

## Iraqi Nursing College Student Use of Future Form

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### Abstract

This study are mainly concerned with different forms of future tense , as one of the constructions in English language on the hand , and a problematic area for Iraqi ESP learners on the other hand.

Therefore , the study aims at measuring the students manipulating different forms of future tense.

To achieve this goal, the study hypothesizes :

- 1) Most of Iraqi ESP university students face difficulties in mastering different forms of future tense.
- 2) Iraqi ESP learner , inaccurate responses at the production level may be attributed to misuse of different forms of future tense.

To verify these hypotheses , a diagnosis test has been adopted and applied to a sample of Iraqi ESP university students at their second year , college of nursing , university of Babylon. Then , their response are collected and analyzed to give the following results:

- 1) The students , performance has revealed that ESP university face difficulties in mastering different forms of future tense.
- 2) The highest rate of their incorrect responses to questions of production level confirm that the subjects misuse the different forms of future tense.

### 1.1 Introduction

There is no "future tense" in English , but there are several ways of talking about the future. Native speakers of English choose one of these ways according to the situation and their attitude to it. Also, they may prefer one form because they want to influence the hearer(s) in a particular way.

Iraqi Nursing College Students as learners of the English language face difficulty in using the different ways used to express futurity .T hey may think that future time can only be expressed through the use of the modal auxiliaries "will"and "small"followed by an infinitive form of the "verb" or Be going to infinitive. In fact, many different forms can be used to refer to future.

### 1.2 Hypotheses : it is hypothesized that:

1. Most of Iraqi Nursing College Students as learners of the English language are unable to recognize and produce future time.
2. The student performance in the recognition level is better than performance in the production level.
3. The students are unaware that there are many forms used to express future and there are some forms used to express immediate future.

### 1.3 Signification

The study aims at finding how far Iraqi College Students are able to recognize future time as they are used in English. It is hoped that this paper and the results of the test will be useful for both the students of Nursing College to improve their performance and teachers of English in their efforts to help their students mastery in this subject.

### 1.4 Limits of the study

This paper is limited to study future time in English. The sample of the test is limited to the second students in the Nursing College / Babylon University , during the academic year 2013 – 2014 because they have studied the subject in the course of grammar.

## 1.5 Procedure

The procedures followed in this paper are: -

- 1) Presenting , as far as possible , a comprehensive description of English future forms.
- 2) Designing diagnostic test to investigate the students ability to produce future time.
- 3) Selecting a sample of the second students from the Nursing College /, University of Babylon to apply the test.
- 4) Analyzing the results of the test to reach to the conclusions.

## 2.2 Means of expressing future time in English

It has already been pointed out that future time in English is not expressed by means of tense but by other devices, as follows: -

### 2.2.1 Simple future (Be + going to + infinitive)

This construction expresses future of present intention (personal subject) or present indication or cause (non – personal and personal subject) ; as in : -

- 1) I am going to pay the bill next week. (intention).
- 2) It is going to rain soon. (indication – clouds).
- 3) The chair is going to collapse (indication) (Aziz , 1989:68).

We use ("be + going to + infinitive") to mak a prediction , especially if their evidence in the present to justify the prediction , as in : -

- 4) Look at those black clouds. It's going to rain.
- 5) The roses are already a popular band and they are going to massive!

It is possible to use "will"with present evidence, but we usually use an adverb, as in:

- 6) Look at the sky. It will probably /definitely rain later.

With "be + going" there is often a strong link with the present, and the prediction is often about the near future:

- 7) Look out! You're going to spill the win! (Foley and Hall, 2005:72).

"Be + going to + infinitive" this construction denotes "future fulfillment of the present" and it has two more specific meanings, , "future of present intention", is used chiefly with personal subject, as in:

- 8) When are you going to get married?

The other meaning is "future of present cause", which is found which both personal and non-personal subject:

- 9) She's going to have a baby.
- 10) it's going to rain.

Both of these suggest that the event is already "on the way". "Be + going to" is not generally used in the main clause of conditional sentences, "will" or "shall" being preferred instead, as in:

- 11) if you leave now, you'll never regret it. (Quirk, 1983, 48)

### 2.2.2 Simple Future "will/shall + infinitive"

"shall" is used with the first person only, mainly in British English, as in:

- 12) I shall try to be there tonight.

"will" is used with all three persons, as in:

- 13) She will be back tomorrow.
- 14) Will you come to the zoo? (Aziz, 1989: 68).

We can use "shall" to express our intention and attitudes towards other people.

#### A) Decisions:

We use "will" at the moment of making decision as in:

- 15) The phone's ringing. I'll answer it.

We use "shall" to ask what decision. We should make, as in:

- 16) what shall I do?

17) shall we tell her?

**B) Threats and promises, as in:**

18) I'll hit you if you do that again.

19) I promise I won't smoke again.

**c) Offers and requests**

we use "shall I" when we offer to do things, as in:

20) shall I carry your bag?

We can use "will you" .....? To ask people to do things, as in:

21) will you get me a newspaper when you're out? (Jeeves, 2003:137).

There is a future auxiliary "will/shall + v" which is used in prediction (describing something we know, or expect, will happen), as in:

22) It'll be windy tomorrow. There will be rain in places.

23) My horoscope says that next year will bring me success and happiness. (Leech et al 1989:173)

**2.2.3 progressive aspect, present (will + shall + be + verb – ing)**

The construction of "will / shall" with the progressive may indicate future period of time within which another situation occurs , as in:

24) when you reach the end of the bridge , I will be waiting there to show you the way.

Another use denotes "future as matter of course" (It avoid the interpretation of volition , intention , promise , etc , to which will / shall , and be going to are liable) , as in:

25) we ll be flying at 30,000 feet. (Quirk and Qreen Baum , 1991: 58).

We can also use "will + be + verb – ing" (the future continuous) to talk about events that are result of or part of an arrangement made in the past , as in:

26) How about joining us at the cottage this Sunday?

Oh , we cant. We'll be coming back from Edinburgh on Sunday we're visiting Julianne.

With the structure the future event is seen as arranged , so we use this as a tactful way of asking about someone's plans or refusing an invitation on as , in:

27) Will you be studying long?

28) I'm sorry. I can't come to your wedding as I'll be working on that day.

There is in fact , little difference between this and the use of present continuous for arrangement. The use of "will + be + verb – ing" acts to distance the arrangement a little , making it more fixed and less open to change. (Foley and Hall , 2005: 74).

We can use the future progressive to say that something will be going on at a particular moment in the future. (Jeeves , 2003: 139).

**2.2.4 The simple present**

The simple present tense is usually used to express future time fixed in the present as in "calendar events" and "plans" , as in:

29) I leave to Paris tomorrow.

30) School finishes on 21<sup>st</sup> march.

Here an adverbial of future time is often required since the basic function of this tense (aspect) is to indicate habitual action. Farther this use is will / shall + perfect infinitive for first person , will + perfect infinitive for the other persons It is normally used with a time expression beginning with "by" : by then , by that time, etc.

31) By the end of next month he will have been here for ten years.

It's used for an action which at a given future time will be in the past , or will just have finished. (Thomas and Martinet , 2001: 194).

**2.2.5 The future perfect progressive**

Will / shall have been + present participle for the first person , will have been + present participle for the other persons. Like the future perfect , it is normally used with a time expression beginning with by:

32) By the end of this year he'll have been acting for thirty years.

The future perfect continuous bears the same relationship to the future perfect as the present perfect continuous bears to the present perfect , the future perfect continuous can be used instead of the future perfect , as in:

(1) When the action is continuous.

33) By the end of the month he will have been studying here for ten years.

(2) When the action expressed as continuous actions:

34) By the end of the month he will have been training horses/climbing mountains for twenty years.

But if we mention the number of the hours or mountain , or divide this action in any way , we must use the future perfect:

By the end of the month he will have trained 600 horses / climbed 50 mountains. (Ibid).

### **2.2.6 Be + about to + Infinitive**

"Be about to + infinitive". This construction "be about to" is used with the infinitive to refer to near future , as in:

35) The plan is about to take off. (Aziz , 1989:69).

### **2.2.7 Be to + infinitive**

This construction denotes future with present arrangement , command , or predestined event.

36) We are to meet here at six o'clock. (arrangement).

37) You are to pay for the whole damage. (command).

38) He has to work harder , if he is to succeed in his present job (predestined requirement).

The context normally indicates which of these senses is meant by the speaker. (Ibid).

### **2.2.8 Be + on the point of + verb – ing**

This construction denotes near future , it is used to refer to the immediate future , as in:

39) The oil company is on the point of making an important decision. (Leech et al , 1989 : 175).

## **3.1 Testing**

The test is "any means of checking what students can do with the language. It also includes what they cannot do". (AL.Juboury , 1999:1).

### **3.2 Validity of the test**

The term "validity" refers to the extent to which a test measures what is supposed to measure. In other words , test what you teach and how you teach. (Coomb et al , 2007:22).

#### **3.2.1 Face Validity**

Its refers to the way the test looks to the examinees and supervisors or in general to the people concerned with the education of the students.

In order to ensure the face validity of the test , it is exposed to a jury of specialist in English who agreed of the validity of the test item and enriched to test with their remarks.

#### **3.2.2 Content validity**

It refers to the extent to which a test adequately covers the syllabus to be tested. The test must be based upon a careful analysis of the subject or skill we are testing . It must also be constructed as to represent adequately each portion of this analysis. (AL-Juboury , 1999:25).

## **3.3 Reliability**

It is the stability of test scores, which simply means that a test would offer similar result if it were given at another time. For example , if the same test is given to the same group of

students at two different times in two different sitting , it would not make any difference to the test – taker whether he or she takes the test on one accassion and in one setting of the other. (Coomb etal , 2007:22). After correcting the test papers of the sample , Pearson's formula applied and the reliability coefficient is found out to be 0.91 which is considered a high stable correlation.

### 3.4 Test material

The items of the test have been selected is such a way that it covers as much as possible some of types of future time , and types and forms of future time which have been selected from the book( English for Nursing College).

### 3.5 Test Design

The test consists of two questions. The first one is designed to measure the students responses in the recognition level. It includes ten items. The students are required to underline the future tense in given sentences. The second question measures the students' performance in the production level. It consists of ten items. The students are requested to complete sentences by using different forms of future.

### 3.7 Result of the test

#### 3.7.1 Recognition level

**Table (1)**  
**The Students Responses in the Recognition level**

item	Number of the correct responses	percentage	Number of the correct responses	percentage	Total
1	26	86.9%	4	13.1%	30
2	26	86.9%	4	13.1%	30
3	26	86.9%	4	13.1%	30
4	25	83.3%	5	16.7%	30
5	23	76.7%	7	23.3%	30
6	17	56.7%	13	43.3%	30
7	18	60%	12	40%	30
8	21	70%	9	30%	30
9	16	53.3%	14	46.7%	30
10	22	73.3%	8	26.7%	30
	220	37.6%	80	26.4%	300

**Table (1)** illustrates that the total number of correct responses is (220,73.6%) , whereas the total number of the incorrect responses is (80,26.4) , the second hypotheses is verified. This indicates that most of the students made mistake in item (9) (14,46.7%) the students didn't recognize the future perfect progressive . The students face difficulty in recognizing the

form of progressive aspect (will + be + verb – ing) . Uncorrect response in item (7) (12,40%) . This indicated that the students didn't recognize the future perfect,. while the higher percentage of the correct responses in other items indicates that the students face less difficulty than the other items.

### 3.7.2 Production level

**Table (2)**  
**The Students Responses in the Production Level**

item	Number of the correct responses	percentage	Number of the correct responses	percentage	Total
1	10	33.3%	20	66.7%	30
2	11	36.7%	19	63.3%	30
3	12	40%	18	60%	30
4	9	30%	21	70%	30
5	3	10%	27	90%	30
6	3	10%	27	90%	30
7	3	10%	27	90%	30
8	6	20%	24	80%	30
9	6	20%	24	80%	30
10	2	6.7%	28	93.3%	30
	65	21.6%	235	78.4%	300

The result in table (2) show that the students face more difficulty in completing sentences containing different forms of future than in recognizing them. The total number of correct responses is (56,21.6%) , whereas the total number of the incorrect responses is (235,78.4%). The second hypothesis is verified. Uncorrect responses are higher than correct responses in all items of this question. This generally shows that they are unaware of the fact that future time has different forms ; each is suitable for a certain situation in future. In item (1) , the total number of incorrect responses is (20,66.7%) . Most students failed to produce the future continuous replacing it by the simple future "will + infinitive". In item (10), the total number of incorrect responses is (28,93.3%) . Most students failed because they are unaware how to produce the forms of future to express immediate future . in item (7) , the total number of incorrect responses is (27, 90%) . The students didn't able to produce the future perfect continuous , and this verified with the fourth hypothesis.

### Conclusions

In the light of the empirical evidence which is revealed in this study , the following conditions are drawn:

- 1) There are at least ten forms that can be used to express futurity . These are : the simple present , will + infinitive , the present continuous , be going to , future simple , future continuous , future perfect , future perfect continuous , be about + infinitive and be on the point of + verb – ing.
- 2) There is no future tense in English . The reasons given are: first , there is no separate form which refers to future time . Secondly , combinations like shall/ will go are used to express

other meanings as well as future time. Thus "I will go now" may mean "I am willing to go now" , willingness in the present .Its therefore, not specifically used for the future. Thirdly , it is usually said that tense is based on obligatory choice.

3) There are many forms to express future time , among these forms the form "Be + about to + infinitive " and the form "Be + on the point of + verb – ing" which refer to the immediate future or to the near future. These constructions are unknown of most of the students and they are face more difficulty when they produce and recognize them.

### Appendix

**Q1/ underline** the future forms in the following sentences

- 1) Today is Sunday . the boys start school on Monday.
- 2) The phone is ringing . I'll answer it.
- 3) The neighbors are comingto watch television.
- 4) She is not going to be there.
- 5) My horoscope says that the next year will bring me success and happiness.
- 6) He won't be coming to the party.
- 7) By the end of the next month . he will have been here for ten years.
- 8) The mayor is about to announce the result of the election.
- 9) I will have been sleeping for two hours.
- 10) The oil company is on the point of making an important decision.

**Q2/ complete** the following sentences using different future forms that suit each of the following sentences using the verbs in brackets : -

- 1) The boys \_\_\_\_\_ (start) school on Monday.
- 2) The phone is ringing . I \_\_\_\_\_ (answer) it.
- 3) The brigade doesn't look very safe, I think it \_\_\_\_\_ (collapse).
- 4) If you are hungry , I \_\_\_\_\_ (get) you something to eat.
- 5) I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) Tom tomorrow.
- 6) By the end of the next month the \_\_\_\_\_ (see) his friend.
- 7) By this time next week. I \_\_\_\_\_ (work) for this company for 24 years.
- 8) The taxi is here . we \_\_\_\_\_ (go) home.
- 9) He has \_\_\_\_\_ (work) harder , if he is to succeed in his present job.
- 10) The oil company \_\_\_\_\_ (make) an important decision.

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