

Origination of Tenses in English Language & their Cognitive Approach

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Abstract

This study cum research aims to understand the origination of tenses in English Language to make tenses the easiest thing to learn & execute. Having great understanding of tenses is considered one of the most important things in mastering any language but the way it has been taught and explained in English language is able to bring no splendid impact on learners and students. The students from rural background always keep themselves at safe side by saying that tenses have been taught to them for numerous times by many knowledgeable teachers but they could never understand it and relate with it in their practical day to day life conditions. The scenario of semi-urban and urban areas' students is also visibly different but conceptually resembling, as while using the reactive method through their writing or speaking they also do not use the appropriate tense or sentence structure as they have learnt it environmentally not by knowing the depth of each tense and their existence. In result maximum people fail to have precision and conciseness while exchanging their words in English. This rigorous research work aims to help millions of students and thousands of English teachers to understand the purpose of each tense and their existential connection with the feelings or thoughts which get conveyed with the help of a globally understood language.

Keywords: Tenses, origination of tenses, English language, names of tenses

Introduction

Tenses have always been introduced to students with their names, at times with their sentence making structure and sometimes with their Hindi symbols but they do not attempt to simplify the things as they are predestined to do. This is a very tedious procedure and is able to fetch no big impact, probably, this process is quite an important part of learning tenses in English but not having the methodology altogether.

An example can elucidate it very clearly. Whenever a person speaks something he basically doesn't directly speak, he first feels a thought within and then he takes the help of

any language i.e. English, French, Spanish, Hindi or Punjabi to convey his thoughts. This is likely to be called ‘think in the language which you are supposed to articulate’.

When a person wants to convey something regarding his future but he doesn’t like to be definite and detailed then he will simply use “Will/shall” in future but when the person wants to convey his thoughts with specifications and minutiae then he will use “Will be/ shall be”. The names of these tenses “future simple tense and future continuous tense respectively” and the structures of the tenses are not showing the most important difference between both the tenses of having specification & details and not having specification & details between the use of “Will/shall” & “Will be/ shall be” respectively. Conclusively, maximum people use “Will/shall” & “Will be/ shall be” subconsciously or they do not use helping verbs like “Will be/ shall be” at all because when they have to say things in future with less details and specifications then they use it in a sentence like, ‘I will eat lunch.’ and when they have to portray the future with more details and specifications then too they use it in a sentence like, ‘I will eat lunch with my friends at Delice hotel by 3 P.M.’. They do not use ‘will be/shall be’ in such sentences too, as they are not able to think that profoundly that if ‘will be/shall be’ originated specifically then it must have had a separate requirement. The same condition occurs with many other tenses as well e.g. Past perfect tense (Had+M.V.3rd form), Future perfect tense (Will/shall have+M.V.3rd form), Present perfect continuous (has been & have been+M.V.1st + ing), Past perfect continuous (had been+M.V.1st + ing), Future perfect continuous (Will/shall have been+M.V.1st + ing). These all above mentioned tenses and their helping verbs are mostly overlooked due to the lack of cognitive competence which maximum people do not manage to have when they speak something or talk about something.

Many tenses are overlooked by other tenses; here is a list of such tenses with their helping verbs and examples:

S.No.	Overlooked Tenses	Overlooked by
1.	Future continuous tense (Will/ shall be+ M.V.1 st + ing)	Future simple/ indefinite tense (Will/ shall + M.V.1 st)
<p>Future Simple Tense (it is for less specification and details) – He will speak English. He will speak English today in class before all the students. (Incorrect sentence)</p> <p>Future Continuous Tense (it is for more specification and details) – He will be speaking English today in class before all the students. (correct sentence)</p>		
2.	Past perfect tense (Had+M.V.3 rd form)	Past simple/ indefinite tense (M.V.2 nd form)
<p>Past Simple Tense (it is for less specification and details) – Shubhi is a girl of 5; she</p>		

<p>went to school to study.</p> <p>Diwyansh is 31 years old; he went to school to study. (incorrect sentence)</p> <p>Past Perfect Tense (it is for dead past or situation) – Diwyansh is 31 years old; he had gone to school to study. (correct sentence)</p>		
3.	<p>Future perfect tense (Will/shall have+M.V.3rd form)</p>	<p>Future simple/ indefinite tense (Will/shall +M.V.1st form)</p>
<p>Future Simple Tense (it is for less specification and details) – She will give you money. She will give you money before this Sunday. (incorrect sentence)</p> <p>Future Perfect Tense (it is for future assurance and accomplishment) – She will have given you money before this Sunday. (correct sentence)</p>		
4.	<p>Present perfect continuous (has been & have been+M.V.1st + ing)</p>	<p>Present continuous tense (is, are, am+M.V.1st + ing)</p>
<p>Present Continuous Tense (it is used for more specification and details but without duration) – I am teaching English to kids, adults and professionals. I am teaching English to kids, adults and professionals since 2009. (incorrect sentence)</p> <p>Present Perfect Continuous Tense (it is used for showing duration in present) – I have been teaching English to kids, adults and professionals since 2009. (correct sentence)</p>		
5.	<p>Past perfect continuous (had been+M.V.1st + ing)</p>	<p>Past continuous tense (was, were +M.V.1st + ing)</p>
<p>Past Continuous Tense (it is used for more specification and details but without duration) – I was talking to my friends about my career. I was talking to my friends about my career for 4 years. (incorrect sentence)</p> <p>Present Perfect Continuous Tense (it is used for showing duration in the past) – I had been talking to my friends about my career for 4 years. (correct sentence)</p>		
6.	<p>Future perfect continuous (Will/ shall have been+M.V.1st + ing)</p>	<p>Future continuous tense (Will/shall be+M.V.1st + ing)</p>

<p>Future Continuous Tense (it is used for more specification and details but without duration) – I will be giving my 100 percent in the presentation.</p>

I will be giving my 100 percent in life forever. (incorrect sentence)

<p>Present Perfect Continuous Tense (it is used for showing duration in future) – I will have been giving my 100 percent in life forever. (correct sentence)</p>

Every tense was made for a reason to convey every thought with great precision and conciseness, it should be taken into consideration that how the feelings are transmitted into words with the help of this global language.

Origination of tenses in the shadow of English Language:

Initially when a human would have thought to utter something because he had some thought which he wanted to express then he must have felt the existent need of some words, helping verbs as well as main verbs. At the outset, only three tenses would have been made to convey the thoughts into “present, past and future” and they would have been known as present simple, past simple and future simple.

Primarily everything was great and was able to be conveyed but when the need of more feelings and thoughts would have been arrived then three more tenses got bred as “present continuous, past continuous and future continuous” and due to the incompleteness of “present simple, past simple and future simple tenses”, they would have been called “present indefinite, past indefinite and future indefinite” as they all three were not able to define the thought and feelings properly. When it is beheld with the intellectual perspective it can clearly be perceived that when one has to convey his thought with less details and specification then only “present indefinite, past indefinite and future indefinite” are used but when someone has to express his thought with adequate details and specification then “present continuous, past continuous and future continuous” are used so they can also be named as “present specifying tense, past specifying tense and future specifying tense” or “present definite tense, past definite tense and future definite tense”.

Some examples to understand it deeper:

- I study English every day.
- I am studying English from 12 to 2 in noon with some of my friends.
- I visited the place last Sunday.
- I was visiting the place and it was drizzling so I was enjoying eating something spicy and hot.
- I will come to TILS Education to learn English.

- I will be coming to TILS Education to learn English with my siblings in 4 to 5 batch timing.

Similarly, all the feelings and thoughts with their linguistic symbol (helping verbs) are mentioned in the table below. This helps to think in the English language and it helps speakers to be fluent and writers to be precise. In tenses there are basically twelve feelings which get conveyed with twelve different types of helping verbs.

How do twelve thoughts get converted into twelve helping verbs (linguistic symbol)		
Feelings or thoughts		Language
1	Present with limited details and specification	Do/does + M.V.1 st form / M.V.1 st form
2	Past with limited details and specification	Did + M.V.1 st form / M.V.2 nd form
3	Future with limited details and specification	Will/shall + M.V.1 st form
4	Present with more specification and details	Is/are/am + M.V.'s ing form
5	Past with more specification and details	Was/ were + M.V.'s ing form
6	Future with more specification and details	Will/ shall be+ M.V.'s ing form
7	To describe recent activities & accomplishment of Present	Has / have + M.V.'s 3 rd form
8	To describe dead Past (situations and persons)	Had + M.V.'s 3 rd form
9	To describe Future assurance & accomplishments	Will/ shall have + M.V.'s 3 rd form
10	For Showing duration in Present	Has been/ have been + M.V.'s ing form
11	For Showing duration in Past	Had been + M.V.'s ing form
12	For Showing duration in Future	Will/ shall have been + M.V.'s ing form

When the feelings are clear in mind then such thoughts do not take much time to get conveyed. Allowing these feelings to be in mind and making the mind think the appropriate helping verbs according to the thought may result in several beginners learning tenses in a stress-free manner. This pattern of learning will also help English Language learners to be an eloquent speaker.

Understanding the appropriate names of each tense may help English Learners to be master at this global language:

The name of each tense should show the purpose of the tense as well		
Conventional names		Purpose based names
1	Present simple/indefinite tense	Present Indefinite tense <i>(Because it demonstrates present with limited</i>

		<i>details and specification)</i>
2	Past simple/indefinite tense	Past Indefinite tense <i>(Because it demonstrates past with limited details and specification)</i>
3	Future simple/indefinite tense	Future Indefinite tense <i>(Because it demonstrates future with limited details and specification)</i>
4	Present Continuous tense	Present Definite/ specifying tense <i>(Because it demonstrates present with more specification and details)</i>
5	Past Continuous tense	Past Definite/ specifying tense <i>(Because it demonstrates past with more specification and details)</i>
6	Future Continuous tense	Future Definite/ specifying tense <i>(Because it demonstrates future with more specification and details)</i>
7	Present Perfect tense	Present Accomplishing tense <i>(Because it demonstrates recent activities & accomplishment of Present)</i>
8	Past Perfect tense	Dead Past tense <i>(Because it demonstrates the dead past situations and persons)</i>
9	Future Perfect tense	Future Assuring/ Accomplishment tense <i>(Because it demonstrate to describe future assurance & accomplishments)</i>
10	Present Perfect Continuous tense	Present Durational tense <i>(Because it demonstrates duration in present)</i>
11	Past Perfect Continuous tense	Past Durational tense <i>(Because it demonstrates duration in past)</i>
12	Future Perfect Continuous tense	Future Durational tense <i>(Because it demonstrates duration in future)</i>

Cognitive approach helps to know one more important aspect of 3 tenses, conventionally known as Present Perfect Continuous Tense, Past Perfect Continuous Tense & Future Perfect Continuous Tense.

Present Perfect Continuous Tense or present durational tenses are assimilation of two tenses, Present continuous tense or Present Definite/ specifying tense and Present perfect or Present Accomplishing tense. E.g. if I am saying in one sentence that “I am teaching English.” and in another sentence “I have taught English many times.” then I can also say “I have been teaching English.”. Likewise it goes with Past Perfect Continuous Tense/ past

durational tense & Future Perfect Continuous/ future durational tense. Mechanical approach to learning tenses is nothing more than a hurdle but learning tenses by understanding their origination and purpose behind creating them with cognitive approach may create miraculous results. It can be a boon for millions of English Language learners and thousands of teachers who dedicate their life to teaching this global language.

References: Self authored