**Conjunction as presented by Halliday and Hasan (1976)**

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***Introduction***

**A text is a semantic unit whose parts are linked together by explicit cohesive ties. A cohesive tie is a semantic and /or lexico-grammatic relation between an element in text and some other element that is crucial to interpretation of it. Even though within-sentence ties occur the cohesive ties across ‘sentence boundaries' are those which allow sequences of sentences to be understood as text. Cohesion therefore defines a text as text.**

**According to Halliday and Hasan (1976), the conjunction is one of the four kinds of cohesive devices in texts, “expressing certain meanings which presuppose the presence of other components in the discourse,” and the relationships expressed by the conjunctions are termed as conjunctive relations. That is, conjunctive elements are cohesive not in themselves but indirectly, by virtue of their specific meanings ( 1976: 226).**

**Halliday & Hasan (1976) talk of conjunction where sentences are related to each other in a systematic way, in contrast to the kind of search instruction we find with reference or substitution. The attention here is on logico-semantic relations, particularly on a specific aspect of them, the “function they have of relating to each other linguistic elements that occur in succession but are not related by other, structural means” (1976: 227). An important point here is that, the “cohesive power” (1976: 229) actually does not rest in a conjunctive expression but in the underlying semantic relation as shown in the examples below.**

**However, conjunctive relations may appear in different structural guises . The relation of "succession in time", for instance, may be expressed :**

**1-in a predication (A snowstorm followed the battle.),**

**2-as a minor predication (After the battle, there was a snowstorm.),**

**3-as a relationship between predications (After they had fought a battle, it snowed.),**

**4-with two separate sentences (They fought a battle. Afterwards, it snowed.)**

**This time sequence has now become a cohesive agent and it is this semantic relation in its cohesive function that we are referring to as CONJUNCTION. The Adjunct will be referred to as a Conjunctive Adjunct or Discourse Adjunct.**

***Types of conjunctive expression***

**Given the criterion that a particular semantic relation CAN operate conjunctively, then any expression of that relation, with or without a demonstrative or other reference item, will be considered to fall within the category of conjunction. In general, therefore, conjunctive adjuncts will be of three kinds:**

**1--adverbs, including: simple adverbs (coordinating conjunction), e.g.: but, so, then, next.**

**compound adverbs in *–ly*, e.g.: accordingly, subsequently, actually.**

**Compound adverbs in *there-* and *where-*, e.g.: therefore, whereat, thereupon.**

**2--other compound adverbs, e.g.: furthermore, nevertheless, anyway, instead, besides.**

**prepositional phrases, e.g.: on the contrary, as a result, in addition.**

**3--prepositional expressions with *that* or other reference item, the latter being (i) optional, e.g.: as a**

**result of that, instead of that, in addition to that, or (ii) obligatory, e.g.: in spite of that, because of that.**

***Types of conjunction***

**The different types of conjunctive relation that enter into cohesion are listed in this section. They are not the same as the elementary logical relations that are expressed through the structural medium of coordination. The conjunctive relations are not logical but textual; they represent the generalized types of connection that we recognize as holding between sentences. What these connections are depends in the last resort on the meanings that sentences express, and essentially these are of two kinds: *experiential*, representing the linguistic interpretation of experience (i.e. it is the relation between meanings in the sense of representations of "contents" or "our experience of external reality"), and *interpersonal*, representing participation in the speech situation (i.e. it is a relation between meanings in the sense of representations of the speaker's own "stamp" on the situation – his choice of speech role and rhetorical channel, his attitudes, his judgments and the like)(1976: 238, 240).**

**Halliday and Hasan (1976) further subdivided conjunctions into four categories, according to the relationship they express: *additive, adversative, causal, and temporal* conjunctions. They explore the function of conjunctions in great details. They are explained below:**

**1--** **Additives: The connectives that link units of semantic similarity. The additives introduce discourse units that repeat and emphasize the key points or add relevant new information to the prior expression(p. 244).**

**2--** **Adversatives: The connectives that bring in the expressions that are contrary to expectation. The expressions indicate a contrary result or opinion to the content mentioned previously. In this sense, the adversatives signal the beginning of a different viewpoint(p.250).**

**3--** **Causals: The connectives are used to introduce result, reason or purpose. The clauses connected are related to each other either in the cause-and-effect relation or in the conditional relation(p.255).**

**4--** **Temporals: The connectives that express the time order of events. In order to manifest the temporal relations of successive and simultaneous events, this category includes the preceding, sequential, and simultaneous connectives…(p.261).**

**Examples for additive relation include *and, or, likewise, furthermore*, etc. Conjunctive relation of the adversative type is characterized by such conjunctions as *but, however, on the contrary*, etc. The third type is casual relation expressed by conjunctions such as *so, thus, hence, therefore, consequently*, etc. Finally, the temporal relation can be expressed through *then, previously, before that* and so on. Temporal relation also includes the sense of conclusiveness by such items as *finally*, *to sum up, in short*.**

**Consider carefully the following sentences:**

**1-My client says he does not know his witness. Further, he denies ever having seen her. (Additive, Emphatic)**

**2-Perhaps she missed her train. Or else she’s changed her mind and isn’t coming. (Additive, Alternative)**

**3-All the figures were correct; they’d been checked. Yet the total came out wrong.(Adversative, Proper "in spite of", Simple)**

**4-We maybe back tonight; I’m not sure. Either way, just make yourself at home. (Adversative, Dismissive "no matter…, still", Closed)**

**5-You are not leaving, are you? Because I’ve got something to say to you.(Causal, Reversed "this is why I'm asking" , Simple)**

**6-I was not informed. Otherwise I should have taken some action. (Causal, Conditional "if…,then", Reversed Polarity)**

**7-The weather cleared just as the party approached the summit. Until then they had been nothing of the panaroma around them.(Temporal, Complex, Terminal)**

**8-At last, he finished the rehersal for his role.(Temporal, Conclusive, Simple)**

***Other conjunctive items (continuative)***

**This is a residual category of the usual "miscellaneous" type used with a cohesive force in the text. They are six items(p.267), represented through the examples below:**

**1-now, e.g: Are you ready? Now when I tell to jump, close your eyes and jump.**

**2-of course, e.g.: "Everything's just as it was!" "Of course it is," said the Queen.**

**3-well, e.g.: "Do I look very pale?" said Tweedledum, coming up to have his helmet tied on... "Well – yes – a little," Alice replied gently.**

**4-anyway( or at any rate), e.g.: The last time she swa them, they were trying to put the Dormouse into the teapot. "At any rate I'll never go *there* again," said Alice as she picked her way through the wood.**

**5-surely, e.g.: They'll think you're serious. – Nobody could be so stupid as to think that, surely.**

**6-after all, e.g.: You needn't apologize. After all nobody could have known what would happen.**

***The cohesive function of intonation***

**It is interesting that there is a general tendency in spoken English for conjunctive elements as a whole to be, phonologically, either tonic(maximally prominent) or reduced(minimally prominent). This can be explained by reference to the function of intonation in English grammar(p.271). For a discussion of these aspects of intonation, see Halliday (1970) " A Course in Spoken English: Intonation".**