

The Sequence of Tense in Future Domain

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This study was an attempt to realize the temporal order or relations of situations in Persian what traditionally known as “the Sequence of Tense” (SOT). Research data are sentences of standard variety of Persian collected through a descriptive-analytic method, and on the basis of language intuition of the authors and some native speakers. Declerck's theory (1991a), together with particular semantics and pragmatics coming from Grice's conversation Maxims, helps provide proper hypothesis to answer research question of the present study. According to the hypothesis, subclause status is manifested in unmarked case by relative tense and in marked case by absolute tense. Investigating tense relations in future domain involves more aspects of the theory. All rules governing the extension of tense domains are also used in extending subdomains. In addition to indirect speech, the explanatory force of this analysis is visible in other kinds of complex sentences even independent ones following one another.

Key words: Absolute Tense, Relative Tense, Priority, Simultaneity, Posteriority.

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