oral revelations which proved of great use in understanding their genuine difficulties.

Chapter 4

4. The Notion of Tenses in English and Marathi

**Tenses in English:**

4.1 *Tenses in English (The conventional View):*

The conventional grammarians hold that there are three main tenses viz the present, the past and the future. Tenses have ever been related with the time of action or event. Wren and Martin (2008: 68-71) state that verb may refer to present, past, future time and point out that sometimes a past tense may express future time as in ‘I wish, I knew the answer’ (Past Tense used to indicate present); let’s wait till he comes,
The present, past, future tenses, as the duo authors mention, have four forms viz simple, continuous, perfect, and perfect continuous. They define a tense as that form of a verb which shows the time and the state of an action or an event. By the time and the state of an action they mean the completeness, or incompleteness of that action at the time of speaking. They further describe with multiple examples the uses of various forms of tenses.

4.1.1 Classification of Verbs: Thomson A.J. and Martinet A V classify verbs under two heads: the auxiliary and the ordinary verbs (1969:57). They further classify the verbs as regular and irregular ones on the basis of their formation of the simple past tense and participle. They divide tense into three types as present, past, future and also caution that verb form without ‘to’ is used in the simple present tense with or without addition of – S, depending on the person.

4.1.2 The Simple Past: The simple past tense of all the regular verbs, according to Thomson and Martinet is formed by adding – d or -ed to the infinitive irrespective of the person's e.g. work-worked. They make it clear that in irregular verbs the simple past forms are not formed by adding -d or –ed but vary completely and need to be learnt by heart for example: - speak, spoke; eat, ate; write, wrote
4.1.3 The Future: The future tense, they state, is formed with shall + infinitive (without to) for the first person and will + infinitive (Without to) for the other persons.

4.1.4 The Uses of Auxiliaries: The authors give a list of auxiliary verbs and further state that ‘they (the auxiliary verbs) help to form tenses.’ (Thomson and Martinet 1969:59). They also give the other use of auxiliaries in indicating possibilities, permission, ability, obligations etc.

4.1.5 Forms of the Present and the Past: Thomson and Martinet further subdivide the present and the past tenses into the simple, the progressive, the perfect, and the perfect continuous forms, as shown below.

‘I work’, ‘I worked.’
‘I am working’ ‘I was working’
‘I have worked’ ‘I had worked’
‘I have been working’ ‘I had been working’

4.1.6 Future: The duo authors consider the future tense as a separate tense and state that, ‘the future tense is formed with shall / will + infinitive (without to) for first person singular and plural, and will+ infinitive (without to) for the other persons.’ (Thomson 1969:121)

Thomson and Martinet thus consider future as a separate tense and also mention that ‘this tense is not used nearly so often as students
naturally expect (Thomson and Martinet 1969: 118.) They point out in all 6 methods of expressing the future as shown below.

- By using the simple present
- The present continuous
- The - going to form
- The future tense,
- The future continuous and
- The future perfect tense.

The conventional grammarians consider the past, present, and future as three distinct tenses while the modern grammarians take into account only past and present as the tense forms and do not consider future as a separate tense since it could be expressed by using various alternatives.

It would be appropriate at this juncture to take a review of some of the modern grammarians with regards to their significant contributions to the modern notion of tenses.

4.2 The Modern Approach:

F.R Palmer, Randolph Quirk, R. A Close, Fredrick T. wood, Knud Schibsbye, and M.L Tickoo are prominent among the modern grammarians.

4.2.1 F.R Palmer (1974:36) discards the traditional explanations of tenses in terms of present, past, and future. He categorizes the verbs
into the main and auxiliary types, and further treats ‘Be’, ‘Have,’ and ‘Do’ as the primary auxiliaries which function within the ‘primary system of verb phrases.’ A phrase of this kind, Palmer states, “consists of one full verb followed by upto three (including none) of the forms of the primary auxiliaries.” (Palmer 1974:30). He gives a set of the basic paradigms that comprise the primary pattern of the simple verb phrase, and further states that ‘further paradigms may be set up by taking into account:

(i) The different forms associated with number and person and
(ii) The forms used in negation, inversion etc…

The pattern, in his opinion, is basic to the English verb in that extensions are possible by the addition (with the appropriate morphological changes) of modals or catenatives. This primary pattern, he believes, forms a coherent system and is amply justified by its grammatical function. He advises to analyze complex sentence like ‘He kept asking her to help him get it finished’ in terms of the semantic and syntactic characteristics of the main verbs ‘keep, Ask, help, and get.’(Palmer 1974:32.)

Palmer gives sixteen forms in basic paradigm of the primary pattern and further divides them into two sets of eight in four different ways, with a caution that only 14 of the sixteen forms can be ‘positively accepted. (p.33). He then classifies the forms in terms of tenses, present, past, and states in clear words that “There is no place for a future tense”.’(Palmer 1974 : 34.)
In his opinion the forms further could be classified in terms of aspects, progressive and non-progressive; in terms of phase, perfect or non-perfect. The perfect forms, he opines, contain a form of HAVE followed always by an – en form. Palmer points out the superficial resemblance between the passive voice and the perfect, and then clarifies that the place of – en forms in the perfect is always last. He thus brings out the structural difference between the two.

Palmer thus gives a detailed analysis of various verb forms that could be used to describe an event or an action in terms of time, duration and completeness. The progressive, he opines, indicates an activity continuing through a period of time – activity with duration, while the non-progressive merely reports an activity without any indication of its duration. Two examples that he gives would make the things clear. ‘He walked to the station’ simply provides with information but ‘He was walking to the station.’ clearly indicates that the act had a duration. The progressive thus draws attention to the durational aspect.

Palmer further points out that the present non-perfect refers to a period of time in the present – a period that includes both past and future time but overlaps the present moment. The past non-perfect, he opines, refers to a similar time in the past, which may overlap an indicated point of time in the past; it does not extend to the present. Regarding the perfect forms he states that they indicate period of time that specifically began before and continued up to (possibly overlapping) a point of time in the
present moment in the case of the present tenses, and a point of time in the past in case of the past of tense.

Palmer clearly discards the use of auxiliaries ‘WILL’ and ‘SHALL’ as the markers of future tense in English. He asserts that many of the other verbal forms may refer to the future and clarifies that WILL and SHALL are not the only ways of referring to future time. He gives four quite common constructions as shown below to refer to the future time.

- I am giving a paper next Wednesday.
- I give my paper next Wednesday.
- I am going to give a paper next Wednesday.
- I shall give a paper next Wednesday.

The auxiliary ‘WILL’ in his opinion, does not refer to the future at all; it may indicate probabilities as in ‘that will be the postman’ or may refer to habitual activities as ‘she will sit for hours watching television’. Palmer further points out that even when ‘will’ refers to the future it may suggest not merely futurity but willingness also as in ‘Will you come?’. He also draws attention to the fact that other modal auxiliaries like can, may must, ought, could also be used to refer to the future with additional reference to ability, probability etc….

Palmer’s approach could be treated as the modern one as it gives detailed analysis of verb-forms to be used in various situations with reference to time completeness, and of an action or an event. He is of the opinion that full verbs and auxiliaries belong to a larger class (verb).
(Palmer 1974:40) and further points outs that ‘double’ tense marking is possible in some situations like ‘John is coming tomorrow,’ where is refers to the present, **coming** to the future with collocation with tomorrow. He terms this as the ‘epistemic’ time marking.

Tenses according to Palmer, have three distinct functions, first to mark purely temporal relations of past and present time, secondly in the sequence of tenses that is mainly relevant for reported speech, and thirdly to mark ‘unreality’, particularly in conditional clauses and wishes. The present time for him is any period of time that includes the present moment, it includes ‘all time’ as in: ‘The Sun rises in the East’. ‘Water boils at 100 degree Centigrade.’ Past time, Palmer states excludes the present moment.

The adverbials play an important role in determining the appropriate use of tenses. Palmer groups the adverbial that are used with tenses under four heads (Palmer 1974:44.)

- The adverbials that may be used with past tense only e.g. last week, yesterday, last year, a long time ago.
- The adverbials that may be used with present tense only e.g. now, at this moment, at the present time etc.
- Those that may be used with either, though the period of time to which they refer includes the present moment e.g. today, this week, this year etc….as in ‘He was working today.’ And ‘He’s’ working today.
The adverbials that indicate past or present time according to the time at which the utterance is made, and for this reason may be used with past or present forms. The examples that Palmer gives are this morning, this afternoon, and this summer. This morning is present if it is still morning, but past if the morning is over. In the afternoon this morning will appear with past tense forms.

Most of the traditional grammars treat ‘will’ and ‘shall’ as the markers of future tense but Palmer asserts that ‘English has no future tense.’ At the same time he makes it clear that ‘there are respects in which ‘will’ and ‘shall’ are ‘tense like’ in that they sometimes function more like the primary auxiliaries than the modals (Palmer 1974:104-16.) Highlighting the role of adverbials in indicating future time he says that reference to future time is clearly shown by collocation with future time adverbials, as in,

- It will rain tomorrow.
- We shall see them next week.
- The letters will arrive in a few days.

Palmer thus shows with many examples that most of the auxiliaries, including shall, will, could be used more like a full verb.

- When he is older, he will be able to lift a hundred weight.
- He can’t lift a hundred weight.
- Can you pass the salt?
- You may go.
- The flowers may be red or blue.

Palmer thus gives a detailed analysis of various verb forms and their uses, indicating the time aspect.

**4.2.2** Randolph Quirk et al (1973:40) consider time as a ‘universal non-linguistic concept with three divisions: present, past, and future. Tense, for him is the correspondence between the form of the verb and the concept of time. He opines that ‘there is no obvious future tense in English corresponding to the time / tense relation for present and future’. (Quirk et al 1973:47.)

‘Aspect’, in Quirk’s opinion, concerns the manner in which the verbal action is experienced or regarded (as completed or in progress); while ‘mood’ relates the verbal actions to such conditions as certainty, obligation, necessity, and possibility. He considers the expression of time, present and past, as closely inseparable from aspect; and the expression of future closely related with ‘mood.’ In Quirk’s (1973: 41- 42) opinion there are three basic types of present:

(a) Timeless present expressed with the simple present form as in ‘I always write with a special pen.’

(b) Limited present expressed with the present progressive as in:

Normally he leaves in London but at present he is living in Boston.
Present progressive is generally used to show an action in progress and of limited duration. But as Quirk points out it can also be used of a habitual action as in: ‘He is always writing with a special pen, just because he likes to be different.’

(C) Instantaneous present; expressed with either the simple or the Progressive form as in:

- Watch carefully now: first I write with my ordinary pen; now I write with a special pen.
- As you see, I am dropping the stone into the water.

Randolph Quirk looks at an action in the past in two distinct ways.

(i) As having taken place at a particular point of time.

(ii) As having taken place over a period which further could be seen as extending up to the present or relating only to the past. The latter action, Quirk cautions, could be viewed as having been completed or not having been completed.

Quirk associates the perfective aspect with time-orientation and also with various time indicators like lately, since, and so far. He gives several examples to show how adverbials with simple past could be used to a period now past and adverbials with present perfect could refer to a period beginning in the past and stretching up to the present. He gives examples of adverbials with simple past that refer to period now past.

- I worked yesterday evening.
- I worked throughout January.
- I worked on Tuesday.

Below are the examples of adverbials with present perfect that refer to a period beginning in the past stretching upto the present.
- I have worked since last January.
- I have worked up to now.
- I have worked lately.
- I have worked already.

According to Quirk, the progressive used either with the present or past, specifies the limited duration of an action; and the perfect progressive expresses jointly the limited duration or incompleteness and current relevance (Quirk et al 1973:45.) He further divides verbs into two main categories viz Dynamic and Static. The five sub-types of Dynamic verbs are:

(i) Activity verbs: - like abandon, ask, bag, call, drink, eat, help, learn, listen etc.
(ii) Process verb: - like change, deteriorate, gain, mature, slowdown, widen etc…
(iii) Verbs of bodily sensation: - like ache, feel, hurt, itch etc…
(iv) Transitional event verbs: - like arrive, die, fall, land, leave etc…
(v) Momentary verbs: - like hit, jump, kick, knock, nod etc...

The sensitive verbs, as Quirk explains, are of two types:
Verbs of inset Perception and cognition like: adore, astonish, believe, desire, dislike, doubt, feel, forgive, know, please, realize etc…and the Relational verbs like apply to, belong to, concern, contain, cost, depend on, deserve, equal, fit, have, seen etc…

Quirk further explains that the progressive occurs only with dynamic verbs; the static Verbs disallow the progressive.

As far as the future is concerned Quirk disapproves of any future tense in English that correspond to the time/ tense relation for present and past. He, however, clarifies that ‘there are several possibilities for denoting future time. He believes that “Futurity, Modality, and Aspect are closely related, and future time is rendered by means of modal auxiliaries or semi-auxiliary, or by simple present form or progressive forms.” (Quirk 1973:47)

He then shows with several examples how the modal auxiliaries including, ‘will / shall,’ could be used to indicate the future besides the other structures like be going to + infinitive, present progressive, simple present, be to + infinitive, be about to + infinitive. Examples that he gave are:

- He will do his best.
- He will be doing his best.
- When will you come?
- When will you be coming?
- You are to be back by 10 o’ clock.
- If he is to succeed he must work harder.
4.2.3 R. A Close relates the tenses with aspects of activity and time, and further clarifies that time can be measured only in terms of events. (Close 1981:74.) English speakers, in Close’s opinion, see activity from several points of view:

- As the act seen as accomplished and as a completed whole: I tell you it’s true.
- As the act seen as uncompleted, as having begun and being still in progress: ‘Listen carefully to what I am telling you.’
- As the act performed once: ‘I see a ship.’
- As the act performed repeatedly; a whole series of acts, the series seen as a whole: ‘I see my neighbors on the train everyday.’
- As a partial uncompleted series of acts; the acts being performed temporarily rather than permanently: I am playing tennis everyday this week. But you are always playing tennis.’

Close opines that the objective fact is not as important as the aspect of the fact that the speaker has in mind and wishes to express it. It, therefore, becomes very clear that a verb form depends on the aspect to be expressed. Close further shows how an uncompleted aspect could be used to indicate an action which is about to begin or is due to take
place in the future. He thus shows how the uncompleted form or the present progressive could show/indicate a future event, and how the completed form of the present tense could also be used to hint out the future plan as in: “I am leaving the country tomorrow,” and, “According to schedule I leave at seven in the morning.”

He, however, cautions that the uncompleted form is commoner than the completed form when the present tense-form is used with future reference. (Close: 1981:83) Either of the forms could occur in the same situation, he clarifies by giving following example.

- ‘The ship sails at three’ (the completed form) or ‘The ship is sailing at three,’ (the uncompleted form.)

R.A. Close relates the tenses with the verbal forms and constructions which express aspects of activity combined with aspects of time and also with the voices viz active and passive. He divides the aspect of activity into 04 categories as:

- the Single act completed (IO)
- Single act uncompleted (IU)
- Series of acts completed (SO)
- Series of acts uncompleted (SU)

He further divides the aspect of time into nine categories viz…

Unlimited time.
Present time } present-tense
Pre-present time
Past time
Pre-past time } Past tense
Post-present time

Future time
Pre-future } Future Tense

Future seen from the past.

In his opinion the future is referred to in many ways i.e.
- By using ‘will,’ as in ‘Mr. Turner will leave tomorrow.’
- By using is + Verb with –ing as in ‘Mr Turner is leaving tomorrow.’
- Is + going + to infinitive (V) as in ‘Mr. Turner is going to leave tomorrow.’
- By using simple present – ‘Mr. Turner leaves tomorrow.’
- By using is + to + infinitive- ‘Mr. Turner is to leave tomorrow.’

4.2.4 Knud Schibsbye (1973: 70-75) takes into account only the present and past forms of tense with their sub-forms and believes that the future could be expressed using the present. In his opinion ‘the present’ may express

(i) Action or existence at the moment of speaking.
(ii) Timelessness, and
(iii) Repetition as shown in the following sentences.
- He is coming up the stairs.
- There goes the ball!
- The sun rises in the East.
- Six is an even number.
- I got up at seven.
- He often takes other people’s ideas.

He also makes it clear that the present tense may be used of the past in order to make a description seen present and vivid and further states that this ‘historic present’ is used both in horizontal accounts and in dramatic descriptions. He opines that the present may be used of the future in subordinate clauses when the main clause to which they are attached expresses the future (1973:70.) He cautions that in main clauses the simple present cannot be used with ordinary future values; and in sentences such as ‘I leave for Paris on Tuesday; the present tense expresses something at present planned or assumed, and coming into effect in the future. Regarding the perfect form of tenses he believes that it refers to past and present together. If the verb has a duration or iterative association, the perfect signifies, Schibye states, that an action or condition begun in the past, still continues or can be expected to recur in the present, as in ‘I have stayed there for a week.’

A verb, in Schibsbye’s (1973: 72) opinion, can have a durative or a perfective association. If the verb has a durative association, the difference in context between the two tenses is usually clear: whether an
action or condition has been completed in the past, or still continues or can be expected to recur, he states and gives one example to make it more clear: ‘My father lived through three wars’ implies that he is dead, ‘My father has lived through three wars implies that he is still alive.’

If the verb has a perfective association, he points out, the difference may often be seen less. He further clarifies that in that case the same phenomenon can often be described both in the preterite and in the perfect; the former then expresses the action or change in question as happening, stressing the ‘when’ or ‘how’; the latter expresses it as a fact with reference to the result or after-effects in the present, as in ‘He lost his wife in a motor accident’ versus ‘He has lost his wife in a motor accident.’ ((Knud 1973 : 72.)

In his opinion the pluperfect denotes in particular something else that is further back in time than something else that is in the past tense, and it corresponds to both the preterite and the perfect as viewed from a point in the past as in: ‘they found that the palace where they had feasted the night before was a desolation. Schibsbye further clarifies that the pluperfect approximates to the preterite in the following cases (Knud 1973 :74.)

(i) Was /were alternates with had been in combination with the past participle of verbs with a perfective association in case such as ‘He felt calm with the knowledge that everything was now settled. Yes, everything had been settled.’ Here it becomes evident that where
the same phenomenon can be regarded as action and as the resultant conditions, the pluperfect and preterite are used respectively.

(ii) The preterite is often substituted for the pluperfect when the stress is on the logical interdependence rather than on the temporal relation, as in: ‘In the seventeenth century English biological science was made famous by the work of William Harvey. Before Harvey’s day men thought that arterial and veinous blood were separate streams.’ The preterite has been used here to show the recent and the distant past.

(iii) The preterite + perfect infinitive is replaced by pluperfect + infinitive with certain verbs e.g. hope, mean, think. ‘I meant to have given you the money this morning,’ and ‘I had meant to give you the money this morning,’ or a mixture of the two, ‘I had meant to have given you the money.’

Schibsbye finally draws attention to the use of the pluperfect to express the present and past hypothetical matters as in: I wish I had been present on that occasion. If I had known, I might have helped you (Both past Hypothetical). When it is used of present, it stresses the improbability of the hypothesis, he asserts. For example: You had better start without me. If I had been in better health, I should have joined you.

(All examples from Schibsbye; 1973 : 70-75. )
4.2.5 M L Tickoo et al describe tenses as the verb form that shows the time to which they belong. They believe that the verb in a sentence expressed in an action or event or state decides the time to which they belong, and further state that ‘there are four tense forms which English verbs take.’ (Tikoo et al 1976:107)

1) The dictionary/ base/ infinitive form, as generally used in the present sentence tense. Ex; ‘I walk five miles a day.’
‘You speak too loudly.’

2) The simple past form;
Ex: He walked five miles.
She spoke very well.

3) The present participle (or -ing form): used generally in the present continuous or past continuous as in, ‘The children are playing in the garden,’ ‘Father is reading a newspaper,’ ‘They were making a lot of noise.’

4) The past participle form; generally used in the present perfect or the past perfect tense.
Ex: He has posted the letter.
We had seen the movie before.

The authors then explain with multiple examples, use of various forms of the present and the past tense, and finally state that ‘English has verb forms for the present and the past tenses and for the perfect and
progressive tenses, but not for expressing future time.’ (Tickoo et al 1976:133.)

At the same time they opine that there are several ways of expressing future time in English. The ways they mention are:

(i) Use of shall / will with the base forms of verb as in ‘I’ll return this book tomorrow.’

(ii) Use of the present simple tense to express a series of planned action in the future: ‘Our cricket team leaves for Bombay this evening. They play two matches in Bombay. They play one at Poona. They return next Monday.’

(iii) The use of the present continuous tense to express a future (near future) event, as in, ‘The Director of Collegiate Education is visiting the college tomorrow.’

(iv) The structure ‘am’ / is / are + going to + verb is used to express the subject’s intention to perform a future action, as in ‘I am going to buy a bicycle.’

(v) Going to + Verb is also used to express the speaker’s certainty about an event in the near future as in ‘Look at the dark clouds. It is going to rain.

(vi) In an interrogative sentence ‘will’ can be used with all the three persons to express the future as in: ‘Will I get my papers back tomorrow?’ ‘Will you be here tomorrow morning?’ ‘Will the book shops be open tomorrow?’
(vii) The construction, be about to + verb, expresses events whose happening is imminent, likely to happen in a very short while as in: ‘The train is about to leave.’ ‘The chief minister is about to speak.’

(viii) The form be + to + the base form of the verb is used to express a duty, or necessity or planned course of action in the future as in: ‘I am to be at a meeting at 5 o’clock.’ ‘He is to preside over this year’s College Day.’

(All examples from Tickoo et al 1976)

4.2.6 **Conclusions:** It is apparent that two distinct approaches, the traditional and the modern, view tenses from various angles. The traditional grammarians still believe that there are three tenses in English viz present, past, and future and each of them has four sub-forms. The Modern grammarians, however, hold that English has only two tenses: the present and the past and each one have concerns with a particular aspect of time (progressive, perfective.) Moreover, they also believe that the verb forms express the time aspect of that particular statement. The traditional view that ‘shall’ and ‘will’ are the verb forms used only in the future tense is not acceptable to the modern grammarians. They assert that there are several ways to express future besides using ‘shall’ and ‘will.’

4.3 **Tenses in Marathi:**
4.3.1 Preliminaries: The grammar of Marathi is highly influenced by the grammar of Sanskrit. Sanskrit had three main tenses viz. Present, past, future; Marathi also has three main tenses. As the noted grammarian, P.N. Dixit (1975:114) points out; Marathi language has a very scanty number of pure verbs. He opines that a verb gives a sense of completeness to a sentence and also relates an action in that sentence to some specific point of time. Kelkar and Tulpule (1966: 127) define a verb as the action or condition/state-related word that directly or indirectly hint out some sort of action. Such action words in Marathi are known as ‘Dhatu’ while the words that indicate a partial action are known as ‘Dhatusadhite,’ it’s a peculiarity of Marathi language. Rev. Navalkar considers a verb as the main word in a sentence which denotes some sort of action, state or psychological action. The examples are: I go, Rama is clever, and Shivaji became a king. (Cited in Kelkar 1966:128.) Kelkar further clarifies that a perfect definition of a verb is impossible and expresses satisfaction over his own definition.

4.3.2 Damle’s Views: The author of ‘Shastriya Marathi Vyakaran,’ Moro Keshav Damle (1965: ) also stated that a verb is a word in the sentence that gives completeness to the meaning and also hints the tense (time relevance). Damle here thus relates a verb with the sense of time. He gives one example: ‘Rama reads a book,’( ), ‘You read this book,’ ( ) and says that ‘read’ is the verb used in both the sentences. It in the first sentence
hints out the present tense and in the second sentence the mood of the speaker (a command), therefore, ‘reads’ and ‘read’ are the verbs.

Most of the verbs in Marathi are formed by adding suffixes. Suffixes to the root verbs in Marathi are known as the ‘Aakhyat-Pratyaya’ ( ). A verb in Sanskrit is called as ‘Aakhyat’. The verb in Marathi reveals the mood of the speaker (interrogative / imperative /assertive/ etc.) as well as the time span and completeness or incompleteness of an action. Damle, Dixit, Kelkar all agree that there are three main tenses in Marathi, the present, the past, and the future and each of them has three sub types known as progressive, perfect, and the habitual.

4.3.3 Kelkar’s views: There are as Kelkar (1966: 133) states seven suffixes in Marathi that a verb can have to denote the tense and meaning. Verbs in Marathi don’t have gender of their own but their forms change as per the person and the gender of the subject for example ( ).

4.3.4 Categorisation of Tenses in Marathi: There are differences of opinion on the categorization, sub-categorization of tenses in Marathi as Dixit (1975: 115-18) points out. Dixit and Dadorao Pandurang Tarkhadkar divide tense into three main types viz present, past, future; with three, seven, and five subtypes respectively. The tree diagram given below would make the point clear immediately.
M.P. Sabnis also agrees with the three main tenses but differs over the sub-types. His categorization of tense is shown in the following tree diagram.

The categorization made by K.P. Kulkarni is as follows:
All the three grammarians, Tarkhadkar, Sabnis, and Kulkarni agree to the main three tenses in Marathi: Past, Present, and Future but differ over their sub-types. Tarkhadkar points out 03 subtypes of the present tense, 07 of the past, and 05 of the Future tense. Sabnis points out 04 subtypes each of the present, past, and future while Kulkarni considers 03 subtypes of the past tense with three more subtypes of Distant past, 03 of present tense, 03 of future tense and 03 subtypes of Distant future. There appears to be variation among the grammarians over the number of ‘Aakhyat-pratyaya’, suffixes to be attached to the root form of the verb. Damle and Sabnis take into account all 07 suffixes that a verb could have while Chandrakant Adawatkar reduces the number of suffixes to 06 and
approves of Damle’s categorization of suffixes. Dixit (1975:122) also endorses Adwatkar’s opinion.

As Randolph Quirk and Tickoo et al point out, English has separate verb forms for present and past tenses, but not to express the future. For example, ‘write’ is used in the present and ‘wrote’ in the past but there is no separate form of this verb for expressing the future. An auxiliary is to be used along with the root verb for the cause as: will write, may write etc. In Marathi, a separate suffix to a verb could indicate the present, past or the future as in ( ) Damle has given the details of 07 types of suffixes that change the form of a verb. Similarities to a great extent exist in English and Marathi regarding the notion of tenses.

4.4 Conclusion: There appears to be a great similarity between the propagation of the English grammarian, F.R.Palmer and the Marathi grammarian, Moro Keshav Damle. Both disapprove of the traditional notion of tenses in terms of present, past and future. Palmer categorizes the verbs into the main and the auxiliary verbs and further shows how different forms of verbs could be used in view of numbers, persons and the mood of the speaker. Damle in Marathi gives a list of 07 suffixes that could be attached to a verb in various situations. He further propagates that ‘Time’ is indivisible as it is infinite; its division is a matter of “our inconvenience”. “Time”, in principle, is never complete or incomplete; the action that occurs in that particular point of time could be complete or incomplete. He, therefore, shows how 07 suffixes could be attached to a
verb to relate an activity with time and mood of the speaker. As Palmer in English gives a set of the basic paradigms that comprise the primary pattern of the verb phrase, Damle in Marathi gives a list of 07 suffixes that comprise the basic verb forms that could be used in view of number/s, person and mood of the speaker. Damle’s system appears to be acceptable to most of the grammarians in Marathi.

Chapter V
Analysis of Data

Analysis in General

Analysis of Students’ Responses:

Analysis of Errors In:

  Question No 1
  Question No. 2
  Question No. 3
  Question No. 4
  Question No. 5