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THEORETICAL HERITAGE BY A. K. KORSAKOV: LINGUODIDACTIC INTERPRETATION (on The Material of the System of Past Tenses in English)

The article is dedicated to the interpretation of the system of the “past” tenses in modern English as it is viewed in the manual by A. K. Korsakov “The Use of Tenses in English”, (1978) from the viewpoint of the methods of teaching. It is based on our more than 20 years’ personal classroom experience and presents A.K. Korsakov’s theory of tenses in a concise and comprehensible way without in the least distorting its basic ideas.

The necessity of such interpretation is caused, on the one hand, by the great scientific validity of the manual (up to now it hasn’t lost its topicality and remains the best book on tenses ever written) and, on the other, by the fact of purely scientific way of presentation of the material and, probably, its thickness – the features that have hindered and still hinder its being widely applied in practice.

Key-words: *tense, past indefinite, present perfect, before-present static, past static, anteriority, past, adverbial*

Жаборюк О.А., Жаборюк І.А. Теоретична спадщина А.К. Корсакова: лінгводидактична інтерпретація (на матеріалі системи минулих часів в англійській мові). *Стаття присвячується методичній інтерпретації системи минулих видо-часових форм сучасної англійської мови, представленої у посібнику А.К. Корсакова “The Use of Tenses in English” (1978), - з позиції багаторічного досвіду викладання граматики на спеціальному факультеті. Мета статті відродити інтерес як теоретиків-лінгвістів, так і практиків до теорії видо-часових форм англійської мови А.К. Корсакова, яка з своєю науковою значущістю та експланаторною силою до цього часу залишається неперевершеною.*

Ключові слова: *видо-часова форма, минулий неозначений час, теперішній перфектний час, минулий перфектний час, перед-теперішній статичний час, передминулий статичний час, минулий статичний, обставина.*

Жаборюк Е.А., Жаборюк И.А. Теоретическое наследие А.К. Корсакова: лингводидактическая интерпретация (на материале системы прошедших времен в английском языке). *Статья посвящается методической интерпретации системы прошедших видовременных форм современного английского языка, представленной в пособии А.К. Корсакова “The Use of Tenses in English” (1978), - с позиции многолетней практики преподавания грамматики на специальном факультете. Наша цель состоит в возрождении интереса как лингвистов-теоретиков, так и практиков к теории времен английского языка А.К. Корсакова, которая по своей научной значимости и экспланаторной силе до си пор остается непревзойденной.*

Ключевые слова: *видо-временная форма, прошедшее неопределенное время, настоящее перфектное время, прошедшее перфектное время, преднастоящее статичное время, предпрошедшее статичное время, прошедшее статичное время, предшествование, обстоятельство.*

It has passed nearly half a century since “The Use of Tenses in English” by professor A.K. Korsakov was published – the book appeared in 1978 – but hasn’t in the least lost its topicality. By now we don’t know any manual on the English tenses which from the viewpoint of its scientific adequacy and conformity to the objective grammar could compete with A. K. Korsakov’s one.

Nevertheless, despite its obvious advantages, this manual, as far as we can judge, hasn’t got the deserved attention from teachers of English. The reasons for this, to our mind, are as follows: firstly, this manual hasn’t been boosted enough in the professional circles and, secondly, it is its thickness and scientific way of presentation of the material that most probably frighten away the teachers. Our article, therefore, is aimed at the removal of both these deficiencies: it calls the attention of teachers again to this unfairly ignored theory and, by interpreting it from the viewpoint of the methods of teaching, makes it concise, comprehensible and thus more appropriate for the process of teaching. The method of presentation of this theory is the result of our long-term practical experience in the classroom. We gladly share it with the colleagues hoping that our approach would win more and more adherents.

In view to be economical we present the material in a compressed abstracts-like way, trying to avoid profound theoretical explanations. Those willing a deeper insight into the problem might turn either to the original or to the footnotes where the most necessary information is given.

Before coming to the point, we would like to emphasize the fact in our interpretation none of the theoretical messages of the manual has been distorted – the fact which, we hope, would be put down to our credit. The main difference between the original and our interpretation lies in the fact that in the latter the “past”¹ tenses of English are viewed not individually – in tense-by-tense order (as is common for a scientific way) but in a system which is, to our mind, more fully meets the requirements of the methods of teaching. Another peculiarity of our approach is that we, basing ourselves on our long-term classroom experience, have laid special emphasis on those theoretical issues of the theory which proved to be most difficult for the students to understand. Moreover, we also has suggested our own way of their explanation and argumentation.

So there are three² “past” tenses in English: the past indefinite tense (the past simple), the past perfect and the present perfect tense. That means that whenever a learner wants to refer in his speech to a past process³ he is confronted with the

¹ The term “past” is not used here in its strict scientific sense. The scientific difference between “past” and “anteriority” will be explained in the article below.

² We exclude from the system of the “past” tenses the corresponding continuous forms as the latter do not differ from their non-continuous counter-parts as far as the time-relationships are concerned – the difference between non-continuous and continuous forms is aspectual. The aspect, however, is not the subject-matter of our article.

³ The term “process” is used by A.K. Korsakov in the meaning of a particular instance of existence of a substance in time and space. The “process” is wider than “action” and “state”.

problem of choice: which of the three tense-forms would be more appropriate to a particular speech situation. Especially difficult is the task for students whose mother-tongue possesses only one past tense-form and for whom perfect tenses are absolute novelty – as, for instance, Ukrainian or Russian students.

Below we offer four criteria which might help a student to cope with the situation and to make the right choice. These criteria are as follows:

1. Statistics. The frequency of occurrence of the past tense-forms in the two communicatively different aspects of speech – in narration and in dialogue speech could be represented in the following table:

Table 1

The frequency list of “past” tenses in English

Tense-form ¹	Narration (%) [1]	Dialogue (%) [2]
The past indefinite	60	22
The past perfect	5	(extremely rare)
The present perfect	4	10

As we see from the table [1, 51- 54; 2], the statistics is in favour of the past indefinite tense which ranks first both in narration and in dialogue speech and exceeds in frequency both the perfect tenses over and over. This gives us right to put forward the hypothesis of **the universality** of the past indefinite tense in the system of the past tenses of the English language.

2. The Starting Position of the Speaker. Referring to “past”-time processes the speaker starts either from a **“present-time situation”** or a **“past-time situation”**.

a) The present-time situation is understood as a general present-time background against which “past”-time tenses are used. To be more exact, it is **the mental present of the speaker** from which he “pushes” himself “off” (alienates himself) to refer to a past process. Since learners of English do not have to differentiate between these two types of situations in their native tongue this criterion should be paid special attention to: well illustrated by examples and trained. The markers of the present-time situation, as could be well observed from the examples below, are as follows: frequent usage of the present tense, the imperative mood, the Subjunctive-one form, etc.

Examples of present-time situations:²

¹ The tenses-forms in the table are arranged according to their decreasing frequency in narration.

² At this stage of analysis the kind of the “past” tense-form in each particular case is of no importance – this would be discussed below. What really matters is the situation itself, its parameters as a whole, as well as the possibility of using two “past” tenses. It is this that should be paid special attention to by the teacher.

1. “Oh, thank God”, she said. “Thank God? You’ve come”¹ (Sheldon S. Bloodline);
2. “Carrissima – I can’t. I don’t have it”. “Then get it for me! You promised!” (Sheldon S. Bloodline);
3. “Look at me. I’m scarcely a shadow of what I was three weeks ago” (Saroyan W. Selected Stories);
4. “I’ve made all the arrangements already. The swings and the merry-go-round arrive on Sunday” (Chrome Yellow);
5. “I’ve heard about you. You have a very good reputation. People seem to believe you” (Magician).

As you see from the above examples, the present-time situation gives the speaker the possibility, while making references to past processes, to avail himself either of **the past indefinite** or **present perfect tense**.

b) The past-time situation is a general past-time background against which “past” tenses are used. It is **the mental past of the speaker** from which he “pushes” himself “off” (alienates himself) to refer to a still deeper past plane (past process). The peculiarity of this kind of situation, as compares to the former one, is that the speaker has switched over from the present into the past (he doesn’t think of the present altogether, he is fully absorbed in the past) – which is witnessed by the dominant usage of the past indefinite tense within the limits of the situation.

6. Examples of the past-time situations:

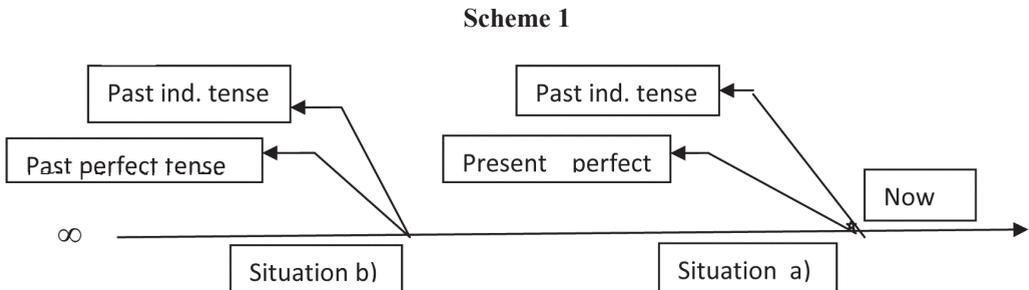
1. I was in the middle of my second chapter, and I was stuck. Fatigue, overwork – I had only written a hundred words in the last hour, and I could get no further. I sat biting the end of my pen and looking at the electric light which hung above my table (Chrome Yellow);
2. He looked up, startled. It was Mary. She had broken from the uncomfortable embrace of Mr. Scogan, who had now seized on jenny for his victim (Chrome Yellow);
3. I dreamt that I was in the Parliament. There was a debate on foreign affairs which was very important not only for the country, but for the whole world. I was to make a speech. I had prepared it carefully. I wanted it to produce an effect in the Parliament and to silence my enemies (Magician).

As well as in the present-time situation, in the past-time situation the speaker, referring to an earlier time plane, has to choose not from three tenses but only from two: **the past indefinite tense** or **the past perfect tense**.

This gives us grounds to conclude that the second criterion does not only confirm the above hypothesis of the universal character of the past indefinite tense (it is used in two kinds of speech as well as in two kinds of situations) but,

¹ All underlined parts of the situation with an uninterrupted line in this and in all other cases show the shift of time plane: from the present to the past – in situation a); from the past to a still earlier past plane – in situation b). The “past” tenses are presented in bold type.

as could be observed from the examples above, it also narrows the choice of the speaker: now the speaker has to choose not from the three tense-forms (as in the beginning) but from the two only – the choice which is not only much easier but, as psychologists believe, is practically always unerring. The universal character of the past indefinite tense is especially vivid when represented graphically:



Time-line

3. The grammatical meaning of the “past” tenses. This criterion helps the student to make the appropriate choice within each of the above described situations. It is the most essential criterion as it gives insight into the grammatical nature of each of the “past” tenses.

It is only but natural that here we should proceed from the grammatical meaning of the tenses as they are formulated in A.K. Korsakov’s manual.

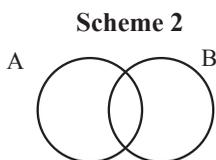
According to his view the **past indefinite tense** is used to denote the **mental past** of the speaker represented statically (from here is the name which this author suggests to this tense – **the past static tense**) [1, 46, 69]. On the graph above it occupies the stretch of the time-line to the left of “Now” (“the moment of speech” in linguistics).

The perfect tenses, in A.K. Korsakov’s view, are **anterior** tenses, as different from the past static tense that is “the past indefinite tense” – in traditional terminology [3, 85]. The **present perfect** [3, 95] expresses **anteriority (priority) to the mental present of the speaker** (to the general present-time background) [1, 133] while **the past perfect** [3, 98] – **anteriority to his mental past** [1, 153]. These tenses, therefore, are, respectively, called in the manual as **the before-present** and **the before-past tense**. From now on we will also stick to these names.

Comparing the definitions of the grammatical meaning of the “past” tenses presented above, we see that the demarcation line between the latter comes through the notions of “**the past**” and “**the anteriority**”. That means that to see the difference between the past static tense and the before-present /-past static tenses we must properly understand the difference between these two notions.

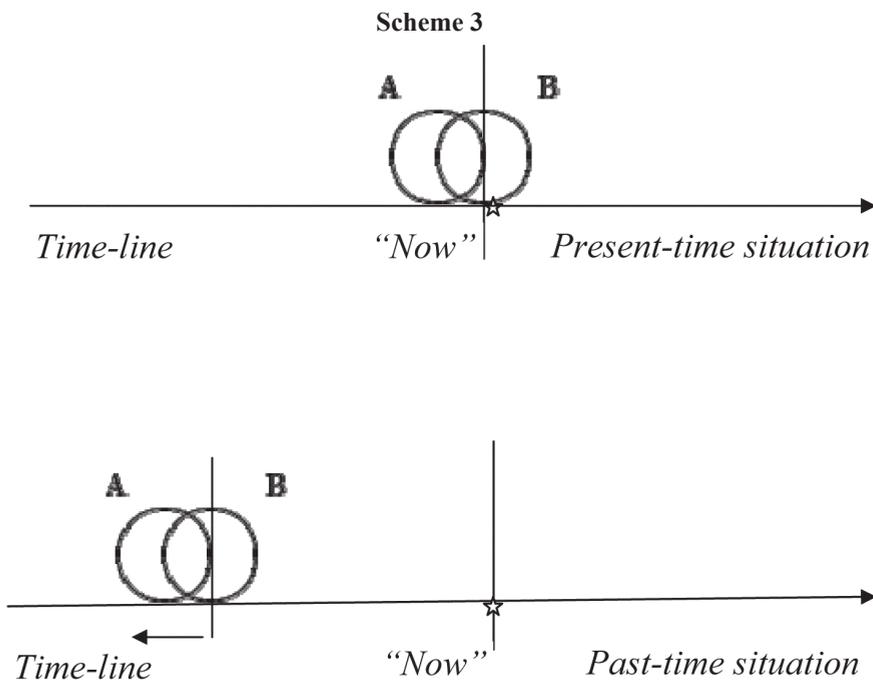
The analysis shows that, as far as the contents of these notions is concerned, the “past” and “anteriority” have something in common and at the same time they are different. According to formal logic, the relationship between these two notions

could be defined as a relationship of intersection, which could be graphically represented with the help of Euler's circles in the following way:



where: A – the Past; B – the Anteriority 1

The common section of both notions actualizes itself when the “past” process the speaker refers to lies to the left from “Now” on the time line. This is possible in both kinds of situations: the present-time situation – situation a), and the past-time situation – situation b). This is the case of the so called “**parallel**” usage of the **past static** and the “**before-**” **static tenses** when the difference between these two kinds of tenses is, practically, annihilated. And, indeed, the process lying on the left from “Now” is **past** by determination. At the same time it may be treated either as a **before-present** process (as it is usually prior to the present-time situation) or as a **before-past** one, as it may precede a certain situation in the past. This stipulates the possibility of the arbitrary choice of tenses within each kind of situation: the past static or the before-present static tense in situation a); the past static and the before-past static – in b). To make it more vivid we represent both cases graphically on the time-line:



Parallel Uses of the Past Static and the Before-present Static and the Before-past Static:

Present-time situation. Examples¹ of the “parallel uses” [1, 75 – 78] of the past static (the past indefinite) and the before-present (the present perfect) tenses:

1. “By the way, I **brought** you a box of cigars”, Annixter stared as Priestly laid the box on the edge of the washstand (F. Norris)*. // “I’ve **brought** you a box of chocolates. Get through them as quickly as you can and put some weight on” (D. Cusack)*;

2. “Well, how do you know that?” “I **read** it in a book” (P. Abrahams)*. // “Oh, I’ve **read** about it and I know” (J. London)*;

3. “Forget what I’ve said. I **didn’t mean** most of it” (H. Wallpole)*;

4. “Yes, I **have worked** hard”, Frederick affirmed. “It **was** worth it” (J. London)*;

5. “I’ve **lain** awake for two nights turning it all over in my mind. I **thought** I should go mad” (W.S. Maugham)*.

In these examples all the past processes referred to by the speaker could be located on the time-line to the left from “Now” that is – to the left from the present-time situation which means that they belong to the sphere of the past. At the same time they can be interpreted as anterior because they precede the present-time situation. Moreover, in examples 3, 4 and 5 the location of processes on the time-line fully coincides. This explains the arbitrary choice of a tense by the speaker in each particular case.

Past-time situation. [1, 78 – 80]. Examples of the “parallel uses” of the past static (the past indefinite) and the before-past (the past perfect) tenses:

1. “Go into my sitting room and sit down. I’ll put on my stockings and some shoes.” – He did as she **bade** and in five minutes she joined him (W.S. Maugham)*;

2. Though his room was beyond mine saw him return the way he **came** (J. Conrad)*;

3. The war did something to Larry. He didn’t come back the same person he **went** (W.S. Maugham)*;

4. We drove out to see the Turtles. Amicia **rang** me and I suggested it (J. Lindsay)*

The omission of the past perfect could be explained by the fact that very often it is already clear from the context itself which of the processes is anterior.

Having explained the sphere where the notions of the past and anteriority overlap with each other, we now can pass over to the spheres of difference in these notions, namely, to the so called “pure anteriority” [1,134 -137] and “pure past” [1, 16 -17]. This difference can be reduced to the following features:

¹ Examples taken from the manual by A.K. Korsakov are marked with *.

1. “Anteriority” and “future” do not contradict each other while “past” and “future” are mutually exclusive notions;

2. “Anteriority” can’t be fixed on the time-line while “past” always finds on it a definite location. From here it follows that verbalized anterior processes are actually not real processes – they are nothing more but mere statements: statements of general validity, technical instructions to certain appliances, dictionary entries, etc; verbalized past processes, on the contrary, – the processes that really existed.

3. If situated to the left of “Now”, “Anteriority” is often vague and not associated with definite circumstances of the past; “past”, on the contrary, is definite, clear: the speaker can always recall what actually happened and under what circumstances.

Basing ourselves on the above features, we can now illustrate the embodiment of the latter in the corresponding English tenses – the before-present static and the past static.

Examples of **pure anteriority**¹

Incompatibility of “past” and “future”:

a) “*Got to go out and see someone. Like to tell you all at first. Celia and I – hope to get married next year when I’ve done my course*” (A. Christie);

b) “*I shall be downstairs. Let me know when you’ve finished and I’ll come up and talk it over with you* (W.S. Maugham)*;

In the examples above the emphasised processes could be located on the time-line to the right of “Now” (as different from all the previous examples). That means that these processes refer to the sphere of future and as such have nothing whatsoever to do with the past (as it was already mentioned, these notions are mutually exclusive). That is why the substitution of the before-present for the past static here is out of the question.

1. Statements of general validity:

a) “*No fox likes to eat an animal that he himself has not killed* (W.S. Gray)*;

b) “*If you learn how to tackle one subject – you’ve learned how to tackle all subjects*” (A. Christie);

c) “*After all, I suppose there is some point in it – I might be the person who murdered her! And when you’ve murdered one person they say you usually murder a lot more...*” (A. Christie);

d) “*You know it is the custom now to interview any man who has become notorious*” (M. Twain);

e) “*...and once you’ve started an accusation like this, it takes a lot of killing*” (A. Christie);

¹ The past static is out of the question.

f) "...but nothing excuses the violence and coarseness of expression, especially in a man, who **has been** carefully brought up, as I know Harris has been (Jerome K. Jerome);

g) My wife never does what I **have told** her to do (M. Twain).

a) War-widow – woman whose husband **has been killed** in war;¹

b) Orphan- a child who **has lost** his parents by death;

c) Rain-water –water that **has fallen** as rain and **has been collected**.

a) The indicator shows when the signal **has been recorded** (Electronics)*;

b) When the present time has elapsed you will hear an audible signal*.

2. Vagueness, indefiniteness of location on the time-line:

a) "What's the time? My watch **has stopped** (G. Greene)*;

b) He looked at her. "Say, you **haven't been** sick, have you?" - Carrie nodded (Th. Dreiser)*;

c) "Look at yourself. A woman. You've **had** a baby? No? To look at you, you're married, my girl" (D. Carter)*;

d) Suddenly he started sniffing vigorously. "You've **been drinking**," he snarled (G. Gordon)*;

e) "Hullo," he exclaimed, "You've **been crying**." Her eyes were still wet with a few vague tears (Th. Dreiser)*;

f) "There's a sad loveliness in that faint hollow of your cheek, but it means you've **been neglecting** your butter and milk" (A. Cronin)*.

Examples ² of **pure past**:

1. Pattern: the verb remember + a single-act past process):

a) "I remember that the curtains of one house **weren't** fully drawn" (J. Braine)*;

b) "I remember I **laughed** just as big as you please" (Th. Wolfe)*;

d) "I remember Edgar said he **played** around Wall Street" (Th. Dreiser)*;

2. Narration:

a) Lord Montrago **had** many qualities. He **had** intelligence and industry. He **travelled** in the world and spoke several languages (Magician);

b) His face **was** red with anger and he **poured** upon Dr Audlin a stream of such words that Dr Audlin **was surprised** he **knew** them (Magician).

3. Definite associations with the past, its circumstances:

a) "Have you seen Mr. Whitford this morning?" – "He **passed** me" (G. Meredith)*;

b) "I **stayed** on that ship thirty hours" (J. Conrad)*;

c) "I suppose it's Grant." – "At first she made no reply. Then she said: "Yes, Arthur **asked** him to supper" (G. Gordon)*;

d) "Here is your knife. I **found** it in the path" (W. Faulkner)*;

¹ All examples from this section have been taken from Oxford Student's Dictionary of Current English.

² In these cases the speaker associates the processes with some particular circumstances in the past (he is mentally in the past), that's why the past static is used.

e) *The dog moved its tail, lowered it, and went off. “A gipsy gave it to me,” said Tod, “best god that ever lived” (G. Galsworthy)*.*

f) *“All that about fiddling I learned from Mr. Edward Soames” (J. Braine).*

4. The Criterion of the Adverbial Modifiers of Time. This criterion, as it is known, ranks first in importance in most of traditional grammar books [3, 96; 4, 43; 5, 48, 49 50]. In reality, as A.K. Korsakov’s investigation has proved, it is the least reliable of all. For its best, it can only be treated as an additional means of specifying the use of tenses in situation a), that is – in present-time situation (p. 7).

The lists of frequency of adverbials of time used with both tense-forms (the before-present static and the past static tense) given in the manual [1, 138 – 149; 81 – 84] were rearranged by us in a comparative table – according to the decreasing frequency of adverbials of time registered with the before-present static tense. This table is presented below.

Table 2

The comparative frequency lists of adverbials registered with the before-present static and the past static tenses

№	Time Adverbial	The Before-present Static	The Past Static
1	Ever, never before	+	+ (1,5 times more frequent)
2	Always	+ (1,5 times more frequent)	+
3	Before	+ (1,5 times more frequent)	+
4	Just	Br. E	+ 95 %
		Am. E	+ 51 %
5	Yet	Br. E	+
		(66% in statements, mostly neg. 44% in questions, mostly general)	
		Am. E	+ 85 %
			+ 15 % (mostly in general questions)
6	Since (then)	+	- (+ in “since”-clauses only)
7.	Ever, ever... before, ever ... in my life	+	+ (1,5 times more frequent)
8	In my time, in my day, in his youth	+	+
9	Once	+ (one one occasion only, a single time up to now)	+ (at one time in the past
10	Already	Br. E	+
		Am. E	+
			-
			+

№	Time Adverbial	The Before-present Static	The Past Static
11	So far	+	-
12	Long ago, long since	+ (“long ago” more frequent than “long since”)	+
13	Lately, of late	+ (“Lately” more frequent than “of late”)	_ (extremely rare – archaic)
14	In the past	+ 94 %	+ 6 %
15	Recently	+ 68 %	+ 32 %
16	Now	+	+
17	This evening, etc	+	+
18	From the first, From the start	+ (retrospective)	+ (emphasis on the beginning of the process)
19	In 1959, etc	+ (as an afterthought only)	+ (much more frequent)
20	Today	+ (on this present day, at the present time, in these days)	+ (3 times more frequent and is used only in the sense: on this present day)
21	Long	+ (for a great extent of time; at a point of time distant from now)	- (+ only in combinations: all day long, etc)
22	All along, all the while, How long..	+	- (+ only in combinations: all day, all night, all through the afternoon, etc)
23	Just now	+ (rarely, as an afterthought)	+ (scarcely a minute ago)
24	Tonight	+ (common)	+ (common)
25	When...?	+ (mostly in rhetoric questions)	+
26	At the age of 21	+ (in statements of general validity)	+
27	By this time, by now, constantly	+	+ (by now, by 10 o'clock, by the middle of January)
28	An hour ago	+ (in statements of general validity)	+
29	In my life, after the morning service, over and over again	+	+
30	In earlier years, previously	+	-
31	Afterward, as a boy, as yet, at last	+	+

Examples¹ to the table:

1. “Poor Jessie. She looks healthy, but she’s never been a strong child” (I. Hughes). “I’ve never seen you so quiet before” (S. Lewis) // She was shy. She never spoke unless she spoken to (Th. Wolfe). His big brother never took him anywhere (G. Gordon).

2. “I have always thought it a blessing (Miss Yonge).” I’ve always wanted to see foreign places” (S. Lewis). “Of course, it’s like Victora. She always has been the image of her” (E. Denafield). // “You’re naughty, Dinny. I always thought you were naughty” (G. Galsworthy). “We’ll have a shot at it. You know I always wanted you to try. And now I do more than ever” (A. Cronin).

3. “I’ve been through that before” (Th. Dreiser). “I’ve heard that name before” (A. Cronin). // “Roger,” he exclaimed, “she’s made a man of me. I was a machine before (F. Norris). “No, darling. We’ll manage somehow. We starved before, we can starve again” (W.S. Maugham).

4. “my father’s just brought me this picture, Aubrey – isn’t it a gem?” (G. Galsworthy). // “Read that. Vanamee just brought it” (F. Norris). “Look, Annie, I’ve just finished listening to Sales. And you were absolutely right” (M. Wilson). // “Fine,” she laughed, “But you just finished telling me that you couldn’t earn that kind of money” (M. Wilson).

5. “Nothing has happened yet” (P. Abrahams). “they haven’t arrived yet” (B. Shaw). “Have you eaten yet?” (I. Shaw). // “Did you meet him yet?” – “No, I didn’t” (Th. Dreiser). “Did you rewrite scene two yet?” (I. Shaw).

6. “I’ve thought of her story a good deal since then” (W. S. Maugham). “I’ve always liked hares since” (J. Galsworthy). // In “since”-clauses only in the pattern “**Before-present Static + since-clause**: “You’ve got thinner since I last saw you” (D. Cusack).

7. “I’m not ashamed of anything I’ve ever done” (J. Braine). “Nobody’s ever known you” (Th. Wolfe). // “I’ll buy her the sweetest clothes a little girl ever had” (j. Lindsay). “You’re not like any other woman I ever met” (D. Cusack).

8. “We’ve both been boys in our time” (H. Walpole). “They’ve been good houses in their day” (Th. Wolfe). // No examples have been registered with the past static although these adverbials point to the past.

9. “It has only happened to me like that once” (E. Hemingway). “You have more than once interfered in his behalf” (F. Norris). // “Once I swallowed a tree toad by mistake, I was eating grapes” (F. Norris).

10. “You’ve already slightly chilled your lungs” (J. London). She has driven me mad already” (B. Shaw). // “Lend me your scissors a second. You got them handy?” – “No, I packed them already” (J. Salinger). “You say you spoke to her already” (Th. Dreiser).

11. “I want you to forget everything I’ve said so far” (A. Kingsley). “Survive, he thought, survive; it’s the only lesson i have learned so far (I. Shaw).

¹ All examples to the table have been taken from the manual by A.K. Korsakov.

12. "Why, I believe you. You **have convinced me long ago**" (B. Shaw). "It's a wonder they **haven't found that out long ago**" (J. Galsworthy). "A young woman commits many follies. I **have long since passed** through that phase" (P. Wodehouse). // **Long ago** there **lived** a selfish queen who had a good and beautiful daughter.

13. "My father **has been worried** in the business **lately**" (A. Cronin). "**Has Jean written** to you **lately**?" (J. Galsworthy). "He **has aged** greatly **of late**" (J. Conrad). // An empty chair at the table **was lately occupied** by Cornelius, who has finished his breakfast and gone (B. Shaw).

14. "Well, I've **come across** him **in the past** too" (A. Cronin). "You needn't think I'm going to go on enduring all this as I **have in the past**" (Th. Dreiser). // "Listen to me! You say I **did** you wrong **in the past** – and I did, let me make up for it, let me atone" (J. London).

15. "Several members of the old companies **have come** to me **recently** to ask me to help them" (Th. Dreiser). "You **haven't seen** any of us **recently**" (M. Wilson). // "**Did you hear** anything from Marigold **recently**?" – "Not for some years" (A. Kingsley). "What interest have you had?" – "**Recently I owned** a third-interest in a saloon at Warren and Hudson streets" (Th. Dreiser).

16. "I've **been out** with her about half-a dozen times **now**" (J. Braine). "**Now I have forgotten** what I was going to say" (B. Shaw). // The woman clutched the lean arm of her host. "**Now I got** you!" she said (D. Parker). "Of course, I haven't forgotten! It's **your birthday!**" – "You just **thought** of it **now!**" (R. Lardner).

17. "She's **been** extremely rude to me **this evening**" (A. Berkley). (The moment of speaking was past two a.m.) "By-the-by, how **have** you **got on** with your new pupil **this morning**?" (Ch. Bronte). (It was about dinner-time). // She will meet him soon enough. Perhaps she **met** him **this evening**" (C. Forester). (It was eight p.m.). "My," said Peggy very pleased, "you **got out** on the wrong side of the bed **this morning**, didn't you?" (I. Shaw). (Peggy was phoning to Michael early in the morning).

18. "You've **been** against us marrying **from the start**" (J. Braine). "You **have avoided** the ugly side of life **from the first**" (H. G. Wells). // "I'm not shocked. I **divined** it **from the first**" (J. London).

19. The American boxer Shomo **has** only once before **appeared** in Britain – **in 1959** (D. Worker). Principles of their use **have been discussed** by Arsdell (1951 (G. F. Steward)).

20. "**Has** your indigestion **bothered** you **today**?" (A. Cronin). "We've **run out** of honour **today**, but we have a nice fresh lot of self-respect" (Th. Wolfe). // "How **did things go** with you **today**?" (D. Cusack). "Now tell us what else **happened today**?" (J. Pudney).

The detailed and systematic analysis of the material carried out by the author of the manual gives the objective, true to life view of the usage of the adverbials with the "past" tenses in modern English. Not going into the problem of its difference with the traditional way the "past" adverbials are presented in grammar

books – the analysis being not the aim of the article, we still cannot but make some general remarks:

The statistics shows that the adverbials occur with the before-present static in less than half of its usage – only in 42 %; with the past static – still rarer – only in 13% – the facts which alone make the criterion of adverbials inessential.

The adverbials “ever”, “never”, “always”, “before”, “long ago”, “now”, “this evening”, “tonight”, “today”, and some others are used, contrary to what is stated in grammar books, with both tenses and, moreover, – without any limitations.

The usage of adverbials “just”, “yet” and “already” with the corresponding “past” tense is not the matter of the grammatical meaning of the latter, as most of the adherents of the traditional view believe, but – rather the matter of the variant of English – the British or the American one.

The difference in the usage of adverbials “once”, “from the first”, etc with either of the compared tense-forms is conditioned by the lexical sense of the former: the latter must harmonize with the grammatical meaning of the corresponding tense-form.

The difference in the usage of “long” in both tense-forms is lexico-syntactical: “long” is used with the before-present static while for the past static the phrase “all day long” is common; of the before-present static “all along”, “all the while” is characteristic, of the past static – such adverbial phrases as “all day”, “all night”, etc. So it is not the adverbial itself which lays restrictions on the use of a certain “past” tense-form, as is usually stated in grammar books, it is the sense of former which, actually, being dependent on the grammatical meaning of the tense, has to adapt itself to the latter.

The material shows that the number of adverbials used only with each of the tenses is rather limited. Moreover, they are not the ones that are usually listed in grammar books. So for the before-present static only three adverbials of the kind have been registered: “so far”, “lately (of late)”, “in the past”. What concerns the past static this list is by several members longer: “in 1959”, “just now”, “at the age of 21” “an hour ago”, “in earlier years, previously”. It is also important to mention that the latter, as opposed to traditional treatment, can be and **are** used with the before-present static: in the cases of an afterthought and in statements of general validity.

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