



كلية : الآداب

القسم او الفرع : اللغة الإنجليزية

المرحلة: الثالثة

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اسم المادة باللغة العربية : النحو التركيب المتقدم

اسم المادة باللغة الإنكليزية : **Grammar**

اسم المحاضرة الخامسة باللغة العربية: الإشارة المحددة والعامّة

اسم المحاضرة الخامسة باللغة الإنكليزية: **Specific Reference vs. Generic Reference**

#### 4.16. Specific vs. Generic Reference

**Generic reference** is used to refer to something in general without making any specification to the type or class, whereas **specific reference** refers to a **particular** class or type of a given object, which is usually specified by the definite article. Consider the examples below:

- **The Bengal tiger** is very dangerous. (Specific Reference)
- **Tigers** are dangerous animals. (Generic Reference)
- **The Lebanese apples** are delicious.
- **Apples** are delicious.

Singular or plural, definite or indefinite can sometimes be used without change in the generic meaning, though plural definite occurs basically with nationality names, such as:

- The German is a good musician. (Singular & Definite (the): Generic Meaning)
- A German is a good musician. (Singular & Indefinite (a): Generic Meaning)
- The Germans are good musicians = **good musicians**. (Plural & Definite (the): Generic Meaning)
- Germans are good musicians. (Singular & Indefinite: Generic Meaning)

#### 4. 18. Nationality Words and Adjectives as Heads

There are two kinds of adjectives that can act as noun-phrase head with generic reference:

**(A). Plural Personal: National adjectives and specific adjectives function as subjects:**

- **The French** produce wine. (**The French people/ The French producers**)
- **The rich** helped many people. (**The rich people / The rich men**)

**(B). Singular non-personal Abstract:** Common abstract adjectives are used as subjects or objects:

- **The evil** ruined the society. (**The evil = the evil act/behavior**)
- **The bad** is harmful.