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COURSE PAPER

Means of expressing futurity in the Modern English Language

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INTRODUCTION

The course paper is dedicated to considering and analysing means of expressing futurity in the Modern English Language. For the purpose of understanding the current nature of the language aspect, we will elaborate on the theoretical foundations of expressing the future and the linguistic means used to convey this tense. The exploration of this issue is carried out within the framework of linguistics and linguistic dynamics studies, where new approaches to the analysis of the ways of presenting futurity in language are noted.

The present state of the English language demonstrates the constant change of linguistic structures and functions, including those that are used to express the future action. Despite a number of scholarly works on this topic, we note that some points remain unrevealed, and this paper attempts to clarify them and expand the scope of the understanding. As it stands now, the choice of a particular utterance in relation to a certain future situation should not be based on an arbitrary set of rules, but on knowledge of certain shades of meaning and intentions that are embodied in certain constructions, structures and markers used by the speaker. The implementation of this research is **relevant**, since it contributes to a better understanding of linguistic evolution and the use of modern ways of communicating futurity in the given language from a lexical and grammatical perspectives, alongside with their pragmatic significance in real communicative situations.

Language always reflects the specifics of time perception and the transmission of information about some events, which makes it an essential part of the study – identification of the parameters that influence the choice of specific ways of expressing the future tense. Modality, verb mood, tense modifiers, as well as context and communicative situation play a crucial role in the choice of linguistic means.

The object of research is the category of the futurity and various linguistic mechanisms used to convey it in English.

The subject of research is the specific ways and forms through which the Modern English Language expresses futurity.

The primary goal of this paper is to explore and analyse how the notion of futurity is implemented in Modern English through particular means, and their functions in use.

The stated above goal implies the accomplishment of the following research **tasks**:

- to study the works of various scholars on the selected topic;
- to provide a theoretical foundation for the study of the futurity;
- to clarify the phenomenon of time as an objective category and tense as a lingual category, a deictic marker and a sentence constituent;
- to delve into a detailed investigation of linguistic elements and their functions related to futurity;
- to explore different linguistic components that play a role in expressing futurity;
- to show the differences and similarities between certain means of presenting futurity in modern English;
- to describe the ways of expressing the future in modern English;
- to give examples from the contemporary fiction where the ways of indicating the future tense are used.

Correspondingly, the following theoretical and practical research **methods** were used to fulfil the tasks outlined above:

- descriptive method, which makes it possible to characterise and evaluate linguistic factors;
- method of induction, which is based on drawing specific research conclusions from general data;
- method of deduction, which refers to a general theoretical approach to confirm the hypothesis based on the data obtained;
- functional method, which involves the study of language in action, in the process of working, given the purposeful nature of language units and phenomena in a particular discourse or speech context;

- method of distributional analysis, which examines language on the basis of the environment (distribution) of units in the text;
- method of pragmatic analysis, which involves processing the human dimensions of communication and how they interact with linguistic structures;
- theoretical analysis of the reference literature on the chosen topic.

The **novelty** of our research revolves around a detailed examination of innovative practices and new tendencies in investigating the ways of showing the future in the context of contemporary language and linguistic means. The approach to this study is also based on paying attention to the practical aspects of using different tense forms, constructions and expressions, including their semantics and usage in everyday speech.

The theoretical value of the research is that its results can be used in concomitant investigation of time parameter as well as in further studies on the use of language to express future events and concepts. Both perspectives can lead to a better understanding of time and reality presented in real conversations.

The practical value of the paper is that its description and conclusions about futurity can be readily integrated into the study of temporality and used in special linguistic courses in the University curriculum.

Structure of research: The course paper consists of introduction, two chapters, Conclusions to each of them, General conclusions, Résumé, Literature cited and the List of illustration materials.

Introduction provides brief information on the theoretical background, relevance and choice of the topic, indicates the main goal, theoretical and practical value of the research, as well as its primary tasks.

Chapter I “Theoretical basis for the study of the futurity and the linguistic means of its expression” discusses the fundamental notions in studying futurity and how it’s linguistically expressed, encompassing aspects like discursive features, deictic markers, time as a linguistic category, futurity as a time concept, and linguistic tools for indicating futurity.

Chapter II “Means of expressing futurity in English, their characteristics” covers a comprehensive overview of the grammatical resources, including the role of modal words, expressions, tenses, mood, etc. available in English for expressing futurity, and their different nuances of meaning. It provides insights into how future actions are conveyed in discourse and into various characteristics associated with them.

General Conclusions summarize the findings of the course paper and present the most significant theoretical and practical results.

The main achievements of the paper were presented in the abstracts and in the reports at the International scientific and practical conferences “Ad orbem per linguas. До світу через мови” (May 18-19, 2023, KNLU; May 16-17, 2024, KNLU).

CHAPTER I. THEORETICAL BASIS FOR THE STUDY OF THE FUTURITY AND THE LINGUISTIC MEANS OF ITS EXPRESSION

1.1. Discursive features of a sentence

When we speak or write, we use utterances to create something meaningful that will carry a certain message or information. For this purpose, speakers construct different types of sentences, whether they are questions, statements, commands, or exclamations. All of them have to be used in specific situations and with a certain **intention**. And when creating sentences, it is important to consider the **discursive features** that contribute to effective communication.

Zelentsova (2018) argues that one of the key discursive features of a sentence is its **informative value**. The informative value of a sentence refers to the amount of new information it conveys to the listener or reader. In order to create sentences with high informative value, speakers must carefully select the words and phrases they use. They must also consider the **context** in which the sentence will be used and the audience to whom it is addressed.

One way to increase the informative value of a sentence is to remove redundant or irrelevant information. This can be done by identifying and eliminating **discourse units (segments)** that are less informative, predictable, or otherwise unnecessary (Molina, Torres-Moreno, SanJuan, da Cunha & Sierra Martínez, 2013, p. 394). For example, the following sentence could be made more informative by removing the redundant phrase “*in order to*”, for example:

I visited my grandmother in order to find out how she was doing.

I visited my grandmother to find out how she was doing.

This segmentation breaks the sentence down into smaller, cohesive segments that carry distinct meaning or ideas. Accordingly, by carefully considering the informative value of sentences, speakers can create messages that are clear, concise, and effective.

1.2. Deictic markers indicating the situation of objective reality

Deixis is a linguistic phenomenon that involves the use of expressions whose interpretation is dependent on the context of the utterance. **Deictic markers** play a crucial role in indicating the situation of objective reality, specifically in relation to place, time, and person.

Person deixis involves encoding the role of participants in the speech event (Miftah, 2016, p. 28). This category is represented by pronouns such as first-person “*I*”, second-person “*you*”, and third person “*he/she/it*”. For example, “*I shall speak to her at once*” (Jane Austen, 2007, p. 39) refers to the speaker, “*You can now have nothing more to say*” (Jane Austen, 2007, p. 39) refers to the addressee, and “*He had not said a word the whole time*” (Lee, 2017, p. 174) refers to someone other than the speaker or addressee.

Spatial (place) deixis, on the other hand, relates to the relationship between space and the location of participants in a discourse (Miftah, 2016, p. 29). It is expressed through words like “*here*”, “*there*”, “*this*”, “*that*”, and phrases like “*at our place*” or “*out back*”. Additionally, McCaffery (1997) considers that spatial deixis involves deictic projection and psychological distance, where the speaker mentally or physically fixates on the location, demonstrated in phrases like “*I’ll be right here*” (Shaw, 2010, p. 197) or “*Don’t you know you’re not supposed to even touch the trees over there?*” (Lee, 2017, p. 38). These expressions require contextual information about the place of the utterance to be understood.

Temporal deixis refers to the reference of time relative to a temporal reference point, usually the moment of the utterance (Miftah, 2016, p. 30). Examples of temporal deixis markers include words like “*yesterday*”, “*tomorrow*”, “*today*”, “*tonight*”, “*next week*”, and “*last week*”. These markers, often used in combination with person deixis, create a sense of distance between the present and the projected event. For instance, the utterance “*I’ll come to dinner tomorrow night*” (Shaw, 2010, p. 115) suggests immediacy and urgency, while “*...he’ll be able to hunt again next year, ...*” (Shaw, 2010, p. 178) hints at a more flexible timeframe. These expressions rely on the knowledge of the relevant utterance time for interpretation.

Therefore, deixis plays an essential role in language by allowing speakers to refer to the situational context of their utterances. Person deixis involves the encoding of participants' roles, spatial deixis relates to the relationship between space and discourse participants, and temporal deixis refers to the reference of time relative to the moment of the utterance.

1.3. Time as an objective and a linguistic category

The **temporal aspect** has always played a critical role for the English language. Early mentioned deixis of time suggests that the ability to express the future, past, and present through tenses and temporal markers grants us remarkable linguistic tools to reimagine, reinterpret, and even transcend the linear constraints of objective time.

Objectively, time is a fundamental detail of our existence, providing a framework for measuring and organizing the sequence of events. **Linguistically**, time is represented through various grammatical and lexical markers that allow us to express future events in language. Modal verbs like “*will*” and “*shall*”, as well as temporal adverbs such as “*yesterday*” and “*in the future*”, are utilized to indicate past and future time reference. These **linguistic markers** enable effective communication about past-future intentions and predictions.

According to Aliyeva (2022, p. 122), understanding the functional-semantic field of temporality in linguistics presents theoretical and methodological dilemmas. The study of linguistic temporality, as explored by Plehutsa (2020, p. 174), highlights the basic features involved in expressing time linguistically. By examining the relationship between objective time and its linguistic representation, we can gain insights into the ways in which language allows us to navigate and communicate about particular time events.

Consequently, time functions as both an objective reality and a linguistic category when expressing time events in the Modern English Language. Objective time provides a reference point for temporal relations, while linguistic markers enable us to convey present, past or future intentions and predictions.

1.4. Futurity as a type of time deixis in a sentence

It is possible to understand that in the context of a sentence, **futurity** can be viewed as a kind of a deictic marker of time. It is a temporal location that is distinct from the present and the past. Futurity can be expressed in a variety of ways, including the use of tenses, modal verbs, and temporal adverbs.

Tenses are the most common way to express futurity in English. The future tense is used to refer to events that will happen after the present moment (De Brabanter, Kissine, & Sharifzadeh, 2014, p. 23). For example, the sentence “...*and you’ll go to Sunday school tomorrow*” (Montgomery, 2021, p. 73) expresses futurity by using the future tense of the verb “*to go*”.

Modal verbs can also be used to express futurity. Modal verbs express possibility, necessity, or permission. For example, the same sentence but with “*may*” “...*and you may go to Sunday school tomorrow*” expresses futurity by using the modal verb “*may*”.

Temporal adverbs can also be used to express futurity. Temporal adverbs indicate the time when an event will occur. For example, the sentence “...*and you’ll go to Sunday school tomorrow*” expresses futurity by using the temporal adverb “*tomorrow*”.

The specific way that futurity is expressed in a sentence can vary depending on the speaker’s **intent**. For example, the sentence “...*and you’ll go to Sunday school tomorrow*” expresses a more certain future event than the sentence “...*and you may go to Sunday school tomorrow*”. In this way, futurity is a complex concept that can be expressed in a variety of ways in English. By understanding the different ways that futurity can be shown, we can better understand the meaning of sentences and the speaker’s intent.

1.5. Linguistic means of denoting the futurity

Linguistic means of denoting future tense in the English language can be categorized into grammatical, lexical-grammatical, and lexical means. **Grammatical means** involve the use of constructions with “*will*” and the infinitive of the active or

passive voice, such as “*will* + Simple Infinitive”, “*will* + Continuous Infinitive”, “*will* + Perfect Infinitive”, and “*will* + Perfect Continuous Infinitive” (Кулѐзньова, 2010, с. 138). However, while the familiar “*will/shall* + *do*” constructions represent the traditional grammatical approach to future tense, the landscape of expressing futurity in English is far richer and more nuanced. Critics rightly point out the ambiguity of “*will*”, its overlap with modal verbs, and the existence of alternative constructions like “*be going to*” and “*be about to*” (Fries, 1927, p. 87). These constructions provide a systematic approach to understanding the future tense for learners who prefer a structural and visual explanation of this topic.

Lexical means include verbs with a futuristic orientation, such as “*intend*”, “*hope*”, “*decide*”, “*want*”, “*plan*”, etc. as well as **lexical and grammatical constructions** like “*to be to* + infinitive”, “*to be about to* + infinitive”, “*to be due to* + infinitive”, “*be on the point of* + gerund” and others (Кулѐзньова, 2010, с. 138). These means of expression infuse futurity with speaker intentionality and can be further divided into categories based on the speaker’s intention, actions that do not depend on the speaker’s will, and actions expressed through modal verbs.

Furthermore, lexical means for expressing time encompass words with **temporal semantics** including nouns: denoting periods of time like *second*, *minute*, and *night*; days of the week such as *Sunday* and *Wednesday*; months like *January* and *May*; seasons such as *summer* and *autumn*; and holidays like *Independence Day* (Бакуменко & Бондар, 2021, с. 105). Adjectives (*next*, *following*, etc.), adverbs (*tomorrow*, *soon*, etc.), and verbs/nouns with the “time” seme (*to remember*, *memory*) are also significant markers of futurity. Moreover, even prepositions can serve as indicators of futurity, notably “*in*”, indicate months or years (e.g., *Miss Stacy is going to give us examinations in June*) (Montgomery, 2021, p. 235) or convey a sense of duration (e.g., *...you’ll see in a minute*) (Lee, 2017, p. 136).

For future actions that depend on the speaker’s intention the construction “*will* + *do*” is used. When a decision about a future action is made before the moment of speech without a precise date, the construction “*to be going to do something*” is employed (Fries, 1927, p. 89). If the decision about a future action has a precisely

defined date in the near future, the construction “*to be doing something*” is used. On the other hand, when future actions do not depend on the speaker’s will or desire and indicate an objective course of events, the Present Simple tense is used.

Additionally, the use of modal verbs in combination with Simple or Continuous Infinitives of **semantic verbs** allows for the expression of future actions in terms of possibility, probability, ability, necessity, or lack of necessity (Mikuláš, 2016, p. 187). For example, “*My mother can clean it tomorrow*” expresses the possibility of *mother* doing it, while “*Anna must bring it in a few days*” conveys necessity, and “*Dan should submit it a little later*” implies a recommendation or suggestion.

So, understanding the intricate interplay of grammatical structures, lexical choices, and speakers’ intentionality enhances our knowledge of the nuanced manifestations of futurity within the Modern English language. Transcending the conventional “*will/shall*” paradigm empowers us to navigate the diverse linguistic framework of the future, choosing the most precise and efficient tools to convey our intended meaning.

Conclusions to Chapter I

The **discursive features** of a sentence play a crucial role in effective communication. The informative value of a sentence, achieved through careful word choice and consideration of context, allows speakers to convey their intended message clearly and concisely, ensuring effective **communication** with their audience. By eliminating redundant or irrelevant information, speakers can enhance the informative value of their sentences, creating messages that are impactful and easily understood.

Moreover, **deictic markers** in language are essential as well for indicating the situation of objective reality, particularly in terms of place, time, and person. **Person deixis** encodes the roles of participants in the speech event, **spatial deixis** relates to the relationship between space and discourse participants, and **temporal deixis** refers to the reference of time relative to the moment of the utterance. These markers provide important contextual information that helps in the interpretation and understanding of language.

In our research, we highlight the concept of **time** that serves as both an objective reality and a linguistic category in the English language. Objectively, time provides a framework for organizing and measuring the sequence of events. Linguistically, various grammatical and lexical markers are used to express past, present, and future time reference, enabling effective communication about temporal events. Understanding the relationship between objective time and its linguistic representation helps us navigate and communicate about time events in language.

Futurity in a sentence can be viewed as a kind of deictic marker of time, distinct from the present and the past. It can be expressed through various ways, including tenses, modal verbs, and temporal adverbs. The specific way futurity is denoted can vary depending on the speaker's intent, with different constructions conveying different levels of certainty or intentionality. Furthermore, the linguistic means of denoting futurity can be categorized into **grammatical**, **lexical** and **lexico-grammatical** means, each offering different nuances and options for expressing future actions. Understanding the diverse linguistic framework of futurity enhances our ability to convey precise and accurate meaning in English.

CHAPTER II. MEANS OF EXPRESSING FUTURITY IN ENGLISH, THEIR CHARACTERISTICS

2.1. Verbs and their role in modifying the futurity in English, their formal differences

While the concept of “future” might seem inherently linear and objective, its linguistic representation in English is quite peculiar. Verbs, as the generative nuclei of sentences, play a crucial role in modifying and shaping the connotations of futurity.

Beyond the traditional future tense, several verb categories significantly impact futurity. **Modal verbs** like “*will*”, “*may*”, and “*must*” express varying degrees of certainty, with “*will*” indicating a high degree of probability, “*may*” suggesting possibility, and “*must*” implying obligation or necessity in the future. Additionally, lexical items with the meaning of ‘intention’, such as **intentional verbs** like “*intend*”, “*plan*”, and “*decide*” introduce intentionality and premeditation into future actions, while verbs “*hope*” and “*wish*” convey less concrete desires or aspirations (Bybee & Pagliuca, 1987, p. 117). The choice of verb category, therefore, becomes critical in shaping the nature and certainty of the projected event.

Furthermore, modal verbs, as Larreya (2000, p. 118) highlights, add layers of nuance to futurity. “*Will*” typically expresses a neutral, predicted future, while “*shall*” can convey a sense of obligation, promise, or even threat, depending on the context (e. g. *I shall never forgive Gilbert Blythe*) (Montgomery, 2021, p. 105) – a steadfast decision, a solemn promise. The use of modals like “*could*” or “*might*” introduces a degree of uncertainty or possibility, suggesting a contingent or hypothetical future (e. g. *Yes, that might be better, as you’re as attractive as any of them, and Mr Bingley might like you best*) (Jane, 2007, p. 2). These modal distinctions, intertwined with the inherent semantics of the verb itself, create a rich tapestry of future-oriented meaning in English.

2.1.1. Tense forms to indicate futurity. The expression of futurity in Modern English is not limited to dedicated future tenses. Instead, a complex set of verb forms,

with their distinct temporal implications, contribute to the construction of future-oriented meaning.

The present simple tense, often used for scheduled events or established routines, can introduce a neutral, factual future. A sentence like “*The train leaves at 7:30 tomorrow morning*” refers to future events as fixed and certain. Bybee and Pagliuca (1987, p. 112) argue that this grammaticalization of the present for future reference reflects a historical shift towards a more objective representation of the future.

The present continuous tense, conversely, creates a sense of ongoing process or planned action into the future. A sentence like “*I’m leaving town this morning*” (Shaw, 2010, p. 82) suggests a future event that is actively in the works, with a focus on the ongoing nature of the preparation. This further highlights the dynamic interplay between tense and the speaker’s stance towards the future event (Toyota, 2015, p. 335).

The future simple tense, formed with “*will*” and the base verb, expresses a neutral, predicted future. A sentence like “...*you will see them all well married quite soon*” (Jane, 2007, p. 22) conveys a strong sense of certainty about the future event, without emphasizing intention or planning. This contrasts with **the future continuous tense**, formed with “*will be*” and the present participle, which focuses on the extended duration or ongoing nature of a future event. “*After all, people will be seeing us together all the time*” (Shaw, 2010, p. 283) suggests a future process that unfolds over a period of time.

In addition to these core tenses, **the future perfect forms** (“*I will have finished the project by noon*”) and **the future perfect continuous** (“*By the time she arrives at the party, we will have been waiting for two hours*”) express completed future actions or states, often emphasizing the prior completion of the event to another point in the future.

2.1.2. Sequence of tenses when conveying future actions from the perspective of the past. When narrating events from the past and projecting forward to future actions within that past timeframe, a specific sequence of tenses governs the

verb forms used (Бобир, 2010, с. 54). This phenomenon, known as “**Future-in-the-past**”, utilizes distinct verb structures to accurately express the temporal relationships between these past and future events.

The primary tools for future-in-the-past are “*would*” and “*was/were going to*”, often used interchangeably depending on subtle nuances. “*Would*” typically conveys a general intention or prediction (“...*I would never be interested in clothes*”) (Lee, 2017, p. 143), while “*was/were going to*” emphasizes a more concrete plan or arrangement (“*For a moment I thought he was going to hit me with one of his huge, club-like hands*”) (Shaw, 2010, p. 268). Moreover, **the past progressive tense** can also be utilized to convey this future-in-the-past perspective, emphasizing the continuing nature of preparations or arrangements for a future event at the past reference point (Cunha, 2023, p. 3). For example, “*We were expecting her out for a visit, but not so soon*” (Montgomery, 2021, p. 143) suggests an ongoing process in the past with a future outcome.

Additional complexity emerges when embedding direct or indirect speech within a past narrative context. When reporting someone’s words from the past that referred to their own future, “*would*” typically remains unchanged even within past tense contexts: “*He said he would expect me at ten-thirty and hung up*” (Shaw, 2010, p. 140). However, for embedded hypothetical statements, additional verb tense adjustments might be required to maintain temporal consistency.

It’s important to mention that sequence of tenses in these constructions extends beyond the main verb. Auxiliary verbs, modals, and other temporal expressions within the clause will also shift to past forms to maintain consistency with the past reference point (Brabanter, Kissine, & Sharifzadeh, 2014, p. 24). For example, instead of “*I had told Evelyn on the phone that I will get to Sag Harbor tomorrow.*”, the future-in-the-past construction would be “*I had told Evelyn on the phone that I would get to Sag Harbor the next day*” (Shaw, 2010, p. 390). All these rules can help English learners to enrich their understanding of the intricate structures that govern tense sequence in English grammar.

2.1.3. The Subjunctive mood in expressing a future action. The **Subjunctive mood** also offers intriguing ways to talk about future actions. It is a grammatical category of the verb that plays a crucial role in expressing modality, encompassing notions of possibility, obligation, and wish, while conveying the speaker's emotional and evaluative stance towards an event (Chubaryan, & Karapetyan, 2009, p. 209). Building upon the understanding of the Subjunctive as a **modality marker**, we explore its application in expressing future wishes. The standard rule applies the past Subjunctive of “*be*” and verbs, effectively creating counterfactual scenarios in the future (e. g., “*I wish my imagination was as good as yours*”) (Montgomery, 2021, p. 192). However, when the desired action truly lies in the future, the subjunctive of “*will*” (“*would*”) is employed (e. g., “*I wish Bob Ewell wouldn't chew tobacco*”) (Lee, 2017, p. 245).

The complexities arise when considering future subjunctive beyond these basic examples. The **subjunctives** of “*shall*” and “*will*” (“*should*” and “*would*” respectively) offer additional nuance, as seen in “*It is important that you should believe me*” or “*I wish you would believe me*” (Shaw, 2010, p. 204). The inclusion of future continuous (“*I wish my favourite team would be playing tomorrow*”) and future perfect (“*I wish I would have completed my term paper by Monday*”) further expands the expressive potential (Howard, 2012, p. 205). While some argue for the acceptability of the future perfect continuous (“*I wish Anna would have been working on this for 8 hours by tomorrow evening*”), the potential for logical incongruity necessitates careful consideration.

Subjunctives also play a vital role in **complex sentences**:

- **Subjunctive 1 (Present/Future Unreal):** Used in present/future presuppositions with doubtful realizations, it employs forms identical to the past and future continuous tenses (Guan, 2012, p. 171), e.g., “...*if I did fight him, I would be letting Atticus down*” (Lee, 2017, p. 87).
- **Subjunctive 2 (Past Unreal):** Employed in unreal conditions referring to the future or present, it takes forms identical to the past tenses (Guan, 2012, p. 172),

e.g., “*I wouldn’t want to be picked if I were an apple blossom*” (Montgomery, 2021, p. 55).

- **Subjunctive Problematic** (with *should* in British English and with a base form of the verb in American English): This form is used in subject and object clauses expressing necessity, suggestion, or desire (Guan, 2012, p. 172), e. g., “*she insisted that I (should) get out before the help started stirring about*” (see Shaw, 2010, p.190).

Consequently, the Subjunctive mood, with its diverse tense-aspect combinations and uses in complex sentences, offers a rich approach to expressing futurity in English, complementing the standard future tense constructions. Its mastery adds depth and flexibility to language, allowing for precise expression of wishes, hypothetical situations, and various modalities related to the future.

2.2. Modal elements in denoting the futurity in English

Studying **grammatical units** alongside future markers in the context of **communicative-based learning** enhances English learners’ ability to express future actions and events effectively. This integrated approach allows learners to grasp the modal elements used to denote futurity in English, enabling them to convey intentions and plans with precision in real communicative situations (Berezenko, Cherkhava, & Musiienko, 2022, p. 94). By linking the study of grammatical competence with future markers and modal elements, learners can develop a comprehensive understanding of expressing future events in English communication.

2.2.1. Modal words and expressions and their significance in denoting the futurity in English. At the lexical level, the meaning of modality is expressed by modal words and expressions which include “*maybe, perhaps, for sure, be about to*” and others. They reveal the author’s confidence or doubts and their subjective assessment of what is being reported. Syntactically, most of them function as a **parenthesis** that usually refers to the entire sentence (Різванли, 2021, с. 222). These elements, often categorized as modal verbs, modal adjectives, and modal adverbs, add depth and precision to our communication of future events.

Degrees of Certainty: Modal adjectives (“*possible*”, “*probable*”, “*certain*”) and modal words (“*possibly*”, “*definitely*”, “*surely*”) modulate the speaker’s confidence in a future event. For example, “*It is probable that he will spend very little of his time there in future*” (Jane, 2007, p. 56) indicates a tentative outlook, while “*...I shall certainly tell her how modest, economical and practical you are*” (Jane, 2007, p. 37) conveys strong conviction.

Degrees of Obligation: Modal adjectives like “*necessary*”, “*compulsory*”, and “*obligatory*”, and **modal words** (in foreign Grammars treated as **adverbs**) like “*necessarily*”, “*perhaps*”, and “*maybe*”, express the speaker’s stance on futurity and highlight varying degrees of future action required or expected (Berezenko, 2019, p. 85). For example, “*It’s necessary to submit my home assignment by Monday*” conveys a firm obligation, while “*Perhaps I’ll call on Sunday*” (Shaw, 2010, p. 83) suggests a more flexible approach.

Other Modal Expressions: Spoken English frequently employs informal expressions like “*for certain*”, “*for sure*”, and “*for definite*” to emphasize future events. “*The concert is for sure happening next week*” showcases strong certainty, while “*We’ll meet at the cafe tomorrow, for definite*” reinforces the commitment.

Modality with “be”: Apart from modal words, several expressions with “*be*”, in particular “*be to*”, “*be able to*”, “*be bound to*” and “*be about to*” directly express upcoming events with varying degrees of immediacy and planning (Kakzhanova, 2013, p. 2532). “*One way or another in the next year or two you’re bound to get married*” (Shaw, 2010, p. 83) implies a strong assertion regarding an inevitable occurrence in the future, while “*They are about to leave*” signifies an imminent event. Therefore, modal words and expressions significantly enrich the ways we express futurity in Modern English. By conveying diverse shades of certainty, obligation, and intention, these versatile tools provide flexibility and precision in communicating what lies ahead.

2.2.2. Modal verbs for expressing the future. As it was mentioned previously, there are two most used **modal verbs** in English – *will* and *shall*. These modal verbs

are employed with different nuances to express future events. Originally, “*will*” connoted the desire of the subject, while “*shall*” indicated an act that was due in accordance with the will of someone other than the subject of the verb. Both verbs inherently suggested the idea of **futurity**. The use of “*shall*” to indicate the will of the speaker was initially limited to the second and third persons and could not be used in the first person, as Germanic “*shall*” never indicated the will of the subject (Curme, 1913, p. 517). This distinction underscores the original force and usage of “*will*” and “*shall*” in denoting future actions, illustrating the historical and cultural dimensions that have shaped their functions in expressing futurity within the English language.

Furthermore, modal verbs such as “*will*” (*will not*), “*may*” (*may not*), “*might*” (*might not*), “*have to*” (*do not have to*), “*must*” (*must not*), “*should*” (*should not*), “*ought to*” (*ought not to*), and “*could*” (*could not*) play central roles in conveying various shades of futurity in English. “*Will*” is utilized to indicate a high degree of certainty regarding future events, while “*may*” and “*might*” are employed to express possibilities for future occurrences, with *may* hinting at greater likelihood (Brabanter, Kissine, & Sharifzadeh, 2014, p. 62): “*That may make me feel badly tomorrow, Josie*” (Montgomery, 2021, p. 263) versus “*I might be coming back to Washington in a few days*” (Shaw, 2010, p. 76). Additionally, “*must*”, “*have to*” and “*ought to*” emphasize strong obligation and convey the necessity of an action in the near future, while “*should*” and “*could*” suggest expectation or recommendation (Eide, 2019, p. 123): “*This ought to be a weekend to remember*” (Shaw, 2010, p. 19) or “*...Mr. Barry should take the girls in on the following Tuesday*” (Montgomery, 2021, p. 213).

Understanding the nuanced usage of these modal verbs in expressing futurity enhances the precision and clarity of **communication** regarding future events within the English language. These modal verbs reflect the intricate interplay between linguistic structures and semantic meanings.

2.3. Adverbs of time and their use to represent future actions in English

Adverbs of time play a crucial role in representing future actions in the Modern English Language. It is important to note that **adverbs** and modal words serve distinct

grammatical functions, with adverbs being dependent on the verb and providing properties of an action, while modal words modify the entire sentence and convey the speaker's attitude towards the situation (Berezenko, 2019, p. 85). In the context of expressing futurity, adverbs such as “*then*”, “*soon*”, “*tomorrow*”, “*next week/morning/day*”, “*later*”, “*tonight*”, and others are commonly employed to denote the timing and sequence of future events.

These words establish the **temporal framework** for upcoming actions, ranging from immediate (“*soon*”) to distant (“*next year*”). Consider how the adverb “*soon*” in “*You’ll hear s ... soon enough*” (Shaw, 2010, p. 20) suggests a sense of immediacy, while “*tomorrow*” in “*I’m going to London tomorrow*” (Jane, 2007, p. 85) points to a specific timeframe (Karlina, Hakim, & Chiani, 2022, p. 239). Similarly, “*later today*” implies a timeframe within the current day, while “*next week*” expands the timeframe further. These adverbs provide a flexible way to convey not just the certainty of a future event, but also its temporal location within the speaker’s conception of the future.

Moreover, adverbs of time can be combined with **modal verbs** to further enrich the expression of futurity. For instance, “*...I might later regret*” (Shaw, 2010, p. 286) combines the possibility expressed by “*might*” with the specific timeframe of “*later*”, adding a layer of detail to the future plan (Mehdi, & Jaradat, 2021, p. 95). These adverbs not only contribute to temporally locating future actions but also facilitate the precise articulation of the temporal aspects of events, thereby enriching the linguistic resources for expressing futurity in the English language.

Conclusions to Chapter II

The concept of “future” in English is far more subtle than a simple tense marker. Mastering **grammatical units** in conjunction with the study of future markers, including modal elements in denoting futurity in English, is essential for equipping students of English with the linguistic competence to effectively express future actions and events in real communicative settings.

Verbs play a pivotal role in shaping its meaning, not only through dedicated future tenses like “*will*” or “*shall*”, but also through verb categories like **modals** and

intentional verbs. Modals like “*may*” and “*must*” convey degrees of certainty and obligation, while verbs like “*intend*” and “*hope*” introduce intentionality and desire. Even tense forms like present simple and continuous contribute, expressing scheduled events, ongoing processes, and predicted outcomes. This intricate interplay of verbs and their forms allows speakers to navigate the complexities of the future with precise and subtle meaning.

It is necessary to remember that when describing the past and projecting into the future within that past timeframe, specific **sequence of tenses** is crucial for accurate expression. “**Future-in-the-past**” constructions use “*would*” for general intentions and “*was/were going to*” for concrete plans, with the past progressive emphasizing ongoing preparations. Incorporating speech within this context requires maintaining temporal consistency, even with “*would*” in **reported future actions**.

The Subjunctive mood offers another level of detail for expressing future actions. It conveys wishes, counterfactuals, and various modalities through diverse tense-aspect combinations and functions in complex sentences. Mastering these tools allows for precise communication of our thoughts and emotions regarding what lies ahead, both factual and desired.

Modal words and expressions, including modal verbs, modal adjectives, and modal adverbs, play a significant role in denoting futurity in English. They provide insight into the speaker’s confidence, doubts, obligations, and intentions regarding future events. Modal adjectives and adverbs modulate degrees of certainty and obligation, while expressions with “*be*” convey immediacy and planning. **Modal verbs** such as “*will*”, “*might*”, “*have to*”, “*should*”, “*ought to*”, “*could*”, etc. offer a range of possibilities for expressing futurity, including certainty, possibility, obligation, and recommendation.

Lastly, **adverbs of time** like “*soon*”, “*tomorrow*”, and “*next week*” add precise temporal context to future actions, ranging from immediate to distant. They can be used alone or combined with modal verbs like “*might*” to further improve the expression of futurity, adding detail to the speaker’s plans and conceptions of the future.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

In the field of linguistics, the ways of expressing time in the English language has been a topic of great interest for a long time. In this paper by analyzing the grammatical structures, verb forms, and contextual cues used to express futurity, we have aimed to uncover the intricacies of how the English language conveys future events and actions. As a result, there can be drawn the following conclusions:

1) The **discursive features** of a sentence play a crucial role in effective communication because they highlight the significance of the **informative value** of a sentence, emphasizing the need for speakers to carefully select words and phrases to convey new information to the audience. Removing redundant or irrelevant information can enhance the informative value, contributing to clear and meaningful communication. Moreover, **deictic markers**, including those related to person, place, and time, are essential for situating utterances within specific contexts. **Person deixis** involves encoding the roles of participants, while **spatial** and **temporal deixis** provide crucial contextual information about the location and time of the utterance, enabling accurate interpretation.

2) **Time** operates as both an objective reality and a linguistic construct, offering a framework for organizing events and expressing past and future intentions through grammatical and lexical markers. **Futurity**, as a type of time space in a sentence, reflects a distinct temporal location from the present and the past. English employs various linguistic means, including grammatical, lexical-grammatical, and lexical means, to denote futurity, encompassing constructions with modal verbs, temporal adverbs, and verbs with futuristic orientation.

3) Studying **grammatical units** in relation to the means of expressing futurity in Modern English is crucial for enhancing learners' communicative abilities. At this point, we can summarize that the communicative approach prioritizes interaction and language use for communication, underscoring the importance of understanding grammatical structures in conveying future actions and events.

The significance of **modal words**, expressions, and verbs in denoting futurity in the English language underscores the rich and diverse linguistic resources available for

articulating various shades of certainty, obligation, and intention regarding future events. **Modal verbs** such as “*will*”, “*may*”, “*must*” and others convey different degrees of certainty, while lexical verbs like “*intend*”, “*plan*”, etc. introduce intentionality into future actions. The choice of verb category crucially shapes the nature and certainty of the projected event, adding layers of nuance to futurity. **Modal adjectives** (“*possible*”, “*necessary*”, etc.) and **adverbs** (“*surely*”, “*maybe*”, etc.), along with informal expressions and modal verbs like “*will*”, “*shall*”, “*may*”, “*might*”, “*have to*”, “*must*”, “*should*”, “*could*” and “*ought to*” collectively contribute to conveying the speaker’s confidence or doubts, subjective assessments, and expectations pertaining to future actions.

Additionally, **modal expressions** with “*be*”, such as “*be to*”, “*be able to*”, “*be bound to*”, and “*be about to*”, directly convey upcoming events with varying degrees of immediacy and planning, further enriching the linguistic resources for expressing futurity in Modern English. These versatile linguistic tools not only add depth and precision to the communication of futurity but also reflect the historical, cultural, and syntactic dimensions that have shaped the usage and nuances of modal expressions and verbs in English. Understanding the complex usage of these modal elements enriches the expression of futurity, enhancing the clarity and accuracy of communication regarding future events within the English language.

4) Furthermore, a complex set of **tense forms**, including the present simple, present continuous, future simple, future continuous, future perfect, and future perfect continuous, contribute to the construction of future-oriented meaning, reflecting varying degrees of certainty, intention, and ongoing processes in the expression of futurity. Other than that, **the sequence of tenses** when conveying future actions from the perspective of the past, known as “Future-in-the-past”, and the application of the Subjunctive mood in expressing future actions provide English learners with a deeper understanding of the intricate English structures governed by the use of tense sequences and modal expressions.

5) Similarly important in expressing the future tense in English are **the adverbs of time**. These adverbs, such as “*then*”, “*soon*”, “*tomorrow*”, “*next week/morning/day*”,

“later”, and *“tonight”* provide not only the temporal location of future events but also convey the immediacy or distance of the event. When combined with modal verbs, adverbs of time further enhance the precision and clarity of expressing future plans in the Modern English language.

RÉSUMÉ

Курсова робота на тему “Means of expressing futurity in the Modern English Language” присвячена розгляду та аналізу способів вираження майбутності часу в сучасній англійській мові. Дослідження складається зі вступу, двох розділів, висновків до кожного з них, загальних висновків, резюме, списку використаної літератури та списку ілюстративних джерел.

У першому розділі “**Theoretical basis for the study of the futurity and the linguistic means of its expression**” («Теоретичні засади дослідження майбутності та мовних засобів її вираження») розглядаються фундаментальні поняття у вивченні майбутності та способів її мовного вираження, включаючи такі аспекти, як дискурсивні особливості, дейктичні маркери, час як лінгвістична категорія, майбутність як часовий концепт та мовні засоби для позначення майбутності.

Другий розділ “**Means of expressing futurity in English, their characteristics**” («Засоби вираження майбутності в англійській мові, їх характеристика») надає комплексний огляд граматичних засобів, включаючи роль модальних слів, виразів, часів, способів дієслова тощо, доступних в англійській мові для вираження майбутності, а також різні відтінки їхнього значення. У ньому дається уявлення про те, як англійська мова лінгвістично передає майбутні дії та різні характеристики, пов’язані з ними.

Ключові слова: дейктичні маркери, час, темпоральність, майбутність, модальні дієслова, інтенціональні дієслова, модальні слова, модальні вирази, спосіб дієслова.

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