Infinitive Clauses: Tensed or Untensed

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Abstract

In this paper, the researcher accounts for two different points of view concerning the tense of infinitive clauses in English language when functioning as verb complementation, and explains their bases and justifications. Some grammarians postulate that infinitive clauses complementation are tensed clauses, having the feature $[+\text{tense}]$, since they, sometimes, indicate time relations different from that of the matrix clause, while most grammarians and linguists say that infinitive clauses, in their two types- 'to'- infinitives and bare infinitives, are tenseless clauses; they are nonfinite clauses.

Grammarians state that infinitive clauses functioning as verb complementation are tensed clauses due to the presence of some temporal time relations different from those of their matrix verbs (i.e different from the tense of the matrix verbs). Such idea is not a decisive one because the change in the time relations appears to be due to some aspectual differences in 'to'- infinitive clauses; to the semantic properties of some matrix verbs; and due to the use of some items as tomorrow, yesterday, etc. These reasons are not adequate enough to make the infinitive clause as tensed clauses; not all infinitives convey different time relations; grammarians' studies don't cover all the types of infinitives; moreover, the use of certain infinitive complements depends on the matrix verbs that select their complementation and that impose the different time relations.

1. Introduction:

Before proceeding to discuss infinitive clauses in English and the notion of their tense, it is plausible to explain some crucial concepts related to infinitive clauses.

1-1 Tense, Time and Aspect:

Tense is a grammatical category that is used in the descriptions of verbs; it specifies the time of the action or event relative to the moment of utterance (Quirk et al., 1985: 176). Time, on the other hand, is a universal concept that exists in all languages; the two terms, then, are not synonymous; tense is a morph syntactic property that shows the form of the verb to be past or present (Radford, 1988: 305); it is this from of the verb which enables us to express the concept of time whether past, present, or future.

Most grammarians and linguists adopt the idea that there are two tenses in English language- past and present, arguing that these two tenses can be represented by the from of the verb as in (plays/played) i.e., depending on the morphological properties and the structure of verbs; there is no future tense since future cannot be represented morphologically by the inflection[1] of the verb.

Traditionally, tense is defined in terms of times; thus, some grammarians divided tense into past, present, and future. But, to say that there are three tenses in language is misleading since, sometimes, future is expressed by using several ways. Present simple, present continuous, past simple, etc. can be used to express future time as in:

1- I <u>have</u> a party <u>tonight</u>.

2- The train <u>leaves</u> at 11.30.

3- <u>I am having</u> a party <u>tomorrow</u>.

4- If he <u>came the next week</u>, I....

In sentences (1) and (2), the present simple tense of the verbs (have, leaves) express future time, while in sentence (3) the present continuous tense (am having) and the past simple tense represented by the verb (came) express future time. It should be noted, here, that the role of the adverbs of

time, beside these verbs, is very important in expressing future time. The use of present simple tense to express present time and future

time makes grammarians consider it as the unmarked tense. Quirk et al. (1985: 1032) point out that present simple tense is very common in newspaper headlines and narrative writings. How ever the use of these tenses to express future time indicates that there is no correlation between the category of tense and the notion of time.

Not only do traditional grammarians view tense in terms of time relations, but also view it as indicating notions such as completeness or incompleteness, perfective or imperfective. However, modern linguists assign these notions to what is called 'aspect'. Aspect is a grammatical category of verbs, which focuses on concepts such as completion, continuity, or repetition of actions (ibid: 188). It is closely connected, in meaning, to tense, and thus, sometime, it is hard to describe which participate more in assigning meaning of verbs. Moreover, future time, since it is expressed by different tenses and different constructions, and since future may express other meanings beside futurity (using will/shall), some grammarians tend to consider future as an aspect and not a future time (Huddleston and Pulluman 2005: 56).

1-2 Viewpoints Concerning the Tense of Infinitive Clause Complementation:

Infinitive constructions represent a complex type of nonfinite subordinate clauses. They are of two types- 'to'- infinitive clauses and bare infinitive clauses. The two types use the root form of the verb preceded or not preceded by the particle 'to' as in:

5- He made her <u>go</u> out. (bare infinitive).

6- I have never known Mary <u>to do</u> that. ('to'- infinitive).

Generally, there are two different view points concerning the tense of infinitive. From a syntactic point of view, and for the vast majority of linguists and grammarians (Jesperson 1961; Zandvoort and Van EK 1962; Chomsky 1965; Quirk et al. 1985; Radford 1988; Tallerman 1998; among others), infinitives refer to the uninflected from of the verb; a kind of mood that lacks tense marker, subject and agreement features. Contrary to this

view point, some other grammarians (stowell 1982, pesetsky 1992, Wurmbrand 2001 among others), and from a semantic point of view, postulate that infinitival complements do convey tense and that this tense cannot be expressed morphologically because of the lack of inflectional endings of nonfinite verbs.

In this paper, the two viewpoints are discussed with a concentration on the second view point of tensed infinitives in order to express its evidences and justifications and whether such view point is valid or not.

2. Types of Infinitive Clauses:

2-1 'To' infinitive Clauses

A form of verb, which consists of the particle 'to' followed by a verb in its root form. It is this particle which marks the infinitive phrase or clause (Bloomfield 1930: 268). So every verb preceded by the particle 'to' is either a 'to' infinitive phrase or clause and this phrase or clause is identified, in sentences, through its distribution (Tallerman 1988: 68); it may be a verb complementation and it may have a nominal function as a subject of a sentence, etc. However, it is these infinitive phrases or clauses that are postulated by semanticists to have their own tense.

Infinitive clauses are usually embedded in sentences, and, sometimes, they are introduced by the complementizers (for/whether) as in:

7- We have decided <u>for John to stay</u> here.

8- I don't know <u>whether to stay</u> here or not.

The above two sentences consist of embedded 'to'- infinitive clauses (for John to stay/ whether to stay). What is obvious from these two infinitive clauses is that when they are introduced by a complementizer (for/ whether), they are preceded by their subjects, i.e, the subject of the infinitive clause is introduced by a complementizer. Chomsky 1981 states that this complementizer is a 'governer' and 'case maker' of the subject of the infinitive clause; thus it occurs when there is a lexical subject requiring case- marking, but must be absent when the subject of the 'to'- infinitive is the same of the matrix verb of the sentence. Chomsky (1977: 82) calls the subject of the infinitive clause when it is the same of the matrix verb as PRO. Notice the following sentence:

9- John persuaded Bill <u>PRO</u>, to leave

In this sentence, the subject (John) of the matrix verb (persuaded) is also the subject of the infinitive verb (leave) and that's why Chomsky use the symbol PRO.

Traditionally, 'to'- infinitive is analyzed as being a verbal noun or a verbal adjective which acquired later on the properties of a verb. Now it is considered as a nonfinite from. What had made the infinitive to come into existence was the decay of the inflectional endings, and the necessity to distinguish the to- infinitive forms from the other forms of the verbs and from the 'cognate substantive' (Jesperson, 1965: 268, and Palmer, 1965: 151). This type of nonfinite clauses is called infinitive because of its unlimited form by the number and person of its subject (Eckersley and Eckersley, 1960: 230).

In addition to the simple form of 'to- infinitive clauses' there are other forms like progressive, perfective, passive, split inf. The main function of such forms is that of verb complementation as illustrated in the following examples:

10- This man seems <u>to be smoking</u>.

11- I'm sorry not <u>to have met</u> you on Monday.

12- I have a lot of things <u>to be done</u>.

13- I expect all the work <u>to be done</u>.

14- John began <u>to slowly get up</u> off the floor.

Infinitive clauses, in the above sentences, convey time that is different from that of the matrix verb. In sentence (10) the time of the infinitive clause is future, while in (11) an (12) it is past which is different from that of the matrix verbs (am/ have) etc. However, it seems reasonable, from the first look at such sentences, to say that infinitive clause complementation do convey tense. Whether this idea is correct or not, possible or not, it will be discussed and accounted for through this paper.

2-2 Bare Infinitive Clauses:

A bare infinitive clause is another type of nonfinite clauses in which the root form of the verb is used with an implied particle 'to' as a verb complementation. This type is also called 'zero' or 'plain' infinitive because

it lacks the particle 'to' (Zandvoort and Van EK, 1962: 4; and Lapalombara, 1976:61) as in:

15- I saw Mary **break** the window.

Bare infinitives are usually used with perception verbs (see, feel hear etc) causative verbs (make, have, let, etc) and some other verbs like (know, find, etc) (Zandvoort and Van EK, 1962; Quirk et al. 1985; Radford 2009) as in:

16- We made him <u>take</u> our picture.

17- I never knew him <u>behave</u> like that.

18- We heard them <u>shout</u>.

Notice that the bare infinitive verbs in these examples can be transitive (i.e, take its own object as the verb 'take' does, and intransitive bare infinitive verb as the verb 'shout' does.

Some matrix[2] verbs may select either a 'to'- infinitive clause or a bare infinitive verb such as (know, find, translate, etc) (Zandvoort and Van EK, 1962: 5-19; Quirk et al. 1985: 1169, 1195) as in:

19- I have never known Alice <u>to do/do</u> such a bad thing.

20- <u>"I find it pay/ to pay"</u>. (Zandvoort + Van EK, ibid).

21- "Please help me <u>translate/ to translate</u> this". (ibid).

22- He offered <u>to help</u> carry her basket.

23- Go to the scullery and help[3] <u>wash</u> us the sink.

However, such verbs, when passivized, do retain the particle 'to'. In other words, the presence of the particle 'to' before the verb, in a passive sentence, is a obligatory one (Gee, 1977: 467; Quirk et.al., 1985: 1205-206; and Radford, 2009: 95) as illustrated in the following two sentences:

24- a. I have never known Alice <u>(do)</u> such a bad thing. (active sentence).

     b. Alice has never been known <u>to do</u> such a bad thing (passive sentence).

The bracketed particle in (24-a) has an optional use but its use is obligatory in passive sentences as in (b). Gee (1977: 467) quoting Emonds 1976 says that bare infinitive have had 'to' be deleted since this particle present before the bare infinitive in passive sentences. What is obvious from these examples is that it is the matrix verb which selects its complementation to

be bare or 'to'- infinitive. Sometimes the use is a matter of stylistic purposes (Zandvoort and Van EK, 1962: 17). People prefer to use bare infinitive in spoken & literary English.

3. Analysis of Infinitive Clauses Complementation According to the Syntactic and Semantic Viewpoints:

3-1 Untensed infinitive Clauses:

Most   grammarians and linguists consider infinitive clauses as tenseless clauses; they lack tense and agreement features. They represent a type of nonfinite clauses that cannot even be used as main clauses. Chomsky (1995: 164) points out that finite verbs, unlike nonfinite ones (infinitives as an example of nonfinite), must raise (in the TGG) from the lexical layer (VP) to the functional layer to check features such as <Tns> (Tense) and <agr> (agreement). A property which the nonfinite clauses lack.

Chomsky's viewpoint is a clear indication that syntacticians consider 'to'- infinitive clauses as tenseless clauses, and according to this view point, grammarians go on in their analyses of infinitive clauses to have the feature $[-\text{tense}]$.

In their early studies and syntactic analyses of sentences linguists neglect or do not refer to the tense of infinitive clauses whether bare or "to"- infinitives. Chomsky's analysis (1965: 22-23) of the sentence (I persuaded John to leave) makes no reference to the tense of the infinitive clause (to leave) as it is considered to be tenseless as illustrated in the following tree diagram:

```
                            S
              ┌─────────────┼─────────────┐
             NP            Aux            VP
              │             │         ┌───┼───┬───┐
             pron           T         V  NP  part V
              │             │         │   │   │   │
              │             │         │   N   │   │
              │             │         │   │   │   │
              I            past    persuade John to leave
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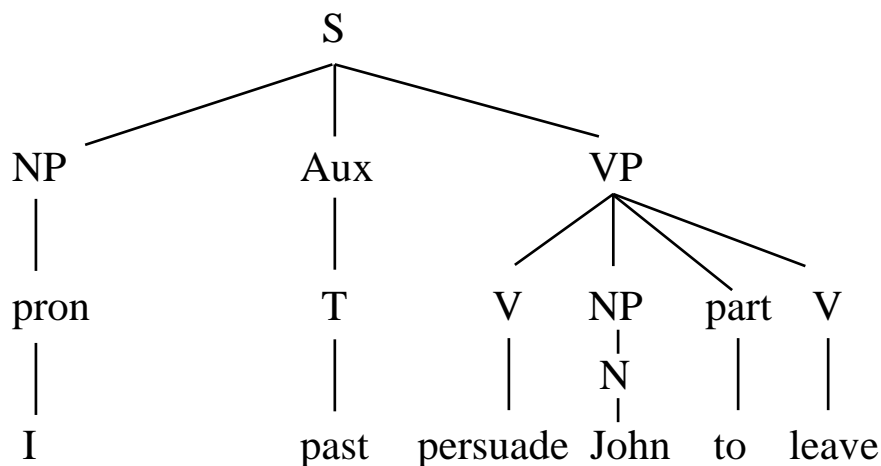
Fig (1) Deep Structure of a sentence

From this tree diagram, it is obvious that the sentence (I persuaded John to leave) consists of (NP- Aux- VP). In terms trans formational generative grammar, these grammatical categories, in the base component of the TGG represent the deep structure of the sentence. They undergo certain transformational rules to make a well- formed sentence in its surface structure. However, the tense of the matrix verb (persuaded) is analysed as (Aux-T- past). Notice that (in terms of traditional grammar) the sentence consists of a finite verb (persuaded). It is this verb which carries the tense of the sentence and its tense is the past tense, while the verb of the infinitive clause (leave) receives no analysis of tense as it is preceded by the particle 'to' which is the marker of untensed verbs.

Following chomsky's TGG, most grammarians (Rosenbaum 1967, Fiengo 1974, Akmajian 1977, Radford 1988, 2009, Burton- Roberts 1997, among others), in their analyses of sentences consisting of infinitive clauses, attach the particle 'to' to the category of tense to have the feature $[-\text{tense}]$ as they consider 'to' to be the marker of 'null tense'.

Akmajian (1977: 439-43) states that the bare infinitive clauses functioning as complements to matrix verbs, are "independent sequences of NP VP'. In Akmajian's example (quoted here as 25):

25- "We saw the moon <u>rise</u> over the mountain" (ibid).

The NP is represented by (the moon) and (rise over the mountain) is the VP that is indicated by Akmajian. This is clearly indicated by the following tree diagram:
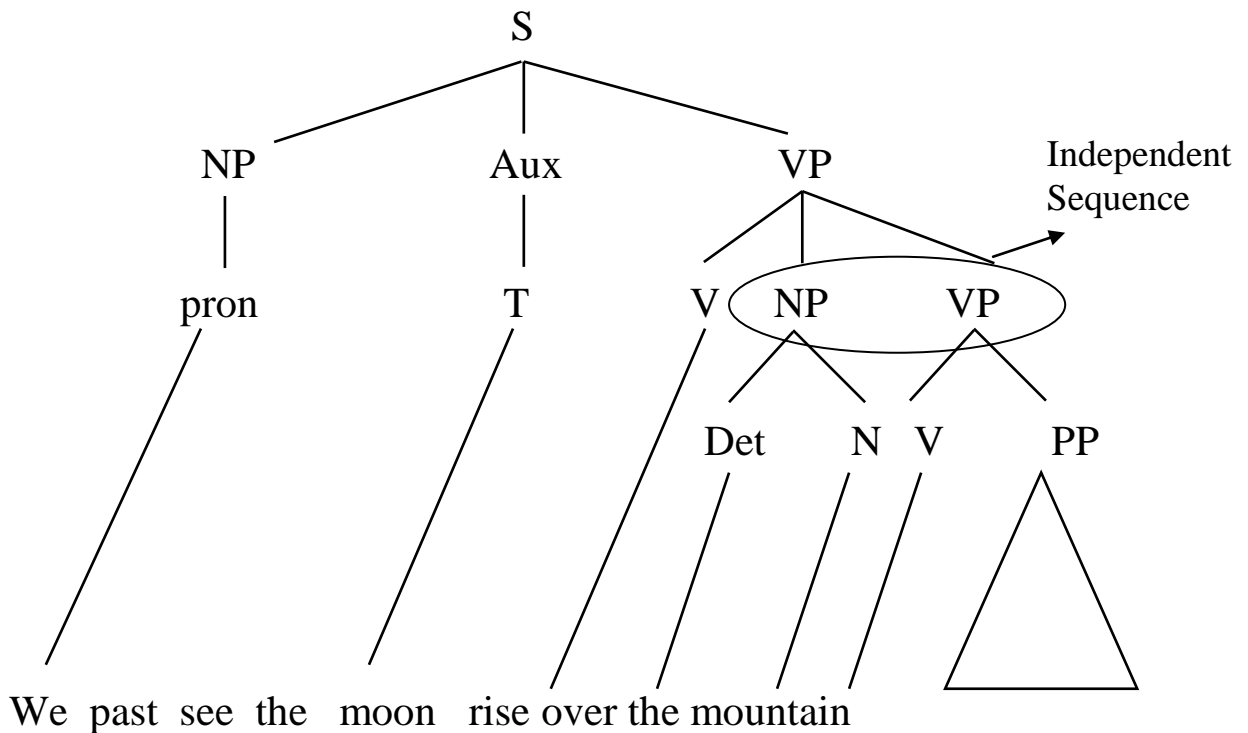

Fig (2) Syntactic Analysis of Sentence (25)

Akmajian (ibid) points out that (see) is a perception verb which selects tenseless verb forms as their complementation and that these tenseless verbs are not constituents.

The same thing is true with sentences as (she presumed her father to be dead) which, according to Quirk et al. (1985: 1195), doesn't syntactically act as a single constituent as is evident in the passive form (Her father was presumed to be dead). This means that the verb (see) as a perception verb is generated by the subcategorization rules of the rewrite rules in the base component to have the following subcategorisation frames:

" a- $[\underline{\quad\quad} \text{NP}]$

   b- $[\underline{\quad\quad} \text{NP VP}]$". (Akmajian, ibid: 439)

These syntactic frames represent the environments in which the perception verb, and the nonfinite bare infinitive verb occur in. The slot (_____) in (a) represents the position of the perception verb (see) and the NP is any noun phrase that follows it. In (b.), on the other hard, the perception verb represented again by the slot (_____) can be followed by an NP and VP. This VP represents the infinitive verb (rise). Akmajian (ibid) argues that it is the verb morphology which provides information to the verb in the infinitive clause whether to be in bare or gerund form, and that "the independently determined syntactic structures for the infinitive PVC will predicte an important semantic property of the construction".

According to this analysis, bare infinitive clauses are tensless and that is why they are analysed to be represented by VP only; if they convey tense on their own, their analysis should be in the following from: (Aux- VP) in which (Aux) represents the tense of the following verb (i.e, rise) and (VP) represents the verb itself (i.e, rise). In this case, and in Akmajian's sentence, if we postulate that (rise) convey a tense it will be (past tense). However such idea is adopted by those grammarians who study tense from a semantic view point.

This syntactic analysis shows the position of bare infinitive clauses and how they are generated. However, one may ask the following question: what about verbs that are complemented by 'to'- infinitive clauses? and what about the existence of the particle 'to' in passive infinitives ? as in:

26- a. We saw Alice <u>leave</u>.

    b. Alice was seen <u>to leave</u>.

Gee, (1977: 470) argues that Akmajian's structure of the infinitive complements of perception verbs would "account automatically for the absence of to infinitive nonfinite clauses if 'to' is the mark of these".

Unlike Akmajian (1977), Radford 1988, 2009 and Burton- Roberts 1997, in their analyses of infinitive clauses complementation, attach the infinitive particle 'to', whether present or absent before the infinitive verb, to the category of tense as 'to' is considered to be the marker of tenseless verbs. They do assert that infinitives, in their two types, are tenseless infinitives, but they attach these tenseless clauses to the category of tense having the feature of $[-\text{tense}]$. It is the presence of the particle 'to', even if it is not spelled out (i.e, even if it is embedded with bare infinitives) which causes the verb to have the feature of $[-\text{tense}]$ or tenseless verb. Those grammarians compare the structure of modal verbs (that are followed by verb in its root form) with the structure of 'to' particle of the infinitive verbs and they found that the 'uninflected infinitive particle' 'to' fulfils, in its function, the same role of the modal verbs; both are followed by a verb in its root from. So following Chomsky 1981 they postulate that the uninflected particle 'to' and the inflected modals like (should) etc. belong to the category called INFLECTION[4] (as Chomsky calls it) (Radford, ibid; Horrocks, 1987: 104) Radford's two examples (cited here as 27. and 28) that represent his idea are:

27- I am anxious $[\text{that John \underline{should finish} by Friday}]$.

28- I am anxious $[\text{for John \underline{to finish} by Friday}]$.

In these two sentences, the bracketed clauses represent an S-bar[5] since they contain complementizers (that/for) and an S which is braketed. Sentence (27) consists of the modal verb (should) and sentence (28) consists of the particle 'to'. Both are followed by a verb in its root form, but they differ in that the bracketed clause in (27) is a finite one of the form $[\text{NP}-\text{M}-\text{VP}]$, while the bracketed clause in (28) contains a nonfinite verb of the form $[\text{NP}-\text{to}-\text{VP}]$. Chomsky's (1977: 87) finding that the particle 'to' and the modal verbs cannot occur together to follow each other, and Bresnan's

(1976: 17) account that the process of ellipsis can be made after modal verbs and after the particle 'to' provides a strong support to grammarians' attachment of the particle 'to' to the category of tense as tenseless marker. Thus Radford (ibid: 311) proposes the following rule which is applicable to both finite and nonfinite clauses, i.e, ($I \rightarrow \left[\alpha \, TNS, \alpha \, AGR \right]$ which means that α is a 'feature variable' i.e, it refers to the characteristics of a certain verb used in a sentence to be either + tense, + agreement i.e, finite verb or- tense - agreement i.e, nonfinite verb ('to'- infinitive) which lacks tense and agreement.

It should be noted here that Radford's attempt to combine the modal verbs and the particle 'to' of the infinitives in one category, depending on the similarity of their environment of what should follow them in a sentence, is a clear indication that infinitive clauses are tenseless clauses. They lack tense and agreement features.

However, the same idea, i.e., of tenseless infinitive clauses, in their different forms simple, perfective, etc is clearly indicated by Burton-Roberts (1997: 253) representation of the nonfinite clauses of the following two sentences:

29- a. We declined his invitation to taste his wine .

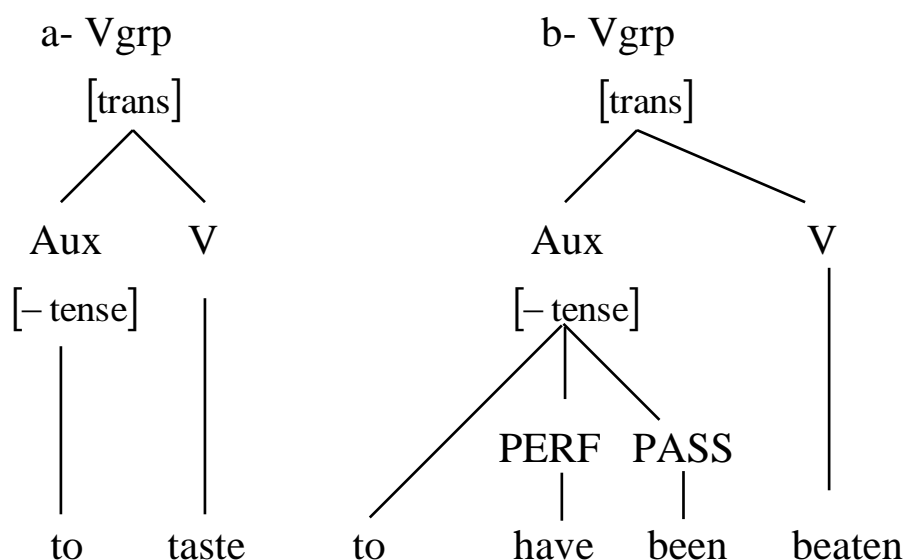   b. For Max to have been beaten at chess….

Fig (3) Schematic analysis of 'to' infinitive clause

This analysis is important in that it shows that all the forms of infinitive clauses are tenselness whether they are active or passive. A view point which is rejected by other grammarians (this will be discussed later in this paper).

A bave infinitive clause is also represented in the same way. Thus the sentence:

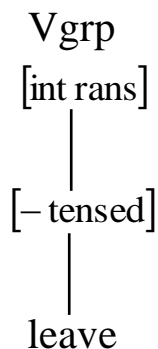30- We made her <u>leave.</u>

is represented as:

Vgrp

$[\text{int rans}]$

$[-\text{tensed}]$

leave

Fig (4) Schematic analysis of infinitive clause

A further support for attaching the particle 'to' of the infinitive to the category of tense, as a marker (i.e, 'to') of tenseless phrase or clause, is proposed by Radford (2009: 41-43). Depending on the 'Headedness principle'[6] and the 'Binarty[7] principle', the particle 'to' is the head of its infinitival clause whether this particle is present before the verb in its root from or embedded (before the bare), and since "the head of a projection/ phrase determines grammatical properties of its complement", the infinitive untensed particle 'to' selects a verb in its root form to be a tenseless verb. The infinitive phrase (to tell them) can be represented as follows:
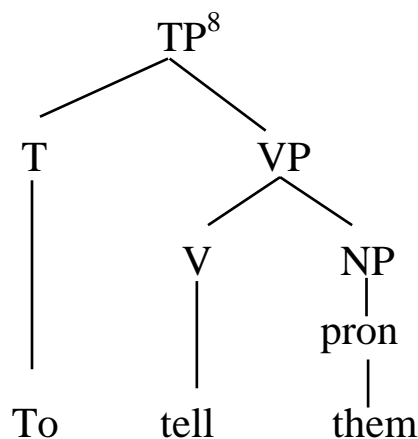
TP[8]

T   VP

V   NP

pron

To   tell   them

Fig (5) Schematic analysis of 'to' infinitive clause

Even the embedded particle 'to', before the bare infinitive, is attached to the category of T (tense). It is analysed in the same way with a difference in using the symbol to/to represent the embedded particle. Notice the following bare infinitive and its representation:

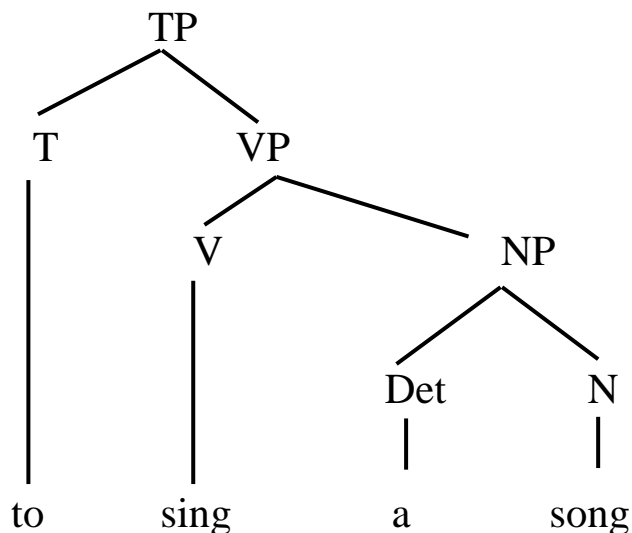31- I heard John <u>sing</u> a song. (bare infinitive clause).

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                    TP
                  /    \
                 T      VP
                 |     /   \
                 |    V     NP
                 |    |    /   \
                 |    |  Det    N
                 |    |   |     |
                to  sing  a    song
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Fig (6) Schematic analysis of an embedded 'to' infinitive in bare infinitive

To recapitulate the theme of this section, the two types of infinitive clauses complementation are untensed clauses; they are assigned the feature of $[-\text{tense}]$ and they are attached to the category of tense.

3-2 Tensed infinitive Clauses: A Semantic Viewpoint:

Stowell (1982:562) argues that infinitive clauses, functioning as verb complementation, do convey tense; and that such clauses have the feature of $[+\text{tense}]$ since they express a future 'hypothetical time' different from that of the time of the matrix verb of the sentence; a view point which, partly, can be traced back to Jesperson (1961: 304) who points out that infinitive clauses may express some vague possibility or something

imagined; and to Bresnan (1972) who postulates that infinitive clauses describe 'hypothetical events'.

Stowell (ibid) argues that infinitival clauses do convey a semantic/ syntactic tense, but this tense has no morphological representation. This is due to the fact that, in English, infinitival clauses – a type of nonfinite clauses, are not inflected. i.e, there is no morpheme that indicates their tense. According to him, infinitival clauses complementation are control[9] complements and that they are chraracterised to have the feature $[+\text{tense}]$ due to the control of the matrix verb. In other words, the matrix verb of a sentence controls its complement and thus assigns its time relations and interpretations. Furthermore, control complements usually express future 'irrealis'[10] or unrealized, hypothetical time which is different from the time of the matrix verb as shown in:

32- Mary <u>promised</u> us <u>to help</u>

              matrix verb   inf. clause

Here the time of the infinitive clause (to help) is different from that of the matrix verb (promised). The tense and time of the matrix verb is $[+\text{past}]$ and the time of the second verb (help) is future. According to stowell (1982) (help), here, has a 'future tense'.

Here are some more examples that support Stowell's (1982) view point concerning the tense of infinitve clauses complementation.

33- They persuaded Mary <u>to stop</u> smoking.

34- We helped John <u>to be</u> a good person.

35- I'm so sorry not <u>to have helped</u> you.

Stowell's view point is, in part, correct, i.e., it is true that the time indicated by the infinitve clause is different from that of the matrix verb, and thus they convey time. But one may ask the following questions: Is it possible to consider such time variations to represent 'tense' ?, How can this tense be represented ? or Is there any morphological affixes that represent that tense ? Are such cases verifiable?, and are they conclusive ideas ? Answers to these questions will be clarified throughout this paper. Let's

first explain the bases on which Stowell depends to make such postulation concerning the tense of infinitve clauses. Stowell depends on the semantic properties of matrix verbs that take infinitve clauses as their complementation. A clear discussion of the semantic properties of verbs is presented by Quirk et al. (1985: 1204-208).

Quirk et al. classify verbs, from a semantic point of view, into factive/ nonfactive (sometimes called + realis, -realis verbs), actual, cognitive, implicative, etc. These are semantic properties that verbs may possess. It is through these properties that one can predict the type of the complement which can be selected by verbs. Quirk et al. (ibid) base their classifications and descriptions on the notion of transitivity. They use this notion to classify verbs according to their complementation. One of these complementations is the infinitive clauses. They may function as complex[11] transitive complementation to transitive verbs. To put it in another way: transitive verbs require or select their complementations; those transitive verbs convey certain semantic properties, by virtue of these properties, they (transitive matrix verbs) select their complements and impose on them certain properties, and thus we find irrealis infinitives, realis infinitives, propositional, implicative etc. Notice the following examples:

36- I saw John <u>leave</u> early.

37- John promised Mary <u>to leave</u> early.

in which the infinitives (leave/ to leave) function as verb complementation. It is the 'to'- infinitive type which is postulated by stowell (1982) to convey time.

Non- factive verbs (such as want, wish, hope) select 'to'- infinitive clauses as their complementation, and they impose on them future time as in the following sentence:

38- He hoped <u>to see</u> Mary the next day.

Notice that the matrix verb (hoped) is in past tense, while its infinitival complement (to see) convey a future time.

Implicative verbs, i.e., those that denote positive implication takes 'to'- infinitive clauses as their complementation as in:

39- They caused her <u>to try</u> it again.

Here the agent subject (they) of the matrix verb (caused) manipulates the subject (her) of the infinitive clause to act in the required way. The matrix verb is one of the causative verbs which take 'to'- infinitive clauses as their complements. The tense of the matrix verb (past tense) differs from that of the infinitive (future time).

Cognitive verbs, on the other hand, select 'to'- infinitives as their complementation as in:

40- We believed him <u>to be</u> innocent.

Quirk et al. (ibid:1193) point out that 'to'- infinitives with aspectual[12], emotive, and retrospective verbs refer to future time.

All the previously mentioned verbs that select 'to'- infinitive clauses as their complementation confirm Stowell's (1982) semantic view point that 'to'- infinitive clauses convey a different sphere of time from that of their matrix verbs. A view point which is supported by Palmer (1965: 165-66) who points out that "there is a greater likelihood of structure (2) where there is a reference to a specific action in the future.... a single action in the future .... Immediate future action". Here, Palmer refers to the use of 'to'- infinitive, this is what he refers to as structure (2); he says that 'to'- infinitive refers to a future time, an action which will be accomplished in future. This is very clear in Palmer's (ibid) two examples written here as (41), (42):

41- "I hate <u>to tell</u> you this".

42- "I intend <u>to go</u> home".

A quick review of the discussions and descriptions of verbs and their complements, within stowell's semantic view point, shows that most of the infinitive clauses that are said to have a different sphere of time from that of the matrix verb are 'to' infinitives. It is this type which conveys time and which is considered to have 'tense' according to stowell (1982). This suggests that the particle 'to' has, partly, the role of assigning the time interpretations. Such idea is supported by Mittwoch (1990: 105) who states that bare infinitives, where 'to' is not spelled out, lack the "potential for

independent temporal specification" i.e, bare infinitives lack temporal time interpretations and thus lack the property of $[+\text{tense}]$. A further support comes from Duffley (1992: 17) who notice the effect of using full infinitive saying that the particle "to- situates bare infinitive's event as an after position with respect to something else", i.e, the presence of 'to' will assign a different time of that of the matrix verb.

However, it seems that there are some cases in which 'to' is present before its infinitive verb without referring to a hypothetical or future time (kilby, 1984: 148) Notice kilby's sentence quoted here:

43- "He managed to open the door". (ibid).

Here managing to do something means that the action is done and thus the 'to'- infinitive doesn't refer to irrealis or hypothetical. But the time of the 'to'- infinitive could be said to be in the past and thus it resembles that of the matrix verb (managed). why this is so ? An answer to this question is that the verb managed is an implicative verb, and this type of verbs (remember, happen, etc) can be used together with their 'to' infinitive complements to have an agreement in tense. This is based on the idea that infinitives has no overt tense marker (Karttunen, 1971: 340). To put it in another way, it is not always possible for 'to' infinitive clauses to convey a time different from that of their matrix verbs. Sometimes, and in some sentences as in:

44- She felt sorry <u>to have missed</u> the train.

the 'to'- infinitive clause and its matrix verb have the same time that is (past). Here the infinitive clause is a perfective infinitive. However, such similarity in time is not always possible to be observed. Karttunen (ibid) remarks that such similarity can be noticed if we use adverbs of time like (tomorrow, next week, etc). The use of these adverbs, sometimes, makes the sentence ungrammatical, but when they are omitted the sentence will be a grammatical one. This is clearly indicated by Karttunen's examples quoted here as (45) and (46):

45- *John remembered <u>to lock</u> his door tomorrow.

46- *John remembered <u>to solve</u> the problem next week.

Different time interpretations, indicated by infinitive clauses, from that of the matrix verbs may also be indicated by bare infinitive clauses. In other words, it seems that there are cases in which bare infinitive clauses complementation convey a time different from that of their matrix verbs, and this is contrary to what has been pointed out (in this paper) by some grammarians. Notice the following sentence:

47- Her early suffering made Alice <u>seek</u> therapy later on in her life.

The bare infinitive clause (seek) convey a future time which is different from that of the matrix verb (made) which is (past).

Since the temporal semantic interpretations of the time of the infinitive clause are determined by the semantic properties of the matrix verbs (or matrix clauses), Baker (1989: 441-443) proposes temporal rules for matrix verbs as they impose on their complements certain features. He states that the verb (used) for example, triggers an infinitive clause complementation and assigns to it 'a time earlier than the utterance time' as illustrated by his own example (quoted here as 48).

48- John used <u>to understand</u> the problem.

In this sentence, the time of (to understand) is earlier than that of the verb (used) although both of them are in past tense.

The verb phrase (be going to) followed by an infinitive verb assigns the infinitive clause a later time (future time) as in:

49- I am going <u>to see</u> John tomorrow.

The verb "hope" assigns to its complement a future time as in:

50- "I hope <u>to come</u> early". (ibid: 442).

51- I hope <u>to have finished</u> my work by next June.

Some other verbs like (seem) triggers an identical time on its infinitive clause complementation as in:

52- "John seems to be in the correct room". (ibid).

Although this is, sometimes not possible as in:

53- You seem <u>to have disappointed</u> Mary yesterday.

in which the time of the matrix verb is present time and present tense, while the time of the perfective infinitive clause in 53- is past time. This difference of time is due to the aspectual effect and due to the use of the adverb of time (yesterday).

Notice that throughout this paper, we have nearly tried to talk about (the time of the infinitive clauses) not the tense of infinitive clauses (as some grammarians postulate). This is because, as is obvious in the discussions so far, tense is a grammatical device; it needs, and is supposed to be represented morphologically so that it becomes explicit and consistent in its analysis. Here, for infinitive clauses, although they convey temporal time interpretations or relations, they cannot have tense, or, to put it in another way, these relations cannot be considered as 'tense'. This is because not all infinitive clauses convey time relations even though they may be from the same type. We have seen that some 'to'- infinitives convey time that is different form that of their matrix verbs, others do not; some bare infinitive clauses convey time different from that of their matrix verb, and others do not. Some infinitives have time by virtue of using some adverbs of time; some others depend on aspect and some of them depend on the semantic properties of matrix verbs.

Since there are different factors that determine time in infinitival clauses complementation, grammarians criticised the idea of tensed infinitives.

Wurmbrand (2007) is one of those grammarians who argue against the idea of tensed infinitival clauses. She points out that even if we consider infinitival clauses to have tense, and call them as 'future irrealis', as represented in the following sentence: (ibid: 407).

45- "Leo decided to go to the party tomorrow".

they do not represent tense at all. Future, which is denoted by infinitival clauses, is a time not a tense as other grammarians (Stowell 1982; pesetsky 1992, pesetsky and Torrego 2004 among others) postulate. Future tense is not a simple one, but contains two parts: "a true tense part i.e, present tense (henceforth PRES), and abstract modal *woll*[13]". The two parts, PRES + *woll*

are morphologically combined to make 'will', a modal auxiliary verb which indicates future. This type of future is called, by Wurmbrand, finite future, while future which is expressed by infinitive clauses is called ' infinitive future'. The infinitive future unlike finite future, is said to be 'relative', i.e, the time expressed by the infinitives sometimes happened before the time of the matrix verb which indicates the utterance time, for example:

55- "According to a report I read last week, the bridge was expected to collapse yesterday". (ibid.).

The time of the infinitive clause (to collapse) occured before the time of the utterance time (I read). Such a property does not exist in finite future; the time expressed by finite future (will/shall) takes place after the utterance time and, thus is said to be 'absolute' as in:

56- Mark decided a month ago that he will travel to London.

In such cases, if grammarians view point of tensed infinitival complements is correct, and if there is future tense, there should be no difference in their use, and there should be no conditions to be applied to one of them rather than the other. So what can we say about the condition of infinitive future? If there is to be a future tense, it is supposed to refer to future time in infinitives, and is supposed to be analysed and described using the same ways of finite future, i.e., the same of that of PRES + *woll*= will, and PAST+woll= would.

But in infinitives such a way does not exist. In other words, the tense should be represented syntactically and morphologically following a certain way. Wurmbrand analysis of the following two sentences:
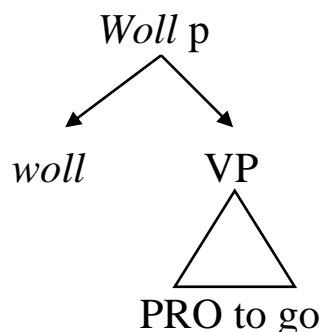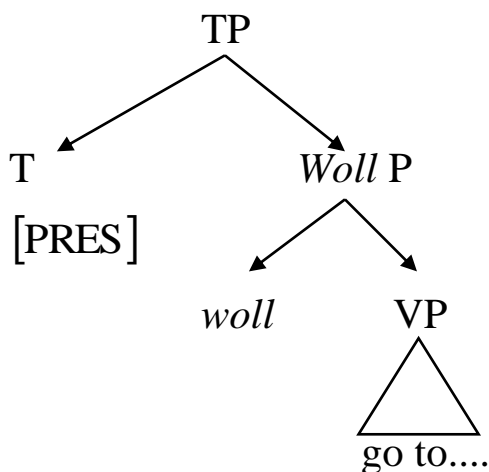
57- "He decided that he will go to the party".

58- "He decided to go to the party yesterday".

Shows that they have two different analyses. They are:

a- Finite future   b- infinitive (nonfinite) future

This schematic (analysis) shows that both finite future (will/shall + base from of the verb) and non- finite (infinitive) future (expressed by 'to' + base from of the verb) consist of the future modal *wol*l, however, 'PRES tense' is projected in finite clauses not the infinitives, i.e., the property of $[+\text{present}]$/ $[+\text{past}]$ for will/shall and would/ should come from the lexicon to characterize these modal verbs. A characteristic that the infinitives lack. So this property makes it impossible for the occurrence of the modal verb *woll* in the infinitives. For such reasons, Wurmbrand (2007) argues that infinitives are tenseless though they may indicate different time relations.

In fact, future, contrary to what Wurmbrard says, is not a tense for the previous reasons that has been discussed in section(1-1). It is a time that is expressed using different tenses and different other ways. Infinitive clauses complementation, on the other hand, cannot convey tense at all; they may convey time and this is because there are different ways and different factors that determine that time.

4- Conclusions

Different literature has been written on the subject of tensed or tenseless infinitives, and yet grammarians and linguists haven't arrived at a decisive idea regarding the tense of infinitive clauses (bare or 'to'- infinitives) other than that they are tenseless. There are some shy studies, if it is possible for us to describe them for these studies are not conclusive and do not cover all the types of infinitives.

In this paper, bare and 'to'- infinitive clauses are discussed from different viewpoints- syntactically, morphologically, and semantically. They are tenseless clauses even though linguists attach them to the category of tense. From a semantic point of view, although there are cases in which infinitive clauses functioning as clauses complementation convey a different sphere of time from that of the matrix verb of a sentence, they cannot be considered as tense. In other words, whether the infinitive clauses convey time relations similar or different from their matrix verbs, this does not represent tense. This is due to: First, grammarians in their

studies, from a semantic point of view, divide infinitive clauses differently. There in no one basic approach to divide them in a similar way; Second, the literature does not cover a wide range of infinitives; Third, there are no explicit studies concerning the tense of bare infinitive clauses (the second type of infinitives). Some grammarians postulate that they are tensed, others say that they are tenseless. This, it should be noted here, doesn't mean that such a controvertial subject is not worthy to be studied. Rather, unagreement among grammarians and their different view points reflect the variation of occurrence of infinitives in English language (notice for example the sentences: *I want for to meet them*, and the sentence *It is difficult for to see that*). Such variation exists in Belfast English, a type of dialect). We have seen throughout this paper that that not all the bare infinitive clauses indicate a time different from that of their matrix verbs. The same thing is true with the 'to'- infinitive clauses. Aspectual distinctions should not be neglected; a change in the aspect may cause a change in the time denoted by the 'to'- infinitive clause. These are exemplified by the following sentences:

59- It's a good thing to be working with you.

60- It's nice to have finished my work.

61- I've lots of things to be done.

62- Her early trauma made Alice seek therapy later.

63- Yesterday, he decided to sell the car in a month.

64- Now he claims to have lost his bag yesterday.

Finally, infinitive clauses, having the function of complementation, are tenseless clauses though they, sometimes, denote temporal time relations which exist due to some semantic, contextual, situational, and aspectual matters.

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6- Notes:

[1] ' Inflection refers to the variation in the form of verbs (as lexical items); it may also refer to bound morphemes that distinguish the tenses of verbs to be past or present. Although there are two modal verbs- will/ shall to express future time, there are other ways that express futurity without, in their forms do so, as with present continuous and present simple.

[2] Quirk et al. (1985:1991) prefer the use of the term matrix as in 'matrix clause', 'matrix verb' to refer to the super or dinate clause or its super ordinate verb respectively as in the following sentence:

65- I think that I have lost all my things.

Matrix verb

Matrix clause

[3] The verb 'help', as a finite verb, may take 'to' infinitive clauses or bare infinitive clause as their complements; sometimes with an overt subject of the infinitive clause and at other times with a covert subject as illustrated in the following examples:

66- This man <u>helped to prevent</u> her from doing wrong things.

67- I <u>helped him to leave</u> early.

68- All of us can <u>help do</u> that work.

69- I <u>helped him get</u> to his house.

[4] Acoording to Horrocks (1987: 104) inflection has the feature $\left[+\text{Tense}\right]$ in finite clauses and $\left[-\text{Tense}\right]$ in nonfinite clauses.

[5] S- bar a term used by Chomsky to refer to the conventional label for the category which forms a complement clause or a subordinate clause.

[6] Headedness principle is one of the principles of Universal Grammar proposed by Chomsky. It means that every 'nonterminal node' on the syntactic analysis of sentence structure is a 'projection of a head word'. Here the 'to'- infinitive clause consists of a head word represented by the particle 'to'; it is called the infinitival tense particle since it, 'to', is the head of the infinitival tense phrase (projection). Being a marker for untensed phrase, 'to' is attached to the category of tense (See Radford, 2009: 40-43).

[7] Binarity Principle is one of the principles of Universal Grammar proposed by Chomsky, which means that every nonterminal node in the syntactic analysis of sentence structure is a 'binary - branching', i.e, every terminal node branches into other nodes until a terminal node (i.e, a node that cannot branch further) is reached. The 'to'-

infinitive clause in this case is seen to follow the binarity principle in that it can be analysed or it branches down into its terminal component (to + verb + (...)) (ibid).

[8]Tp means 'Tense Projection'/ Tense Phrase. According to the minimalist framework proposed by chomsky (1990) function words project into phrase, so the particle 'to' + verb in its root form make a tense phrase since 'to' is the marker of untensed or tenseless phrases or clauses (for more information see Radford 2009).

[9]Control complements is a term that refers to complements that undergo the control of their matrix verbs. Control theory is proposed by Chomsky. Here, the matrix verb in a sentence controls its infinitival complement and the subject of that infinitival complement, and it assigns to the infinitival complement certain time relations and interpretations. For example:

70- Alice promised us to help.

71- She asked Mark to stop.

In sentence (70), the control verb (promised) determines or controls expression (NP) that functions as the subject of the infinitive phrase (to help), and thus the subject of that infinitive clause is also the subject of the matrix verb (promised) i.e., (Alice), while in sentence (71), the subject of the infinitive clause is also the object of the matrix verb (asked); it is the NP (Mark). (For more information see Horrocks, 1987: 131-36).

[10]irrealis is a grammatical mood which is used to indicate that a verb form used to refer to events that didn't or have not happened but which are hypothetically or likely to happen. However, such a term should be avoided or not used in linguistic theory because it is not always possible that the realis event opposed the irrealis one (Trask, 1993: 147).

[11]Complex transitive complementation is a type of complement that complements matrix verbs that take the pattern SVOC or SVOA, and infinitive clause may function as object complement to such verbs as in (I made him stay longer) (for more information see Quirk et al., 1985: 1195).

[12]emotive verbs, aspectual verbs, and retrospective verbs are those verbs that may select 'to'- infinitive clauses as their complementation; like, hate, prefer, ect are emotive verbs; begin, start, end, etc. are aspectual verbs; and remember, regret, forget, etc. are retrospective verbs. It is with these verbs that infinitive complementation indicates future time (for more information see Quirk et al, 1985:1191-193).

العبارات المصدرية: صيغة زمنية
أو غير زمنية
كلية التربية ـ ابن رشد/ قسم اللغة الانكليزية

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الملخص

يحاول الباحث مناقشة وتفسير وجهتي نظر مختلفتين تتعلقان بزمن العبارات المصـــدرية في اللغة الانكليزية عندما تكون وظيفة هذه العبارات تكملة للفعل الرئيسي للجملة، وكذلك شرح الاسس التي تعتمد عليها وجهات النظر هذه والتبريرات التي تُقدم. يَفترض بعـــض النحـــويين (الدلاليين) أن العبارات المصدرية التي تكمل الفعل الرئيسي للجملة لها زمن خاص بها حيـــث توصف بالصفة [+ زمن] وذلك لأنها، أحياناً، تُظهر علاقات وقتية مختلفة عن الجملة الاساسية، بينما الغالبية العظمى من النحويين وعلماء اللغة يقولون بأن العبارات المصدرية بنوعيهـــا (أي تلك التي تكون مسبوقة بــ 'to' وتلك التي لا تسبق بهذه الكلمة) هي مجردة من الزمن؛ بل هي عبارات خالية من الزمن. أن وجهة نظر النحويين (الدلالية) بأن العبارات المصدرية لها زمـــن خاص بها يعود الى وجود بعض العلاقات الوقتية المختلفة عن زمن الجملة الأصلية التي تحتوي على هذه العبارات. أن وجهة النظر هذه هي غير حاسمة وذلك لأن أسباب التغير فـــي الوقـــت بالنسبة للعبارة المصدرية عن ذلك الموجود في الجملة الرئيسية يعود الى بعض الاختلافات في تركيب او هيئة العبارة المصدرية؛ وكذلك في الخصائص الدلالية للفعل الرئيسي للجملة؛ وكذلك بسبب استخدام بعض ظروف الزمان. ان هذه الاسباب التي تعطي العبارة المصدرية وقتاً هـــي ليست اسباب دقيقة وكافية تجعل العبارة المصدرية تحتوي على وقت، حيث أنه ليس كل أنـــواع العبارات المصدرية تحتوي هذا الوقت المختلف، وكذلك فأن الدراسات التي قام بهـــا النحـــويين للعبارات المصدرية لم تغطي كل أنواع العبارات المصدرية، والأكثر من ذلك، فـــأن اســـتخدام عبارات مصدرية معينة يعتمد على الافعال الرئيسية والتي هي المسؤولة الرئيسية في اختيـــار العبارة المصدرية وفرض وقت معين عليها.

العبارات المصدرية: صيغة زمنية أو غير زمنية

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