**Al-Mustansiriyah University**

**College of Arts**

**Translation Department**

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**CONTRASTIVE GRAMMAR**

**Fourth Year/ Morning & Evening Classes**

**Lecture # 4**

**Indirect Speech in English and Arabic**

Indirect Speech in English and Arabic

* Direct speech is a direct quotation of the speaker’s speech.
* Quotation marks are used.
* Verbs like said, told, etc. ,are used preceded by a comma:
* “I will resign”, said John.
* John said that he would resign.
* Indirect or reported speech triggers shifts in tense, pronouns, demonstratives, time and place adverbials word order and sentence types.
* (1)Tense backshift: is referred to as 'tense harmony' or 'the sequence of tense' rule. It is governed by the tense of the reporting verb. For example, if the reporting verb is in the past tense, the tense of the direct statement backshifts as follows:
* Present -------- past
* Past ----------- past perfect
* "I want to leave at seven", he said.
* He said he wanted to leave at seven.

If the time reference of the direct statement is still valid at the moment of reporting, the tense of the direct speech can be retained:

* The earth is round, said the teacher.
* The teacher told us that the earth is round.

(2) Pronoun shift: If the direct utterance has first person pronoun, this pronoun changes into third person

- "I need a pen", said John.

- he said that he needed a pen.

Second person pronoun shifts to first or third person, depending on the identity of the reporter:

* "you look tired", she said.
* She told me that I/ he looked tired.

(3) Demonstrative shift: the near demonstrative pronouns 'this' and 'these' change into the remote pronouns 'that ' and 'those', respectively:

- "This problem is worrisome", said he.

- He said that that problem was worrisome.

(4) Time / Place adverbial shifts: the following time and place adverbials shift in indirect speech:

Yesterday, now, here------ the day before, then (at that time), there

* "They arrived yesterday", said John.
* John told us that they had arrived the day before.

(5) Word order shift: subject-auxiliary inversion that occurs in direct questions is not retained in indirect speech:

- "Are they late? She asked.

- She asked if they were late.

(6) Sentence type shift: A direct imperative shifts to a declarative sentence

- "Leave the room!"

- He ordered me to leave the room.

* Arabic indirect speech
* Arabic indirect speech does not trigger tense backshift:
* سأسافر غداً.
* قال انه سيسافرُ غداً/ في اليوم التالي.
* The past tense is represented by using قال and still the main verb in the future, since no coincidence between the two verbs in one sentence( or no sequence).English has such sequence.
* The time adverbial غدا can be retained or changed into في اليوم التالي.English enforces the second alternative.
* Three differences between English and Arabic,what are these?
* Arabic indirect speech
* Since Arabic has no auxiliaries, the word order of the sentence does not change:
* ماذا تُريد؟
* سألني ماذا أريد.

For word order, Arabic questions have no auxiliaries; therefore, the word order of the direct utterance does not change:

* ماذا تريد؟
* - سالني ماذا اريد.

The demonstratve pronouns change from near forms to the distant ones:

* "لا اريد هذا القلم" قال الولد.
* قال الولد انه لا يريد ذلك القلم.
* Two differences are there?
* 1- no change in sentence word order
* 2- a change in sentence type
* Arabic indirect speech
* The demonstratives change from the near forms to the distant forms:
* ”لا أُريدُ هذا القلمَ“ قال الولدُ.
* قال الولدُ انه لا يريد ذلك القلمَ.
* English and Arabic are similar?
* contrast
* The major differences between English and Arabic are related to triggering backshifts shifts in tense and word order.
* Can you find more !