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LINGUISTIC THEORIES

DUONG TRAN HUONG THAO - Роль префикса на- и постфикса ся- в образовании производных значений русских глаголов 3

NGUYEN THI THU HOA, BUI PHUONG LAN - Les procédés de formation des termes militaire en français 9

NGUYEN THI THU THUY - Future time expressions in VOA special English programmes 21

LANGUAGE TEACHING METHODOLOGY

PHAM BA HA - Classroom discourse analysis and the importance of teacher's feedback moves in teaching and learning English in EFL/ESL classroom 41

NGUYEN THU THUY - Approche actionnelle et changements du rôle de l'enseignant et de l'étudiant dans l'enseignement-apprentissage du français à l'académie de la police populaire 50

LE NU CAM LE - Classroom contexts: the congruence between pedagogic goals and interactional features for second language acquisition 58

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

LE KIM CUONG - The US – China technology war and its impacts on Vietnam 67

TRAN SON TUNG - Australia's strategic dilemma: the tripartite relationship with the U.S. and China 73

LE HOANG ANH TUAN - Foreign policy of the Czech Republic towards the United States 82

DISCUSSION

DO VAN HIEN - 与陌生人交际过程中环境的影响 90

LE THI NGOC HA - Revue de la littérature des recherches empiriques sur les stratégies d'écriture en langue seconde 100

LE MINH SON - Foreign language application in military activities and the role of military academies and schools in implementing solutions on improving the quality of using foreign languages in military units 109

NGUYEN NGOC CUONG - Improving the quality of the lecturers at Ministry of Defence-affiliated academies in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution 121

FUTURE TIME EXPRESSIONS IN VOA SPECIAL ENGLISH PROGRAMMES

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is, first, to give a literature review of some linguistic terms such as tense, and time. Secondly, a detailed description of future time expressions in English will be presented and analyzed. Thirdly, the paper will explore the frequency of future time expressions such as future as timetable, programme and schedule; future as a fixed personal arrangement; future as fulfilment of present intention; future as prediction with signs in the present; future as pure neutral prediction; future as volition; future as a-matter-of-course; and future actions in progress in 70 texts in 8 volumes in VOA English programmes published in 2003 & 2004. The findings in this study show that the most frequency of future time expressions in VOA special English programmes is future as volition/willingness or intention, followed by future as pure prediction, future as timetable, programme and schedule. From the results of the research, the author hopes that this will help better teaching and learning foreign languages during the period of international and regional economic integration and exchange.

Keywords: *present, tense, time, VOA, future time expressions*

1. INTRODUCTION

In English, there are several ways of expressing future actions and events. In different contexts, different future forms can be used. In some situations more than one future form is used whereas a certain future form can express more than one meaning. Therefore, learners of English may find it difficult to choose an appropriate future expression to use in communication because the form used does not depend on how certain a future event is, but on how the speaker sees the future (Hutchinson, 2001, p. 125). When selecting an appropriate future form, the speaker has to take into account things such as text types, types of speech act and the pragmatic context (Nehls, 1988, p. 102).

VOA Special English program is an authentic material available in Vietnam where English is considered as a major foreign language in schools, colleges and universities. It is easy for learners of English to get access to it in order to learn and use English better and more effectively. Therefore, it is of importance and significance to investigate how future time expressions are used in VOA Special English Programs with a hope to see which future form is used most frequently in this special text type.

The present paper is, first, to give a literature review, which discusses some terms such as tense, and time. Secondly, a detailed description of future time expressions in English will be presented and analyzed. Thirdly, the paper will explore the frequency of future time expressions such as future

as timetable, programme and schedule; future as a fixed personal arrangement; future as fulfilment of present intention; future as prediction with signs in the present; future as pure neutral prediction; future as volition; future as a-matter-of-course; and future actions in progress in VOA Special English Programs.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Overview

The term ‘tense’, according to Lyons (1996, p. 312), is derived ultimately (via Old French) from the Latin word ‘tempus’, meaning “time”. From Downing and Locke’s work (1992, p. 353), it can be determined that ‘tense can be defined as the linguistic expression of time relation by means of the verb. It refers to events situated at points along the linear flow of time in reference to the ‘now’, or speech time’. In other words, tense is ‘the correspondence between the form of the verb and our concept of time’ (Quirk and Greenbaum, 1976, p. 39) or tense is ‘the relationship between the form of the verb and the time of the action or state it describes’ (Richards, et al., 1993, p. 376).

Time, according to Quirk and Greenbaum (1976, p. 39) and Downing and Locke (1992, p. 353) is a universal, non-linguistic concept, which is divided into past time, present time and future time. ‘Tense systems are language specific and vary from one language to another, both in number of tenses they distinguish and in the ways in which these tenses reflect temporal reference’ (Downing and Locke, 1992, p. 353).

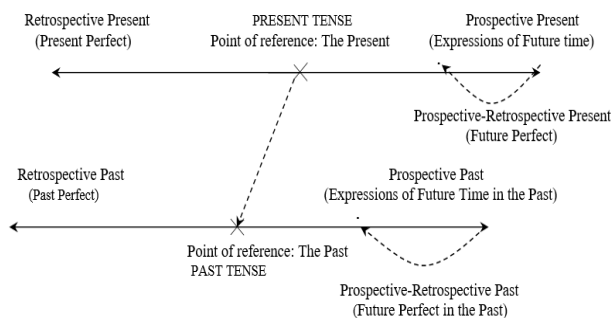
In English, for instance, it would be erroneous to imagine that the past tense refers exclusively to events in the past, that there is a present tense to refer to events in the present time and a future tense to refer exclusively to events in the future time (ibid.)

In the examples: *I thought you were on the beach/ Will you sign here please?* the forms which are thought to correspond to past and future time

reference, respectively, in fact refer to the moment of speaking (ibid.). Conversely, the ‘Present tense’ forms used in the examples: *The trees look beautiful in autumn/ We leave for Paris tomorrow/ Temperatures drop to below zero*, do not refer exclusively to the moment of speaking (ibid.).

According to Downing & Locke (1992, p. 353), besides tense forms of verbs, other linguistic forms, particularly adverbs of time such as *now, then, tomorrow* and prepositional groups such as *in 1990* can make reference to time; English, in fact, relies to a considerable extent on such units to make the temporal reference clear.

Nehls (1988, p. 295) seems to be claiming that ‘the English tenses of verbs serve to locate an event (or more events) in time relative to the time of speaking and to the temporal reference point’. English has two tense groups - the present group and the past tense group (ibid.). Both of these tense groups are seen as ‘primary reference points in English from which we can look either backwards or forward’ and can be illustrated in the following diagram.



(Nehls, 1988, p. 296)

One outcome of Halliday and Hasan’s work is that:

The English tense system is complex, though its complexity is more apparent than real. It is based on two very simple principles: (1) that there is a choice of past, present and future, and (2) that this choice may be made repeatedly (within limits), each new choice taking the previous one as its point of departure. Both of these principles apply whenever a verb is used, unless that verb is in the imperative, which has no choice of tense. (1994, p. 186)

Downing and Locke (1992, p. 354) add that

Tense is a way of expressing events as occurring at points situated along the linear flow of time. Within the linear flow, a point of reference must be established, with respect to which past events precede and future events follow. The normal, universal and therefore unmarked point of reference is the moment of speaking-speech time. This is the 'now', which is implicitly understood in everyday interaction.

Therefore, future actions and events cannot be considered as facts as past and present ones can since future events have not happened yet (Downing & Locke, 1992, pp. 361-362). Future actions and events can only be predicted, planned or believed to take place with more or less confidence. 'These are modalized rather than factual predictions. Here we simply outline the main syntactic means of referring to future events as seen from the standpoint of present time' (ibid.).

Lyon's point of view is that

Futurity is never a purely temporal concept; it necessarily includes an element of prediction or some related notion. 'What is conventionally used as a future tense .is rarely, if ever, used solely for making statements or predictions, or posing or asking factual questions, about the future. It is also used in a wider or narrower range of non-factive utterances, involving supposition, inference, wish, intention and desire' (1977, p. 816, cited in Palmer, 1998, p. 216)

Similar points were made by Fries (1927), arguing against the view that English has a 'future tense', and by Ultan (1972) in a typological study of future tense (cited in Palmer (1998, p. 216).

'There is no obvious future tense in English corresponding to the time/tense relation for present and past. Instead, there are several possibilities for denoting future time. Futurity, modality, and aspect are closely related, and future time is rendered by means of modal auxiliaries or semi-auxiliaries, or by simple present forms or progressive forms' (Quirk and Greenbaum, 1976, p. 46). However, there are some people still thinking that English has three tenses: the present tenses, the past tenses and the future tenses.

2.2. Future time expressions in English

A number of authors such as Azar (1989), Alexander (1992), Beaumont and Granger (1992), Dean (1993), Eastwood (1994), Jackson (1995), Swan (1995), Thomson and Martinet (1989), Hewings (1999), West (2000), and Hutchinson (2001) claim that there are a few ways used to talk about the future actions and events in English. This is a complicated area of grammar: the differences between the meanings and uses of the different structures are not easy to analyse and describe clearly. In many, but not all situations, two or more structures are possible with similar meanings (Swan, 1995, p. 219).

In terms of structures, according to Nehls (1988, p. 299), the following expressions of future time are dealt with:

1. Will/shall + simple infinitive: *John will arrive (tomorrow).*
2. Going to + simple infinitive: *John is going to arrive (tomorrow).*
3. Progressive present tense: *John is arriving tomorrow.*
4. Simple present tense: *John arrives tomorrow.*
5. Will + progressive infinitive: *John will be arriving (tomorrow).*

The sequence of the verb forms 1 to 5 represents a scale of frequency with regard to the expression of futurity in independent clauses in Contemporary English (ibid.). Nehls's finding seems to be claiming that the most frequent future expression in English is *will + infinitive*, followed by *going to + infinitive* and so on. Expressions 3 and 4 (*present progressive* and *simple present*) need an adverbial of future time in order to refer to the future, the other expressions can do so without such an adverbial (ibid.).

In terms of semantic functions, the following future time expressions can be discussed in details:

2.2.1. Future as timetable, programme and schedule

Quirk and Greenbaum (1976, p.48), Thomson & Martinet (1989, p.180-181), Alexander (1992, p. 163), Jackson (1992, p. 38), Nelson (1992, p. 63), Eastwood (1994, p.98), Soars (1996, p. 117), Hewings (1999, p. 26), Swan (2000, pp. 134-139), and West (2000, p. 19) share the same idea in defining that the simple present tense with time markers is used to express future events that are part of some official arrangements such as a timetable or programme or schedule.

According to Nelson (1992), the present tense is used to indicate:

a. Scheduled or regular timetabled events:

(1) *The bus leaves at six.*

Or fixed events which are not simply the wishes of the speaker (Vince, 1999, p. 8).

(2) *Tom retires in three years.*

Similarly, the present simple is used in calendar references.

(3) *Christmas is on a Tuesday next year.*

b. Personal plans which rely on scheduled services:

(4) *We leave on the four o'clock bus.*

c. Personal plans which form part of a schedule:

(5) *We visit Vienna on Tuesday, go on to Paris on Wednesday.*

In order to express a definite future arrangement, either the present simple or the present progressive can be used, for instance, *I eat out tonight* or *I'm eating out tonight*. However, the two forms are different in that: (a) the simple present is more

impersonal than the continuous (Thomson and Martinet, 1989, p. 180). *I'm eating out tonight* would imply that I have decided to eat out, but *I eat out tonight* could mean that this is part of a plan not necessarily made by me. (b) The simple present sounds more formal than the continuous (ibid.). (c) The simple present is sometimes used where the continuous would sound a bit clumsy, e.g., when speaking of a series of proposed future actions, like plans for a journey.

The simple present used to express future needs future time words and only a few verbs are used in this way: e.g., open, close, begin, end, start, finish, arrive, leave, come, return (Azar, 1989, p. 50).

Simple present is regularly used in subordinate clauses that are conditional (introduced by if, unless, etc.) or temporal (introduced by as soon as, before, when, after, as, once, till, until, whenever, provided (that), given (that), assuming (that), presuming (that), even if, in case, as (manner), whatever.... (Quirk and Greenbaum, 1976, p. 48). This happens when both clauses are about the future events (Eastwood, 1994, p. 98).

(6) *After you go another 50 metres, you'll see a path to your left.*

(7) *If you help me, I'll finish it in time.*

The present simple is also used in that-/wh-clause when both the main clause and the that-/wh-clause refer to the future. *Will* is not used in that-/wh-clauses in this kind of sentence (Hewings, 1999, p. 26).

(8) *I'll let you know when he gets here.*

However, when the main clause refers to the present, *will* is used in the that-/wh-clause

(9) *I guarantee that you'll enjoy the play. (not ...you enjoy....)*

And when a fixed arrangement is made, either will or the present simple can be used.

(10) *It is fortunate that they will arrive/arrive at the same time tomorrow.*

2.2.2. Future as fixed personal arrangement

According to Dean (1993, p.77), the present progressive is used to describe firm plans for the future, e.g.,

(11) *The President is visiting London next week. (This is arranged)*

(12) *We're moving to a new flat in London. (We have made all the arrangements.)*

Other researchers such as Quirk and Greenbaum (1976), Engels, et al. (1986), Nehls (1988), Azar (1989), Thomson and Martinet (1989), Nelson (1992), Eastwood (1994), Vince (1994), Jackson (1995), Swan (1995), Soars (1996), Hewings (1999) and West (2000) agree that the present continuous is used mostly to talk about personal arrangements, activities and events planned for the future, especially when the time and place have been decided. Future used as personal arrangements often needs an adverbial of time such as *tomorrow, tonight, on Monday, later on, soon, in a little while, etc.* and is normally used with dynamic transitional verbs (Quirk and Greenbaum, 1976, p. 47). The following is the diagram showing how the future as a fixed personal arrangement is used.



(Nelson, 1992, p. 67)

In many cases both the present progressive and the 'be going to' form can be used to talk about future actions and events. The present progressive can emphasise the idea of 'fixed arrangement' whereas *be going to form* can emphasise the

idea of 'intention', or 'previous decision' (Swan, 1995, p. 211 and Hutchinson, 2001, p. 125). However, there is a small difference between the idea of an *arrangement* for the future (the present progressive) and an *intention* for the future (going to). The choice depends on the aspect (Soars, 1996, p. 99).

(13a) *I'm having dinner with Mary tonight.*

(13b) *I'm going to have dinner with Mary tonight.*

(13b) tells us not only a planned future event, but also the speaker's attitude towards it. The dinner is my intention, and so part of my volition. I *want* to. (13a) tells us only a planned future event, and nothing of the speaker's attitude towards it. Perhaps, he wants to go, perhaps not. It is simply in his diary. Of course, this difference is unimportant.

(14a) *Who's cooking lunch? (Asking what has been arranged)*

(14b) *Who's going to cook lunch? (asking about a decision)*

(15a) *I'm seeing Phil tonight (emphasis on arrangement)*

(15b) *I'm going to tell him what I think of him (emphasis on intention- NOT I'm really telling him).*

(16) *I'm getting a new job. (It's already arranged)*

(17) *I'm going to get a new job. (I've decided to) (Swan, 1995, p. 211)*

The present progressive is not generally used to make predictions about events that are outside people's control (Swan, 1995)

The present progressive can be used for refusing invitation or deferring them, but suggesting a previous arrangement: *I'm sorry I can't come. I'm going to the theatre on Tuesday* (Nelson, 1992, p. 67)

Verbs describing a state or involuntary sensation (stative verbs) do not make a future as a fixed arrangement. Where it does occur it suggests a deliberate act or presence (Nelson, 1992, p. 66).

2.2.3. Future as fulfilment of present intention

Some authors such as Quirk and Greenbaum (1976), Dean (1993), Vince (1994), Soars (1996), West (2000) and Hutchinson (2001) claim that *be going to form* is used to describe present intentions which point to the future actions. Intentions are not as definite as firm plans. The speaker has decided what s/he wants to do in the future, but s/he has not made firm plans, appointments or arrangements (Dean 1993). Actions expressed by the *be going to form* are therefore usually considered very likely to be performed, though there is not the same idea of definite future arrangement that we get from the present progressive (Thomson and Martinet, 1989).

(18) *The President is going to spend more time with his family.* (No arrangement have been made and no definite times have been decided.) (Dean, 1993, p.77).

(19) *I still have a pain in my leg. I'm going to see a doctor. (I have not made an appointment yet)*

The *be going to form* can be used for the near future as an alternative to the present continuous with no difference in meaning (Dean, 1993).

(20a) *Isn't it marvellous, we're getting married?*

(20b) *Isn't it marvellous, we're going to get married?*

Going to can be used with time clauses when we wish to emphasise the subject's intention:

(21) *He is going to be a dentist when he grows up.* (Thomson and Martinet, 1989).

Be going to form can be used without a time expression. It can sometimes be used with verbs, which are not normally used in the present progressive.

It is not usual to put the verbs *come/go* into the *be going to form*. Instead the present continuous will be used (Thomson and Martinet 1989).

Not only *be going to form* but also *will* can be used for future intention. Nevertheless, the *be going to form* usually implies a premeditated intention, and often an intention + plan while *will + infinitive* implies intention alone, and this intention is usually, though not necessarily, unpremeditated (ibid). When the intention is neither clearly premeditated nor clearly unpremeditated, either *be going to form* or *will* can be used (ibid.).

2.2.4. Future as prediction with signs in the present

The other meaning of going to is 'future of present cause', which is found with both personal and non-personal subjects (Quirk and Greenbaum 1976: 47). Azar (1989), Alexander (1992), Nelson (1992), Dean (1993) and Hewings (1999) have the same opinion in stating that *be going to form* is used to predict the future on the basis of present evidence – to say that a future action or event is on the way, or starting to happen. According to Thomson and Martinet (1989), *be going to form* can express the speaker's feeling of certainty. The time is not usually mentioned, but the action is expected to happen in the near or immediate future:

(22) *Look at those clouds! It's going to rain.*

(23) *Jane is going to have a baby in May.*

It can be used in this way after such verbs as *be sure/afraid, believe, think*:

(24) *How pale that girl is! I am sure/I believe/I think she is going to faint,* (ibid.)

Both *be going to* and *will* can be used for future predictions. However, *be going to* implies that there are signs that something will happen. *Will* is a common way of expressing what the speaker thinks, believes, hopes, assumes, fears etc. will happen. (ibid.).

(25) *It will probably be cold/I expect it will be cold.*

Be going to form also refers to the immediate/fairly immediate future whereas *will* doesn't imply any particular time and could refer to the remote future. (ibid.)

Sometimes either form can be used:

(26) *It is going to/will take a long time to do all these things.*

Note: In informal colloquial English, especially in American English, the contracted form *gonna* is used instead of *going to*. (Nehls, 1988).

2.2.5. Future as pure neutral prediction

Alexander (1992), Nelson (1992), Eastwood (1994), Swan (1995), Soars (1996), Hewings (1999) and West (2000) think that *will/shall* can be used to predict events, for example, to say what we think will happen, or invite prediction:

(27) *Tottenham will win on Saturday.*

(28) *I think it'll stay fine for the race.*

(29) *Will house prices rise again next year?*

(30) *You'll feel better after you've taken this medicine.*

Will/shall can be used for predictions after certain verbs like **think, expect, wonder, assume, be afraid, be sure, believe, doubt, suppose** and **hope**, and after certain adverbs like **probably, possibly, surely** and **perhaps** (Alexander, 1992, West, 2000).

(31) *I hope I'll get good marks in the next examination.*

According to Soars (1996), *will* for prediction merely signifies 'This is a future tense'. It is also called 'future as fact', or the 'neutral future'. Here are some more examples:

(32) *One day I'll die.*

(33) *You'll fall off if you're not careful.*

Use *will/won't* for prediction when there is no present evidence (Dean, 1993, p. 77)

(34) *In a hundred years' time we will all travel everywhere by helicopter.*

(35) *The train service won't be any better than it is now.*

However, *be going to form* is used if there are signs that something will happen (Thomson and Martinet, 1989).

Will is used when something in the future is inevitable, in other words, it is outside anybody's control, e.g.,

(36) *Next year I'll be twenty-eight.*

(37) *Autumn will come soon.*

Will/shall can be used in the main clause of a first Conditional sentence (West, 2000).

(38) *If he works hard, he'll pass the examination.*

But **will** is NOT used in the if-clause.

2.2.6. Future as volition/willingness or intention

The concept of volition covers the meanings of willingness as in *Will you sign this for me?* and intention as in *I'll bring it back tomorrow* (Downing, 1992, p.389-391). Willingness can be paraphrased by *be willing to*. The action predicated by the main verb can coincide with speech time, or refer to repeated or future events (ibid.).

(39) *Will you pass the salt? – Yes, I will.*

(40) *Our cat won't eat anything but the best brands of cat-food.*

(41) *The key won't go in the lock.*

In example (41), the speakers express unwillingness to cooperate to an inanimate object. WILL is stressed when expressing insistence as in

(42) *He **will** ring me up late at night asking silly questions.* (ibid.).

As can be seen in the above examples, the meaning of 'volition' is realised by *will* for all persons; the reduced form 'll occurs in the affirmative, except when stressed as in the meaning of insistence. (ibid.)

Shall is used with a first person subject to make an offer or a suggestion in interrogatives. This is the most widespread use of *shall* in present-day English (ibid.).

(43) *Shall I help you? (an offer)*

(44) *Shall we go to the theatre tonight? (a suggestion)*

Will when used to express willingness readily leads itself to various pragmatic uses, e.g., *will* would be interrupted as a directive in *Will you listen to me and stop interrupting?* and as a polite offer in *Will you have another slice of melon?* (ibid.).

Intention: Will (shall)

Intention, in Downing and Locke's point of view (1992), is the second type of volition and can be paraphrased by *intend to*. When a speaker expresses an intention, the intention is, naturally, coincident with speech time, but the intended action is the future.

(45) *I'll ring you some time next week.*

(46) *We'll take the night train to the coast.*

Will is used for all persons, *shall* by some speakers for the first person singular and plural. Both are reduced to 'll in affirmative clauses.

'The speaker's commitment in using these modals is as strong as in the epistemic meanings' (Downing and Locke, 1992). For this reason, the *will* of intention can have the illocutionary force of either a promise or a threat, according to whether the intended action is beneficial to the addressee or otherwise. Verbs such as *promise* and *warn* are used here.

(47) *I'll bring you something back from Paris, I promise.* (a promise)

(48) *I warn you that if you keep talking this way I'll hang up.* (a threat) (ibid.)

When expressing commitment, *will/shall* can be used in public declarations of policy (Nelson, 1992):

(49) *We will/shall cut taxes*

The following degrees of determination are expressed by *will/shall* (ibid.)

(50a) *I will pass this exam.* (against all odds)

(50b) *I'll pass this exam.* (with a suggestion of confidence). The contracted form is intrinsically less forceful.

(50c) *I shall pass this exam.* The use of *shall* implies a commitment on the part of the speaker to pass the exam as part of an understanding that he has made to the listener. (ibid.)

Will is used in preference to *be going to* when a formal style is required, particularly in the written language (Alexander, 1992, p.179)

(51) *The wedding will take place at Student Andrew's on June 27th. The reception will be at the Anchor Hotel.*

Will can be used to talk about someone's typical behaviour or characteristic habits (Beaumont and Granger, 1992, p. 90).

(52) *Simon loves music. He'll sit for hours listening to his stereo.*

2.2.7. Future as a-matter-of-course

According to Engels, et al. (1986), the predicted event will happen independently of any will or intention. This is the most objective, purest future possible (a colourless future) (p. 20). In other words, the *will/shall + be + the present participle* form can be used to express a future without intention (Thomson and Martinet, 1989). The future continuous used in this way is somewhat similar to the present continuous, but differs in the following points. While the present continuous tense implies a deliberate future action, the future continuous tense usually implies an action, which will occur in the normal course of events. It is therefore less definite and more casual than the present continuous:

(53a) *I'll be seeing John tomorrow.*

(53b) *I am seeing John tomorrow.*

(53a) implies that *John and the speaker* will meet in the ordinary course of events (perhaps they work together) whereas (53b) implies that *John or the speaker* has deliberately arranged the meeting. However, this difference is not always important. In some cases, either the present continuous tense or the future continuous tense could be used:

(54a) *She'll be coming here next week or*

(54b) *She is coming here next week.*

Note that the present continuous tense used for future arrangements usually needs a time marker while the future continuous tense can be used with or without a time adverbial. Although both the *future continuous* and *will + infinitive* are used to express future actions and events, they are different in the following points: While the *will + infinitive* form expresses future with intention, the *future continuous* expresses future without intention (Thomson and Martinet, 1989).

(55a) *I'll write to Mr Pitt and tell him about Tom's new house.*

(55b) *I'll be writing to Mr Pitt and I'll tell him about Tom's new house.*

(55a) refers to the speaker's deliberate future intention and wishes whereas (55b) does not imply the speaker's intention. (55b) is merely a statement of the fact and implies that the letter to Mr Pitt will be written either as a matter of routine or for reasons unconnected with Tom's new house (ibid.).

Questions about intentions are usually expressed by the *present continuous*, the *be going to* form or the *future continuous* (Thomson and Martinet, 1989). The *future continuous* is considered as a particularly useful interrogative form as it is seen as more polite than others (ibid and Engels, et al., 1986)

(56a) *Are you going to stay in a hotel?* (a direct question about somebody's intention)

(56b) *Will you be staying in a hotel?* (A question about future activity, event; pure future, polite, remote; no intention)

(56c) *Will you do me a favor?* (a request) (Engels, et al., 1986)

2.2.8. Future as actions in progress

The future progressive can be used to say that something will be in progress (going on) at a particular moment in the future (Swan, 1995). In other words, it expresses an action, which starts before that time and probably continues after it (Thomson and Martinet, 1989).

(57) *At 9 p.m tomorrow they will be watching T.V.*

The difference between *will + progressive infinitive* and *will + simple infinitive* can be seen in the following pair of examples (ibid.)

(58a) *When she comes home, the boy will be playing with a ball.*

(58b) *When she comes home, the boy will play with a ball.*

In sentence (58a), the boy is already playing with a ball when she comes home while in sentence (58b) the boy starts playing with a ball when she comes home.

2.2.9. Other future expressions in English

Apart from the above mentioned semantic functions of future time expressions in English, there are still some other forms to express future actions and events. They are as follows:

2.2.9.1. Future perfect (will/shall have + past participle)

The future perfect is used to express an action that will be finished before a definite time in the future (Soars, 1996). We do not know exactly when the action will happen. We only know it will happen before a certain time (ibid.).

(59) *I'll have finished it before you get back.*

Will have + past participle form can be used to 'predict the present' – to say what we think or guess has probably happened (ibid.):

(60) *It's no use phoning - he'll have left by now.*

2.2.9.2. Future perfect continuous (will/shall have + been + present participle)

The future perfect progressive form can be used if we want to emphasise the continuity of a future achievement (Swan, 1995). In other words, it is used to say how long something has been going on a particular point in the future (Hewings, 1999).

(61) *We'll have been living in London for twenty years this summer.*

Notice that we do not use the future perfect continuous with verbs describing states (ibid.).

2.2.9.3. Be to + infinitive

In Hewings' point of view, *be to + infinitive* is used to talk about formal or official arrangements, formal instructions, and give orders. It is particularly common in news reports to talk about future events (1999, p.30).

(62) *Children are not to be left unsupervised in the museum.*

Note that *be to + infinitive* can only be used to talk about things that can be controlled by people (ibid.). *Be to + infinitive* is often used in if-clauses to say that something must take place first (in the main clause) before something else can take place (in the if-clause) (ibid.):

(63) *If humans are to survive as a species, we must address environmental issues now.*

2.2.9.4. Be about to + infinitive and be on the point of + gerund

These constructions are used to refer to the immediate future (Alexander, 1992).

(64) *Hurry up! The coach is about to leave.* (Eastwood, 1994).

On the point of + gerund conveys even greater immediacy (Alexander, 1992).

(65) *Look! They are on the point of starting!*

The use of *just* with *about to* and *on the point of* increases the sense of immediacy, as it does with the present progressive (Alexander, 1992).

3. METHODOLOGY

As mentioned in the previous part, the aim of the study is to explore how frequently future time expressions are used in VOA special English programs. That is to see how often future as timetable, programme, and schedule; future as a fixed personal arrangement; future as fulfilment of present intention; future as prediction with signs

in the present; future as pure prediction; future as volition; future as a matter of course; future actions in progress and others occur in VOA English programmes and news. In order to achieve the aim of the study, 200 occurrences are selected manually from 70 texts in 8 volumes of VOA English programmes and news published between 2003 & 2004 (See in the appendix). These texts are authentic materials about different fields such as science, technology, health, medicine, arts, culture, education, business & news in the world. After the 200 occurrences have been collected manually, they are analysed and classified into 9 types of future time expressions. The following table illustrates 9 types of future expressions and their occurrences in 70 texts in descending rate.

No	Future time expressions	Number of occurrences	Percentage %
1	Future as volition/ willingness or intention	69	34.5
2	Future as pure neutral prediction	51	25.5
3	Future as timetable, programme and schedule	39	19.5
4	Others	17	8.5
5	Future as a prediction with signs in the present	9	4.5
6	Future as a fixed personal arrangement	8	4.0
7	Future as fulfilment of present intention	5	2.5
8	Future as a-matter-of- course	1	0.5
9	Future actions in progress	1	0.5
Total		200	100

4. DISCUSSION

One of the results of this study is similar to that of Nehls' study (1988) in that *will/shall* + *infinitive* construction used to express future as volition/willingness or intention and future as pure neutral prediction ranks the first in the scale

of frequency. However, Nehls' outcome is based on the structures of future expressions while the present study is more based on semantic functions with a particular reference to English language in VOA programs. The language in this text type is neutral and formal style, which is used in news reports and official language. The data in the study also shows that *shall* is not used at all as an expression of futurity in American English, which shares the same idea with Nehls (1988).

Will in the following examples (66 – 70) taken from VOA text types are used to express volition/willingness or intention or commitment:

(66) *France will lead the U-N force of about one-thousand-four-hundred troops.* (France's intention. Vol. 5 - 2003)

(67) *The United States says it will not send troops, but will, consider requests for financial aid.* (The US's intention. Text 1, Vol. 5 - 2003)

(68) *The French-led troops will work with the peacekeepers to protect the airport, refugees and people in the city.* (intention. Text 1, Vol. 5 - 2003)

(69) *V-O-A reporters around the world will explore issues that refugees and governments face.* (commitment. Text 5, Vol. 5 - 2003)

(70) *They will also tell about some of the places where the refugee crisis is most severe.* (commitment. Text 5, Vol. 5 - 2003)

Will can be used for prediction after certain verbs like *think, expect, estimate, wonder*, etc. and after certain adverbs such as *probably, possibly, surely*, etc. Future as pure neutral prediction ranks second in terms of frequency with 51 occurrences taking up 25.5%. The following are some examples:

(71) *I think we will see it in almost all of our negotiations from now into the future.* (Text 67. Vol. 9 - 2004)

(72) *It also estimates what world markets will be like up to two-thousand-twelve.* (Text 9, Vol. 5 - 2003)

(73) *The government estimates that demand in the United States will continue to increase-protecting prices.* (Text 9, Vol. 5 - 2003).

Future as timetable, programme and schedule, in terms of frequency, ranks the third with 39 occurrences (19.5 %) is expressed via the simple present tense with time markers. It can be seen in the followings:

(74) *A high-level WTO meeting is planned in Geneva by December fifteenth.* (Text 24, Vol. 8 - 2003).

(75) *The United States and Britain plan to request more aid at an international conference next week in Spain.* (Text 20, Vol. 8 - November 2003).

(76) *The plan gives Iraq's temporal governing council until December fifteenth to set time limits to write a constitution and hold election.* (Text 20, Vol. 8 - November 2003).

The lowest frequency is future as a-matter-of-course (1/200 or 0.5%) and future actions in progress (1/200 or 0.5 %) which can be illustrated in (77):

(77) *When we develop in an undeveloped area and that leads to deforestation 10 years down the line, we will be generating landslides.* (Text 64, Vol. 9 - 2004).

Future as prediction with signs in the present (9/200 or 4.5 %) is used a bit more frequently than future as a fixed personal arrangement (8/200 or 4.0 %) in VOA programmes. Examples of future as prediction with signs in the present can be illustrated in (78), while future as a fixed personal arrangement in (79).

(78) *The way these people are fighting, I think, is going to be a very long-drawn battle.* (Text 53, Vol. 5 - VOA English through news)

(79) *Japanese scientists are starting work on prehistoric DNA samples for what may become an attempt to clone a woolly mammoth.* (Text 54, Vol. 5 – VOA English through news)

Future as fulfilment of present intention only takes 2.5% (5 occurrences out of 200), which is the second lowest, other future time expressions such as the future perfect, be to + infinitive, be about to + infinitive, be on the point of + gerund, be due to + infinitive take 8.5 % (17 occurrences out of 200). Examples (80) and (81) are to talk about future as fulfilment of present intention and other time expressions such as future perfect, respectively.

(80) *Our track record shows that we delivered for 70 years and we're going to continue delivering for another 70 years, at least.* (Text 45, Vol. 14 - 2004)

(81) *By the time the centennial year ends, New York City Ballet will have danced 200 different ballets to the music of 40 composers.* (Text 68, Vol. 9 - 2004)

Although one finding in this study is the same as that of Nehls' when stating that future as a matter of course and future action in progress (*will + progressive infinitive* structure) are used least frequently of all, another one is different. That is about future as timetable, programme and schedule, which ranks third in the scale of frequency in this study only after future as volition and future as pure prediction whereas simple present ranks fourth after *will + simple infinitive*, *going to* and *progressive present* (in Nehls' study, 1988). Therefore, the data in this study show that future as timetable, programme and schedule is used very often in VOA news and programmes as this text type requires a neutral and formal style. Future as fixed personal arrangement, future as fulfilment of present intention and future as a prediction with signs in the present are not used very often in VOA news and programmes as VOA programmes give news and reports of science, technology, medicine, health, arts, culture and business in a neutral and official way.

5. CONCLUSION

There are several ways of expressing future actions and events in English. In terms of semantic functions, they are future as timetable, programme and schedule; future as fixed personal arrangement; future as fulfilment of the present intention; future as prediction with signs in the present; future as pure neutral prediction; future as volition/willingness or intention; future as a-matter-of-course; future action in progress and others. The speaker need to know what, when, where and how to use each of these expressions so that s/he can communicate successfully and effectively.

Although the findings in this study show that the most frequency of future time expressions in VOA special English programmes and news is future as volition/willingness or intention, followed by future as pure prediction, future as timetable, programme and schedule and so on, it needs a further study. The reason is that VOA is a mass media and it is also an authentic English material available for learners and teachers of English. This minor study covers only a very limited number of texts in VOA programs. Therefore, the finding cannot be generalised for all texts, articles and news in VOA special English programs. Despite all the limitations above, the findings of the study are hoped to be useful for learners and teachers of English./.

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CÁC BIỂU THỨC DIỄN TẢ TƯƠNG LAI TRONG CHƯƠNG TRÌNH TIẾNG ANH ĐẶC BIỆT VOA

NGUYỄN THỊ THU THỦY

Tóm tắt: Nghiên cứu này tập trung (1) thảo luận về một số thuật ngữ như thì (tense) và thời gian (time); (2) mô tả chi tiết và phân tích các cách diễn đạt hành động sẽ xảy ra trong tương lai bằng tiếng Anh; và (3) khảo sát, tìm hiểu tần suất của các cách diễn đạt hành động xảy ra trong tương lai như thời gian biểu, chương trình & lịch trình; kế hoạch cá nhân; dự định sẽ xảy ra trong tương lai, phỏng đoán hành động sẽ xảy ra trong tương lai dựa vào hiện trạng; thì tương lai diễn đạt ý định, chủ ý, ý chí; tương lai là một vấn đề tất nhiên; và tương lai tiếp diễn. Dữ liệu để phân tích được lấy trong 70 bài báo trong 8 cuốn của chương trình tiếng Anh VOA được xuất bản năm 2003 & 2004. Kết quả nghiên cứu cho thấy, trong các chương trình tiếng Anh đặc biệt của VOA, tần suất xuất hiện nhiều nhất là thì tương lai diễn đạt ý định, chủ ý, ý chí; theo sau là tương lai thể hiện dự đoán thuần túy và tương lai như thời gian biểu, chương trình và lịch trình. Tác giả hy vọng rằng, kết quả nghiên cứu này sẽ giúp nâng cao chất lượng dạy và học tiếng Anh trong thời kỳ hội nhập và trao đổi kinh tế quốc tế cũng như khu vực.

Từ khóa: *hiện tại, thì, thời gian, VOA, biểu thức diễn tả tương lai*

Ngày nhận bài: 13/10/2019; ngày sửa chữa: 25/11/2019; ngày duyệt đăng: 28/4/2020

APPENDIX

The followings are 201 sentences taken from 70 articles in 8 volumes in VOA Special English Program and VOA English through news between 2003 & 2004.

VOLUME 5 (JUNE 2003)

1. United Nations Troops sent to Congo (By Cynthia Kirk)

- (1) France will lead the U-N force of about one-thousand-four-hundred troops.
- (2) Half of the troops will be French.
- (3) Belgium, Germany, Spain, Italy, Britain, Canada and South Africa have said they will also take part.
- (4) The United States says it will not send troops, but will, consider requests for financial aid.
- (5) The first troops are to arrive in Congo next week.
- (6) The French-led troops will work with the peacekeepers to protect the airport, refugees and people in the city.
- (7) The force will be deployed only until September.

2. Middle East Summit (By Cynthia Kirk)

- (8) Palestinian militans groups have said they will not stop attacks against Israelis until Israel stops occupying Palestinian land.

3. Iran's Nuclear Program (By Cynthia Kirk)

- (9) President Bush said this week that other countries must make it clear to Iran that they will not accept the building of a nuclear weapon.
- (10) On Friday, Russia's energy minister said Russia will not send nuclear fuel to Iran until Iran's nuclear program is fully under I-A-E-A supervision.

4. WHO Measles Campaign (By Jill Moss)

- (11) The WHO and the United Nations Children's Fund say they plan to use the requested money over the next three years to fight measles in forty-five countries.
- (12) The first goal is to reduce by two-thirds the death rate of children under age five by two-thousand-ten.
- (13) Officials hope to do this within the next two years.

5. World Refugee Day (By Jill Moss)

- (14) In Australia, messages about the world's refugees will be broadcast in many different languages.
- (15) A film about young refugees will also be shown.
- (16) V-O-A reporters around the world will explore issues that refugees and governments face.
- (17) They will also tell about some of the places where the refugee crisis is most severe.

6. Bronx Guild (By Jeryllyn Watson)

- (18) New classes are to begin there each fall.

(19) The school will provide four years of study like other high schools.

(20) This year, students will begin working in areas that especially interest them.

(21) Students will work on apprenticeship two or three days a week.

7. Commission Finds Poor Writing in U.S. schools (By Cynthia Kirk)

(22) The campaign will urge lawmakers and educators to increase writing programs in schools.

8. WHO Approves Anti-Tobacco Agreement (By Nancy Steinbach)

(23) The WHO says ten million people could die each year from tobacco by twenty-twenty.

(24) Most will be in developing countries.

(25) What the United States will do next is not clear.

9. Changing Soybean market (By Mario Ritter)

(26) It also estimates what world markets will be like up to two-thousand-twelve.

(27) The government estimates that demand in the United States will continue to increase-protecting prices.

VOLUME 6 (SEPTEMBER 2003)

10. Bush and Blair Defend War In Iraq (By Cynthia Kirk)

(28) The president said people must understand it will take time to get answers.

11. Israell-Palestinian Peace Efforts (By Cynthia Kirk)

(29) The Israell Cabinet is expected to discuss more releases Sunday.

12. Doctors Without Borders (By Jill Moss)

(30) Scientists will seek new drugs to treat diseases like sleeping sickness and leishmaniasis.

(31) The initiative is to spend about two-hundred-fifty-million dollars over the next ten years to develop new treatment for these and other diseases.

13. Digital Divide in Developing Nations (By Jill Moss)

(32) In December, it (United Nations) will hold a conference in Geneva, Switzerland, called the World Summit on the Information Society.

(33) Political and business leaders will come together with delegates from non-government organizations, educational groups and others.

(34) They will discuss the fast-growing information technology industry and its effects on the world.

(35) U-N organizers say they hope the gathering will lead to a political declaration and action plan.

(36) A second conference, to examine progress, will take place in Tunisia in two-thousand-five.

(37) He says news and information provided through the Internet helps build trade, employment, good government and democracy around the world.

14. Foreign Students In the United States (By Jeri Watson)

(38) Now, many education officials say they are concerned that fewer students will come to the next school year.

(39) Classes begin in August and September.

15. Cyberschools (By Jerilyn Watson)

(40) A new school called Commonwealth Connectional Academy will launch classes this fall.

(41) It will serve children in the state of Pennsylvania from ages five through thirteen.

(42) Teachers and a director will operate the academy's educational program from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

(43) Academy experts in Baltimore, Maryland will manage subject materials and technical services.

16. Compositing (By Gary Garriott)

(44) They must add water so the materials will break down or decay.

(45) Yet the piles should not be too wet or the plant material will be ruined.

17. EU Lifts Ban on Genetically Modified Foods, but Adds Conditions (By Mario Ritter)

(46) They say they are also concerned that Europeans will not want to buy foods labeled as genetically changed.

18. International Conference Looks at Agricultural Science and Technology

(47) The report identifies several technologies that researchers think will be important in twenty-first century agriculture.

VOLUME 8 (NOVEMBER 2003)

19. Ten Commandments Dispute (By Cynthia Kirk)

(48) The first Amendment guarantees that religion and government will be separate in America.

(49) But Roy Moore and his supporters have said they will continue their fight to return it to the centre of the courthouse.

20. United Nations Approves U.S. Resolution on Iraq (By Cynthia Kirk)

(50) The United States says it hopes the resolution will get more countries to provide troops and aid to help rebuild Iraq.

(51) The United States and Britain plan to request more aid at an international conference next week in Spain.

(52) The plan gives Iraq's temporal governing council until December fifteenth to set time limit to write a constitution and hold election.

21. Investigation of Intelligence Leak (By Cynthia Kirk)

(53) (He also said) he has no idea whether the person who leaked the information will ever be found.

22. Blindness/ World Sight Day (By Jill Moss)

(54) Health experts warn that the number of blind people will increase sharply as the world population grows, and grows older.

(55) They say the number of blind people could almost double by two-thousand-twenty.

(56) The goal is to end preventable blindness by two-thousand-twenty.

(57) Officials estimate that the world economy loses about twenty-eight-thousand-million dollars each year from curable blindness.

23. Telemarketing (By Jill Moss)

(58) The Forrester Research group expects more than three-million jobs in the services industry to move within the next fifteen years.

(59) It says they will go to countries like India, Russia, China and the Phillipines.

(60) As a result, the company says, the United States will lose more than one-hundred-thirty-thousand-million dollars in wages.

(61) The fear is that more American call centres will close or move overseas if the list is enforced.

24. World Bank Calls for Better Public Services (By Jill Moss)

(62) One goal is to cut world poverty in half by two-thousand-fifteen.

(63) They say development problems in the poorest countries are likely to continue until the issue of trade barriers is solved.

(64) A high-level WTO meeting is planned in Geneva by December fifteenth.

25. Nobel in Economics (By Mario Ritter)

(65) Robert Engel and Clive Granger will share the prize of about one-million-three-hundred-thousand dollars.

26. New Breast Cancer Drug (By Nancy Steinbach)

(66) The findings appear next month in the New England Journal of Medicine.

27. Efforts to Stop Measles (By Nancy Steinbach)

(67) Health experts estimate that each year nearly seven-hundred-fifty-thousand children die from the disease.

(68) The aim is to reach this goal in two-thousand-five.

(69) That goal is to be met by two-thousand-fifteen.

(70) So it says children up to fifteen will be vaccinated in this campaign.

28. 'G22' Developing Nations (By Mario Ritter)

(71) More negotiations are planned for December in Geneva.

(72) It is also proposed they end all agricultural subsidies by two-thousand-fifteen.

VOLUME 9 (2003)**29. World Trade Talks (By Cynthia Kirk)**

(73) Trade officials are expected to meet at the World Trade Organization headquarters in Geneva in December to decide how to continue.

30. West Africa Peacekeepers to Go to Liberia (By Cynthia Kirk)

(74) West Africa countries say they will send peacekeepers troops to Liberia on Monday to help end the conflict there.

(75) About 1500 Nigerian Troops are to arrive in Liberia as the first part of the peacekeeping force.

(76) The West African leaders also said President Charles Taylor is to leave Liberia within three days of the arrival of peacekeeping troops.

31. IMF Aid Plan for Argentina (By Cynthia Kirk)

(77) The three-year agreement will refinance twenty-one thousand-million dollars of debt owed to international lenders.

32. Improving Literacy Worldwide (By Jill Moss)

(78) The goal of the U-N is to reduce illiteracy rates by two-thousand-fifteen.

(79) This is why the first two years of the U-N campaign will pay special attention to women's literacy issues.

33. Heifer International (By Gary Garriott)

(80) They must make a plan, which will allow them to become self-supporting.

(81) Without them, the animals will not remain healthy and productive.

34. Dispute Over Water Level Along the Missouri River (By Caty Weaver)

(82) They say the plan will be ready next year.

35. Study Finds Huge Drop in Caribbean Coral (By Caty Weaver)

(83) But they say they do not know if this new coral will be able to survive any better.

36. Antimicrobial Drug in Agriculture (By Mario Ritter)

(84) But the report says more studies are needed to learn how much of an effect all this will have on drug resistance in people.

VOLUME 9 (FEBRUARY 2004)**37. Summit of the America (By Cynthia Kirk)**

(85) Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said free trade alone will not solve this problem.

38. HIV Stigma Toolkit (By Jill Moss)

(86) Also, people are afraid they will get the virus from being near people who have HIV or AIDS.

39. International Year of Rice (By Mario Ritter)

(87) Mister Diouf warns that production will not meet the needs of growing populations by two-thousand-thirty.

40. Congress Delay Country-Of- Origin Labeling (By Mario Ritter)

(88) Senator Tom Daschle and other supporters of labeling say they will try to stop the delay.

(89) Some industry groups say they will organize their own labeling system, but not as a requirement.

(90) The National Farmers Union and other Farm groups, as well as public interest groups, say they will fight the delay.

VOLUME 14/2004 (WWW.VOA.COM)**41. One World Beat Music Festival (Joe De Capua reports)**

(91) Hundreds of artists in more than 160 countries began performing Friday and will continue through Sunday to raise money and awareness about HIV/AIDS.

(92) While it is raising money for HIV/AIDS this year, the focus will probably change next year.

42. Nelson Mandela: The Artist

(93) She says, '...And we particularly wanted to answer the requests of our lovely American customers, who all when are you going to bring it to America?'

(94) The Mandela exhibit at New York's Rockefeller Plaza, will continue until March 27th.

(95) It is expected to then tour the United States.

E-Mail Spam Becomes Growing Nuisance for Computer Users

(96) I'll need it

43. UN Panel Endorses Entrepreneurship as Key to Eradication Poverty

(97) In his summary, co-chairman Ernesto Zedillo said the message is precise, and should be compelling: poverty will remain intractable in countries lacking a vigorous private sector.

44. Chemical & Pesticide Treaty Takes Effect

(98) A new international treaty took effect yesterday that will help protect developing countries from the misuse of dangerous chemicals and pesticides.

45. Experts at Washington Conference Examine Supply and Demand Trends for Oil

(99) Mr.Simmons is dubious about Saudi claims that its old fields will continue to pump at current levels and he also doubts that vast new fields will be developed elsewhere.

(100) Mahmoud Abdul-Baqi, who is in charge of exploration for Saudi Aramco, says that Saudi Arabia will be able to keep pumping oil at a high level for many years to come.

(101) Our track record shows that we delivered for 70 year and we're going to continue delivering for another 70 years, at least.

46. Report Warns of Falling Commitment to Combating AIDS

(102) Leaders at the upcoming International AIDS Conference in Thailand are expected to renew calls for a greater political commitment to life-saving anti-AIDS programs.

(103) The International AIDS Conference in July will again try to put the global fight against the pandemic at the center of world affairs.

(104) Now the issues that are going to come up is the political will to roll these programs out and that's what I think the big focus is going to be on.

(105) Over 1,500 delegates, including government officials, non-government representatives, AIDS and health activists, will attend the 15th International AIDS Conference in July.

(106) We are probably not going to get a preventative vaccine in the near future unless there is a radical breakthrough in science.

47. Italian Humanitarian Group Calls For Comprehensive Program To Stop Mother-To-child Transmission Of HIV

(107) If we believe that Africa will never have the treatment, we must continue to give Nevirapine because it is better than nothing.

(108) We must invest the resources that are going to become available to start the must invest the resources that are going to become available to start the therapy on the right foot.

48. S. African Scientist, Social Activist, George Ellis Awarded Templeton Prize

(109) People who take the time and effort to develop their spiritual sensibilities and their moral abilities will come to realize the specific nature.

(110) He says he will allocate funds to educational projects for black youth and to a campaign to give about \$15 a month to all South Africans.

(111) A project with potentially the greatest impact of all, for it will be used to try to persuade our government to implement a universal basic grant of 100 Rand (\$15) per month to all South Africans.

(112) He will formally receive the prize in a ceremony.

49. US Unveils New High Tech Seaport Equipment to Combat Terrorism

(113) The top U.S. Customs official on Monday unveiled new high-tech equipment that will be used at the nation's seaports in the fight against terrorism.

(114) Highly sophisticated radiation monitors will be installed to prevent terrorists from smuggling radioactive material, in the form of dirty bombs or nuclear weapons, into the country.

(115) The Port of New York and New Jersey, one of the nation's busiest seaports, will be equipped with the monitors by the end of August, making it one of the first to have them.

(116) U.S. Customs Commissioner Robert Bonner said it will cost \$1 million to install and operate each monitor.

50. Interpol Unveils New worldwide Police Database

(117) At border control and the airport, or any time in an investigation process that will allow an investigation using our databases and information in the databases put by another country to get leads on that person, or to arrest that person at the border control.

51. Taiwan President Will Not Oppose Recount

(118) Taiwan's president says he will not oppose opposition demands for a recount of Saturday's election.

(119) 'This will be one of the strategies used by the government to delay the whole process or to calm down the international pressure.'

(120) He said a recount alone will not satisfy the opposition and that the argument over the election is jeopardizing Taiwan's democracy.

52. Thailand sets Release of Aung San Suu Kyi as Condition for Constitutional Convention

(121) Thailand's Foreign Minister says Burma's military government will need to release Burmese opposition leader Aung San Kyi from house detention before holding a planned constitutional convention.

53. Some al Qaida Suspects May Have Escaped Siege, say Pakistani Authorities

(122) The way these people are fighting, I think is going to be a very long-drawn battle.

VOLUME 5 (VOA ENGLISH THROUGH NEWS)

54. Japanese Scientists Begin Work on Possible Mammoth Clone (By Katherine Maria)

(123) Japanese scientists are starting work on prehistoric DNA samples for what may become an attempt to clone a woolly mammoth.

(124) In the meantime, ... team leader Akira Irytani will start work on sequencing the genetic material from the animal, determining its genetic make-up.

55. NASA to Create Independent Safety Center (By David McAlary)

(125) The U.S. space agency NASA says it will create an independent office to review the safety of its programmes.

(126) Safety center will provide a comprehensive examination of all space agency projects.

(127) The center will be based at a NASA branch in Hampton...

(128) Overseeing the safety effort will be the new chief of the NASA branch...

(129) ...The new safety center will address some of the panel's concerns.

(130) The new NASA center will not be in the chain of command of any particular project, but it will be able to assess the quality....

56. New Process for Making Tiny, Super-Tough Fibers Could be Revolutionary, say Experts (By Suzanne Sprague)

(131) 'This revolution is going to transform our material world'

(132) 'It will let us make a whole host of products less expensively....'

(133) 'The elevator into space idea is basically taking the cable and running from the ground into Earth's orbit...'

(134) '...but it is the first indication that some of the properties of nanotubes are going to work well on the large scales.'

(135) It's hard to guess where recent advances made on the UTD campus will take the field of nanotechnology.

57. Wind Energy Among World's Fastest Growing Technologies (By Claudia Clark)

(136) By 2020, it is expected to fall to half of today's price.

(137) '...If you put up wind turbine, the direct cost of energy will be competitive with coal and natural gas.'

(138) To find out, Mr Jacobson will map it on the other inhabited continents.

(139) This will help wind power companies decide where turbines would be economical.

(140) 'Even though you might have slow winds in one location, there will be slight different winds somewhere else.'

(141) 'So to infer that coal and natural gas as a form of making electricity will be going away anytime soon'

(142) But Mr Brown thinks wind will eventually become the world's leading energy source.

(143) 'So the only question in the future is not if the wind is going to find its place in the sun, so to speak, but how fast it's going to do it.'

(144) The American Wind Energy Association points out that the rate will depend largely on policy makers' decisions over the next several years.

58. NASA's Latest Mars Mission to Look for Signs of Life on Mars (By Jessica Berman)

(145) The lander will explore the planet's surface, looking for signs of life.

(146) The Mars rover will sift through rocks and soil in search of water on the Red Planet.

(147) Dubbed Spirit, the lander will become the third U.S. martian probe.

(148) 'We sincerely hope that it will be the beginning of one of the first great 21st century voyages of exploration.'

(149) The two rovers will touch down on opposite sides of the planet in January.

(150) Mr. Squyres believes the three Mars missions will complement each other in the quest for knowledge about the red planet.

59. WHO Begins Massive Polio Immunization Campaign (By Lisa Schlein)

(151) The WHO says it is embarking on a massive immunization programme to eradicate polio by the end of 2005.

60. Thai Cabinet Moves to Restrict Ads for Alcohol, Caffein (By Nancy-Amelia Collin)

(152) The new advertising regulations will go into effect October 1.

(153) ...Billboards will now have to include printed health warnings.

(154) There will be no ads allowed at school and national sporting events.

(155) ...and perhaps it will do the same with caffeinated drinks.

(156) 'If you look at the alcohol consumption of this country, you will find that we are among the highest of the world..'

61. New WHO Director Cites Opportunities to Advance Fight Against HIV/AIDS (By Lisa Schlein)

(157) ... Combating HIV/AIDS will be one of his main concerns in the coming years.

(158) ...His organization will produce a global plan to provide 3 million people in developing countries ...

(159) 'We will strengthen the support and co-ordination function of the global network.'

(160) ...He will build on the work begun by his predecessor on controlling the use of tobacco around the world.

(161) The lopsided growth rates will affect regional economies.

(162) Most of the growth will occur in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

(163) 'One is that the developed countries are not going to grow as a group.

(164) The second thing we know is the developing countries are going to grow.

VOLUME 9 (FEB. 04. VOA ENGLISH THROUGH NEWS)

62. No-Till Farming Reduces Greenhouse Gas Emissions (By Matt Hackworth)

(165) The first generation farmer will harvest his crop this summer.

(166) In the meantime, the decaying cornhusks that are crunching underfoot will replenish the nutrients in the soil....

(167) The Chicago Climate Exchange is about to become a broker between companies...

(168) ...When the market opens up in Kansas, he'll sign it up.

(169) 'So, if we can get another revenue stream brought in to the farm that's gonna be that much better for us to help our operation survive'

63. Panel Urges Effort to Strengthen Science Capabilities in Developing Nations (By David McAlary)

(170)The group believes the new report will cause multilateral development agencies...

(171) 'We believe science and technology will add value to the way we do development'

(172) 'I hope the council and the wider world scientific community will build further on this foundation...'

64. UN: Better Development Decisions Could Save Lives in Natural Disasters (By Lisa Schlein)

(173) When we develop in an undeveloped area and that leads to deforestation 10 years down the line, we will be generating landslides.

(174) '....It is never going to be low because of the nature of the country...'

(175) He says he hopes the authorities will seize the opportunity to rebuild the city in a way that will protect the people from future quakes.

65. Rare Kenyan Bongo Antelope Return Home (By Alisha Ryu)

(176) ...Mountain bongo will rarely venture out of the forest.

(177) They will breed and produce offspring, which can then be released.

(178) Mr. Hunt says his aim is to convince local people that if the bongo thrive, there will be economic benefits through increased tourism and development in the area.

66. Bird Flu 'Under Control,' Claims China (By Luis Rarmiez)

(179) Stopping the bird flu in the world's most populous nation is going to be a tough job.

67. Rising Health Insurance Cost Become Issue in US Labor Disputes (By Mike O'Sullivan)

(180) Union representative Tony Bixler says that approach will not fix the problem.

(181) But in the face of opposition from business and the health care industry, who worry that costs will rise and quality will suffer.

(182) I think we will see it in almost all of our negotiations from now into the future.

(183) Health care is likely to be an issue in this U.S. presidential election year.

(184) The program will offer drug subsidies for low-income seniors, and give them access to cheaper medicines through managed health care systems, beginning next year.

(185) Democrats say the president's prescription drug benefit will help the pharmaceutical and health care industries more than seniors.

68. Dance World Celebrates Balanchine Centennial (By Barbara Schoetza)

(186) The company he co-founded in 1948, the New York City Ballet, is dedicating two full seasons to exploring Balanchine's legacy.

(187) It will include some of the hand ful of story-driven.

(188) Peter Martins says the Spring season will center on this aspect of Balanchne's career and on his influence on other choreographers.

(189)The Spring season of 64 ballets will divide into three festivals celebrating European, America, and Russian music.

(190) One of the highlights, Peter Martins says, will be a two-night appearance by the Georgian National Dance Company.

(191) By the time the centennial year ends, New York City Ballet will have danced 200 different ballets to the music of 40 composers.

69. Vietnam to Host World Peace Music Awards (By Peter Heinlein)

(192) The second annual World Peace Music Awards rock concert and ceremony will be held later this year.

(193) The event will honor U.S. rock stars from the Vietnam war era.

(194) Joan Baez is among the six artists who will be honored at the World Peace Music....

(195) The World Peace Award concert will be held in the capital June 26.

(196) It will feature several big names from around the world....

(197) The goal of the Hanoi concert will be to create musical combination across national and cultural boundaries.

(198) The World Peace Music concert and ceremony will be televised live by satellite.

70. India's Booming Economy Allows Technological, Military Expansion (By Patricia Nunan)

(199)...It is clear that India's military hardware and technology will make the nation a global leader.

(200) As far as we are concerned we are going to develop our power, not merely for the purpose of projecting it here and there.

(201) With the growing strength of its military and the new alliances India is forging with the rest of the world.