CHAPTER 18

Simultaneity with a Reference Point in the Future

Introductory Remarks

Situations that are simultaneous with a reference point in the future are, as their counterparts with past and present time reference, incompatible with perfectivity, punctuality and telicness (rules 1 and 4). There are two or, in subordinate clauses, three reference points: *I will be writing the letter tomorrow at six o’clock*. The first reference point is the speech time, the second one the adverb phrase *tomorrow at six o’clock*. *He says that he will be writing the letter tomorrow at six o’clock*. The first reference point is the speech time, the second one the main clause, that is identical with the speech time, and the third one the adverb phrase *tomorrow at six o’clock*. Within the restrictions outlined above (chapt. 7), the verb forms may orientate themselves by the speech time or by the third reference point in the future; in the former case they are specified as posterior and imperfective (if aspectual) or simply posterior (if temporal), in the latter case as imperfective or simultaneous. The category under investigation allows to draw conclusions about the classification of the applied verb forms as aspectual or temporal. If two different verb forms are used to express posteriority to the speech time and simultaneity with a reference point in the future, these two forms are aspectual; if only one verb form is used for both intenta, this form has to be regarded as temporal.

18.1 Main and Subordinate Clauses

Simultaneity in the future is designated by a future form of kān—the most common form is bykūn, but raḥykūn is also used—and ʿamyiqtul or, with states and movements, the AP. The verb forms thus orientate themselves by the speech time:

**punctual**

a. bukra s-sǟʼa tnāš bkūn ʿambiṇrub xayyi
   ‘At 12 o’clock tomorrow, I will be thrashing my brother.’ (punctual > complex)

1 cf. Feghali, Syn., 68, 100f.
telic
b. huwwe s-sâ’a tnâš bykûn ‘amyidfun kalbu
   ‘At 12 o’clock he will be interring his dog.’ (telic > atelic)

atelic
c. il-’isbû’ iż-żây b-naft il-wa’t hayda bkûn ‘ambištîgil ’ana ‘ind il-xabbâz
   (Text v, 3)
   ‘This time next week, I will be working at the baker’s.’

complex
d. bukra s-sâ’a tnâš ṭahykûn ‘ambydi’ ‘al-bâb
   ‘At 12 o’clock tomorrow, he will be knocking at the door.’

stative
e. wêñ ‘inta s-sini ż-żâyi b-hal-wa’t ?—is-sini ż-żâyi mitl hal-wa’t bkûn ‘ana
   ‘âyîš b-maṣr
   ‘Where will you be this time next year?—This time next year, I will be
   living in Egypt.’

Substitution Test

bykûn byiqtul is rated as ungrammatical. With resultative verbs, bykûn
‘amyiqtul designates the event and bykûn AP the state:

f. šu baddak ta’mal bukra s-sâ’a sitti ?—bukra s-sâ’a sitti bkûn nâyim biż-
   žnayni
   ‘What will you do at six o’clock tomorrow?—At six o’clock tomorrow, I
   will be sleeping in the garden.’

bkûn ‘ambrnâm means that I will be falling asleep at six o’clock.

Stative situations like to be afraid of, to wonder, to think, to hate etc. do nor-
normally not make much sense when described as progressing in the future, and
consequently bykûn ‘amyiqtul is not accepted with most stative verbs.

With some verbs of motion, ‘amyiqtul describes the beginning of the move-
ment, the AP its middle phase:

g. bukra s-sâ’a sitti bkûn nâzîl / ‘ambinzal ‘al-baḥr
   ‘At six o’clock tomorrow, I will be on my way down to / will be setting off
   for the sea.’