

The Language of Diplomacy and International Affairs

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Introduction

This work, as I think, is a valuable and much-needed reference in an area which still suffers from a shortage of such works. Diplomatic relations by definition involve reciprocity, and this principle is as true of the language of diplomacy as it is of other areas of international communication.

This paper will naturally be of interest not just to those actually working in Foreign Offices and Diplomatic Services throughout the Arab World, but also to those working in international forums such as the United Nations and its associated agencies or in regional organisations such as the Arab League and also to journalists, publicists, translators, students of international relations, economics and politics at universities and specialized institutes.

This paper will deal with the language of Diplomacy and International Affairs. It has two aims, the first is to look after the accurate definition of the Language of Diplomacy, the second is to provide a linguistic study of the language.

English has been the language controlling the International Affairs, so it should be the Keymaster of the language of Diplomacy and International Affairs and then it could be translated into different languages.

There are many advantages of the study of the language of Diplomacy. The first is that it will get great benefit for those who work in this field because very little work has been done. The second is that it will have linguistically and stylistically benefits for the translator.

1- Definition of Diplomacy

(Diplomacy) is associated with the human behaviour and interacts with the political human will to serve the human being in creating conditions that aim to ensure international peace and security and settle disputes peacefully. So it requires an intelligent knowledge and talent and clear-sighted person. Moreover, a diplomat must have the ability to evaluate events and to examine the matters around. It also requires a good sense because the diplomats are demanded to be gentle in their private and general behaviour and treatment so as to be a good representative of his country.

In (Hussein:16) there are many definitions of diplomacy by jurists and writers. Ma'awiya bin Abi Sufian said that diplomacy should be characterized by wisdom and flexibility since it deals with reality and

discusses issues. Galfo states that diplomacy is the science of relations between different countries and resulted from their mutual interests, the principles of international law and provisions of agreements. Sir Arnist Satow defines it as "the application of intelligence and tact to the conduct of official relations between governments of independent states. Refee states that " It is the science of representing countries and art of negotiation ". While the Indian Diplomat Banekar defines it as follows: "Diplomacy, in its relation with international policy, is the art of the interest of a country to the interest of others".

This definition is somewhat true, but not all of it. One of the adequate definitions is Oxford Dictionary's which is as follows "firstly, the science of conducting international relations by negotiations, secondly, a method adopted by ambassadors and diplomats who behave as representatives of their states in recognising it".

All these definitions deal with diplomacy as the science and art of debating negotiations and conducting relations between states.

Adi (1969: 37) states that J.R. Childs speaks of diplomacy as "the process by which foreign policy is carried out". Foreign policy is decided by parliament and the Cabinet; diplomacy provides the personnel and machinery by which foreign policy is. This is the definition favoured by several writers. However, it must be noted here that foreign policy decision-making is intricately linked up with one vital function of diplomacy, viz. reporting and negotiation.

(Nicolson, 1952:35) in his classic work (Diplomacy) observes that diplomacy seeks to adjust national with international interests. It seeks by the use of reason, conciliation, and the exchange of interest to prevent major conflicts between sovereign states. However, one defect with Nicolson's definition is the tendency to look upon diplomacy as an instrument of peace. "When negotiations break down" says Nicolson "diplomacy which is the instrument of peace becomes inoperative and the issue is settled by war". But diplomacy does not cease to operate with the outbreak of war; it only assumes a different form; it takes the form of giving assistance to military operations; of winning friends and detaching the enemy from his allies.

So, Diplomacy needs tact, skill, and intelligence with which negotiations are carried out. (Wright :1955:165) States that "the art of negotiation, in order to achieve the maximum of group objectives with a minimum of costs within a system of politics in which war is a possibility".

There are many functions of diplomacy which are: representation, reporting, negotiation and protection of interests.

As diplomacy aims to ensure international peace and security and settles disputes peacefully, it requires an international law to regulate the conduct of relations between the states of the world. The main source of this law is treaties and convention (T and C). This agreement is arrived at by the two

contracted states after they discuss their mutual issues in a way that would serve their interests.

T & C are agreements between international legal personalities. They could be distinguished from other types of agreement in that they have to be valid only after ratification.

It is a fact that any kind of treaties and conventions should have its own parts to regulate the work of each T & C so as to be a systematic international law in a way that would achieve the interests of each country and to ensure their mutual rights and obligations of countries . Sultan (1965:216-217) divided T & C into three parts : The preamble which includes aim, reasons and purposes to fulfill the agreement, the second part is the naming of the parties of the T & C, the third one includes provisions of T & C.

Treaties and conventions which are two types of the language of Diplomacy are covered with the more general term "international agreements" which covers all agreements having an obligatory character concluded under whatever from between members of the international community, whether it be sovereign states, or international organizations (Wood & Serres: 1970 : 210) .

International agreements are looked upon as a source for international law (ibid:211). These agreements have great tasks which are to regulate and improve the relationships between countries and to settle the disputes peacefully.

Wood & Serres ... (ibid:212) states that international agreements, sometimes referred to as instruments, are divided into categories which are treaties and conventions, intergovernment agreements, protocols, international instruments. They state that treaties are used for important political agreements. But both of them are formal ways. Intergovernment agreements are used for passing through letters or notes and so on, while protocol is used as a register for the results and consequences of the negotiation.

Treaties and conventions contain :

- 1- The preamble which contains statements that explain the aim of the treaty.
- 2- The text which contains the articles.
- 3- The final clauses, including the signature of two contracted parties and the date and place of the signature.

2- Qualifications of A Diplomat

Nicolson (1952:160) devotes a big part of his work to the subject of "qualities of a diplomat" because as he thought or believed "time and manners change but the quality of a good diplomat does not change.

The first quality is truthfulness; the diplomat must have this quality so as to gain confidence of the other party. A lie may help him to gain something immediately but, it will leave in its wake a desire for revenge. The second quality is that a diplomat must develop his intellectual accuracy. When a

diplomat speaks with a foreign minister, he is advised to carry with him a short synopsis or aide memoire of what he says, so when he reads this to the minister he should take care to leave the copy behind. When a diplomat receives information from a foreign minister, he should not send this directly to the home government but must take the minister's verifications This helps him avoid the embarrassing situation. The diplomat must also be modest and must not be vulnerable to flattery or attack. Conceit is one of the worst vices a diplomat can suffer from, so it may prevent him from confessing his failure to his government from saying that he is wrong in reading the political.

Diplomacy is an activity between two sovereign states; we don't know who will control the activities of the other. It needs boundry conditions, narrow rules for narrow game. The world does not care for the rules; they care only for the purpose of the game, but these purposes have been changing.

The diplomat tries to define problems within the scope of his culture, because culture will be sooner the diplomat's community in which he lives.

Diplomats become mediators between their states and hosts from the point of view of the host governments. There is a great difference between the reception of an ambassador on a specific mission and of a permanent representative.

3- Linguistic Characteristics of The Language of Diplomacy

3.1 Syntax

3.1.1 Nominal Groups :

The noun is considered to be the head of the nominal group. This head may be obligatory or optional if it is premodified or postmodified.

Nominalization : The Language of Diplomacy tends to use the nominal groups more than the verbal ones.

The more-using nominalization in the Language of Diplomacy can be shown in the Resolutions of the Diplomatic Conference of Geneva, 1949 as stated in the following examples.

Resolution -7-

The conference, being desirous of securing the maximum protection for hospital ships, expresses the hope that all High contracting parties to the Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed forces at sea of August 12, 1949, will arrange that, when ever conveniently practicable, such ships shall frequently and regularly broadcast particulars of their position, rout and speed.

In Arabic, the nominal sentence marker (إن) is one of the optional discorsal features as :

إن المؤتمر ، إذ تحدوه الرغبة في تأمين أكبر حماية لسفن المستشفيات يعرب عن الأمل في ان تتخذ جميع الأطراف السامية المتعاقدة المرتبطة باتفاقيات جنيف لتحسين حال جرحى ومرضى وغرقى القوات المسلحة في البحار ، المؤرخة في 12 آب / أغسطس 1949 الترتيبات التي تكفل

كلما كان ذلك ميسوراً ان تذيب هذه السفن بشكل متواتر ومنتظم بيانات موقعها وخط سيرها وسرعته .

Crystal and Davy (1969:205) state that one of the most striking characteristics of written legal English is that it is so highly nominal. It is also a feature of legal Arabic in spite of the differences of the internal of the Arabic structure sentences.

1- In Arabic, nominalization is introduced by complementizer ما + finite verb.

ما يقرره المجلس بالاجماع يكون ملزماً لجميع الدول .

The decision of the council taken by a unanimous vote shall be binding on all the member states.

(Emery : 1988 : 8)

2- The modal verbs may be nominalized in Arabic by using an infinitive (مصدر) , and in English, it would be explained by finite passive verb .
e.g. , ... في حالة قيام أي خلاف لا يمكن تسويته بأي وسيلة اخرى . (Resolution (1) of the Diplomatic Conference of Geneva, 1949).

3- If there is no modality, the nominal structure is used to avoid a passive form with mentioning the agent, e.g.,

The Conference recommends that consideration be given as soon as possible to advisability of settling up an international body, the functions ... (Resolution -2-).

As a conclusion, the language of Diplomacy is stative rather than dynamic because the natural characteristics of nouns are stative (Quirk:1972:48).

There are two consequences of nominal style, firstly it is longer than its verbal counterpart. Secondly , it is probable that the number of clauses in each sentence will be reduced since nominalization replaces conjunctions by prepositions.

3.1.2 Modification :

It is the relation that links linguistic items, equal and unequal relationships (strang: 1968:87) . There are two kinds of modifications : premodification and postmodification which are based on the position of a modifier whether it is before or after the head.

Postmodification in English usually takes the form of a phrase or a clause, but the single form might be taken influenced by French as in the following examples taken from the Resolutions of Diplomatic Conference of Geneva 1949:

1- The conference recommends that, in the case of a dispute relating to the interpretation or application of the present conventions ... (Resolution 1).

2- Whereas circumstances may arise in the event of the outbreak of a future international conflict in which there will be no protecting power ... (Resolution 2).

3- The provision of the present convention constitute no obstacle to the humanitarian activities which the International Committee of the Red Cross (Resolution-10-Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of August 12, 1949).

We notice that postmodification is more favoured than premodification, so the Language of Diplomacy is greatly similar to legal English.

3.1.3 Verbal Groups :

It is a group of words having the same syntactic function as a simple verb in a sentence.

This group may be finite or non-finite, but whether it is finite or non-finite, it consists of one or more auxiliaries + a head verb. The most common use in the Language of Diplomacy is the finite as it is stated in the following example:

The wounded and sick shall be collected and cared for.

يجمع الجرحى والمرضى ويعتني بهم

(Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in the time of war of August 12, 1949 (Article 3 paragraph 2) .

But the non-finite use might rarely be used in the Language of Diplomacy as:

..... thus creating serious difficulties

مما تترتب عليه مصاعب خطيرة

(Resolution of the Diplomatic Conference of Geneva, 1949. Resolution 4)

The Language of Diplomacy is commonly used in the future tense. In the verbal group, the future tense is implicitly expressed as the following:

Shall + Verb = obligation

In addition to the provisions which shall be implemented in

علاوة على الأحكام التي تسري في وقت السلم تنطبق هذه

(Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian persons in the time of war of August 12, 1949 Resolution 2).

So (shall) is the main modal in the Language of Diplomacy, while other modals as " may, will, must, can, would and should " can be used, but "might" and "could" are rarely used. Consider the following examples:

1- Which cannot be settled by other means .

لا يمكن تسويته

(Resolution -1-)

2- Whereas circumstances may arise in the event of the outbreak of future international conflict

حيث انه يجوز في حالة نشوب نزاع دولي في المستقبل

(Resolution -2-)

1- The parties to the conflict should further endeavour to bring into force.....

وعلى اطراف النزاع ان تعمل فوق ذلك

(Resolution -3-)

2- In addition to the provision which shall be implemented in peacetime.

علاوة على الاحكام التي تسري في وقت السلم

(Resolution -2-)

The most common formals which are used in the language of diplomacy are :-

Modal + Bare infinitive

So that peace shall reign on earth for ever

حتى يسود السلم على الارض الى الابد

(Resolution 8)

Modal + Be + Past Participle

It appears necessary that some methods of grouping messages should be introduced whereby a series of short specimen messages

وحيث انه يبدو من الضروري ، من اجل تخفيض تكلفة هذه البرقيات التي غالبا ما تكون باهضة ، ايجاد طريقة ما لجمع الرسائل يتم بموجبها وضع مجموعة من نماذج الرسائل القصيرة بشأن الصحبة الشخصية

Resolution 9

From the above examples, we notice that Arabic also does not have a modal verb, so it is expressed by using different particles or lexical items.

Passive voice is used in a high proportion in the English Language of Diplomacy in both agentless and agentative.

..... can be recognized as a belligerent by powers not taking Are governed by

Resolution 10

In Arabic it is not preferred to use agentative passive, so it may be replaced by " activated " Arabic counterpart.

So the above mentioned example will be translated as :

And we can also use يجوز / يتم + infinitive in Arabic to avoid agentless passivization .

لا يجوز للجرحى والمرضى وكذلك افراد الخدمات الطبية والدينية التنازل في أي حال من الاحوال جزئيا او كليا عن الحقوق الممنوحة لهم بمقتضى هذه الاتفاقية

Protected person may in no circumstances renounce in part or in entirety the rights secured to them by the present convention

(Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in the Time of War of August 12,1949)

(Article 8).

3.1.4 Coordination :

It is used to link two or more sentences which have the same function. This use in the Language of Diplomacy is very important because it differentiates the function of the elements of the sentence. There are many kinds of coordination words such as (but, either or, as well as, not only but also etc) as they are stated in the following examples from Resolutions of the Diplomatic Conference of Geneva 1949 :

- 1- Whereas Article 10 of the Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the condition of the wounded and Sick in Armed forces in the field of August 12, 1949 Article 10 of Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the condition of wounded , sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed forces at sea of August, 12, 1949 .

The person of diplomatic agent shall be inviolable . He shall not be liable to any form of arrest or detention . The receiving State shall treat him with due respect and shall all appropriate steps to prevent any attack on his person, freedom or dignity . (Article 29).

- 1- If a diplomatic agent passes through or is in the territory of a third State, which has granted him a passport visa if such visa was necessary, while proceeding to take up or to return to his post, or when returning to his own country, the third State shall accord him inviolability.....

(Article 40)

There are also many examples about coordination in Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Person in Time of War of August 12,1949) which are :

- 1- No special agreement shall adversely affect the situation of protected persons, as defined by the present convention, nor restrict the rights which it confers upon them.

(Resolution 7)

- 2- For this purpose, each of the protecting powers may, either at the invitation of one party or on its own invitation

(Resolution 12)

3.1.5 Punctuation : is one of the distinguished features of orthography of the Language of Diplomacy.

It is worth mentioning that periods, commas, semicolons and colons are widely used in this language, but in general, a postrophe, question and exclamation marks are not used at all .

Instead of using periods in preambles at the end of paragraphs, the use of semicolons or commas can be noticed. We can also notice in preambles the use of commas followed by semicolon and then colon. Other types of punctuation are rarely used.

In operative parts we find periods used as an essential punctuation mark followed by commas.

We can conclude that punctuation marks are used commonly in operative parts, while their use in preambles are very rare.

There are obvious features found in the language of diplomacy which stress special matters and the use of underlining, italics and capitalization. The italics is the distinguished feature in preambles while capitalization in operative parts.

There are no abbreviations in the Language of Diplomacy because in such language there is great need for clarity and accuracy

3.1.6 Condition :

The conditioning particles in the conditional clause in English are (if) and (unless). There are two kinds of conditional clause as (Quirk:1972: 747) states, which are open condition expressed by the possibility of implementing the condition and the hypothetical condition which expresses the improbability of implementing the condition. Most of the conditional clauses found in the Language of Diplomacy are of the open condition type.

There are types of adverbial clauses used in the Language of Diplomacy which are :

- Would
1- + infinitive of the main clause } Future .
Should

- 2- had + (ed participle) in the subordinate clause } past.

Below are examples of conditional clauses:

- 1- The Convention shall also apply to all causes of partial or total occupation of the territory of a High contracting party, even if the said occupation meets with no armed resistance.

Although one of the powers in conflict may be a party to the present

They shall furthermore be bound by the Convention in relation to the said power, if the latter accepts and applies the provisions thereof.

(Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Presons in time of War of August 12, 1949 (Article 2)).

- 2- Such individual person shall not be entitled to claim such rights and privileges under the present Convention as would, if exercised in the favour of such (Article 5).

- 3- The protection to which fixed establishments and mobile medical units of the Medical Service are entitled shall not cease unless they are used to commit, outside their humanitarian duties, acts harmful to the enemy (1st G.C. Art. 21).

In the Language of Diplomacy, the modal (should) is used as a conditional particle. The following is an example of this feature :

-“Should fighting occur on board a worship, the sick-bays shall be respected and spared as far possible”.

(2nd G.C. , Art. 28).

3.1.7 Sentence Structures : There are many types of English sentences which are :

- 1- Simple sentence : It consists of a subject and a simple verb .
- 2- Compound sentence : It contains two or more coordinated clauses.
- 3- Complex Sentence : It consists of a main clause and one or more subordinate clauses.
- 4- Compound-Complex : It contains two or more coordinated clauses and one or more subordinate clauses.

We can notice from the following examples that the Language of Diplomacy contains all the above mentioned structures :

- 1- The conference requests the International Committee of the Red Cross to prepare a model agreement on the two questions referred to in the two Articles mentioned above and to submit it to the High Contracting Parties for their approval (Compound sentence) Resolution of the Diplomatic conference of Geneva, 1949 (Resolution -3-).
- 2- The conference recommends that the High Contracting Parties will, in the near future, instruct a Committee of Experts to examine technical improvements of modern means of communication between hospital ships, on the one hand, and war ships and military aircraft, on the other, and also to study the possibility of drawing up on international code (Resolution -6-) . (Compound . Complex sentence) .
- 3- The Conference recognizes the necessity of providing regular financial support for the International Committee of the Red Cross. (Resolution 11). (Simple Sentence).
- 4- In addition to the provisions which shall be implemented in peacetime, the present convention shall apply to all cases of declared war or of any other armed conflict which may arise between two or more of the High Contracting parties, even if the state of war is not recognized by one of them.

The Convention shall also apply to all cases of partial or total occupation of the territory of a High Contracting party, even if the said occupation meets with no armed resistance. (Complex sentence).

(Geneva Convention Relative to the protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of August 12,1949. Article -2-).

3.1.8 Sentence type :

There are two types of sentences, the most important are periodic and loose sentences.

- 1- Periodic Sentence : This is done by delaying the main verb of the sentence, so one may begin with the full meaning and later on the main verb. This can be illustrated by the following examples :

The Conference, begin desirous of securing the maximum protection for hospital ships, expresses the hope that all High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of

Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked. Members of Armed forces at Sea of August 12, 1949, will arrange that, whenever conveniently practicable, such ships shall frequently and regularly broadcast particulars of their position, route and speed. (Resolution of the Diplomatic Conference of Geneva, 1949 (Resolution 7)) .

Periodic Sentences are used in preambles of the texts of the Language of Diplomacy while loose sentences are used in operative parts.

2- Loose Sentences : In this type of sentences the verb must be placed after the subject, and thus the meaning will be provided immediately as shown in the following examples:

1- The Conference recommends that States take strict measures to ensure that the said emblem, as well as other emblems referred (Resolution of the Diplomatic Conference of Geneva, 1949 (Resolution-5-)) .

2- The conference wishes to affirm before all nations :
that, its work having been inspired.....
(Resolution 8).

3.1.9 Coherence and Cohesion :

Coherence : is the logical sequencing in the text. So the language of Diplomacy is coherent because every instrument is connected logically to a special subject. In other words the language of Diplomacy is featured by unity.

Cohesion : is based on the coherence of the text because it is the method or process by which the elements of the text are connected.

There are main types of cohesion which are conjunction, substitution, lexical cohesion, ellipsis and so on.

The sentences below are clear examples of cohesion :

1- Whereas the present conference has not been able , since that study went beyond its term of reference. Whereas this question is of the greatest importance for the safety and efficient operation of hospital ships. (Resolution of the Diplomatic Conference of Geneva, 1949 (Resolution - 6-)).

2- For this purpose, each of the Protecting Powers may, either at the invitation of one party or on its own initiative, propose to the parties to the conflict a meeting of their representatives.
(Geneva convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in time of War of August 12, 1949 , (Article 12)).

3- Formality

The formal style is found in the Language of Diplomacy. We can notice the absence of participation due to the fact that such language contains a higher degree of nominalization and passivization, and we can also find the absence of questions and exclamatory sentences .

Conclusion

In the light of the study of the language of Diplomacy and International Affairs handled so far, we can conclude the following points :

- Diplomacy as a profession needs an intelligent knowledge, talent and a clear-sighted person. Moreover, since diplomacy requires a good sense which helps the diplomat evaluate events and examine issues around, a diplomat must be gentle in his behaviour.
- Nominal groups are used more frequently than verbal groups in the language of Diplomacy. In Arabic, the marker (ان) and the complementizer (ما + finite verb) characterize the Arabic nominal sentences of this language. This feature makes the language stative rather than dynamic.
- The finite verb is most commonly used in the verbal groups in this language .
- (Shall, may, will, must, can, should) are the most common modals used in the language of Diplomacy.
- Sentences here are either periodic or loose. Periodic sentences are particularly used in preambles.
- There are no exact Arabic equivalents for certain terms used in the language of Diplomacy and International Affairs which would require us to consult the Arabic language academies to choose the appropriate equivalents.

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Conventions :

- 1- Resolutions of the Diplomatic Conference of Geneva, 1949.
- 2- Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Presons In Time of War of August 12, 1949 .