

Many researchers doubt the existence of a pure expression of future in terms of language. They state that it is difficult to express with words something which has not happened yet: The future might never be completely predictable.

Another reason for this is that the auxiliary verbs which are used in order to refer to the future are classified as modal verbs. I.e. they primarily carry modality.

The verbs in question here are *skal* and *vil*. It is to be noted that some researchers also connote modality to the expression *kommer til*.

The verb *skal* can carry the meaning of "necessity", "command", "promise", "rumour" or "assumption". *Skal* expresses furthermore pre-planned actions. Please note, that it is especially difficult to distinguish between the connotations of "pre-planned action" and "rumour" or "assumption" if the sentence has a 3. person subject.

The verb *vil* can carry the meaning of "wish" or "assumption" about the present or the future and "prediction". We could, in case of the meaning "prediction" talk about the time references *Th* and *Tu*, but it is not always very easy to distinguish between the reference to the future and the meaning "wish". This is especially true if the respective sentence has a 1. person or 3. person subject.

One of the most common forms to express a future reference is to use the Present Tense. Here, we can distinguish between Present Tense which is determined by a temporal adverb (TA-FP) and Present Tense which is conditional on limited, i.e. perfective, action (TU-FP).

The situation which can be characterised as "unlimited action" is not predictable and cannot be expressed by TU-FP.

*Kommer til* is seen as a construction of Future Tense which comes closest to carrying a purely temporal meaning. This is due to the fact that *kommer til* might be used together with any subject without characterising this subject further.