Bridging the Tense Gap in English–Arabic Translation

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1. Introduction

The concept of tense as a grammatical device has been well established in the English linguistic research. As for Arabic, it is limited to some contemporary attempts. Identifying the tense gap between English and Arabic is urgent in some practical processes, particularly translation. The study, therefore, tries to answer some enquiries, such as: Is there any tense gap between English and Arabic? If there, what is it? And how is it tackled in translation?

Two aims are targeted: first, identifying the tense gap between English and Arabic in theory. Secondly, testing the validity of the theoretical findings in translation from English into Arabic. In order to achieve these aims, the following two hypotheses are adopted:

1. In theory, the tense gap between English and Arabic is limited to rendering the English past perfect continuous and future perfect continuous into Arabic.

2. The gap hypothesized in (1) is bridgeable in English-Arabic translation.

The study introduces a concise theoretical account of tenses in both languages, compares between them, and puts the findings in a form of a modal of tenses of English and heir counterparts in Arabic. Then some standard written forms of both languages are analyzed.

The study is limited to tenses in the positive declarative sentences in Fitzgerald's (1926) **The Great Gatsby**, for English and their translated forms into Arabic by 1971) المانع), for Arabic.

2. Tense in English

Tense is a grammatical device by which we understand the connection between the form of the verb and our concept of past, present, and future times. In English, there are present and past tenses and several means of expressing future time. Taking into account that tense is often considered in relation to the perfective and progressive aspects; the manners in which the verbal action is experienced or regarded(See (Quirk and Greenbaum, 1973:40); (Alexander, 1988:159-60)). Therefore, there are at least twelve major tenses in English identified in the English linguistic research, as in the following:

2.1.   The Present Tenses

The present tenses in English are divided into simple, continuous, perfect, and perfect continuous. **The present simple** is represented by the form (**I do**), e.g., 'I work in a bank.' **The present continuous** is represented by the form   (**I am doing**), e.g., 'Please, don't disturb me. I'm working'. **The resent perfect simple** is represented by the form (**I have done**), e.g., 'I've lost my key.' **The present perfect continuous** is represented by the form (**I have been doing**), e.g., 'I'm tired. I've been working all day.'(See (Murphy, 1994:1-32)).[1]

2.2.   The Past Tenses

The past tenses in English include the following tenses: The **past simple** which is represented by the form (I did), e.g., 'The parcel arrived last week.' The **past continuous** takes the form (I was doing), e.g., 'I was feeling ill.' The **past perfect simple** is represented as (I had done), e.g., 'I had read his books before I met him.' The **past perfect continuous** is represented as (I had been doing), e.g., 'It had been raining, and the streets were still wet.'(See (Gramley and Patzold, 1992:148); (Leech and Svartvik, 1994:68, 70, 75)).

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[1] The illustrative forms adopted in this study is limited to the verb forms which agree with the first person singular subjects. This is done consistently for both languages (See Section 3,pp.4, for Arabic).

2.3.   The Future Tenses

Although there is no clear future tense in English similar to that of the present and past, yet there are several means of expressing future time. Futurity is often rendered via modals, semi modals, simple present, or progressive forms because futurity, modality, and aspect are closely related in English, as follows:

Future Simple is expressed by several means: Using the modal verbs 'will' and 'shall' is a way of expressing future and takes the form (I will or 'll ∕ shall + infinitive), e.g., 'I will ∕ shall arrive tomorrow.' It is also expressed by some other auxiliaries, e. g., 'may', as in: 'He may leave tomorrow.' = 'He will possibly leave …' Using (I Be going to + infinitive), e.g., 'she is going to have a baby.' The (Present Progressive, i.e., 'I am doing') is also used to express future time, e.g., 'The plane is taking off at 5:20.' Also the 'Simple Present', i.e., 'I do' expresses the futurity, but it should be "always used with an adverbial expression of future time", e.g., 'The train leaves tonight from Chicago.' Similarly, the use of (Be to + infinitive) expresses futurity, e.g., 'We are to be married soon', and 'you are to be back by 10 o'clock.' And finally (Be about to + infinitive) which is used to express near future, i.e., imminent future, e.g., 'The taxi is here and we are about to leave.'(See (Quirk, and Greenbaum, 1971:47-50); (Gramley and Patzold, 1992:145)).

The **Future Continuous** takes the form of (I will ∕ shall + be doing), e.g., 'He will be doing his best.'(Quirk and Greenbaum, 1971: 49). This form is used to express 'pure' future because it 'is used for future situations which are set and will take place as a matter of course"   (Gramley and Patzold, 1992:146).

The **Future Perfect** is represented as (I will have done). The following statement seen in the past from a point of orientation in the future: 'They will have finished their book by next year.' (Quirk, and Greenbaum, 1971:48).

The **Future Perfect Continuous** takes the form (I will have been doing), e.g., 'I will have been living here for 20 years by the end of the year.', and 'If I stay till May I'll have been working here for 20 years' (Alexander, 1988:181, 244). A similar use is in the following 'By 8 o'clock I will have been working for two hours'(Broughton et al., 1980:28). Table (1) shows the English tenses and their illustrative forms when the subject is the first person singular.

Table (1): The English Tenses

No.	Tense	Form
1	**Present** Simple	**I do**
2	Present Continuous	**I am doing**
3	Present Perfect	**I have done**
4	Present Perfect Continuous	**I have been doing**
5	**Past** Simple	**I did**
6	Past Continuous	**I was doing**
7	Past Perfect	**I had done**
8	Past Perfect Continuous	**I had been doing**
9	**Future** Simple	will/s'... **I+ infinitive** { be going to / be to / be about to / am going to } + be about to **I do**
10	Future Continuous	**I will/shall be doing**
11	Future Perfect	**I will have done**
12	Future Perfect Continuous	**I will have been doing**

3. **Tense in Arabic**

Literature of tense in Arabic reveals two different viewpoints: traditional and contemporary. Most of the Arab grammarians follow the traditional opinion suggested by سيبويه which states that there are

three tenses in Arabic: past, present, and future. The form (فعل) expresses the past. Both (يفعل) and (افعل) are capable of expressing present and future times [2]. (1965:144, المخزومي).

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[2] The 'imperative' refers to the future time even in English(See Gramley and Patzold, 1992:145). However, it is beyond the limits of the present study because it is a pragmatic use rather than a grammatical tense. (See 1965:120 ,(المخزومي)). To know the difference between Basra and Kufa Schools in tackling the Arabic verb, see 1955:237(المخزومي).

The traditional viewpoint of tens has been criticized by Wright (1951:51) because it gives "undue importance to the idea of time, in connection with the verbal forms". In fact Wright (ibid) believes Arabic, similar to the other Semitic languages, to have two grammatical tenses only: 'Perfect' and 'Imperfect'. The former expresses a "*finished* act, one that is done and completed in relation to other acts. The latter expresses "*unfinished* act, one that is just commencing or in progress." Wright, however, thinks that Arabic has neglected the detailed aspects within these tenses.

To our best knowledge, the first Arab linguist who described tense in Arabic was the Iraqi linguist المخزومي, who from the early 1950s up to the 1960s tried to describe Arabic as a whole in modern linguistic terms. He (1965:145) disagrees with Wright's above mentioned opinion. Although Arabic is a Semitic language, but it developed to cope with its users needs. He (ibid:147-8) believes also the traditional viewpoint of tense in Arabic to be prescriptive rather than descriptive; it does not notice that by adding some verbs and particles such as (كان) and (قد) to the primary forms of tenses (يفعل، فعل) new tenses of Arabic are produced.   For instance, the traditional view thinks the structure of قد ((كان in the following line by المتنبي as used for the sake of emphasis only, i.e., not for expressing ""الماضي التام:

قد كان شاهد دفني قبل قولهم   جماعة ثم ماتوا قبل من دفنوا

Then المخزومي(ibid:141-60); (5-1966:21 :نفسه) tried to identify the Arabic tenses by analyzing some Arabic language forms. His work bridged most of the traditional tense gabs between English and Arabic (See Table 2, p. 11).

Later on, tenses of Arabic have been tackled by some Arab applied linguists, such as (الواسطي et al., 1979) and (Yowell Aziz, 1989), and by some of the Arab linguists, such as 2003 (السامرائي), and تمام 2006 (حسان). Some of these attempts have reversed and widened the tense gap between English and Arabic by suggesting too many aspects for some tenses in Arabic. 78-2003:267(السامرائي), for instance, has suggested 19 types of the past tense only, as follows:

الماضي المطلق و المنقطع و القريب و الدال على حدث ماضي بالنسبة الى حدث ماضي قبله و الدال على الحال و الدال على الاستقبال و الذي يحتمل المضي والاستقبال و الذي يفيد توقع الحدث في الماضي و الدال على الاستقبال في الماضي و الحاصل في المستقبل و المستمر و المستمر المنقطع و المستمر والمتصل بزمن الإخبار و الذي يفيد مقاربة حصول الفعل و الذي يفيد رجاء حصول الفعل و الذي يفيد الشروع بالقيام بالفعل و الذي يفيد تلبس حصول الفعل بوقت من الأوقات و الماضي البعيد و الذي يفيد تقليل حصول الفعل.

Making a comparison betweenالسامرائي (ibid) and 2009 (الأقطش ,(2006) تمام) characterizes some Arabic structures equivalent to nine English tenses. Theoretically, after his work, the gap is limited to represent present perfect continuous, past perfect continuous, and future perfect continuous.

Following the same divisions of the English tenses adopted in Section 3, and using التفعيلات to represent the tense usages, a detailed analysis of the Arabic tenses shows the following:

3.1.   **The Present Tenses**

The present tenses in Arabic include the following tenses:
A. **Present Simple:** It takes the form **(أفعل)**, which is the 'Imperfect' (المضارع) form of the verb, e.g., 'يذهب أخي إلى هناك كل يوم', i.e., 'My brother goes there'(Aziz, 1989:43). According to المخزومي 1965:144)), this tense is capable of expressing the following:
   a. **All** past**, present** and future times, e.g., "وتقدرون فتضحك الأقدار".
   b. **Present only**, e.g.,"أفهم ما تقول", i.e., 'I understand you', and"أظنك صادقا ", i.e., 'I think you are telling the truth"(ibid:156). This use is mainly to express facts, e.g.,'تدور الأرض حول الشمس ', and habits, e.g.,'ينام خالد مبكرا' and 'يظفر البدو شعورهم'(ibid:157).

B. **Present Continuous:** It is constructed by one of the following**:**

i. **The form (أفعل الآن).** The durative (progressive) aspect in Arabic expresses that something is taking place at the moment of speaking, e.g., 'يعمل علي في البستان الآن', i.e., 'Ali is working in the orchard now.'(Aziz, 1989: 60).

ii.   **The form (أنا فاعل).** It is used to express that an action is continuous, e.g., 'زيد قائم', and 'عمر ضاحك'(المخزومي, 1965:158).

C. **Present Perfect Simple:** It is represented by the following forms:

i.   **The form (قد فعلت).** It produces the most explicit form of the present perfect in Arabic for it includes the meaning of 'already' or 'just', e.g., "قد قامت الصلاة" , i.e., 'the time of prayer has arrived' (Aziz: 1998: 42), 'قد شرحت هذا', i.e., 'I have already explained this'(Aziz: 1989: 61). السامرائي (2003:268-70)), however, labels this use as (الماضي القريب).

In fact this tense has already been identified by (المخزومي) 151: 1965, who believes that the form "قد" i.e., the near past, e.g., 'قد فعل' (in this study 'قد فعلت'), is used to express "الحدث في زمان قريب من الحاضر", 'قد اقبل خالد من سفره', 'قامت الصلاة', and the Qur'anic text 'قد سمع الله قول التي تجادلك في زوجها' "Allah hath heard the saying of her that disputeth with thee (Muhammad) concerning her husband (Pickthall, 2006:390)).

ii. **The form (فعلت الآن).** An Example of this tense is 'وصلت الطائرة الآن', i.e., 'The plane has arrived now'(Aziz, 1989:61).

D. **Present Perfect Continuous:** The form (ما (زلت/انفككت/فتئت/برحت) + فاعلٌ/فاعلاً) is used to express that an act is continually happening until the moment of speaking. Consider the following words of (المخزومي 1965:159):

وتستعمل صيغة (فاعل) للتعبير عن استمرار الحدث الماضي بلا انقطاع حتى اللحظة الحاضرة وذلك مع (مازال) و (ماانفك) و (مافتئ) و (مابرح) , نحو: مازال الجو ملبدا, وماانفكت النجوم متلألئة , وما فتيء محمد ذاكرا أخاه, ومابرح القوم ضاحكين.

3.2. **The Past Tenses:** They include the following four tenses:

A. **Past Simple:** It is expressed by one of the following forms:

i. **The form (فعلت).** The main form to express this tense is the 'Perfect' form of the Arabic verb (See (Aziz, 1989:44-6); (السامرائي), 2003:267), e.g., 'رأيته مرتين في العام الماضي', i.e., ' I saw him twice last year'. And, "خلق الله السماوات والأرض بالحق"(العنكبوت: 44),i.e., "Allah created the heavens and the earth with truth" (Pickthall, 2006:287).

ii. **The form (أفعل).** For example 'وتقدرون وتضحك الأقدار'), and narrating some events happened in the past, e.g., the sense in the following Qur'anic text "وزلزلوا حتى يقول الرسول" (also in negation which is beyond the limits of this study, e.g., 'لم يكتب زيد'(See (158, 1965:144 ,المخزومي)).

iii. **The form (أنا فاعلٌ (غير المنونة))** is also used to express the past , e.g., 'إني صائمٌ يوم الخميس'(ibid). He (1966:23) puts this use in the following way:

وقد يخلص (فاعل) للماضي ، وذلك إذا أضيف الى مابعده ، نحو: أنا كاتب الرسالةِ ، ومعنى هذا : أنا كَتَبْتُ الرسالة.

B. **Past Continuous:** It follows one of the following two forms:

i. **The Form (كنت/أمسيت/بت/أصبحت/ظللت) + أفعل).** According to (الأقطش 2009:234), this form resembles exactly the English *past continuous* tense, as in the following Qur'anic text: "وكان يأمر أهله بالصلاة " (مريم: 55), e.g., (المخزومي 1965:158). This form has already been identified by 1965:158, and the following line by جرير elegizing الفرزدق 'كان سيبويه يختلف الى مجلس الخليل بن أحمد':

فتى عاش بين المجد تسعين حجة   وكان الى الخيرات والمجد يرتقي

Similarly, the same tense occurs in the following instances: 'بات الأسد يزأر','أمسى المطر ينهمر', 'ظل القطار يسير في الصحراء' and "أصبح الجو ينذر بالعاصفة" (ibid).

ii. **The Form (كنت لا أزال أفعل)**. This form is suggested by السامرائي (2003: 277). It is called "الماضي كان لا يزال, i.e., that which was continuous for a limited period in the past, e.g., 'المستمر المنقطع", يكتب له'.

C. **Past Perfect Simple:** The general rule which governs the construction of this tense is that it expresses a past in the past. When a past event is combined by a relative tense taking its reference point from the past, what happens first is the past perfect. This sequence of past events can be expressed by several means among them are the following (the past perfect structure is underlined):

   i.   **The Form (فعلت + بعد أن فعلت)**, e.g., 'وصل بعد أن بدأت الحفلة', i.e., 'He arrived after the party had started'(See Aziz, 1989:62).

   ii.   **The Form (قد فعلت فعلت +)**, e.g., 'زرته في قريته وقد اشترى سيارة جديدة', i.e., 'I visited him in his village; he had bought a new car.'(ibid).

   iii. **The Form (فعلت + كنت (قد) فعل)**, which involves the use of the verb كان with or without قد, e.g. 'عاش في بيت قديم كان (قد) اشتراه من عمه', i.e. , 'He lived in an old house which he had bought from his uncle.'(ibid).

D. **Past Perfect Continuous:** Literature of Arabic (traditional and contemporary) has not described yet the Arabic structure to express this tense (However, see the structure adopted by the translator in Table (3), p. 18.).

3.3. **The Future Tenses**

They include the following four tenses.

 A. **Future Simple:** There are several ways of expressing future time in Arabic, as in the following:

   i.   **The Form (س/سوف + أفعل)**, e.g., the Quranic text (See كلا سوف المخزومي: 1965:159): تعلمون"") Nay, but you will come to know)(Pickthall, 2006:449), and the following line التكاثر:3) (by الأقطش, 2009:232 (زهير بن أبي سلمى:

ستبدي لك الأيام ما كنت جاهلا ويأتيك بالأخبار ما لم تزود

The form سأفعل is called "compound construction"; it involves adding the particle س and prefixing it to the Imperfect form of the verb (See Aziz, 1998:52). Unlike the from سوف أفعل, it expresses near future (See الهاشمي, 2-2008:31).

   ii.   **The Form (أفعل + ظرف زمان يفيد الاستقبال)**, e.g., "فأن الله يحكم بينهم يوم القيامة"(المخزومي:1965: 15).

   iii. **The Form (ما الظرفية + فعلت)**, as in the following Qur'anic text includes such structure: (وأوصاني بالصلاة والزكاة ما دمت حيا"(مريم:31", i.e., "and hath enjoyed upon me prayer and alms-giving so long as I remain alive." (Pickthall, 2006:223) (See (الأقطش) 2009:226).

   iv.   **The Form (إذا + فعلت)**, e.g., (النصر:1) "إذا جاء نصر الله والفتح" .i.e., "When Allah's succor and the triumph cometh"(Pickthall, 2006:453) (See 231: 2009(الأقطش)).

   v.   **The Form (مورفيمات النصب + أفعل)**, e.g.,'أرغب في أن تزورني' (ibid), and 'يسعدني ان يتماثل عمر'(المخزومي:1965:160).

   vi.   **The Form (مورفيمات الشرط + أفعل)**(ibid), e.g., "إن يشأ يرحمكم" (الإسراء: 54). An exception to this rule is the use of the particle 'لو', which is employed in the past only, e.g., 'لو زارني لأكرمته (السامرائي, 2003 :326).

   vii. **The Form (لام الابتداء + أفعل))**, e.g., (280-1 :ibid)، "وان ربك ليحكم بينهم يوم القيامة" (النحل:124).

   viii. **The form (أني فاعلٌ)**, e.g., 'اني صائمٌ يوم الخميس', i.e., 'اني كاتبٌ رسالة' and 'سأصوم يوم الخميس', 'سأكتب رسالة' respectively(المخزومي: 1965:158).

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B. **Future Continuous:** It takes the form **(كلما + فعلت)**, e.g., "كلما نضجت جلودهم (الأقطش: 2009: 228) i.e., "As often as their skins are consumed We shall exchange them for fresh skins that they may taste the torment."(Pickthall, 2006:85). بدلناهم جلودا غيرها ليذوقوا العذاب" (النساء:56).

C. **Future Perfect:** According to Aziz (1989:49), this tense "is expressed by a perfect aspect with a relative tense taking its reference from a point in the future". So, it takes the form of **أكون قد** , i.e., 'The **(فعلت)+ ظرف زمان يفيد الاستقبال**, e.g., '1990 تكون الشركة قد أوفت بجميع العقود بحلول عام company will have fulfilled the conditions of all the contracts by the end of 1990.'

D. **Future Perfect Continuous**

Literature of the Arabic tenses does not offer structures to express this tense. However, it is suggested by the present study that the Arabic structure **(سأكون فاعلا**) is capable of expressing this tense when it is used with a suitable adverbial, e.g., (By the end of this week, I'll have been tackling this research for three months**),** i.e., بنهاية هذا الأسبوع سأكون عاملا على هذا البحث لثلاثة أشهر . In this way, we are adopting the Arabic structure already identified by 1965:159 (المخزومي) which expresses the present perfect continuous, أكون فاعلا , and initiating it by the Arabic particle س which ideally expresses the future time (See also 1966:23(المخزومي)). Table (2) shows the Arabic tenses in theory.

Table (2): The Arabic Tenses in Theory

No.	Tense	Traditional Viewpoint	Contemporary Viewpoint
1	**Present** Simple	أفْعَلْ[1]	- أفْعَلْ
2	Present Continuous	-	- أفْعَلْ الآن - أنا فاعِلْ [2]
3	Present Perfect	-	- قد فَعَلْتُ [3] - فَعَلْتُ الآن
4	Present Perfect Continuous	-	ما (زلت/ انفككت/ فتئت/ برحت)+ فاعِلْ /فاعلاً
5	**Past** Simple	فَعَلْتُ	- فَعَلْتُ - أفْعَلْ - أنا فاعِلْ (غير المنونة)
6	Past Continuous	-	- (كنت/أمسيت/بِتّ/أصبحت/ضللت) أفْعَلْ - كنت لا أزال أفْعَلْ
7	Past Perfect	-	- فَعَلْتُ (مضارع بسيط) + بعد أن فَعَلْتُ قد فَعَلْتُ كنت (قد) فَعَلْتُ
8	Past Perfect Continuous	-	-
9	**Future** Simple	أفْعَلْ	- س / سوف + أفْعَلْ - أفْعَلْ + ظرف زمان يفيد الاستقبال - لام الابتداء + أفْعَلْ - ما [الظرفية] فَعَلْتُ - إذا فَعَلْتُ - مورفيمات الشرط + أفْعَلْ - انى فاعِلٌ (المنونة)
10	Future Continuous	-	- كلما فَعَلْتُ
11	Future Perfect	-	- أكون قد فَعَلْتُ + ظرف زمان يفيد الاستقبال
12	Future Perfect Continuous	-	-

[1] أفْعَلْ = The Imperfect ((المضارع) form of the Arabic verb. [2] فاعِلْ = It resembles the adverb of process in English. [3] فَعَلْتُ = The Perfect (الماضي) form of the Arabic verb.

4. Data Analysis

4.1. The Present Tenses

A. **The Present Simple:** It is noticed that the form used in the translation sample to render this tense into Arabic is (أفعل). This use goes with the theoretical account of this tense given by both the traditional and contemporary Arab linguists, as in (1) and (2):

(1) "…, <u>I come to the admission</u> …"(Fitzgerald, 1926:7).

"... (إنّي اقرِ...)(المانع, 1971:7" (henceforth the documentation reference will use the page numbers only).

(2) "I live at West Egg.", p. 38

"اسكن في ((البيضة الغربية))", p. 37

B. **The Present Continuous:** The translator does not use any of the theoretically suggested forms of expressing this tense, i.e. the forms (أفعل الآن), and (أنا فاعل). He uses the form (أفعل), which is primarily used for present simple tense instead, as in (3) and (4):

(3) "He's singing away-", p. 22

"انه يغرد", p. 22

(4) "you look at him sometimes when he thinks nobody's looking at him.", p.50

"... , انظر إليه أحيانا, عندما لا يعلم إن هناك من ينظر إليه" .p. 46

C. **The Present Perfect:** It is represented in English as (I have done). Its Arabic counterpart takes two forms: (قد فعلت), and (فعلت الآن). The translator uses the first form and two additional forms: ((فعلت, which is primarily used for past simple, and (أفعل), which is the main form of present simple, as follows:

- **The Form (قد فعلت)**:
(5) "I've had a very bad time, …", p. 23:

"لقد عانيت أياما تعسة" , p. 42, and

(6) "I have forgotten their names …", p. 69.

""ولقد نسيت أسمائهن ..., p. 61.

- **The Form (فعلت)**:
(7) "I am one of the few honest people that I have ever known.", p. 66.

"إنني احد الأمناء الصادقين القلائل الذين عرفتهم في حياتي", p. 59.

- **The Form (أفعل)**:
(8) "The party has begun.", p.47.

"وتبدأ الحفلة", p. 43.

This structure, as well as the preceding one, is also adopted by other translators.(See الحاج أحمد 3-130 :2011)).

D. **Present Perfect Continuous:** The translator does not use the Arabic forms theoretically identified by the Arab linguists. He uses the following forms instead:

- **The Form (قد كنت أفعل)**:
(9) "I have been trying to get you to New York all afternoon.", p.17.

""قد كنت أحاول طيلة الظهيرة أن اذهب بك الى نيويورك", p.19.

- **The Form (مازلت أفعل)**: Example of this use is:
(10) "… my father gave me advice that I've been trying over in my mind ever since.", p.7.

""... , منحني والدي نصحا مازلت أديره في فكري منذ ذلك الزمان", p.11.

- **The Form (قد مضى علي وأنا فاعل)**:
(11) "I've been lying on that sofa for as long as I can remember.", p.17.

""... قد مضى علي وأنا مستلقية على هذه الأريكة مدة طويلة على ما أذكر", p.19.

- **The Form (قد مضى علي وأنا أفعل)**:
(12) "They've been living over that garage for eleven years.", p.41.

""لقد مضى عليهما وهما يعيشان فوق ذلك الجراج احد عشر عاما", p.39.

4.2. **The Past Tenses:** The four types of the past tense occur in the sample of the study.

A. **The Past Simple:** The translator use the Imperfect form of the Arabic verb (فعَل). This use matches the theoretical account (traditional and the first option according to the contemporary) of this tense. This form is illustrated by the present study by the form (فعلت), as in (13), and (14).

- The Form (فعلت)

(13) "In my younger and more vulnerable years my father gave me some advice ...." , p.7.

""في سني حداثتي التي كانت اشد طواعية, منحني والدي نصحا"" .p.11

(14) "She looked at me absently"

""فنظرت ألي كأنها غائبة"" .p.42

However, there are some instances in which the translator adopts some additional strategies, e.g., 'كان من عادتي + الفعل', and 'أخذت أفعل'. The latter is mainly used when there is an intention to explicitly saying that an act was a habit, as in (15) and (16), respectively:

- The Form (أخذت أفعل)

(15) "As we entered he welled excitedly around and examined Jordan from head to foot.", p.51.

"... وحين دخلنا استدار مستشارا واخذ يتفحص جوردان من رأسها الى قدميها" , p. 47.

- The Form (كان من عادتي + الفعل)

(16) "I took dinner usually at the Yale Club… ", p.63.

""كان من عادتي تناول العشاء في نادي جامعة بيل"" ,.p. 57

B. **The Past Continuous:** This tense follows the form (I was doing) in English, and the forms ((كنت/أمسيت/بت/أصبحت/ضللت) أفْعَلُ) ; (كنت لا أزال أفْعَلُ)) in Arabic. The translator adopts the first form and introduces an additional form, as follows:

- The Form (كنت أفْعَلُ)

(17) "He were moving a checker to another square.", p.12.

""كان يحرك قطعة من قطع الشطرنج الى مربع آخر"" ,p.12.

(18) "She was only extemporizing, … ", p.21.

"ولكنها كانت ترتجل كلامها ارتجالا, ... " , p. 22.

(19) "We were sitting at a table with a man of about my age … ", p.53.

""كنا نجلس على طاولة مع رجل في سني"" ,p.49.

- The Form (لقد أخذت أفْعَلُ)

(20) "I was enjoying myself now", p. 53.

"لقد أخذت أمتع نفسي الآن" ,p.49.

C. **The Past Perfect Simple:** It is represented in English as (I had done). In Arabic it is suggested by some contemporary Arab linguists to take one of the following forms : قد /فَعَلْتُ (قد) كنت] / [فَعَلْتُ أن بعد فَعَلْتُ + فَعَلْت

The translator uses different forms, as follows:

- The Form (قد فعلت): Although this form is identified by the contemporary Arab linguists to express the present perfect, yet it is used by the translator for rendering present perfect as well as past perfect, as in the following instances:

(21) "I had heard some story of her too, …", p.25.

""ولقد سمعت قصة عنها"",.. , p. 25.

(22) "He had seen me several times, and had intended to call on me long before …", p. 47.

"لقد رآني عدة مرات وكان في نيته أن يزورني قبل مدة طويلة , ... " , p. 44.

(23) "I decided to call to him. Miss Baker had mentioned him at dinner, … ", p.27.

"قررت أن أناديه. فقد ذكرته مس بيكر على العشاء" ,p.28.

(24) The translator abandons this form when he uses the adverb 'من قبل', i.e., 'already'. He has done a kind of rearrangement, as in:

(25) "I knew I'd seen you somewhere before.", p.53.

لقد عرفت أنني رأيتك في مكان ما من [قبل]"" ,p.49.

- The Form (كنت قد فعلت):

(26) "When I looked once more for Gatsby he had vanished, …", p. 29.

"وحين عدت ببصري الى جاسبي كان قد اختفى", p. 29.

The translator, however, uses another form, as follows:

- The Form (قبل أن أفعل):

(27) "Almost before I had grasped her meaning there was flutter of a dress and the crunch of leather boots, … ", P.22.

"وقبل أن أكاد افهم معنى قولها سمعنا حفيف ثوب ووقع الجزمة الجلدية", p.23.

D. **The Past Perfect Continuous:** It takes the form (I had been doing) in English. The Arab linguists do not suggest a form of expressing this tense in Arabic. The translator uses the following two forms:

- The Form (كنت أفعل):

This form is initially used to express the past continuous. It is used by the translator for both past continuous and past perfect continuous, as in (28):

(28) "Tom Buchanan, who had been hovering restlessly about the room, stopped and rested his hand on my shoulder".P.16.

"وإذا طوم بوكنان , الذي كان يطوف في الغرفة بقلق, يتوقف ويضع يدا على كتفي قائلا :", p.18.

- The Form (كان معتادا على + الفعل):

(29) "I'd been writing letters once a week … ", p.65.

"كنت معتادا على كتابة الرسائل مرة كل أسبوع, …", p.59.

4.3.   The Future Tenses

A. **Future Simple:** There are several ways of expressing the future times in English as well as in Arabic (see Table (1), p.10). The translator keeps to two ways: (سأفعل), and (سوف أفعل). He also introduces one more way which is (حتى أفعل), as follows:

- The Form (سأفعل):

(30) "In two weeks it 'll be the longest day in the year", p.18.

"بعد أسبوعين سنصل الى أطول نهار في العام", p.20.

(31) "… , Nick's going to look after her, …", p.25

"نك سيتعهد بالعناية بها", p.26.

- The Form (سوف أفعل):

(32) "I'll tell you a family secret, …", p.20.

"سوف أخبرك عن سر عائلي", p.21.

(33) "Jordan's going to play in the tournament to-morrow, … ", p.25.

""سوف تلعب جوردان في مباراة الغد", p.25.

- The Form (حتى أفعل):

(34) "… don't pay him a penny till he shuts his mouth", p.76

""… لا تدفع له فلسا واحدا حتى يغلق فمه", p.67.

(35) "I want to wait here till Daisy goes to bed.", p. 152.

"أريد أن انتظر هنا حتى تذهب ديزي الى الفراش", p.131.

B. **Future Continuous:** Although this tense has not been used in the English sample of the study, yet Arabic offers the structure   (كلما فعلت) to express this tense (See 3.4.B, p. 10).

C. **Future Perfect:** This tense has not been used in the English sample under analysis. However, the Arabic structure (أكون قد فعلت) expresses it (See 3.4.C., p. 10).

D. **Future Perfect Continuous:** This tense has not been used neither in the sample of the study nor in the Arabic literature of tense, yet it is suggested by the present study that the form **(سأكون فاعلا)** is capable of expressing this form (See 3.4.D, p. 11).

Table (3) represents the translator's strategies of rendering the English tenses into Arabic.

Table (3): The Translator's Strategies of Translating the English Tenses into Arabic

No.	The English Tense	The Translator's Strategy	A Suggested Strategy
1	**Present** Simple	- أفْعَلْ	
2	Present Continuous	- أفْعَلْ	
3	Present Perfect	- أفْعَلْ - فَعَلْتُ - قد فَعَلْتُ	
4	Present Perfect Continuous	- قد كنت أفْعَلْ - ما زلت أفْعَلْ - قد مضى علي وأنا فاعِلْ - قد مضى علي وأنا أفْعَلْ	
5	**Past** Simple	- فَعَلْتُ - أخذت أفْعَلْ - كان من عادتي الفِعِلْ ¹	
6	Past Continuous	- كنت أفْعَلْ - أخذت أفْعَلْ	
7	Past Perfect	- قد فَعَلْتُ - كنت قد فَعَلْتُ - قبل أن أفْعَلْ	
8	Past Perfect Continuous	- كنت أفْعَلْ - كنت معتادا على الفِعِلْ	
9	**Future** Simple	- سأفْعَلْ - سوف أفْعَلْ - حتى أفْعَلْ	
10	Future Continuous	No sample	- كلما فعلت
11	Future Perfect	No sample	- أكون قد فعلت
12	Future Perfect Continuous	No sample	- سأكون فاعلا

¹ The form (الفِعِلْ) refers to a noun or prepositional phrase.

5. **Conclusions, Recommendations, and Suggestions**

5.1. **Conclusions:** The study has reached to the following findings:

1. The contemporary Arab linguistic research offers counterparts to ten English tenses. The tense gap between these languages is limited to the past perfect continuous and future perfect continuous. This means that the first hypothesis of the study is verified.

2. The translator has invested the availability of the Arabic structures of expressing the English tenses and successfully rendered eleven tenses into Arabic. Adding the theoretical findings mentioned in (1) above to the translators uses, the study has limited the tense gap between the two languages to expressing the future perfect continuous in Arabic. However, it is suggested by the present study that the Arabic structure سأكون فاعلا is capable of expressing this tense when it is used with a suitable adverbial. This means that the second hypothesis is validated.

5.2. **Suggestions and Recommendations**

1. A study to investigate the same gap applied to translation from Arabic into English is suggested.

2. The findings of the study are recommended to be improved and adopted in a computational linguistic study, particularly in machine translation.

3. The findings of the study can be tested in some related error analyses studies.

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