# Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific research University of Babylon College of Education for Human Sciences Department of Englis



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# **Aspect in Arabic and English**

Submitted to the Department of English /College of Education for Human Sciences-University of Babylon in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Bachelor Degree in English Language

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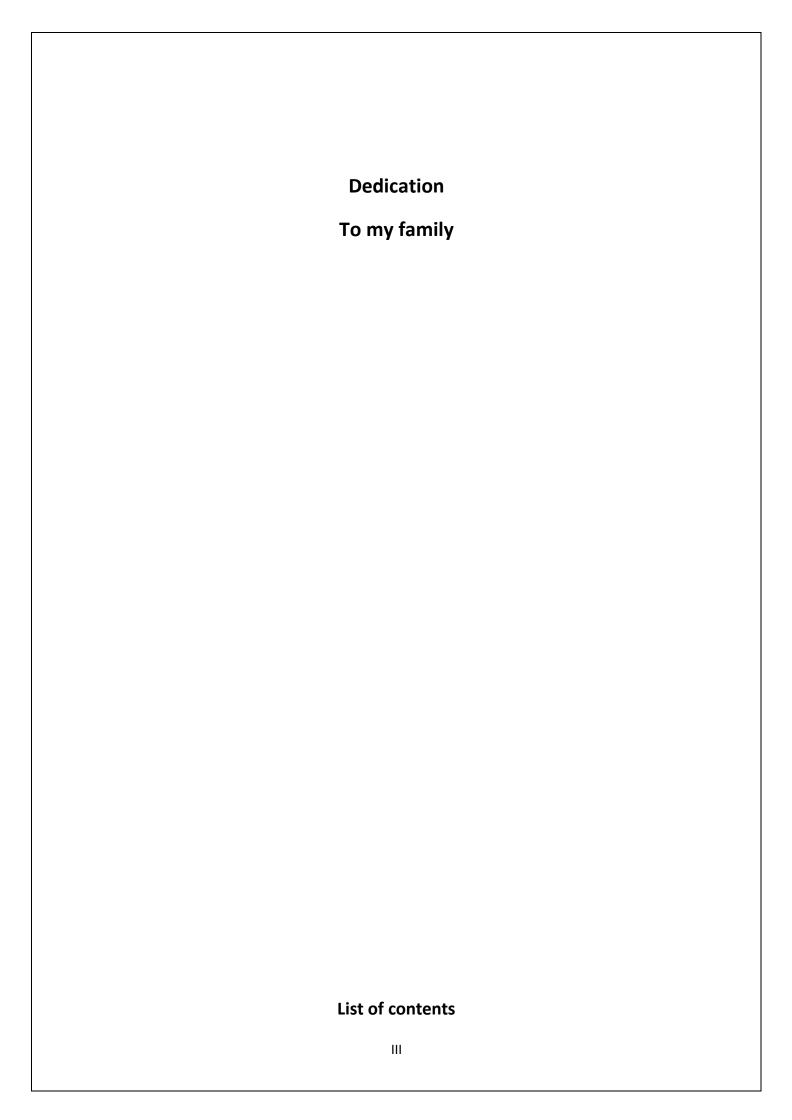
# بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم ﴿ يَرْفَعِ اللهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ وَاللهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ ﴾ صدق الله العظيم [المجادلة: 11]

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

(God raises those of you who believe and those who have been given knowledge by degrees, and God is aware of what you do)

Allah spoke the truth

	knowledgement
To the one who taught me papeloved mother	atience, diligence, and perseverance, my
To the one who sent me the athere	rules of noble manners ,my distinguished
would like to thank my supe encouragement and advice t	ervisor Dr: Nesaem Mehdi ,for guidance that she has given
And I thank all my teachers v	vho did not spare us their knowledge



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# **Chapter one**

# Introduction

#### 1.1The Problem

The grammatical concept of aspect has been established in the English linguistic research. In Arabic, it is limited to some contemporary attempts. Aspect and tense can be said to be two different ways of looking at time. Aspect, as a verb form or category, expresses characteristics related to time, such as completion, duration, or repetition of an action. This work attempts to answer the following questions:

- 1 -What are the differences between Arabic and English as for as aspect is concered?
- 2-What are the similar points between Arabic and English in aspect?
- 3-What are the types of aspect in both languages

#### **1.2** Aims

This study aims at the following

- 1. Finding out the similarities between Arabic and English in aspect.
- 2. Showing the differences in both languages in aspect.
- 3. Pointing out the types of aspect in both languages.

#### 1.3 Hypotheses

It is hypothesized that:

- 1 Arabic is more specific than English, as for as aspect is concerned.
- 2. There are many similarities between the two languages.
- 3. There are differences between English and Arabic as for as aspect is cocerned.

#### 1.4 Procedures

In order to achieve the aims of this study and fulfill its hypotheses, the following procedures are adopted:

- 1 -The relevant literature about aspect in Arabic and English is surveyed
- 2- Making comparison between Arabic and English in aspect
- 3- Coming up with certain conclusions as for as aspect is related

#### 1.5 Limits

This study is limited to highlight the most important similarities and differences between Arabic and English concerning aspect.

#### 1.6 Value

The study is significant and important to the linguists that try to apply in to linguistics, contrastive analysts and grammar teachers. The present study is useful to the different fields of linguistics like contrastive study.

# **Chapter 2**

# **Aspect in English**

#### 2.1 Introduction

The purpose of this Chapter is to investigate aspect in English, and to provide a framework which accounts for the semantics of aspect (Kamp, 1990:32).

Mair (2012:149) says that all languages whether or not they have designated grammatical category conventionally referred to as continuous or aspect can convey the idea that in event is a progressing dynamically over the time frame. The progressive found in various languages, which are obligatory or optional grammatical category marked on verb phrases.

Comrie (1976:171) states that aspect and tense distinctions and their reflection verb morphology revolves around three distinct linguistic categories: grammatical aspect .tense, and inherent aspect. Our concern in this study is with grammatical aspect ,so that it will be discussed in details in the coming sections.

#### 2.2 The Relationship between Aspect and Tense

Aspects and tenses are regarded as twin pairs. They are closely related to each other, one accomplishing another complementary task. The tense provides the location of the final description, and the aspect is considered to provide information about the attributes of the possibility is as Borik and .Gonzalaez (2000:7) point out

Li and Shirai (2000:8) believe that the boundary between aspect and tense system is not clear, and the concept of aspect itself is not very clear, and it will be clear soon. Define one of two systems to profit from the defining the other one.

The Aspect and tense can be described as two different ways of looking at tense can be regarded as the linear movement extending from the past to the future, and the focus is on the point in time when the movement occurs. Aspect refers to the degree of completeness of inaction or state. In the less words that mean if the action is completed or not (Sasse.2006:535)

To sum up, aspect and tense will be considered interrelated phenomena in realm of constructing and interpreting temporal information

# **2.3** Definitions of Aspect in English grammar:

There are several definitions of aspect, one of these definitions is introduced by Quirk et al.(1976:40)who regard aspect as the way a speech act is experienced or viewed (e.g. done in a gradual manner)

E .g.,

- (1) Johan built a house (Jordens, 2000:11).
  - (2) Johan was building a house (ibid).

Sentence (1) is aspectually perfective and completed the action in certain time while sentence (2) is aspectually imperfective, actions are not completed in certain time

As John (1998:576) explains, aspect refers to how to look at a new action event in terms of time rather than two actual time positions,

e. g.,

. (3)Tom fell in love on his eighteen birthday

This example discusses the verb "full" which is in simple past tense (ibid.).

Khalil (1999:184) states that aspect expresses the speaker's perception of behavior as a completed event or continuous state or activity. English has two .types of aspects: perfect and progressive (incomplete), e. g

(4) He used to visit us every Sunday last month (ibid)

Nordquist (2019:45) expresses aspects as verb forms or categories, representing time-related features, such as completion, duration, or repetition of actions, e. g.,

. (6)D avid has bought a new house (John, 1998, 78)

# 2.4 Types of Grammatical Aspect

In English, there are two types of grammatical aspect which will be discussed in the next section:

#### 2.4.1The Perfective Aspect

Jordens (2000:21) points out that perfection and achievement are naturally combined, which is usually interpreted as the completion of the event, defined

as the achievement related to the end.

The perfect aspect is expressed in the perfect form, which also expresses the absolute past tense and the relative past tense. It uses the absolute past

tense to indicate that a completed action is related to the present (present .(result) (Bernard, 1974: 39).

#### 2.4.1 Types of Perfect Aspect

#### 1.Past Perfect

The past perfect tense refers to actions or events that occurred at a specific point in time and continued to the present. It is related to a specific period that continues to the present (Quirk et al, 1976: 42), e. g., (7)I have written with a special pen since 1972(ibid,). I(7) In this sentence ,the action of writing with that pen has extended from the past to the present

#### 2. Present Perfect

As Khalil(1999:196) says that this type of aspect expresses a completed action or situation (perfect) with the present time relevance (present), e.g. (8), I have been in London once (ibid.).

Present perfect differs from simple past in that the simple past expresses an action that happened at specific time in the past, while the present perfect expresses an action that happened in unspecific time in the past (ibid,) e. g.,

- (8) John lived in London for two years.
- (9) John has lived in London for two years.

The sentence (8) implies that John no longer lives in London and involves period of time that is exclusive of present, while sentence(9) implies that he is still living in London and involves period that inclusive of present

#### 2.4.2 Progressive Aspect (Imperfective)

Ibraheem and Less (1984:82) show that the English structure consist of auxiliary verb "be" followed by the verb with suffix-ing. This term does not only refer to the function ,but refers to the information that the speaker wants to convey and the listener may understand. The progressive form means to convey meaning. English has actually grammaticalized this construction to give order for continuation of event or action

Quirk et al (1976:46) argue that the progressive aspect in English has the following types :

#### 1. Dynamic Progressive

Progressive occurs only with dynamic verbs, or more concurrently with the

verbs in dynamic use . A verb in dynamic progressive is always in operation . This means that the verbs can take "ing" .Verbs in dynamic progressive fall into five classes as Quirk et al ( 1976:46) refer:

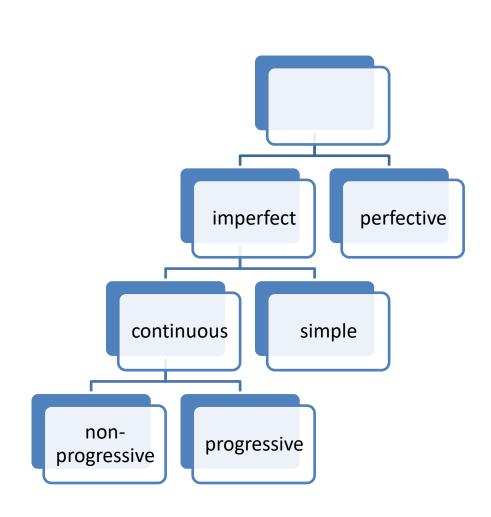
- 1.Active verbs: ask, call, eat, and call.
- 2. Proceess verbs : change , grow , and mature .
  - 3. Bodily sensation: ,e.g., feel ,hurt, and itch .
- 4. Transitional event verbs: ,e.g., arrive ,die ,and fall
- 5. momentary verbs ,e.g.: hit ,jump ,and nod .

#### 2-Stative Non -Progressive

Quirk and et.al (1985: 47) present types of stative verbs. They are verbs which do not take "ing" divide into groups:

- . 1-Verbs of inert perception and cognition, these are like:believe, desire and feel. Some of these verbs may take other replacement subject, e.g., : . I think you are right (Reishann et al,2008:45)(10) .
- 2- Relational verbs: These verbs like: be, consist, and contain(ibid) Li and Shari (2000,12) proposed the following hierarchical classification of aspectual categories, as illustrated in following figure

Figure 2.1 classification of aspectual categories ,after Li and shari (2000)



# **Chapter Three**

# **Aspect in Arabic**

#### 3:1Introduction

Various studies have examined the differences between the verb system used in Arabic and other languages. Understanding the correspondence between verb forms and concepts of time, past, present or future is one of the most important aspects of any .(language ( Reishann and Ja'far, 2008:140

As Wick and Gaatar (2018:14) state, Arabic is relatively simple in terms of tense. Some languages have many tenses, and there are many specific regulations on the timing of the action and whether the action has been completed. Arabic grammar is unclear in terms of time and aspect. There are only two basic tenses

الماضى A. Past

المضارع B. Present

# 3:2Aspect and Tense in Arabic

Bouras(2006:84) refers that" in Arabic, tense and angle are or maybe of limited semantic expression when compared to other dialects. Grammarian contend that verb in Arabic alludes to polarized perspectives of completed and incompleted activity. Defective (incompleted) and and idealize action to a great extent disregarding those references within the tense and temperament which are some ." common into – European dialects

According to Comrie(1976:78), "the distinction between Arabic perfective and imperfective cannot be simply one of viewpoint".

He(1976:78) that Arabic perfective and imperfective as a case of tense and viewpoint possession. Perfective tense is characterized by suffixation

and imperfection or by combination of prefix and addition. There are :three variations

Person(first, second, third), number(singular, dual, plural) and gender (masculine) and feminine.

Comrie(ibid) contends that Arabic has complementary aspect-tense system in a few regards. The compulsory category in Arabic, is aspect. This compulsory categories are arched shapes in Arabic and other languages. In sentence, mandatory angle in Arabic may infer tense or obligatory tense in English may infer aspect.

# 3.3 Definition of Aspect in Arabic

Gadalla (2000:76) defines aspects as "Only by appending the suffix to get the perfect form, and by adding the suffix to get the imperfect form, which is a combination of prefix and suffix

,.e. g

( Stowell, 2007:27 ) أصلح توم السياره (Stowell, 2007:27 )

Radwan (1975:30) This aspect covers the semantic scope of completion and non-completion and continuation and non-continuation. In addition, tense is different from aspect. Tense covers time differences e.g.,

(12) Layla preparing the tea يلى تعد الشاي (Begg ,1997:201)

Nida (1964:189) defines aspect as the nature of action of verb and affections around it .Tense marks the relative time of events

# 3.4 Arabic Grammar of Aspect and Tense.

In Arabic, there are two verb forms: the perfect (المضارع) and imperft (المضارع) which express , among other things time reference .The perfect (عتب) and imperfect

(یکتب) express present .The past contrast when they are used as absolute tenses i.e taking the moment of speaking as their reference point. Both forms may be used for relative tenses, in

which case the point of reference is not the present moment of speaking about other points in sentence .Here are two examples which show relative tense of imperfect(پذهب)" )go" ,(Aziz, 1988:39)

بذهب اخی اهناك كل يوم . (13) My brother goes there every day

(Absolut ;point of reference the moment of speaking (now))

اخى دهب إلى هنالك كل يوم (14) hen, I know that my brother went there every day

(relative: point of reference past (علمت)

the past refers to the past. It is worth mentioning that Arabic tenses will be explained in following section as (Ryding, 2005:440) points out:

### 1- Past Tense perfect الماضي

The past tense is divided into two divisions according to the action:

A. Action in the past :Arabic past tense refers to completed actions and events are finished in certain moment of action. B. Non-past action: depending on the context, the Arabic past tense may also be used to convey other meanings.

Wright (1974:99) shows that past tense is formed by suffixing person-makers in the past and also denotes number singular dual plural and gender. In simple regular verb, the basic past tense will look like this:

كتب He wrote)

The different ending can be added to past stem depending on who is carrying out (the subject of the verb ).

Table(1):Endings of the past tense in arabic after wright (1974:45)

Singular	<u>Endings</u>	<u>Examples</u>
الا	Tu 🛎	لتبت_Katabtu
You(mas) نت	ت Ta	كتبت Katabata
You (fem.) انت	ت Ti	Katata کتبت

هو He – it She –it	a ث At ث	Katabat کتبت
Plural We نحن You (mas) انتم You(fem) انتن They(mas.) هم They(fem.)	Endings Naa نا <u>Tum تم Tum</u> <u>تن Uu اق</u> <u>Uu اق</u> <u>Na ن</u>	Examples Katabnaa کتبنا Katabtum کتبتم Katabtunna کتبتن

(16) Fatima wrote a letter to her mother (ibid.) كتبت فاطمه رساله الى امها In written Arabic, subject "Fatima" usually comes after the verb wrote.

# 2- Present tense ( imperfect) مضارع

Referred to a present time .if the point of reference is moment of speaking ,e.g,(17) i go to market once a week , انهب الى السوق مره (Haywood and nahmad (1942:42)) explain present tense or imperfect to be that which reference in general way to complete state .lt corresponds to both the English present and the present continuous tenses. There is no distinction between these in Arabic. The present tense forms the present stem of verbs, which both prefix and suffix are added

Table (2) different additions to the present form of verbs in arabic wright (1974:102)

<u>Singular</u>	<b>Examples</b>
انا	Aktub اکتب
Yuo(mas.) انت	تکتب Taktub
You (fem) انت	تكتبين Taktubina
هو He/it	Yaktub يكتب
هي She/it	تکتب Taktub
<u>Plural</u>	<b>Examples</b>
نحن We	Naktub نکتب
You (mas.) انت	تكتبون Taktubuuna
انتن You(fem)	تكتبين Taktubna
They (mas.) هن	Yaktubuna يكتبون

هن (fem)	Yaktabna يكتبن

# **Chapter Four**

# **Contrastive Analysis**

#### 4. 1 Points of similariy.

This work outlines a new approach to the English system and the morphology of Arabic. The main purpose of this study is to provide a foundation of the morphology and form of Arabic and English verbs.

English has two basic aspects; the present and past, the past being marked, both morphologically and semantically. Present tense has various divisions as present simple and present continuous. Past also has different divisions as simple past and past continuous. In Arabic, there are two basic tenses: the past tense and present also they are called perfective and imperfective referring to time and tense, perfect referring to aspect

In both languages, tense is a grammatical expression of location of events in time .Further the two languages, Arabic and English ,perfect aspect is untilised for finished actions in relation to the present moment.

The progressive aspect in English is similar to the imperfect aspect (المضارع) in Arabic in duration action, incomplete events, temporary happening at the moment(continuous). action, facts, habits and what is In Arabic and English, the perfect aspect is used for completed actions or completed events or in relation to the present moment, past moment or future moment, e.g.,(18) I saw this man last year رأيت الرجل العام الماضي

Although the times are different, both Arabic grammarians and English grammarians agree that the perfect tense is a moving moment across a timeline, each moment gradually moving from the future to the present.

most grammarians, both languages tend to use both past and present verb forms, to express all temporal relationships.

#### 4. 2 Points of Difference

Arabic framework contrasts from English, as distant as perspective is concerned in several focuses, in English, verbs have two viewpoints: the perfective and progressive, while in Arabic an activity begun within the past and proceeding into the show is as a rule rendered by the display tense in Arabic. The

Arabic present tense often refers to an action taking place at the moment

In English, the utilize of the display tense is kept to, of speaking now, limited number of verbs of sensation, the English comparable is communicated by the dynamic viewpoint e,g(19) Ali is working in the garden now يعمل على في الحديقة الان

The basic meaning of present tense is locating a situation holding at present moment. This may be an instantaneous event either simple or progressive form(Jupiter is the expressed with occurrence. Also expressed with the largest planet) or habitual simple present form (He works in an office)

Arabic present tense or imperfect tense refers in general to incomplete or ongoing states. The present stem in Arabic is formed from the three root letters with vowel after the second(katab)(sharab). The prefixes and sometimes endings are added to the stem to show the subject of the verb .In Arabic, affixes play an important role in Arabic grammar conjunction

As (ya,ta ,na) of this role "yaktub "بكتب"

Arabic does not have facilities to distinguish between vowel and consonants " ." كتبت in the same way that English does, as in" katabtu" Often, Arabic uses the past tense, whereas English uses the past tense. This is found in English proverbs, maxims, and what is in print . It is also true of certain verbs of emotion ,e.g., (20) shakespear says : i love thw girl المقد احبيت تلك الفتاة

Past tense in English is dissimilar from past tense in Arabic. In English past tense primarily refers to definite event in certain period. Its secondary refer to present event as hypothetical "if I were you". The simple past tense of most verbs requires in-ed enging with regular verbs and irregular verbs are not involve

adding "ed" ,the require change of the vowel or spelling of the verb. In Arabic, the past tense refers to complete action and equates in the most respects with English past tense and past perfect .The past stem is formed from the three root letters with "fatha" after the first "fatha" or sometimes "kasra" after the second root letter .katab". Endings are added to stem to show the subject of the verb " English tenses does not follow the same patterns as Arabic tenses .The most important difference between tenses is that English tenses are absolute :the relative tenses are expressed by means of different forms. The Arabic tenses uses the same form in absolute and relative constructions . In the following example , transformation from direct to indirect speech illustrates this point e.g.,(21) he said "ali likes jesus music "(direct speech).

(22) he said that all liked jesus music (indrect speech)

In the English indirect speech "likes" becomes "liked" because the action is now in the past and the tense is absolute; it uses two different forms. While in Arabic, it is not necessary because the same form may be used in absolute tense( direct speech), and . ((relative tenses)(indirect speech

English uses some other techniques like auxiliaries and time indicators or adverbs to express action at more complex level of time relation. Thus, in addition to the main verb, it uses verb phrases with imperfective ,progressive , and progressive perfective combinations of tense like( have +en ) (be+ing) and (have+been+ing) .In Arabic technique like auxiliaries are not found in Arabic grammar

The structure of the sentences is different from other languages .In Arabic. Structure form in this way (verb+ subject+ object or completion), while English structure form (subject(noun or pronoun + verb +object .((complementation))

4.3T able (3)Summarises the Differences between Aspect in English and Arabic .

# Table (3): The Differences between English and Arabic in Aspect

### **English**

e.g.like

- 1.Englishas various auxiliary verbs as is .are .am.has.have. etc .to express aspect .
- 2. In english, verbs have two aspects: perfective and progressive, action take place at the moment of speaking "now"
- 3. Affixes are the most important indicator of the tense of verbs .English has inflection "suffixes" added to the verb . in past "ed" form shows the tense "ing" is added to the verb .
- 4. English has the facility to distinguish btween vowels and consonants e.g,ifvowel is btween consonants like (swimming)repeated consonants are adopted 5. English uses the present tense in proverbs ,maxims,and what is print ,it is also true certain verbs of emotions
- 6. an absolute form is most important in english tenses: the relative tenses are expressed by means of different forms. The non-finite forms, e.g. (23) Ali likes gazz music (direct speech) he said that Ali liked gazz music (indirect speech) verb transformation form direct speech "likes" to "in"direct" speech "liked" because action is now in the past and tense is absolute, it uses two different forms.

### **Arabic**

- 1.Arabic does not have auxiliaries when expressing the progressive and perfective aspects.
- 2. Arabic also have two types of aspect, but action start in the past and continuing into the present are usually rendered by the present tense .present tense often refers to an action taking place at present moment :now" 3. Arabic affixes are alsoessential and added to the verb .arabic hasprefixes and suffixes added to the verb imperfective is expressed by suffes like(ya,ta,na and a)as in :taktubu تكتب and naktubu. Suffixes are added to the end of the verb (una,na and in past only, تكتبن u)taktubuna, suffixes are added as in(uu,ti,and tuum)katabu کتبو كتبتم and katabtum كتبت 4. Arabic does not have inflections of vowels and consonants in the verb form to express aspects.
- 5.Arabic uses the past tense in proverbs and maxims 6.the absolute form in arabic is not necessary because the same form may be used in absolute tense (direct speech) and relative tense (indirect speech).

# **Chapter five**

# Conclusions, Recommendations, Suggestions

On the basis of the comparison conducted by this study , the following conclusions can be introduced as in:

#### Conclusion

#### 5.1Differences

- 1. English has various auxiliary verbs while Arabic doesn't have.
- 2. In English, verbs have two aspects :perfective and progressive .while Arabic has more than two
- 3.Affixes(suffixes) are important in aspect in English in which they .
- . are added to the verb, whereas Arabic has affixes in all its types
- 4. English has the facilities to distinguish between vowels and consonants while Arabic does not affect.
- 5. English use present aspect in proverbs and the maxims while Arabic, past tense is used.

#### 5.2 Similarities

- 1.Both Arabic and English have grammatical expression of location of events in time.
- 2.A spect in both languages is used for completed action or in relation to the present moment.
- 3. Arab and English grammarians do agree that present tense is a mobile moment across the line of time.

#### 5. 3 Recommendations

It is recommended that "aspect" as a grammatical issue should be presented to the Iraqi EFL learners in contrast to Arabic, particularly in subjects like "translation". It is highly simpler to understand aspect in English by the students when it is compared

to Arabic, which is their mother tongue, and they must know the points of difference and similarity between the two languages.

# **5.4 Suggestions for Further Research**. .

There are some topics to be studied by other students in future because they are beyond the limits of my work ,e.g.,

- 1. Aspect in English-Arabic translation.
- 2. Gap between aspect in Arabic and English .
- 3. The relation between tenses, time, and aspec

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