

**A Syntactic- Semantic Study of Historical Present in *Zaynab*
Novel**

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Abstract

This study tackles the historical present from a syntactic and semantic points of view. Historical present, in general, is a vital step to be used in the literary works. In this study, the researcher selects '*Zaynab*' novel to be analyzed in terms of the historical present tense. By the end of the study, the researcher gives an answer to the following questions; Does Haykal employ the 'historical present' in his novel *Zaynab*?, does the use of the 'historical present' work as the other types of the present tense? This study aims to explore the use of the 'historical present' in Haykal's *Zaynab* novel and to clarify the idea that the use of 'historical present' does not work like the other types of the present tense. The study hypothesizes that Haykal makes a special use of the 'historical present' in his novel *Zaynab*. In addition, the use of 'historical present' does not work differently from the other types of the present tense. The researcher adopts two models to analyze the novel. They are: Abdu Alḥamyd's (2006) and Porter's (1989). The results of the study show that Haykal employs the historical present through his narrative to accomplish his intended purposes.

Key words: historical present, dramatize, tense switching, crystalize.

TRANSCRIPTION NOTES

The transcription of Arabic words has been done to the subsequent system:

1. Arabic Consonants are transcribed as follows:

'	أ	z	ز	q	ق
b	ب	S	س	k	ك
t	ت	sh	ش	l	ل
th	ث	ṣ	ص	m	م
j	ج	ḍ	ض	n	ن
ḥ	ح	ṭ	ط	h	ه
kh	خ	ẓ	ظ	w	و
d	د	ṣ	ع	y	ي
dh	ذ	gh	غ		
r	ر	f	ف		

2. Arabic Vowels are transcribed as follows:

Long Vowels

a:

ا

u:

و

i:

ي

Short Vowels

a

ا

u

و

i

ي

3. The *hamza* (') 'glottal stop' is not indicated in word-initial positions.

4. Case ending are fully indicated in the transcription of the text and the supporting instance, but are dropped in the transcription of Arabic names, book titles, and grammatical terms, (Rashid, 2012)

1. The Introduction**1.1 Preliminary Remarks**

In the literary works, historical present plays a crucial part via accomplishing the authors' wished-for purposes and intentions. In terms of the Arabic language, this type of present is employed to crystalize the vital actions which create the climatic points of the narrative. Moreover, historical present is used to start new paragraphs and chapters. Here, the researcher focuses on the central problems of this study through asking a number of questions: Does Haykal use the 'historical present' in his famous novel *Zaynab*? Does the use of the 'historical present' create a state of connection between the past and the present? Does the use of the 'historical present' work as the other types of the present tense?

The study aims at the following: Exploring the use of the 'historical present' in Haykal's novel *Zaynab*. Investigating the impact of using 'historical present' to make a sense of correlation between the past and the present. Clarifying the idea that the use of 'historical present' does not work like the other types of the present tense.

It is hypothesized that: Haykal makes a special use of the 'historical present' in his autobiographical novel *Zaynab*. By using the 'historical present', the writer constructs a sense of connection between the past and the present. The use of 'historical present' does not work differently from the other types of the present tense.

The steps to be followed in carrying out this study include the following: Giving the most possible comprehensive clarification of the concept of 'historical present' in Arabic. Adopting two models of analysis to be applied to the data. Analyzing the concept of 'historical present' in *Zaynab*. Providing statistical results of the frequency and the percentages of the occurrence of the 'historical present'. Drawing conclusions which depend on the results and the analysis of the study.

The present study will be limited: To study historical present syntactically and semantically. The data will be the Arabic novel *Zaynab*. This novel puts a heavy emphasis on events shifting from past to present and vice versa. Two models has been chosen which consists of Porter's (1989) for the analysis of the data semantically, and Abdu Alḥamyd's (2006) for the analysis of the data syntactically.

2. Theoretical Background

2.1 Preliminary Remarks

The study tackles numerous explanations of the historical present that are provided by the Arabic scholars like Altahānawy (1996), Fındrys (2014), çyād (1994), and many other scholars.

The researcher focuses on the association between the HP and the verbal clues. Among the most important verbal clues are the verbs, the adverbs, and the particles. The chapter sheds light on the semantic functions of the HP in Arabic language. The Arabic writers make use of the HP for several intended purposes like: catching the reader's eyes to the central events, expressing the events' renewal and their continuation, and highlighting the events' outcomes.

It is worth mentioning that many researchers select the HP to be the subject of their study. For examples: "*The Temporal Implication of the Present Tense in Al- Tawpah Sura*", Hedaya Naim from Middle East university, 2016, and "*Al zaman Alnaḥawy fy Alshıçr Aljāhily*", Laith Asaad Abdul Hamid from Mustansirya university, 2006, to mention but some of them.

2.2 The Historical Present in Terms of the Verbal Clues

The HP is called ḥıkāyat Al-ḥāl Al- māḍya (the re-telling of the past case) by some Arabic scholars like (Altahānawy, 1996, p.692 cited in Qudsy, 2012) who reports that 'Alḥıkāya' means "the re-telling of something." In addition, the meaning of 'ḥıkāyat al-ḥāl al- māḍya' indicates that what happened in the P tense is a reality in the present time.

It is worth-mentioning that in morphological terms, there exist three verb tenses in Arabic. These are the so-called *الفعل الماضي* (the past tense), frequently referred to in translation as perfect tense, *الفعل المضارع* (the present tense), frequently referred to in translation as the imperfect tense, and *فعل الأمر*, frequently referred to as the imperative tense, (Samy & Samy, 2014).

According to Findrys (2014, p.138), this usage is called the HP and he illustrates that when he says:

this employment is widespread in the narration in which it is called the historical present, the grammarians come across a special exquisiteness and magic in using this tense. They explain that the imperfect tense is more expressive or informative than the perfect tense.

As mentioned by çyād (1994), the HP adopts the technique of switching the forms. Furthermore, this switching provides the meaning with a sense of vitality "as if the occasion occurs immediately" (p.64). For example:

إنه يوم مشرق في عام ١٩٩٠، والذي يحاول أن يقرر من سيأخذ معه إلى معرض الكتاب.

1. Inahu yamun mushriq fy çãm 1990, wālidy yuḥāwl an yuqarır man saya'khudh maçahu 'lã maçraḍ Alkitāb.

(it is a bright day in 1990, my father tries to decide who will take with him to the book fair.)

Moreover, this usage is repeated frequently in the Holy Quran as in:

(والله الذي أرسل الرياح فتثير سحابا فسقناه إلى بلد ميت فأحيينا به الأرض بعد موتها كذلك النشور) (فاطر/٩).

2. (and It is Allāh who sent the winds, so that they raise up the clouds, and we derive them to a dead land, and revive therewith the earth after its death. As such (will be) the Resurrection) (Fāṭır/9).

In this Holy Verse, using the perfect tense 'sent' before the imperfect 'raise up' indicates that 'raise up' is an action relates to the HP tense. The HP tense here, is used instead of the perfect tense in order to increase the attractiveness and the vitality of the meaning, (çyād, 1994).

çyād (ibid), Altahānawy (1996), Ibn Al- Athyr (1971), Alsaywtı (1998) Findrys (2014), Alsakāky (1987), and Ḥadyd (2013) point out that the HP tense has its own characteristics and features which are summarized in the following points:

1. The form of this tense with the contextual effectiveness make the reader feel as if the action which took place in the P time occurs at the time of speaking.

2. By means of switching from the perfect tense to the HP tense, the narrator needs to evoke the event and to make it observable. Ibn Al-Athyr (1971, p.194) explains that:

The historical present tense clarifies the condition in which the incident is situated. Furthermore, the historical present evokes that picture and makes the reader/ listener notify and perceive it. However, this case does not exist in using the perfect tense.

3. When there is a shifting in the tense; as in the verb 'raise up' in the Holy verse (Fāṭir/9) , this reflects a case of astonishment, sparkle, and it reveals the God's ingenious capacity.
4. The context makes the HP tense stand for the perfect tense, for the reason that the coincidence of the imperfect with the perfect tense has a consequence. The consequence is that the two verbs take place in the same order.
5. The HP tense is employed in 'Alḥikāya' (the retelling) because the imperfect tense is more expressive and animated than the perfect tense. The HP makes the reader/ listener observe and feel the event. In addition, it makes that event exist over again. By using the HP, Findrys (2014, p.247) explains that "our thought goes back to the moment in which the conversation took place."

According to Rashyd (2008), the indication of the verb to a specific tense depends on its position within the sentence, in addition, the verb also depends on the clue *القرينة* which comes with it. Therefore, the reader has to recognize that the form *فعل* (faʿala) does not only refer to the perfect tense, and the form *يفعل* (yafʿal) does not only refer to the imperfect tense and the future; this is because of the clue's impact in changing the tense of the verb.

Rashyd (ibid) adds, since the tense of the sentence relies on the combination of the verbal clues, therefore; it has become unfeasible to talk about the tense devoid of a complete consideration of the clues and their significance in changing the tense of the verbs.

2.2.1 The Verbal Clues

According to Al- najār (2011), the term 'clue' (Al-qaryna) *القرينة* refers to the indicator which the reader depends on, therefore, he/she could discover the intention of the writer behind his writings. The clue is insignificant when it comes in isolation. However, this clue gains its importance when it comes with another word, for that, it assists the reader to know the meaning of the text.

Al- jirjāny (1983, p.174) explains that the clue means 'the sign' and 'the indication', by illustrating that it is "something refers to the required."

Al-najār (2011) demonstrates that the verbal clue (Al-qaryna Al-lafḍya) *القرينة اللفظية* is a part of speech that is employed in order to deduce the grammatical functions. Al-najar, in addition; illustrates that

the context frequently relies on more than one clue. Consequently, the meaning of the context becomes obvious to the reader.

According to çajyna (2014), the verbal clues are employed in order to construct the structure of the sentence in the approved manner. In the case when the writer neglects these clues in his/her literary writings, the meaning of the sentence would not be comprehensible. The HP is used to refer to the actions that are occurred in the P time, and this is done via using the verbal clues of the perfect tense.

Al-manşwry (1984) mentions that the verbs, the adverbs, and the particles are represented as an essential types of the verbal clues.

2.2.1.1 The Historical Present and the Verbs

As put by Aljirjāny (2003, p.137), the verb means "the word refers to a meaning that is associated with one of the three tenses (i.e. the perfect, the imperfect and the imperative tenses)."

Alzamakhshary (2000, p.319) explains that the verb indicates "an event that is connected to a tense."

1. الالتفات Al'ltifāt (The Tense Switching)

According to Alzarkashy (1983), the tense switching is a style that is employed by the author. Consequently, this would keep the reader away from feeling bored and monotony. This feeling (i.e. the sense of boring) is created by using the same style of writing during the narration.

çakāwy (2014) sheds light on the fact that the tense switching is also indulged in the semantics. This style is used extensively by the Arabs. The Arabs explain their employment of this style by saying that the reader accepts the text if it moves from one form to another, that is to say, from the perfect tense to the imperfect tense or vice versa.

Rashyd (2008) focuses on the notion that in the following example:

بنل اللاعبُ جهداً فيتقدم على بقية اللاعبين.

3. Badhala Allāçıbu juhd-an fayataqadam çlā baqyat Allāçıbyn.

(the player made an effort. So, he takes revenge on the rest of the players.)

The HP *فيتقدم* (takes revenge) is shifted from the perfect *تقدم* (took revenge) to the imperfect tense. The verbal clue (i.e. the perfect tense *بنل* that comes before the imperfect tense *فيتقدم*) assists the reader to be familiar with this fact, (Rashyd, *ibid*).

Sybawyh in his famous book *الكتاب Al kitāb* (cited in hārwn, 1988) clarifies that the imperfect can precede the perfect tense as well as the perfect can precede the imperfect tense. Accordingly, the two verbs turn out to be in the same tense. That is why in some dictionaries one might find such a translation to example (3)

(the player makes an effort. So, he takes revenge on the rest of the players.), where the two verbs turn out to be in the same tense, however, in example (4);

اعرف صدق أخي و سامحته على عمله.

4. Açırfu şıdqa akhy wa sâmahtahu çlâ çamalihı.

(I know the sincerity of my brother and I forgave him for his doing.)

The meaning of the imperfect tense *اعرف* shifts to be in the perfectiveness, since it come with the perfect tense *سامحته*. This example show that the imperfect tense here precedes the perfect tense as illustrated by hārwn (ibid).

2. The Imperfect Tense + *كان* kãna

Alsawyty (2011) sheds light on the fact that when the imperfect tense comes with *كان* (kãna), its tense is shifted to the progressive perfect tense. For instance:

كان النبي يوصي الناس بمعاملة الجار معاملةً جيدةً.

5. Kãna Alnaby yuşy Alnãsa bimuçãmalat Aljãr muçãmalat-an jayıdat-an.

(The prophet was recommending the people to treat the neighbor well.)

The verb *كان* which comes with the imperfect tense *يوصي* indicates that the action is continuous in the P time.

Alsawyty (ibid) adds, according to *امسى* *amsã*, *اصبح* *aşbaḥa*, *اضحى* *aḍḥã*, and *بات* *bãta*, the imperfect tense that comes with them refers to the discontinuous HP. Each one of them refers to a specific tense. That is to say, in the following example:

اصبح المطرُ يهطلُ كثيراً.

6. aşbaḥa Almaṭaru yaḥṭulu kathy-r-an.

(it was raining a lot.)

The perfect tense *أصبح* indicates that the action *يهطل* is happened at a particular time in the P (that is to say, at the morning).

3. (*كاد يفعل*) *kãda yafçl form (almost does)*

As mentioned by Abdu Alḥamyd (2006), the imperfect tense that comes with *كاد* (kãda) is shifted to the perfect which is nearby the moment of speaking, it is the imperfect tense in the form but the recent perfect in the meaning.

Abdu Alḥamyd (ibid) adds, in some cases, the particle *قد* (qad) could come with *كاد يفعل*. This occurs in order to conform the idea that the verb after *قد* is nearby the moment of speaking, (in the Arabic language, *qad*, *lam*, *lamã*, etc., are considered as particles). For example:

الشمسُ قد كادت تشرق.

7. Alshamsu qad kãdat tashruç.

(the sun is almost rising.)

2.2.1.2 The Historical Present and the Adverbs

Versteegh *et al.* (2006) state that the Arabic has several words that function exclusively as adverbs. In addition, a word with a basic nominal or adjectival function may be employed as an adverbial in certain syntactic contexts. Prepositional phrases naturally function as adverbials.

According to Alshāfiḡy (2012, p.52), the adverb is "a noun that refers to the place and the time (settings) in which the verb occurs." The adverb has the *في* (fy) meaning. There are two types of the adverbs; the adverb of place and the adverb of time, each one of them is either specified or unspecified .

Abdu Alḡamyd (2006) explains that there are many examples concerning the adverb like: *الدهر* Aldahr, *قبل* qabla, *أمس* ams, and *بين* bayna).

Alsawty (2011) provides the following example in terms of *بين*:

بينما تدرس جاء المعلم و بيده الكتاب.

8. Baynamā tadrus jāa' Almuḡalīm wa byadihi Alkitāb.

(while you were studying, the teacher came with the book in hand.)

The verb *تدرس* is in the imperfect tense form. In the above example, it comes after *بين* which switches its meaning from the imperfect to the HP tense.

2.2.1.3 The Historical Present and the Particles

1. 'Lam' *لم* or 'Lamā' *لما*

Fāris (1997) illustrates that when 'lam and lamā' come with the imperfect, they switch the meaning of the verb to the perfect tense. The difference between 'lam and lamā' is that 'lam' negates the action in the indefinite perfect tense, in addition; it shifts the meaning of the verb to the perfectiveness, for example:

لم يذهب زيد إلى المدرسة.

9. Lam yadhhab Zayd elā Almadrasa.

(Zaid hasn't gone to the school.)

Whereas 'lamā' comes only with the future tense and switches its meaning into the perfect. For example:

ذهبت إلى السوق ولما يذهب زيد بعد.

10. Dhahabtu elā Alswq wa lamā yadhhab Zayd baḡd.

(I went to the market and Zaid has not gone yet.), (Fāris, 1997).

The HP that is formed by the combination of 'lam' and the imperfect tense has the equivalent characteristics of the perfect tense. Therefore, the perfect comes after it in an usual form. Consequently, this would provide the reader the notion that this form (lam and the imperfect tense) has the meaning of the perfect tense, (Al-naḡās, 1979).

Al-maqdīsy (2010) points out that the imperfect tense that is negated by 'lam' could be discontinuous, as well as; continuous. While the imperfect which is negated by 'lamā' is continuous in its negation case until the moment of speaking. If someone says:

لم يحضر خالد.

11. Lam yaḥḍar Khalīd.

(Khālīd has not come).

This means that Khālīd has not attended till now.

While if someone says:

لما يحضر خالد.

12. Lamā yaḥḍar Khalīd.

(Khālīd has not come yet).

This means that either Khālīd has not been attended till now or that he has not attended at a specific point in the P time, then; he has been attended.

2. 'Law' لو and 'lamā' لما 'Alsharṭyatān' الشرطيتان

According to the Arabic scholar Sybawyh in his famous book *Al kitāb* (investigated and explained by (hārwn, 1988, p.167)), the verbal clue 'law' is used for "something that was going to happen because of the occurrence of something else". While the verbal clue 'lamā' is used for "something that was happened because of the occurrence of something else" (ibid, p.174), as in the following Holy verse in terms of 'lamā':

(فلما ذهب عن إبراهيم الروح وجاءته البشري يجادلنا في قوم لوط) (هود / ٧٤)

13. (When fear had passed from (the mind of) Abraham and the glad tidings had reached him, he pleads with us for Lu:ṭ's people) (Hu:d/74).

Alaṣṣāry (1999) illustrates that if the clue 'law' comes with the imperfect tense, it will change its tense to the perfectiveness, as a consequence; the imperfect would be considered as the HP. As in the example bellow:

لو تدرس جيدا لنجحت.

14. Law tadrus jayd-an lanagiḥta.

(If you study well, you will succeed.)

3. 'Rubamā' ربما

Almakhzwmy (1986) explains that the verbal clue 'ruba' رب transfers the imperfect to the recent perfect tense. As put by Alaṣṣāry (2006), when the particle 'mā' ما comes with 'ruba' رب, the former particle 'mā' will prepare 'ruba' to enter the phrasal verbs. Instance:

ربما تكره ما فيه الخير لك.

15. Rubamā takrah mā fyh Alkhayr laka.

(You may hate what is good for you.)

4. Qad Altaqlylya *قد التقليلية*

As stated by Abdu Alḥamyd (2006), the particle 'qad' is employed with the imperfect tense to indicate the pastness. Alṣaywṭy (2011, p.27) mentions 'qad Altaqlylya' in two examples:

"قد يصدق الكذوب."

16. Qad yaṣdaq Alkadhwb.

(The liar may ratify.)

And:

"قد يجود البخيل."

17. Qad yajwd Albakhyl.

(The miser may lavish.)

2.3 The Semantic Functions of the Historical Present

Depending on Alaqtash (2018), the writer makes use of the HP in order to shed light on the essential past events, accordingly; he/she would evoke the event in a way as if it is observable at the time of speaking. In the following Holy verse:

(و إذ أنجيناكم من آل فرعون يسومونكم سوء العذاب يذبحون أبناءكم ويستحيون نساءكم و في ذلكم بلاء من ربكم عظيم) (البقرة/ ٤٩).

18. (and (remember) when we preserved you from Fir'aun's (Pharaoh) people, who were afflicting you with a horrible torture, killing your sons and sparing your women, so therein was a mighty trial from your Lord) (Al-Baqarah/ 49).

Alaqtash explains that the verbs *يسومونكم yaswmwnakum*, *يذبحون yadhbaḥwn*, and *يستحيون yastahywn* are expressed by using the imperfect instead of the perfect tense. By employing the imperfect tense, the verb would depict the event as if it is accruing now. This happens for a purpose of bringing the torture scene to the reader's eyes.

çwyshy (2015) focuses on the fact that the traditional novel uses the usual technique (i.e. it express the past events by using the simple perfect tense, furthermore; it denotes the events that occurs at the moment of speaking by using the imperfect tense). So, it narrates the events in a straight tense line. çwyshy (ibid) adds that the modern novel always uses the opposite technique. The modern novel departs from the norm, it attempts to dislocate, twist, and scatter the fictional tense for aesthetic purposes. These purposes seek for the creativity. Moreover, they open the temporal possibilities of the plurality of voices, without the need to be committed to the idea of arranging the events in a steady manner. By using this technique, the writer provides himself/ herself the movement freedom.

Abdu Alḥamyd (2006) points out that the perfect tense can be used instead of the imperfect and vice versa. The writer uses the tense shifting for a rhetorical purpose which seeks for catching the reader's eyes. By using the HP instead of the simple P tense, the author

highlights and depicts the most important past events as if they are accruing currently. The author resorts to this technique in order to make his/her literary work more effective to the reader's mind.

According to Pabo (2013), the writer switches from one tense to another for an intended stylistic purpose. This switching makes the Arabic semantics more extensive; in addition, it gives a sense of flexibility to the Arabic language concerning the wished-for meaning. Pabo illustrates that changing the verb's form produces a change in the verb's meaning. Accordingly, the verbs exchange their connotations (i.e. the idea or the feeling that a word invokes in addition to its literal meaning). The tense switching is a choice of the language capacity, moreover; it cannot be considered as a violation to its rules. When the writer drifts away the ordinary structures, he/she would increase the artistic impact of the language.

3. Data Analysis and Methodology

3.1 Preliminary Remarks

In this section, the researcher provides an overview of the data which is represented by the Arabic novel *Zaynab*. Moreover, the researcher focuses on what accurately would be investigated in the above-mentioned novel. Then, she explains the methods (i.e. the qualitative and the quantitative) that are employed to accomplish the aims of the study. Furthermore, the main models that are employed to analyze the data syntactically and semantically are illustrated in details.

3.2 Data Collection

Zaynab novel is chosen to be analyzed in terms of the HP. It is worth mentioning that the researcher, at the beginning, wants to analyze all the acts and the scenes of the novel (which consists of 198 pages), but then she has found that by doing so, the study would be time and effort consuming. Additionally, the present section would be extremely bulky. Therefore, only 6 pages (2 from the beginning, 2 from the middle, and 2 from the end) from the novel has been selected to be analyzed with great inspection. The analysis of these pages will be a sample to show how the researcher is going to analyze the whole pages under investigation.

The researcher is going to use tables to analyzing the novel. Each table consists of 4 columns. Beginning from the left to the right, the first column shows the page number in which the text could be found in the original text of the novel. The second one consists of the line number of the text analyzed. The text under investigation is positioned in the third column. The fourth column contains the syntactic form of the HP and the semantic explanation beyond using this tense in the text. Finally, the researcher is going to present a table

involving the statistics and the percentages of the HPs' occurrences in the whole pages of the novel.

Since the approach of this study is linguistics, the researcher thinks that it is significant to provide an idea about the novelist and the novel specially for those who are not acquainted with literature and literary works. This section is going to crystalize the author's life, his literary works, his education, and the social life which has an effect on his writings. Besides, a summary about the novel is offered to be an assistant for the readers to be familiar with the main themes of the novel.

3.2.1 About the Author

Abu bakır (2012) illustrates that Muḥammad ḥusayn Haykal was a great debater, writer, journalist, historian, and one of the well-known politicians. He was born in كفر غنام (Kafr Ghannam), [Mansoura](#), [Al- Daqahliyah](#) in 1888. Haykal was from a rural Egyptian family which had some prestige and prosperity. When he was five years old, his father sent him to the كتاب القرية (kutāb alqarya). In this period, he learnt how to read and write. When he was seven years old, he went to القاهرة (Alqāhira) and he completed his primary and secondary studies there. In 1909, he graduated from the law school.

Abu bakır (ibid) enhances that in *Zainab* novel, Haykal was affected by means of his personal life in direct and indirect ways. The direct way appears in شخصية حامد (Hāmıd's character) which reflects the author's own life. The indirect way seems to be existed in شخصية زينب (Zaynab's character) which provides a direct reflection of his philosophy and beliefs.

3.2.2 Summary of the Novel 'Zaynab'

Semah (1974) sheds light on the fact that *Zainab* is considered the first modern Egyptian novel, published in 1914. The book portrays life in the Egyptian rural area and investigates the old-style romantic and married relations between men and women and the connections between the struggling cotton worker and plantation proprietor classes.

Allen (1995) focuses on the fact that the plot of the novel is relied on two principal points: Zaynab, an attractive peasant girl who works in the fields possessed via the father of the second principal point, ḥāmıd, a student in Cairo who returns to his parental home during the holidays and whose opinions look very much a reflection of Haykal's own. The two foci meet fleetingly in that Zaynab is one of the girls with whom Ḥāmıd flirts, however, nothing comes of this flirtation, and their stories are basically detached. To Ḥāmıd, Zaynab serves as support when he learns that his cousin, Azyza, with whom

he has been carrying on a kind of epistolary love matter, is to be married off to somebody else.

3.3 Methods of Research

In the current study, the HP is investigated in *Zaynab* novel. The researcher uses the qualitative and the quantitative methods. These two methods are employed here for the reason that describing the findings of the analyses in detail depends on the statistic results of the rates of the HPs' forms. Consequently, using these two methods provides precise results to accomplish the goals of this study.

After provoking the rates, the researcher would compare the results and assume which form of the HP is the predominant within the novel. The statistics of the investigation will be tabularized to measuring the rates in percentage, and count the number of the forms in a table. After arranging the statistic rates, the explanation of these rates, in addition; the finding of the analysis are debated.

3.4 Models of Analysis.

In this study, the researcher has adopted Abdu Alḥamyd's (2006) model for the syntactic approach. Concerning the semantic approach, the researcher has chosen Porter's (1989) model.

3.4.1 The Syntactic Model.

Depending on Abdu Alḥamyd (2006), the HP tense is created via using the verbs, the adverbs, and the particles. In terms of the verbs, there exist a number of cases such as using *الالتفات* Al'ltifāt (tense switching), *كان + الفعل المضارع* (kāna + the imperfect tense), and *صيغة كاد يفعل* (kāda yafʿal form). Concerning the adverbs, he states that by using the adverbs which provides the past tense, the reader would realize that this imperfect is an exceptional kind of the imperfect tenses because it refers to the past events.

Abdu Alḥamyd adds that this tense could be established via employing the particles. These particles include *لم + الفعل المضارع* (lam + the imperfect tense), *قد التقليلية* (qad Altaqlylyya), *لو و لما الشرطيتان* (law and lamā Alshartyatān), and *ربما* (rubamā), (see 3.2.1.3).

3.4.2.1.1 *الالتفات* Al'ltifāt (Tense Switching)

Abdu Alḥamyd (2006) states that the imperfect tense is used to refer to the perfectiveness. This is done if the imperfect is preceded or followed by the perfect tense. This case would create the so-called *حكاية الحال الماضية* hikāyat Al-ḥāl Al-māḍya (the re-telling of the past case).

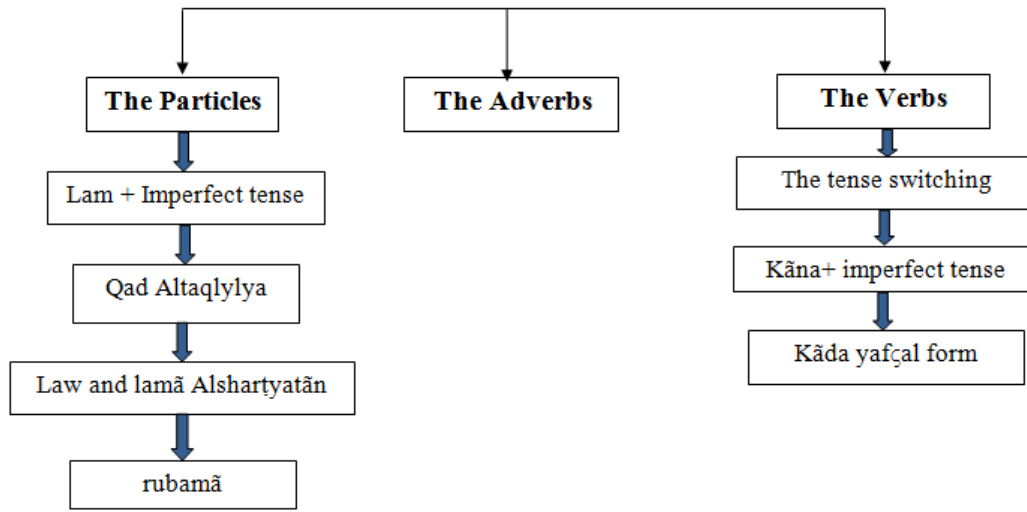
Example taken from *Zaynab* (1914):

"انساب الوقت هادنا وكل منهما يحس بالسعادة في وجوده إلى جانب الثاني."

1. Inṣāba alwaqtu hādī'an wa kulun minhumā yaḥīsu bialsāḡāda fy wijwdihī ilā jānīb althāny. (p.25)

(time flowed quietly and both of them feel happy in their presence next to each other.)

Figure (3.1): Abdu Alḥamyd's Model of Analysis



3.4.2.1 The Verbs

3.4.2.1.2 *كان + الفعل المضارع* (kāna + the imperfect tense)

Abdu Alḥamyd (2006) sheds light on the fact that *كان + الفعل المضارع* (kāna + the imperfect tense) is used to provide *حكاية الحال الماضية* ḥikāyat Al-ḥāl Al- māḍya (the re-telling of the past case). Example taken from *Zaynab* (1914):

" كان حامد ينظر في الفراغ الهائل أمامه "

1. Kāna ḥamīd yanẓur fy alfarāgh alhā'il amāmahu. (p.112)

(Hamid was looking at the huge emptiness in front of him.)

3.4.2.1.3 *صيغة كاد يفعل* (kāda yafḥal form)

As stated via Abdu Alḥamyd (2006), the imperfect tense that comes with *كاد* (kāda) is switched to the perfect which is close to the moment of speaking. So, the form is the imperfect tense but the meaning is the recent perfectiveness. Example taken from *Zaynab* (1914):

" قد كاد يقتعه بوجوب تزويج ابنه "

1. Qad kāda yaqnaḥuhu bīwjwb tazwyj ibnihi. (p.44)

(he had almost convinced him that his son should be married.)

3.4.2.2 The Adverbs

By using the adverbs (those of the perfect tense such as: *امس* ams, *بينما* Baynamā, *دهرا* dahr-an) with the imperfect tense, the imperfect would provide the past meaning, (Abdu Alḥamyd, 2006). Examples taken from *Zaynab* (1914):

" في تلك الساعة تصورت نفسها وهي ترفض ورأسها في السماء "

1. Fy tilka alsāḥa taṣawarat nafsahā wa hya tarfuḍ wa ra'sahā fy alsamā'. (p.40)

(at that time, she imagined herself where she refuses and her head is in the sky.)

3.4.2.3 The Particles

3.4.2.3.1 لم + الفعل المضارع (lam + the imperfect tense)

Abdu Alḥamyd (2006) explains that when 'lam' comes with the imperfect tense, this imperfect would provide the past meaning. Examples taken from *Zaynab* (1914):

" لم يستطع حامد أن يشاهد هؤلاء الأشخاص "

1. Lam yastaṭṭ ḥāmīd an yushāḥīd hā'ulā'a alashkhāṣ. (p.27)

(Hamed could not see these people.)

3.4.2.3.2 قد التقليلية (qad Altaqlylya)

Abdu Alḥamyd (ibid) illustrates that when قد التقليلية (qad Altaqlylya) comes with the imperfect tense, this imperfect is switched to the perfectiveness. An example is taken from *Zaynab* (1914):

" ولقد علاه الصمت حينما ذكر الغد وما قد يجيء به "

Wa laqad ṣalāhu alṣamt ḥynamā dhakara alghad wa mā qad yajy' bīhi. (p.38)

(and silence was raised when he remembered tomorrow and what might come with it.)

3.4.2.3.3 لو ولما الشرطيتان (law and lamā Alsharṭyatān)

Abdu Alḥamyd (2006) sheds light on the fact that if the clue 'law' or 'lamā' comes with the imperfect tense, it would switch its tense to the perfectiveness, as a result; the imperfect would be regarded as the HP. As is in the examples bellow:

لو يدرس أحمد جيدا لنجح.

1. Law yadrus Aḥmad jayd-an lanagaḥa.

(If Ahmed studies well, he will succeed.)

لما تذهب أذهب.

2. Lamā tadhhab adhhab.

(when you go, I will go.)

3.4.2.3.4 ربما (rubamā)

Abdu Alḥamyd (2006) states that 'ruba' رب transfers the imperfect tense to the recent perfect tense. Instances:

ربما يكره ما فيه الخير له.

1. Rubamā yakrah mā fyh Alkhayr lahu.

(he may hate what is good for him.)

3.4.3 The Semantic Model

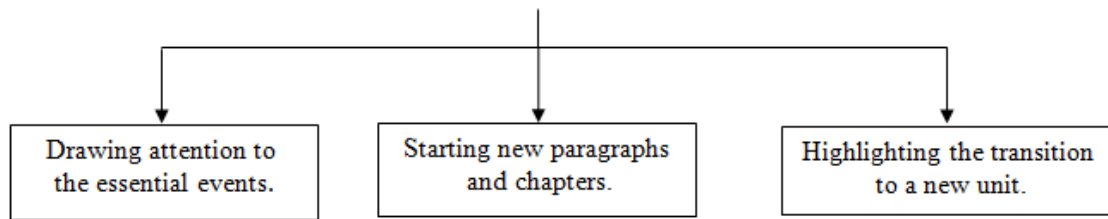
Concerning the semantic investigation, Porter (1989) would be considered as a model for investigating *Zaynab* novel. This depends on Porter's Verbal Aspect Theory. A brief description of "Verbal Aspect" is explained by Porter as:

a synthetic semantic category (realized in the forms of verbs) used of meaningful oppositions in a network of tense systems to

grammaticalize the author's reasoned subjective conception of a process (p.88).

As the present tense is a semantically more severely marked tense form, the author may use present forms in the beginning, in a transition, in a climax, or at any theme of the story to enhance emphasis or convey something vital to the front. Porter explains that the HP tense may take place "at those places where the author feels that he wishes to draw attention to an event or series of events." (p.196). Porter continues to write, this contains the opening of a paragraph, highlighting the transition to the innovative unit, frequently including location and members, actions nominated for exceptional significance like the climactic turning point, and dialogue regarded as special related to a conversation.

Figure (2.2): Porter's Model of Analysis



3.4.3.1 Drawing Attention to the Essential Events

Porter (1989) explains that the author makes use of the HP tense when he needs to catch the reader's eyes for the most vital events. Examples taken from *Zaynab* (1914):

"أحست به يمد يده يطوق بها خصرها ويجذبها نحوه"

1. aḥasat bihi yamıdu yadıhi yuṭawq khuṣrahā wa yajdhıbuḥā naḥwahu. (p.20)

(she felt him reach his hand around her waist and pull her towards him.)

Here, the focus is on the idea of starting the love between Ḥāmıd and Zaynab and how they start to enable each other of canceling the personal distance between them.

3.4.3.2 Starting New Paragraphs and Chapters

Porter (1989) focuses on the notion that the HP is used to initiate innovative paragraphs and chapters. The researcher infers that when the authors use the HP tense, this would maintain the intellectual communication of the readers in terms of the text's events. Moreover, by doing so, the readers would not be distracted by the separation of the paragraphs and the chapters. Examples taken from *Zaynab* (1914):

"ثم أحست برعشة تستولي عليها، ولم تعد ترى ما أمامها"

1. Thuma aḥasat biraçsha tastawly çalyhā, wa lam taçud tarā mā amāmihā. (the starting of the 5th paragraph, p.32)

(then she felt a shiver seize her, and she no longer saw what was in front of her.)

3.4.3.3 Highlighting the Transition to a New Unit

As put via Porter (1989), the HP is used to focus on the transition to a new unit (this includes members, themes, and locations). An example taken from *Zaynab* (1914):

" ولم يعد يرى في الجو المحيط به إلا ألماً "

1. wa lam yaçud yarã fy aljaw almuhyt bıhı 'lã alam-an. (p.189)

(he could no longer see anything but pain in the atmosphere around him.)

Haykal (the writer of *Zainab's* novel) employs the HP (i.e. the verb 'يعد') in order to introduce a new theme. This theme is represented by the idea that Hassan (i.e. Zainab's husband) was in a great pain that he no longer could feel anything. This occurs because of his wife's disease and her miserable condition.

4 Data Analysis and Findings

4.1 Preliminary Remarks

According to this section, the researcher analyzes the nominated novel (i.e. the Arabic one *Zaynab*). She investigates the HPs cases by using the two models (see 3.4), in which the syntactic and the semantic cases are accounted. After analyzing the (198) pages of the novel, the researcher puts the findings in a form of tables. Then, she discusses these findings discovering which are the most prominent syntactic and semantic cases of the HP used in the aforementioned novel.

4.2 The Analysis of *Zaynab* Novel.

Note: in the texts below, boldness is put for shedding light on the HP tense.

4.2.1.1 The Analysis of the First Two Pages

The subsequent table displays the investigation of the first two pages.

Table (4.1) Analysis of the First Two Pages

a. N.	i. N.	Text	Analysis
		كانت زينب "تمطى في مرقدھا" Kānat Zaynab tatamaṭā fy marqadıhā. (Zainab was stretching in her bed.)	Syntactically, the HP (i.e. the verb 'تمطى') comes in a form of كان + الفعل المضارع (was + the imperfect tense). Semantically, Haykal needs the readers to see and feel how Zaynab was comfortable in her sleeping to the degree that she does not have any willing for letting her bed. This occurs for the reason that she is surrounded by the wonderful rural nature. By doing so,

			Haykal crystalizes the beauty of his country.	
	6	<p>ولم تزد على هذا "الجواب كلمة" Wa lam tuzıd çalã hadhã aljawãb kalıma. (And she did not add a word to this answer.)</p>	<p>Syntactically, the HP (the verb 'تزد' is occurred in the form of <i>لم + الفعل المضارع</i> (did not+ the imperfect tense).</p> <p>Semantically, the HP initiates the 3rd paragraph of the page. Haykal uses the HP to shed light of the fact that Zaynab was not able to keep talking with her mother. She was in a deep sleep and she is still not fully waked up.</p>	
	0	<p>ما كاد يتخطى "يا عتبة الدار حتى نادى: "محمد" Mã kãda yatakhatã çutbat aldãr hatã nãdã: "yã Muḥamad". (He almost crossed the threshold of the house till he called: "Mohammad")</p>	<p>Syntactically, the HP (the verb 'يتخطى') occurs in the form of <i>كاد يفعل</i> kãda yafçal.</p> <p>Semantically, Haykal uses the HP to emphasize the idea that Zaynab's father was strict with his family in terms of the labor affairs. Once he entered the house, he asked about Muhammad and if he woke up or not in order to go to the work. In addition, the HP here starts the 1st paragraph of the mentioned page.</p>	
	0	5	<p>فلم ينس إبراهيم "أن ينبههم إلى أن هذه الجهة أغلت من سابقتها" Falam yansa ibrãhym an yunabıhahum ilã an hãdhihi aljiha aghlat min sãbiqatıhã. (Ibrahim did not forget to remind them that this side was more vital than the previous one.)</p>	<p>Syntactically, the HP (that is to say, the verb 'ينس') takes place in the form of <i>لم + الفعل المضارع</i> (did not+ the imperfect tense).</p> <p>Semantically, Haykal makes use of the HP tense to shed light on a specific idea. He wants to catch the readers' attention to the fact that Ibrahim was a good worker. He notices everything in the farm. Moreover, he gives his instructions to the other workers to develop the field.</p>
	0	8	<p>جاء الكاتب "ساعة العصر يقيد الأسماء" Jã'a alkãtıbu sãçat alçaşr yuqayd alasmã'. (the writer came in the afternoon to restrict the names.)</p>	<p>Syntactically, the HP (i.e. the verb 'يقيد') comes in the form of <i>الانتفات</i> Al'ıtıfãt (tense switching). The imperfect <i>يقيد</i> comes after the perfect tense <i>جاء</i>.</p> <p>Semantically, Haykal uses the HP to evoking the image of restricting the names to the readers' eyes. He wants to make the readers feel the image as if they were living it in its own time.</p>

4.2.1.2 The Analysis of the Middle Two Pages

The table below shows the analysis of the second two pages.

Table (4.2) Analysis of the Second Two Pages

a. N.	i. N.	Text	Analysis
03		استرق لحظة " اليريح راسه فيها Istarāqa laḥza ḥyuryḥa ra'sahu fyhā. (he stole a moment to rest his head in.)	Syntactically, the HP (i.e. the verb 'اليريح') is occurred in the form of الالتفات Al'ltfāt (tense switching). The imperfect يريح comes after the perfect tense استرق. Semantically, Haykal describes the way of sleeping which the boy (i.e. the one who was with ḥāmid) has. He stole a moment of sleeping to relaxing himself.
03		وجد ثانياً يؤنسه " Wajada thāny-an yu'nisahu. (he found someone joining him.)	Syntactically, the HP (i.e. the verb 'لؤنسه') comes in the form of الالتفات Al'ltfāt (tense switching). The imperfect يؤنسه occurs after the perfect tense وجد. Semantically, Haykal employs the HP to crystalizing the way in which ḥāmid's fear was disappeared. This occurs because in the night, he was not alone in the farm.
04	6	"البهتت" ثم " السماء مرة أخرى وكادت تغيب النجوم Thuma "bahutat" alsamā' mara ukhrā wa kādat taghybu alnujwm. (then, the sky "faded" again, and the stars were almost gone.)	Syntactically, the HP (the verb 'لتغيب') occurs in the form of كاد يفعل kāda yafʿal. Semantically, the author crystalizes the wonderful portrait of the stars' fading. This occurs with the time of the sunrise. Additionally, the HP starts the 7th paragraph of the page.

4.2.1.3 The Analysis of the Last Two Pages

Below is a table to show the analysis of the last two pages.

Table (4.3) Analysis of the Last Two Pages

a. N.	i. N.	Text	Analysis
94	4	فلم يستقر بها " المقام حتى جاءها السعال فقاتلا يكاد يخنقها Falam yastaqīru bihā almaqām ḥatā jā'hā alsuḥālu qātīl-an yakādu yakhnuquhā. (she did not settle down until a fatal cough came to her that almost	Syntactically, the HP (i.e. the verb 'لم + الفعل المضارع (لستقر') occurs in the form of (did not+ the imperfect tense). Semantically, Haykal sheds light on the image of Zaynab and how she was suffering from her disease. He wants the readers to feel her weakness and how she was coughing a lot because of the pulmonary tuberculosis.

		suffocated her.)	
94	5	كانت تصل إلى "القلب فتذره أسيرا مكبلا Kānat taşılı 'lā alqalb fatadharahu asyr-an mukabal-an. (she used to reach the heart and leave it as a shackled prisoner.)	Syntactically, the HP (i.e. the verb 'الفعل المضارع + كان' (اصل) occurs in the form of كان + alfiçlu almuđârîç (was + the imperfect tense). Semantically, Haykal describes the beauty of Zaynab. He wants the readers to see/feel how she was gorgeous before her disease to the extent that she used to reach the heart directly and effortlessly.
95		كان الموت "القريب ينتظرها Kāna almawtu alqaryb yantaziruhā. (the near death was waiting her.)	Syntactically, the HP (i.e. the verb 'الفعل + كان' (ينتظرها) occurs in the form of كان + alfiçlu almuđârîç (was + the imperfect tense). Semantically, Haykal uses the HP to emotionally prepare the readers to Zaynab's death. He wants the readers to start knowing the fact that the end will be tragic.
95	8	وعاودها السعال "الذي أصبح يشق صدرها Wa çāwadahā alsuçālu alladhy aşbaħa yashuqu şadrahā. (and her cough came back, which became cracking her chest.)	According to the syntactic point of view, the HP (i.e. the verb 'لشق' (يشق) takes place in the form of الالتفات / Al'tifāt (tense switching). The imperfect يشق comes after the perfect tense أصبح. In terms of the semantics, Haykal employs the HP to dramatize Zaynab's disease state. He wants to evoke the image of her coughing and how it cracks her chest. Furthermore, the HP starts here the 4th paragraph.

4.3 Findings and Discussions of *Zaynab* Novel.

The researcher would provide the findings of the investigation concerning the whole 198 pages of the novel. The findings would be presented in terms of the frequencies and percentages of occurrences for each case of the syntactic and the semantic models. The frequencies are measured by means of numbers; meanwhile, the rates are measured depending on the percentages. The researcher finds that syntactically (the cases of the verbs, the adverbs, and the particles), the total result of the cases of the HP in the whole pages is (1163). Semantically (i.e. the cases of drawing attention to essential events, highlighting the transition to a new unit, and starting new chapters or paragraphs), the total result of the HP's cases is (915).

Table (4.4) The Syntactic Results of the Verbs used in the Whole Novel

Verbs	Frequency	Percentage
Tense Switching	489	71.3%
Kāna + Imperfect Tense	162	23.6%
Kāda yafçal Form	34	4.9%
Total Results	685	100%

The above table displays the facts that tense switching takes the higher result since it increases the mental activity of the readers and improves the attractiveness of the text, it occurs (489 times, 71.3%) in the novel. The second higher result is taken by the form of *kāna* + imperfect tense because most of the novel's events are realistic while *Kāna*+ imperfect tense signifies an event that is anticipated to take place in the perfect tense (i.e. not realistic), it comes (162 times, 23.6%). *Kāda yafçal* form takes the lower position among the other forms of the verbs for the reason that it denotes the recent perfect tense; however, Zaynab's events (i.e. the prejudice of the workers and the depressed life of the deprived people) happen in the indefinite perfect tense not the recent one, it is occurred (only 34 times, 4.9%)

Table (4.5) The Syntactic Results of the Adverbs used in the Whole Novel

Adverbs	
Frequency	Percentage
75	6.4%

Table (4.5) shows that using the adverbs with the PT to convey the past meaning takes the lower position among the other ways of conveying the past meaning, it comes (only 75 times, 6.4%). This happens because Haykal makes use of the HP instead of the adverbs to increase the events' nearness and brightness.

Table (4.6) The Syntactic Results of the Particles used in the Whole Novel

Particles	Frequency	Percentage
Lam + Imperfect Tense	391	97.0%
Qad Altaqlylya	12	2.9%
Law and lamā Alsharṭyatān	0	0%
Rubamā	0	0%
Total Result	403	100%

With reference to table (4.6), 'lam' takes the higher result since 'lam' stands for three functions, it negates, gives the jussive mood, and alters the connotation of the verb from the imperfect to the perfect tense. Consequently, 'lam' has the prominence among the other particles because it has the effective influence of the above-mentioned three characteristics, it comes (391 times, 97.0%). 'Qad' altaqlylya comes (only 12 times, 2.9%) because it decreases the occurrence of the actions. The other particles (i.e. 'law' and 'lamā' alsharṭyatān and 'rubamā') do not occur in the whole novel (because 'law' and 'lamā'

alshartyatān have the form of the events' abstinence and frequently this does not occur in the literary works, since most of the events have been accomplished via the writer. 'Rubamā' symbolizes the recent perfect tense and this does not take place in the novel because it includes actions which happened a long time ago).

Table (4.7) The Semantic Cases used in the Whole Novel

The Semantic Case	Frequency	Percentage
Drawing the Attention to the Essential Events.	540	59.0%
Starting New Paragraphs and Chapters.	297	32.4 %
Highlighting the Transition to a New Unit.	78	8.5%
Total Result.	915	100%

Table (4.7) clarifies that using the HP to draw the attention to the crucial events takes the higher result (540 times, 59.0%) because using the HP tense would evoke the P events, make the readers astonished, and increase their attentiveness to the events. According to the usage of the HP to initiate innovative paragraphs and chapters, it takes the second higher result (297 times, 32.4%); subsequently, this would save the readers' intellectual communication and avoid the mental distraction because of the chapters'/paragraphs' parting or separation. Using the HP to crystalize the transition to new units take the lower result (78 times, 8.5%) because the novel does not involve a lot of transitions to new units.

5 Conclusions

The researcher would enlighten the most essential conclusions with reference to the questions and the hypotheses of the study. According to the question '*does Haykal use the 'historical present' in his famous novel 'Zaynab' ?*', the researcher finds that Haykal makes use of the HP tense significantly in his famous novel. This is based on the fact that the HP's syntactic cases occur in the (198) pages of the novel about (1163 times). On the other hand, from the semantic point of view, the HPs come about (915 times) to achieve the author's aims and wished- for meanings. This would verify the hypothesis which claims that (*Haykal makes a special use of the 'historical present' in his autobiographical novel Zaynab*).

In terms of the question '*Does the use of the 'Historical Present' create a state of connection between the past and the present?*', the researcher realizes that the HP works to make a connection between

the past and the present, this occurs because when the author uses the HP, he/she would evoke the P events and make the readers feel as if they are watching them in their own time. In addition, the HP tense works to dramatize and crystalize the past events and make them observable to the readers. This would verify the hypothesis which states that *'By using the 'historical present', the writer constructs a sense of connection between the past and the present'*.

Concerning the question (*Does the use of the 'historical present' work as the other types of the present tense?*), this study has proved that this type of imperfect tense is a special one. The HP does not work like the other usual types of the imperfect tense. This occurs for the reason that it deals with the past events, it does not work with those which take place in the immediate time. By employing the HP tense, the authors make the readers feel as if they are watching the past events in its own time. This would refute the hypothesis which claims that (*the use of 'historical present' does not work differently from the other types of the present tense*).

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