Investigating The Use of Past Perfect In English And Arabic

A GRADUATION RESEARCH SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH/ COLLEGE OF EDUCATION /UNIVERSITY OF BABYLON/ IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT FOR THE REQUIREMENTS OF B.A. DEGREE IN EDUCATION/ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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بِسْمِ اللهِ الرحمن الرَّحِيِم

(وَقُل رَّبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا)

"Say, O Lord Increase My Knowledge"

صدق الله العلي العظيم

سورة طه (الآية 114)

DEDICATION

TO OUR GOD

TO OUR FAMILY

TO OUR SUPERVISOR

Acknowledgments

Mostly, we would like to thank our God for good health, our family, our supervisor Asst. Prof. Dr. Sadiq Mahdi, and all our professors, friends and everyone who helped me to finish this study.

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1.Introduction

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Differences in past tense system that exist between English and Arabic languages are attributed to their different origins i.e., English is an Indo-European language whereas Arabic is Semitic language. The current study endeavors to explain the differences between English and Arabic in past perfect tense .This is To understand What are the similarities and differences in the use of the past perfect tense in Arabic and English?

The study tries to answer the following questions :

1. What is past Perfect tense and when we used it ?

2. What is the structure of the past perfect and what are the Types of past Perfect in English ?

 3. Is there a past perfect tense in Arabic language?

4. If it found ,When we used past perfect in Arabic?

5. What are the similarities and differences between the use of past perfect in both Languages?

1.2 Objectives of the Study:

The paper aims at:

1.Investigating the use of past perfect in English and Arabic.

2.Doing a comparison between to languages of the grammatical aspects in the past perfect tense in English and Arabic in order to identify the points od similarity and differences between the languages as far as past perfect is concern.

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1.3 Significance of the Study

This study is significant to different fields of linguistic and applied linguistics.it is useful to those who are concerned with grammar of English and Arabic . Moreover, the study attempts to throw light on the Factor considering the possibility of language transfer from the Arabic tense/ aspect system to English tense in an attempt to See how L1 and L2 influence each other.As such it is of a benefit to error analysis studies.

1.4 Hypotheses

The study adopts the following hypotheses :

1. Both languages have their own ways of expressing two events that happened in the past, which are similar in some aspects and different in others.

2. English is more explicit in showing past perfect tense than Arabic.

1. Limits of the Study

The study is limited to show the points of similarity and differences between the two target languages.

1.6 Procedure

The study adopts the following procedures:

1. Providing a theoretical account about past perfect tense in both English and Arabic tense
2. Making a contrastive analysis to show similarities and differences between Both languages

1.7 LITERATURE REVIEW

English is considered the most widespread language in the World. Many countries have it as a first or second language, However in the Arab world is taught in schools and colleges as Foreign languageArabic, on the other hand, is one of the world's most important languages. This is due to a number of factors: it is the official language of the Arab League, which includes no less than 22 nations and more than 205 million speakers; it is also the liturgical language of more than 1.5 billion people worldwide; and it is the language of a complete Muslim culture.. Consequently, this fact alone makes Arabic worthwhile to be One of the most important languages on the globe to be studied, Along with its counterpart English language(Ibrahim, 2018).

2.Tense in English

Alonge in English The English noun tense is derived from Old French tens, which means "time" (spelled temps in modern French due to purposeful archaization), and Latin tempus,which literally means "time." Tense is a sort of verbal inflection that indicates when an action or state indicated by a verb occurs. It has nothing to do with the adjective tense, which is derived from the Latin tensus, which is the perfect passive participle of tendere, which means "stretch."(Harper, Douglas. "tense". Online Etymology Dictionary). Tense it's any forms of a verb which show the time at which an action happened.the grammatical tense in English include the following types :There are three major tenses past, present, and future.each of these tenses can take four primary aspects: simple, perfect, continuous (also regarded as progressive), and perfect continuous. (Grammatical tense – Wikipedia)

2.1 Past Perfect in English

2.1.1 Past Perfect Simple Tense

The past perfect tense indicates that something happened before another event in the past. It can also demonstrate that something occurred before to a specific date in the past .(International, F. (2016). Complete english grammar rules) It is also known as the pluperfect,(Grammatical tense - Wikipedia, 2022).

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And it is a verb tense that's used to communicate about actions that happened in the   past. Because the statement is written in the past simple tense, it appears as if both events occurred at the same time in the past it becomes confusing. By using the past   perfect Tense in the second sentence, we are able to distinguish that one event   happened Earlier than the other.

A .To form the past perfect tense, we use had (the past tense of the auxiliary   Because we use the past .verbHave) + the past participle of the main verb   perfect to highlight two separate points in the past.

For example,

The film had already ended when I switched on the TV".

 "Unfortunately, he had left his keys in the house when he left".

B. Alternatives past perfect Most of the time, we simply add not orNever after the auxiliary verb to   form the past perfect negative. If we wish to underline that something never happened before a specific   time event in the past, we might put the term never before the action.

"Never had I felt so alive".

"Never had she imagined that love like this could exist".

C. Interrogative sentences The auxiliary verb had appears before the subject   for example:Had you ever been on a tractor before starting work on the farm?

2.1.2 Past Perfect Continue Tense

The past perfect continuous tense (also called the past perfect progressive tense) is used to define a past action that began and was still ongoing before another past action began. The present perfect continuous tense is typically used to emphasize the length of time between the first action and the second action or event.We can also use it to talk about a past action that caused or resulted in a past event or situation. (International, F. (2016). Complete english grammar rules,684).

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A.To form the past perfect continuous, we use had been + the present participle of the main verb. Examples

"We had been waiting for a long time before the bus finally came." (International, F. (2016). Complete english grammar rules)
"I had been working on the ranch for more than half my life when I retired." • "I'd been cleaning all day, so I was too tired to go out last night." It can also Expressing Wishes ,for example: I wish I had not agreed to work on Sunday.
B.Negative sentences

The word not after had can be used to make past perfect continuous tense sentences negative; the two phrases are frequently shortened into hadn't.. For example:

"I did not mind her coming over; I had not been getting much work done anyway."
C.Interrogative sentences

The subject and the auxiliary word had are inverted when we ask questions in the past perfect continuous tense.. For example:

Where had you been working at the time of the incident?"
"Had she been living in Italy for a long time?"

3.Tense in Arabic

Hassan (1973, p. 243) explains the difference between tense and He claims that Arab linguists have been   aspect in Arabic and unable to produce significant changes in tensetypes in the Arabic context. According to him, Arabic has three tenses: past, present and future (see Al-Saqi, 1977). According to Hassan (ibid.), aspect refers to how near far, perfective, progressive, and habitual the activity is:

Past perfect: (10) He had visited his uncle.

Past perfect continuous: (11) He had been visiting his uncle.

There are two tenses of verbs in Arabic, according to Modern Arab Grammarians which are imperfect and perfect. The first denotes a partially completed action, whereas the second denotes a fully accomplished action (Wright, 1977:51); (Aziz, 1989: 43)(; Jurfn.d.: 80)(Abboud and McCarus, 1983: 154).

Adding to what has already been said by Hassan, in response to Arab linguists' hazy perceptions of tense, Aziz (1989) claims that the Arabic tense encompasses both the imperfect and perfect tense. The imperfect tense is used to indicate that an event or action has not

 yet been finished, e.g, يخرج

The perfect tense, on the other hand, denotes a complete ., activity خرج

Take a look at the following samples to see what I mean:

دخلت الغرفة وهو يغني I walked into the room as he was singing

The Arabic verb refers to the past tense in the previous example since it takes time reference from دخلت. which represents past time (Aziz, 1989, pp. 44-45).

3.1 Aspect Related to the Past Tense in Arabic

3.1.1_kana

As for the aspect related to the past perfect in Arabic , Hassan (1973, p. 245) provides nine different aspects; one of them which is equivalent to the English past perfect aspect is called the distant complete past aspect and is represented in the formula featuring past of verb
يكون

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followed by past form of the main verb; the formula .   فعل كان

As for reference to This view conforms to Hassan's (1973) viewpoint when he studied the past tense and its relevant aspects. The view conforms to Hassan's (1973) viewpoint when he studied the past tense and its relevant aspects. The formula   كان فعل indicates that the action is perfective in the past .and   كانin the above formula functions as an auxiliary verb. Consider the following illustrative example:

) ''وحملناه على ذات ألواح ودسر تجري بأعيننا جزاء لمن كان Yunus Sura, 98Aya
) 11كفر'' (

In the above Aya, there are two actions that took place in the past tense. The action which happened first is Expressed using
past form of the verb كان + {And indeed they had already made a covenant with Allah not to turn their backs}

(ولقد كانوا عهدوا الله من قبل لا يولون الأدبر) Ahzab-Al
SurahAhzab-Al:15

 The Pluperfect can be achieved by using the perfect /kana Association with the perfect of another verb and the normal position of the Subject will be between the two verbs
 Simple Past kana + Simple Present:
. Zaid had written)88(
كان زيد يكتب
 The overhang had waited for them .

كان البروز ينتظرهم.

       In case of the subject is plural and it denotes human beings, /kana/ will be In the singular governed by the preceding verb However, there is to be an Agreement in number between the   second verb and its subject which has been mentioned already .

 The men had drunk)89(Arabic verb kana + simple present

كان الرجالُ يشربون

He had not known

ما كان يعلم

  American lawyers had participated)90(

محامون امريكان كانوا مشاركين

Qad 3.1.2_

     Dahl and Talmoudi(1979:55) declare that the basic function of qad/ is to refer to the adequate evidence which the speaker has .support his statement to support his statement.. Azmi(1988: 94) clarifies that certain things(whether expected or unexpected) have actually taken place under the influence of : using /qad

For this reason, he says that it can be translated into "already, "really", and "Now.

However applied to affirmative statements as in sentences It cannot be used in negative, interrogative or in relative clauses

 With the present perfect.(55,56)   )Aziz, 1989: 51,61; Ryding, 2005:450.

We can utilize the compound structure, which is made up of the particle /qad /

  *past verb*قدـ+

  He had played

قد لعب

  She had written

قد كتبت

Simple Past كان+ قد+

The insertion of /qad/ can also happen to indicate the same meaning, Farghal and shunnaq (1999, p. 79) propose that, in Arabic, the meaning Of the past perfect aspect can be expressed

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by using the past form of the Arabic verbيكون

+قد+ the simple past form of the main verb

The rain had stopped by the time the class was over.

كان المطر قد توقف عندما انتهت المحاضرة

 for example

كان الرجال قد شربوا

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. The men had drunk)91(

كان قد درس عندما رأيته

 He had studied when I saw him

+ qad+ pastverb كان kana

His belly felt as though he had eaten grass .

أحس بمعدته كما لو كان قد أكل عشباً .

Quasi-nominalization 3.1.3

Strategy consists of kana and noun from the mane verb   a noun derived

Kana +كانnoun

.look at   The following English examples along with their Arabic renderings :

It had lain in the water .

كان ممتدا في الماء .

The scattered stones had dropped from the roof .

كانت الحجارة متساقطة من السقف .

(لِّيَقْضِيَ اللهُ أَمْراً كَانَ مَفْعُولاً)

Kana+the noun

مفعول

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4.Acontrastive Analysis

4.1.Points of Similarity

•Both languages are widely spoken around the world and are spoken by a large number of people; for example, the English language is spoken by over two billion people as of the 2000s(Crystal, David (2008). "Two thousand million?". English Today. 24: 3–6)., while Arabic is the official language of 205 million people worldwide, and more than 1.5 billion people use Arabic for liturgical ppurpose it is the language of an entire

 MusMuslim civilization

 •Both languages (English and Arabic)provide a manner of expressing something that happened before another event in the past or something .that happened after another event in the Englis indicate a past action that began and was still ongoing before another   .past action began

• The past perfect in the two languages, Arabic and English, is   similar Enough to the extent that the Arabic-speaking student Encounters . Somewhat, a little problem while learning it in

 , English(Catford et al, 1974:98)

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4.2. Points of Differences

•As Wightwick and Gaatar(2008:13) state that the basic two tenses concerning Arabic regular Verbs are past and present, it

Can consequently be concluded that the past perfect In EnglishHas no perfect equivalent in Arabic. Accordingly, we can use the compound structure which is Composed of the particle /qad /Plus any verb in the Arabic perfect

Number of tense structures in English exceeds that of Arabic, resulting in a structural gap between the two languages' tense systems, as seen by the loss of one-to-one correspondence between specific tense structures in   .the two languages exposed to translation.There are 12 tenses in the English language, each of which is distinct : and detailed

The Present Tenses (simple, continuous, perfect, perfect continues)

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The Past Tenses (simple, continues, perfect, perfect continues)

The Future Tenses (simple, continues,perfect, perfect continues)

While there are only three tenses in the Arabic language, they are *past*, *present* and each tense has more than one application, each of which can convey a range of meanings.

Past perfect tense in English differs from Arabic in that it exists as a separate and detailed tense. The past perfect tense in English is subjecsubject+past participle and the past perfect continuous is subject+had been+present participle of the main verb(ing).

While the Arabic language lacks an independent tense termed the past perfect, the English language does have verbs or tenses that fit and .approximate the past perfect

When rendering the past perfect aspect into Arabic, there are five key strategies:
1_past perfect aspect kana + present verb
2_Past verb _Simple Past kana +

3_the Arabic verb kana +qad +past verb

4_qad + past verb

5_ quasi-nominalization

There are negations in the English language for the past perfect tense, but in the case of qad in Arabic, it is not permissible to negateArabic, there is no perfect equivalent. As a result, . However, the particle /qad/ is used in affirmative utterances, such as sentences. With the present perfect, it cannot be used in negative, interrogative, or relative sentences. ((Ryding, 2005:450(Aziz, 1989: 51,61; Aziz, 1989: 51,61; Aziz, 1989: 51,61; Aziz,) while in xviinglish, Negative and interrogative are possible .

5. Conclusion, Recommendations, and Suggestions

5.1 Conclusions

The study has arrived the following conclusion:

1_ investigating the use of past perfect simple which expresses Two events in the past, one interrupting the other ,and past perfect continue which expresses two events start in the past continued up until another time in the past.

2_The structure of past perfect is [subject+had+past participle],the structure of past perfect continue is[subject+had been+verb's present participle (ing)]

3_past perfect in Arabic is similar to past perfect in English but there is no It has a special tense of past perfect, so it is used (kan) or (qad)

4_English language is more explicit in showing past perfect tense than Arabic language.

5.2. Recoomendations

It is recommended that some additional exercises are added to textbooks of grammar at the departments of English concerning forms and uses of past perfect of English in order that more knowledge is added to the students. It is also recommended that reference to Arabic which is the mother tongue of the students is adopted by the instructors when teaching the English grammatical tenses in order to avoid any type of interference between the two languages.

5.3. Suggestions

The following topics are suggested to be investigated by other researchers in the future because they are beyond the limits of the present study:
1. Past perfect tenses in political texts
2. Manipulating tenses in TV reports

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