



ADVERBS EXPRESSING TEMPORAL CIRCUMSTANCE IN THE ARABIC LANGUAGE AND THEIR GRAMMATICAL ANALYSIS.

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Abstract. This article helps us understand the Arabic words indicating time (ظرف زمان) and their grammatical analysis. It also teaches us how to correctly express the time of action of verbs involved in sentence construction. In general linguistics, special attention is paid to the study of temporal words that express time. This article analyzes such words in the Arabic language and elucidates them through examples.

Key words: adverbial of time, zarf al-zamān, grammatical analysis, article, adverb.

Introduction.

Based on A.M. Mukhin's theory, several semantic groups of phrases conveying spatial and temporal meanings have been identified. Accordingly, in addition to the core temporal meaning of the temporal syntaxeme, we have determined the existence of other semantic subtypes, such as: basic temporal, temporal-locative, temporal-causal, temporal-active, temporal-approximative, and temporal-ecliptic. An adverb of time indicates the timing of an action or event and answers questions such as when? until when? since when?. Examples of temporal adverbs include: now, just now, still, already, before, earlier, previously, long ago, last year, the other day, recently, always, yet, still, today, the day after tomorrow, later, afterwards, yearly, initially, every day, from morning till night, all year round, and others. Temporal adverbs mainly function as adverbial modifiers of time, and sometimes they can serve as predicates in a sentence.

Locative Adverbs.

A locative adverb indicates the place where an action occurs or the direction toward which it is directed. These adverbs answer questions such as where to? where at? where from? Examples include: away, here, forward, below, beneath, from above, from below, that way, this way, nearby, from behind, straight ahead, on the left, on the right, and others.

In a sentence, locative adverbs primarily function as adverbial modifiers of place, and occasionally they can serve as predicates.

The Adverbial of Time in Arabic.

Words that indicate the time when an action occurs are called adverbials of time. They typically answer the questions when? since when? until when? In Arabic, an adverbial of time often appears in an indefinite form (i.e., without the definite article "al") and in the accusative case (naṣb).



For example:

قَرَأْتُ الْكِتَابَ صَبَاحًا

Translation: I read the book in the morning.

Here, the word صَبَاحًا (ṣabāḥan – "in the morning") functions as an adverbial of time. It is indefinite and occurs in the accusative case.

Adverbials of time may also be formed with prepositions, in which case the noun appears in the genitive case (jarr). For instance, the same sentence can be expressed as:

قَرَأْتُ الْكِتَابَ فِي الصَّبَاحِ

Translation: I read the book in the morning.

In this second example, the adverbial of time is expressed using the preposition في (fī – "in") followed by a noun in the genitive case (الصَّبَاحِ – aṣ-ṣabāḥi). Despite the structural difference, both sentences convey the same temporal meaning, specifying the time of the action.

Materials and Methods.

الآن (al-āna) — This word is translated in dictionaries as "now" or "at this moment." It is used to explicitly indicate that an action is happening at the present time, or to answer questions related to time.

Example:

متى وصلت إلى المدرسة؟
وصلت الآن.

Translation: When did you arrive at school? — I arrived just now.

اليوم (al-yawma) — This word corresponds to the Uzbek word "bugun" ("today"). In Arabic, it is one of the most frequently used temporal expressions and commonly functions as an answer to time-related questions.

Example:

نذهب إلى الجبال اليوم.

Translation: We are going to the mountains today.

In this sentence, the word اليوم is grammatically classified in Arabic as zarf zamān (ظرف زمان), meaning an adverbial of time. It indicates when an action occurs. This word must appear in the accusative case (naṣb) in order to convey a temporal meaning — i.e., when it is used as an adverb of time.

Otherwise, if it appears in the nominative (rafʿ) or genitive (jarr) case, its meaning shifts to a neutral noun, simply meaning "the day" rather than "today." Thus, the grammatical case of the word اليوم plays a crucial role in determining whether it functions as a temporal adverb (zarf zamān) or just a common noun.

اللييلة (al-laylata) — This word corresponds to the Uzbek word "tunda" ("at night"). It is commonly used to answer time-related questions.

Example:



يشرق القمرُ لَيْلًا

Translation: The moon shines at night.

This metaphorical use is also present in Arabic poetry. For instance, the renowned Arab poet al-Nābighah al-Dhubayānī famously wrote:

"أَنْتِ كَاللَّيْلِ" – "You are like the night,"

using night as a symbol of beauty, mystery, or depth.

سَحَرًا (saḥaran) — This word translates to "pre-dawn", "dawn time", or "early morning twilight" in English. It is actively used in Arabic to express time-related context and to answer temporal questions.

In order for this word to function as a temporal adverb (ẓarf zamān), it must appear in the accusative case (naṣb). Otherwise, when used in the nominative or genitive case, it simply means "Sahar" as a noun, without conveying temporal meaning.

Example:

الجو يكون نقيًا سَحَرًا

Translation: The air is fresh at dawn.

غُدُوَّةً (ghudwatan) — This word is best translated as "early morning" or "at breakfast time". It specifically refers to the early hours of the day, particularly the time between sunrise and midmorning. Among various Arabic expressions denoting the early part of the day, ghudwatan uniquely captures the sense of early activity or movement, often associated with breakfast time.

It also functions as a temporal adverb, and as such, it must be in the accusative case (naṣb) when conveying temporal meaning.

Results

بُكْرَةً (bukratan) — This word is used to denote a very early time in the morning, typically referring to the period between dawn (ṣubḥ) and sunrise. It is frequently encountered in historical texts and classical Arabic literature as an expression of early morning timing.

مُذْ (muz) — Translated into Uzbek as "...dan beri" ("since"), this word differs grammatically from most other temporal expressions in Arabic. It is classified as a preposition (ḥarf jar) rather than a noun or adverb.

Example from poetry:

لقد رأيتُ عَجَبًا مُذْ أَمْسَى
عجائزُ مثلُ سَعَالِي خُمْسَى

Translation: Since last night, I have seen something strange — five old women like ghouls.

In this line, مُذْ functions as a temporal preposition, translated as "since". The word that follows it — أَمْسَى (amsā) — means "last night" and itself serves as a temporal adverb in Arabic. It is also part of the broader set of time-indicating expressions in the language.



مَسَاءً (masā'an) — This word corresponds to the Uzbek “kechqurun” (“in the evening”). It refers to the period after sunset until nightfall. It is widely used in both spoken and written Arabic to denote evening time and is commonly employed in responses to time-related questions.

Discussion.

In Arabic, time-expressing words can also be categorized according to the duration or extent of the time they indicate. Based on this criterion, we can classify temporal expressions into the following semantic groups:

1. Short Duration:

Expressions referring to a brief moment of time, such as “just now” or “in a moment”.

In Arabic: بعد قليل (ba'da qalīl) – after a short while.

2. Long Duration:

Expressions referring to distant or extended periods of time, such as “long ago” or “far away in time”.

In Arabic: منذ فترة طويلة (munzhu fatrah ṭawīlah) – since a long time ago,

بعيداً (ba'īdan) – far away (in time or space).

3. Expressions of Duration:

Continuous Time: Words indicating ongoing or uninterrupted time, such as “always”, “constantly”.

In Arabic: دائماً (dā'imān), باستمرار (bisti'mrār).

Limited Time: Words indicating temporary or short-term durations, such as “temporarily”, “for a while”.

In Arabic: مؤقتاً (mu'aqqatan), لفترة قصيرة (lifatra qaṣīrah).

4. Recurrent Time Expressions:

Regular Recurrence: Words indicating repeated actions, such as “every day”, “annually”.

In Arabic: كل يوم (kulla yawm), سنوياً (sanawiyyan).

Seasonal Time: Words indicating time tied to seasons, such as “in spring”, “in winter”.

In Arabic: في الربيع (fī ar-rabī'), في الشتاء (fī ash-shitā').

Conclusion

In Arabic grammar, “ism al-ẓarf” (noun of adverbial meaning) is a type of non-permanent noun that indicates either time (ẓarf al-zamān) or place (ẓarf al-makān) of an action.

Ẓarf al-zamān (adverb of time) denotes when an action takes place. Examples include:



متى، كي، أيان، أمس، مه، منه، قط، عوض، قبل، بعد

(matā, kay, ayyān, ams, mah, minhu, qatt, 'iwaḍ, qabl, ba'd).

Zarf al-makān (adverb of place) denotes where an action takes place. Examples include:

صعد عمرو فوق (quddām, khalf, taḥt, fawq).

These adverbs are typically used in the idāfa (genitive) construction.

If the muḍāf ilayh (the second term of the genitive construction) is omitted, the adverb becomes mabnī (indeclinable).

If the muḍāf ilayh is explicitly stated, the adverb is mu'rab (declinable).

Example of mabnī (indeclinable):

صعد عمرو فوق

Amr climbed up.

Example of mu'rab (declinable):

صعد عمرو فوق الشجرة

Amr climbed up the tree.

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