

Gk 101 – Introduction to Greek and Hebrew

Verbals

October 10, 2014

Person and Number

- In Greek, verbs will always agree with their subjects in:
 - Person **1st, 2nd, or 3rd person**
 - Number **Singular, or Plural**

Tense – more than just time ...

- In English time is the important factor in tense – giving us PAST, PRESENT, and a FUTURE tense.
- In Greek aspect is the more critical than time in understanding tense – Tense includes meanings for both time, and ASPECT.

***Do NOT confuse Tense and Time.
Tense is a form of the verb!***

Aspect includes 3 states

1. The **CONTINUOUS** aspect describes an action as ongoing
2. The **UNDEFINED** aspect tells us nothing of the kind of action
3. The **PERFECTIVE** aspect describes an action that was brought to completion but has effects felt in the speakers present.

There are 5 Tenses in Greek

***The KEY is to see the combination
of aspect and time conveyed by
each tense.***

*There are 5 Tenses in Greek**

Tense	Time (<i>Normally</i>)	Aspect
Present	present	Continuous
Future	future	Undefined
Imperfect	past	Continuous
Aorist	past	undefined
Perfect	Completed <i>effects felt in present</i>	Perfective <i>(undefined and continuous)</i>

The PRESENT INDICATIVE

- The ***present indicative*** describes an action that generally occurs in the present. Note, the word generally is important.
- The present can convey any form of undefined or continuous action, which at times make translation hard and interpretive. I.e., Phil. 1:15 (ESV vs NASB)

The FUTURE INDICATIVE

- The **future indicative** describes an action that will occur in the future (predictive.) 1 Tim 4:1 (esv)

Futures are generally translated with a simple form (undefined aspect) “will fall away” rather than “will be falling away”

Two Past Tenses

(Imperfect and Aorist Indicative)

- Greek has two tenses that indicate past time. The difference between the two is aspect
- The ***Imperfect Indicative*** describes a continuous action that normally occurs in the past (progressive, durative) Mark 1:21

Two Past Tenses

(Imperfect and Aorist Indicative)

- Greek has two tenses that indicate past time. The difference between the two is aspect
- The **Aorist Indicative** tense describes an undefined action that normally occurs in the past (constative) Mark 1:4

Two Past Tenses

(Imperfect and Aorist Indicative)

- The distinction between the **aorist** and the **imperfect** can be important for exegesis. Look at how the ESV translates John 19:3 compared to the NET or NIV.

How often did the soldiers approach and strike Jesus? Only once?

Perfect Indicative

- The Greek ***perfect indicative*** describes an action that was brought to completion and whose effects are felt in the present from the standpoint of the speaker. Because it is described as completed this action is normally viewed as occurring in the past.

Perfect Indicative

- *Jesus died* would be a simple statement of an event in the past and would be in the aorist.
- *Jesus has died* we would expect the verse to continue by spelling out the present significance of the past action. Mark 9:13 (NIV – NLT)

Moods - Indicative

- A verb that is in the indicative describes something that is, as opposed to something that might be, or something that ought to be.

Statements, questions, and even lies are in the indicative.

1 Tim 2:7, Rom 3:31

Non Indicatives – its all aspect

- Once you are out of the indicative, the verbal system has no time significance – It is all out aspect:
 - Verbal forms built on present tense indicate a continuous action
 - Verbal forms built on aorist tense indicate an undefined action.
 - Verbal forms built on the perfect tense indicate a completed action with continuing effects

Subjunctive

- The subjunctive is one step removed from reality, so it is appropriate for :
 - purpose statements (*purpose*)
1 Tim 5:7
 - “if” clauses (*conditionals*)
2 Tim 2:21

Imperative

- The basic function of the imperative is to state a command.
1 Tim 4:7
- In Greek there are both 2nd and 3rd person imperatives which will require the translation to be idiomatic as there is no 3rd person English imperative!

The present continuous imperative

- This can be difficult to bring out –
 - 1 Tim 3:10
 - 1 Tim 6:20
 - Matt 6:10

Infinitive

- **The Infinitive can complete the thought of the verb (complementary)**

– **Matt 4:17**

– **1 Time 1:15**

Participle

- **As a verbal adjective a participle can function :**
 - **Adjectively**
 - As a normal adjective (attributive)
 - As a noun (substantively)
 - **Adverbally**

1 Tim 3:15 ; 1 Tim 1:12; 1 Tim 113

The Middle Voice . . .

- **Greek has three voices:**
 - Active – The subject is doing the action
 - Passive – The action is happening to the subject
 - In the middle voice it still means the subject does the action of the verb **BUT** in some way the subject is emphasized in the action of the verb.

Summary

- **Tense – NOT necessarily about when.**
- **Moods**
- **Voices**