**Al-Mustansiriyah University**

**College of Arts**

**Translation Department**

**Asst. Prof. Ahmed Qadoury Abed, Ph D**

**CONTRASTIVE GRAMMAR**

**Fourth Year/ Morning & Evening Classes**

**Lecture # 7**

**Existential Sentences in English and Arabic**

* Existential sentences
* It brings the existence of a proposition to the hearer’s attention
* It has non-referential there or it
* There- constructions
* This type of sentences has two subjects (1)there and (2) the NP that follows the verb
* There is called grammatical subject
* The NP is the notional subject
* It has a textual function: to move the indefinite NP to the position following the verb ,for end focus .
* There-constructions
* indefinite NP
* indefinite NP +L comp
* predicate comp
* relative clause
* There + copula + indefinite NP+non-finite cl
* NP + infinitive
* L comp
* There + intransitive verb +indefinite NP
* Intransitive verbs
* A limited number of intransitive verbs can occur in existential sentences:
* Verbs of existence :exist, stand, lie, dwell
* Verbs of motion or direction: go, come, fly, walk
* Verbs denoting that something is developing or happening: happen, arise, occur, emerge, appear, take place
* It-constructions
* This empty it occurs in sentences denoting time, distance, weather ,and temperature:
* It’s ten o’clock.
* It’s 50 miles to Basrah.
* It’s snowing.
* It has a syntactic function in clefting to highlight a particular sentence constituent or extrapose a clausal subject:
* It is a letter that John wrote.
* It is a pleasant meeting you.
* Have-construction
* I have a brother working in London.
* We have five books missing from the library.

Instead of

* My brother works in London.
* Five books are missing from the library.
* Arabic existential sentences
* Arabic uses ثمةَ a prepositional phrase and هناك an adverb of place to form existential sentences:
* في الدار رجلٌ
* ثمةَ رجلٌ في الدار
* هناك رجلٌ في الدار
* يوجد رجلٌ في الدار (MSA)