعة و ربع دراج which means 20 minutes and not 4 minutes. This is what makes speakers misunderstand each other because such expressions are not familiar to everyone; they are special expressions used only in some regions of Algeria like Constantine.

11.2.4. Phonetics:

In any dialect people don't utter words the same way as they are normally uttered in the standard language. They omit some vowels and reduce sounds to make them easier to be pronounced. Such cases of economizing words are found in Algerian spoken dialects. The following examples illustrates what is said : the term "التاسعة /etasia/ is a standard term, it is uttered differently in Algerian dialect:التسعة /etsa/. The word عشرون /i§run/ is a standard one, where as عشرين /i§rin/ is an Algerian dialect one. The word دقائق /daqaiq/ is a standard Arabic word. However, the word دقايق /daqayq/ is an Algerian dialect word.

11.3. Arabic Watch Expressions Compared to English ones:

When we compare Arabic watch expressions and English watch expressions, the first thing that clearly appears is that in the Arabic expressions the hour is mentioned first then minutes. However, in the English expressions minutes are mentioned first followed by the hour.

Conjunctions that are used in Arabic expressions are: إلا، غير، و while the English ones are: to and past. 'Past' and ' و ' have the same function of identifying

minutes after the hour. Whereas, 'to' and 'غير،إلا ' have the function of identifying minutes before the hour termination.

Both English and Arabic measure time using fractions, which are: the quarter, the half, and the third, الربع، النصف، الثلث . The quarter (الربع) and the half (النصف)are used in the English expressions, standard Arabic, and Algerian dialect ones. However, الثلث is used only in standard Arabic expression.

Ellipsis is used in the Algerian spoken dialects watch expressions as it is used in the English watch expressions where the word 'minutes' is always omitted. In contrary, ellipsis is never be used in the standard Arabic.

12.   Summary of Findings:

The brief comparison of the English tense expressions and Arabic tense ones shows that both English and standard Arabic have two basic tenses (the past, and the present). The futurity of an event is expressed by the use of different devices and verb forms. However, verb forms vary; English has its modifications of the verb which differs from standard Arabic verb modifications.

The comparative analysis of the watch expressions shows that there are many differences and some similarities. We will consider similarities first and then the differences.

12.1.Similarities:

According to our informants, we can say that all the Arabic expressions (standard and Algerian spoken dialect) express the hour first and then minutes while expressing time.

All the Algerian dialect time expressions, in the four regions studied, express time in the following time indication: 09:15, 09:30, 09:45, and 09:00 in the same way.

Both Algerian dialect and standard Arabic use the same conjunction و when expressing time before 35 minutes. The same conjunction is used in the four Algerian regions to identify time after 35 minutes which is:غير.

Both English and Algerian dialect use ellipsis while expressing time where some words are omitted such as: درج، دقيقة , minute.

When comparing the standard Arabic expressions to the Algerian dialect ones, it seems that Skikda expressions are nearer to standard Arabic than other regional expressions.

12.2.Differences:

Arabic expressions start with the hour, followed by minutes, where as English expressions begin with minutes followed by hours.

12.2.1. The Use of Conjunctions:

Standard Arabic uses the conjunction إلا when expressing time after 35 minutes while Algerian dialect uses غير and not إلا which means minus.

12.2.2. The Use of Articles:

The definite article "ال" of the standard language is omitted in the Algerian dialect.

12.2.3. Diminishing:

The word النصف is diminished to نص in the Algerian dialect expressions.

12.2.4. Phonetics:

There are many differences at the phonological level such as: التاسعة /etasia/ and التسعة /etsa/.

12.2.5. Vocabulary:

There is a variety of words used to express time in standard and spoken Algerian dialect. The words 'قدقد' and 'درج' are used only in the spoken Algerian dialect, while the word: 'تماما' (o'clock) is used only in standard Arabic. Exceptionally, the word: 'الثلث' (the third) is used rarely in standard Arabic expressions.

12.2.6. Ellipsis:

The use of ellipsis creates a problem especially in the Algerian dialect expressions such as: و ربعة، و خمسة، غير ربعة، غير خمسة. Informants from Oum-el-Bouaghi and Skikda are not familiar with such expressions, they cannot understand the informants of Constantine when they say for example: 'و خمسة', it is difficult for them to distinguish if it is: و خمسة دقائق or و خمس دراج, they confuse minutes (دقائق) for unites (دراج).

Words that can be ellipted differ from one region to another. For example, و خمسة means that the word which is ellipted is دقائق to those who consider دقيقة (1 minute) as a unit to measure time. However, according to those who use دراج, the word which is ellipted in و خمسة is دراج (خمس دراج means 25 minutes) and not 5 minutes. This lack of intelligibility of speakers may be due to the disagreement on the notion of units. Some consider 1 minute (دقيقة) as a unit to measure time after the hour as in Oum-el-Bouaghi. Others consider 5 minutes (درج) as a unit to identify time after the hour as in Constantine.

Conclusion:

To conclude the practical chapter, we can say that English, standard Arabic and Algerian spoken dialects use certain expressions and adverbials to indicate tense and time on the watch. Moreover, time is expressed differently by informants who come from the four different Algerian towns. Each region identifies time in a special way. In this case, Algerian informants may misunderstand each other and this is due to the disagreement on the notion of units, and it can be also due to the variety of the ellipted words that can be omitted in some Algerian spoken dialect expressions. The differences which are found after our comparative study of the Algerian spoken dialect expressions, standard Arabic expressions, and the English ones indicates that Algerian spoken dialects, standard Arabic, and English don't follow the same norms to express time, each of which has its special way.

General Conclusion:

It is scarcely possible to utter a sentence without being involved in expressing time concept. Expressing time needs expressing a point of time or time duration. Moreover, time is expressed principally through verb form i.e. tenses (the past, the present, and the future), as it can be expressed by other devices such as: adverbials, prepositional phrases, lexical constructions…etc. Through what has been presented in chapter two, it seems that expressing time differs and has special expressions shared by the members of the same community. This difference clearly appears in Algerian communities where participants from different regions face many difficulties in understanding each other when they express time using time watch expressions. Each area has its way of expressing time indicated on the watch. So, time watch expressions' norms and rules vary from one dialect to another (Algerian spoken dialects), from dialects to standard languages (Algerian spoken dialects and standard Arabic) , and from one language to another (English\Arabic).

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ملخص

تدرس هذه المذكرة العلمية البسيطة تغير عبارات الوقت و صيغ الأفعال. و تركز على الاختلاف الموجود بين عبارات الوقت المستعملة بين اللهجات الجزائرية واللغة العربية الفصحة و كذلك اللغة الإنجليزية. كما أنها تأخذ بعين الاعتبار الاختلاف الكامن بين صيغ الأفعال في اللغة العربية الفصحة و اللغة الانجليزية. قورنت مجموعة من صيغ الأفعال مأخوذة من اللغة الانجليزية واللغة العربية، و اثنا عشر عبارة وقت من أربع مناطق جزائرية مختلفة مترجم ة إلى اللغة العربية الفصحة و اللغة الانجليزية . نتائج هذه المقارنة التي تحتوي على أوجه تشابه و أوجه اختلاف ستناقش بالتفصيل في الأخير.