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Faculty of arts and languages

Department of Translation

Module: Translation English/Arabic/English

Level: MCIL 2

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**TRANSLATING MODES OF NARRATION**

**Modes of Narration**

The mode of narration of a sentence can be either in direct speech or in indirect speech. Direct speech (also called ‘quoted speech’) refers to the use of the speaker’s exact words; it is written within inverted commas, as in:

He said to me, “I will travel to London tomorrow”. She replied, “I forgot to bring the assignment with me”.

Indirect speech does not require the use of inverted commas (quotation marks) and imposes some changes especially in verb tenses when the introductory verb is in the past.

He told me he would travel to London the following day.

She replied that she had forgotten to bring the assignment with her.

The following are examples of different types of speech acts and the way they are transferred from direct into indirect mode of narration in both Arabic and English.

1. **The act of requesting**

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| Direct: “Could you open the window?”, my mother said  Indirect 1: My mother asked me to open the window.  Indirect 2: My mother requested that I open the window. | قالت أمي: هل لك أن تفتح الشباك (النافذة) رجاء.  طلبت أمي أن أفتح الشباك (النافذة). |

1. **The act of suggesting**

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| Direct: “Why don’t you call her and say sorry ?” I asked him.  Indirect: I suggested that he should call her and say sorry.  Direct: “Let’s go outside”, my friend said.  Indirect 1: My friend suggested that we should go outside.  Indirect 2: My friend suggested going outside. | سألته: لم لا تتصل بها وتقول آسف.  اقترحت (بأن عليه) أن يتصل ويعتذر منها.  قال صديقي: دعنا نخرج.  اقترح صديقي أن نخرج, |

1. **The act of advising**

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| Direct: “The children had better go to bed early”, my mother said.  Indirect 1: My mother said that the children had better go to bed early.  Indirect 2 : My mother advised the children to go to bed early (the meaning is slightly different)  Direct: “Honey, you’d better not drink a lot of water while eating”, said my father.  Indirect 1: My father advised me not to drink a lot of water while eating.  Indirect 2: My father advised me that I should not drink a lot of water while eating. | قالت أمي: "يُفضل أن يذهب الأطفال إلى السرير مبكرا.  قالت أمي أته على الأطفال أن يذهبوا إلى السرير مبكرا.  نصحت أمي الأطفال أن يذهبوا إلى السرير مبكرا.  قال أبي: يُفضل ظالا تشرب الكثير من الماء أثناء الأكل، يا عزيزي.  نصحني أبي ألا أشرب الكثير من الماء أثناء الأكل.  نصحني أبي (بأنه ينبغي عليّ) ألا أشرب الكثير من الماء أثناء الأكل. |

1. **The act of exclaiming**

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| Direct: “What a wonderful idea it is”, said she.  Indirect 1: She exclaimed that it was a wonderful idea.  Indirect 2: She gave an exclamation of satisfaction. | قالت: يا لها من فكرة رائعة  تعجبت من روعة الفكرة.  أبدت إعجابها بالفكرة. |

**Exercise 1**: Change the following sentences to indirect speech, and then translate them into Arabic.

1. My father said to me: “We will have a party tomorrow”.

2. My teacher said to me: “Wood floats on water, but iron does not”.

3. “My brother usually gets up at 8 o’clock”, said my friend.

4. “Do not bring your kids with you to the party next week, please”, my sister said to me.

5. My close friend said to me: “I know this restaurant very well as I used to eat here”.

6. My mother said to me: “Do not put your elbow on the table, honey”.

7. “Could you please sign here?”, she said to me.

8. My teacher said to me: “Where did you spend your holiday last summer?”

**Exercise 2**: Translate the following sentences

1. طلب مني أخي الكبير ألا أتأخر في الليل لأن المدينة غير آمنة.
2. صرح رئيس الوزراء أن الحكومة ستشتري عددا من اللقاحات في عضون الأشهر القادمة.
3. أرادت أن تعرف فيما إذا كنت قد تخرجت من هذه الجامعة أم لا؟
4. طلب الطبيب من المريض أن يأخذ قسطا من الراحة وألا يقوم بأي مجهود.
5. قالت لي بصريح العبارة: لا تجلب معك أطفالك ثانية إلى شقتي، تصور.
6. أجاب قائلا: لن أسافر ثانية إلى هذه المدينة المزدحمة. صدقني لقد تعبت جدا في سفرتي هذه.

**Exercise 3** : Re-translate the following text taken from a short story titled مطر أسود (Black Rain) by Salam ‘Abud translated into English by Pragnell and Sadkhan (2011), by changing the modes of narration:

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| « It’s me, Muntasir », he answered with an invisible smile the traces of which were hidden by layers of grime, dust and soot that covered his face.  She replied in a voice tinged with happiness and tears:  “ I know they announced a ceasefire, and the war has come to an end. I heard that from our neighbours this morning. But I didn’t expect you to return so quickly. Am I dreaming?”  “The most important thing for me is that the war is over and you are here”, she repeated in a low voice. He didn’t hear what she said to him.”  “Don’t worry. I only want to see what’s going on in the street,” added Muntasir without turning to face her. | أجاب وهو يبتسم ابتسامة غير مرئية، أخفت معالمها طبقات الطين والتراب والسخام التي تغطي وجهه.   * منتصرᵎ حبيبيᵎ   ردّت بصوت يختلط فيه الفرح بالبكاء:   * أنا أدري أنهم أعلنوا وقف إطلاق النار، والحرب توقفت، سمعت هذا من الجيران صباح اليوم. ولكن ما كنت أتوقع أن ترجع بهذه السرعة، أأنا أحلم؟ * (( أهم شيء عندي هو الحرب انتهت، وأنت هنا)). كررت الأم ذلك بصوت خافت، ولم يسمع هو ما قالته. * أضاف منتصر من دون أن يلتفت إليها: أريد فقط أن أرى ما يجري في الشارع، لا تخافي |