



كلية : الآداب
القسم او الفرع : اللغة الانكليزية
المرحلة: الثالثة
أستاذ المادة : أ.د. عبد شاحوذ خلف
اسم المادة باللغة العربية : الترجمة
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اسم المحاضرة الرابعة باللغة العربية: الإشارة المحددة بصيغة الجمع
اسم المحاضرة الرابعة باللغة الإنكليزية: Plural Definite Reference

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Chapter Two: Translation and Meaning

B- plural definite reference: (may have a collective or a distributive predicate);

- These books cost twenty dinners. هذه الكتب ثمنها عشرون ديناراً
- 'all the books' = predicate collective
- 'each book' = predicate distributive

NB: The definite article used with the plural is sometimes ambiguous in Arabic between specific and generic reference;

Examples:

- اختلف النقاد في معالجة هذه المسألة
- **In English, it is always specific, save when used with nationalities**
- The critics differ in dealing with this problem.
- The Germans in my class are hard working. (Specific)
- The Germans are hard working people. (Generic)

Chapter Two: Translation and Meaning

B- plural definite reference: (may have a collective or a distributive predicate);

- If the context does not make the reference clear, it is sometimes necessary to disambiguate these expressions by using an additional defining expression in translation:
- The critics differ in dealing with this point. (specific)
- اختلف هؤلاء النقاد في معالجة هذه المسألة
- When the generic reference is meant, this can be made clear by adding 'عامة'
- Critics differ in dealing with this point. (specific)
- يختلف النقاد عامة في معالجة هذه المسألة
- The dual number in Arabic has specific reference
- The (two) men came. جاء الرجلان

Chapter Two: Translation and Meaning

C- Indefinite Reference: indefinite expressions like;

- A boy ولد
- Some boys ولدان، اولاد
- Some believe it has no reference, others believe that such expressions may have specific or non-specific reference (attributive)

Examples:

- Every morning a sparrow comes to my balcony. (a certain sparrow, or the same sparrow)
- في كل صباح ياتي عصفور الى شرفتي
- In English, the indefinite reference is expressed by
- “a” with singular count nouns
- “zero article or some” with plural and non-count nouns
- In Arabic, the “zero article” is used with:
- The nominative ending (un) رجل
- The accusative ending (an) رجلا
- The genitive ending (in) رجل

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D- Generic Reference: expressions point to a class rather than an individual in the class;
(scholars deny that generic expressions have reference)

Examples:

- The fox is a cunning animal. (definite singular expression)
- A fox is a cunning animal. (indefinite singular expression)
- Foxes are cunning animals. (plural expressions with zero article)

- However, these expressions are not interchangeable in all contexts:

Examples:

- The fox is becoming extinct in this part of the country. (used collectively & distributively)
- Foxes are becoming extinct in this part of the country. (used collectively & distributively)
- *A fox is becoming extinct in this part of the country. (collective use excluded)

Chapter Two: Translation and Meaning

D- Generic Reference:

- In Arabic, generic reference is expressed by the use of a definite expression in the singular or in the plural:
- Examples;
- الثعلب حيوان مكر
- الثعالب حيوانات مكررة
- Can be used collectively & distributively
- اخذ الثعلب ينقرض في هذه المنطقة من البلاد
- اخذت الثعالب تنقرض في هذه المنطقة من البلاد