

CONJUNCTIONS IN ENGLISH: MEANING AND USES

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Abstract: This paper contains an in-depth study of conjunctions, including their meaning, types as well as uses or functions in English. Conjunctions are words that link or connect two words, phrases, clauses or sentences together, either in speech or in writing. Conjunctions are one of the eight parts of speech in English, according to the traditional grammar. Apart from the coordinating, subordinating and correlative types, the author has also researched into other kinds of conjunctions that can be of great interest to the reader. The author deemed it necessary to carry out a study of this kind because over the years, this important area of language study has received less attention from language scholars and students of English/linguistics in comparison with other parts of speech like nouns, verbs, adjectives and prepositions.

Key words: conjunctions, coordinating, subordinating, correlative

Аннотация: Данная работа представляет собой углубленное исследование союзов, включая их значение, типы, а также использование или функции в английском языке. Союзы — это слова, которые связывают или соединяют два слова, фразы, части предложения или целые предложения как в устной, так и в письменной речи. Согласно традиционной грамматике, союзы являются одной из восьми частей речи в английском языке. Помимо сочинительных, подчинительных и парных союзов, автор также исследовал другие виды союзов, которые могут представлять большой интерес для читателя. Автор счел необходимым провести данное исследование, поскольку на протяжении многих лет эта важная область языкознания получала меньше внимания со стороны ученых-лингвистов и студентов английского языка по сравнению с другими частями речи, такими как существительные, глаголы, прилагательные и предлоги.

Ключевые слова: вспомогательные группы слов, связующие, вспомогательные.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqola bog'lovchilarning mazmuni, turlari hamda ingliz tilidagi ishlatilishi yoki funksiyalarini chuqur o'rganishga bag'ishlangan. Bog'lovchilar – bu so'zlar bo'lib, ular ikki so'z, ibora, gap yoki jumlani og'zaki yoki yozma nutqda bog'laydi. An'anaviy grammatikaga ko'ra, bog'lovchilar ingliz tilidagi sakkizta so'z turkumidan biridir. Muallif nafaqat bog'lovchilarning bog'lovchi, tobe va juft turlarini o'rganib chiqdi, balki o'quvchi uchun katta qiziqish uyg'otadigan boshqa turdagi bog'lovchilarni ham tadqiq qildi. Ushbu mavzuni tadqiq etish zarur deb topilganligiga sabab uzoq yillar davomida tilshunos olimlar va

ingliz tili/lug‘atshunoslik bo‘yicha talabalarining e‘tibori bu muhim soha bilan solishtirganda boshqa so‘z turkumlariga – otlar, fe‘llar, sifatlar va predloglarga ko‘proq qaratilgan.

Kalit so‘zlar: yordamchi so‘z turkumlari, bog‘lovchi, ko‘makchi, yuklama, sof, vazifadosh.

INTRODUCTION

(ВВЕДЕНИЕ/KIRISH). This paper is a descriptive form of qualitative research, as it carries out a panoramic description and explanation of conjunctions by stating clearly their meaning, types and uses or functions in English. The use of conjunctions in English is obvious, perspicuous and well defined, as one of the core grammatical classes, popularly known as parts of speech in the language. It is true that there exists a lot of literature already on conjunctions, and the researcher has been able to draw and garner insights from them, alongside his own input or contribution, which has given quality and worth to this paper. The paper has contributed immensely to knowledge in language study because it has brought home to the reader the basic information he/she needs, at least, to some extent, as far as conjunctions in English are concerned. This, indeed, is the main purpose of this research.

(МАТЕРИАЛЫ И МЕТОД/ADABIYOTLAR TAHLILI VA METODLAR). Traditionally, the conjunction is one of the eight parts of speech in English. A conjunction, as reported by Malmkjær, is defined as an indeclinable part of speech that links other parts of speech, in company with which it has significance, by classifying their meaning or relations. According to Leung, conjunctions have been studied under various labels and have drawn much attention from various scholars in the field of English/Linguistics over time: Halliday and Hasan treat them as “linguistic devices that create cohesion”, while Sanders and Maat describe them as a “semantic relation that is explicitly marked”. According to Er, as cited by Aidinlou and Reshadi, conjunctions are a “semantic connection between two clauses”. Furthermore, Leung cites four scholars in this regard. These are: Schiffrin, who treats conjunctions as “discourse markers”, Fraser considers them as a “pragmatic class of lexical expressions”, or simply, “pragmatic markers”, while Rouchota states that conjunctions “encode different meanings, and that they can be a procedural device”, and lastly, Caron conceives conjunctions simply as being used “to express various kinds of relations between utterances” [6]. Aside from the scholars

mentioned above, others most generally conceive conjunctions as linkers or connectors that join two words, phrases, clauses or sentences together, either in speech or in writing. To this end, Leech and Svartvik note, “Clauses or phrases may be linked together (coordinated) by conjunctions” [5].

DISCUSSION

(ОБСУЖДЕНИЕ/MUHOKAMA). These are used to link words, phrases and clauses. They are conjunctions which are used to join together clauses of equal rank. In other words, they generally connect sentence elements of the same grammatical class such as nouns with nouns, adverbs with adverbs, phrases with phrases and clauses with clauses. They also link two sentences that do not depend on each other for meaning. They are simply referred to as coordinators, and the art of joining two words, phrases, clauses or sentences using coordinators is known as coordination. Language scholars have divergent views on the types of conjunction. For instance, Baskervill and Sewell, Arthur, Lester and Eckhard-Black divide conjunctions into two classes: coordinating and subordinating conjunctions. These scholars (including others not mentioned here) leave out correlative conjunctions because, according to them (e.g. Lester, correlative conjunctions are similar to coordinating conjunctions [1].

However, there are traditionally basically three types of conjunctions, which are: coordinating, subordinating, and correlative conjunctions. In a different development, Halliday and Hasan on their part, propose four types of conjunction that ensure cohesion in English generally: Additive Conjunctions act to structurally coordinate or link by adding to proposed item and are signalled by and, also, furthermore, in addition, etc. Additive conjunctions may also act to negate the proposed item and are signalled by nor, and ... no, neither. Kinds of additive include: alternative, e.g. or, or else, alternatively; after-thought (or conjunct), e.g. incidentally, by the way; expository, e.g. that is, I mean, in other words; exemplificatory, e.g. for instance, thus; comparing similarity, e.g. likewise, similarly, in the same way (or in the same vein); and comparing dissimilarity, e.g. on the other hand, by contrast, on the contrary [2].

Adversative Conjunctions are used to express comparison or contrast between sentences and they include but, on the other hand, however, yet, though, only. Kinds of adversative include: emphatic, e.g. nevertheless, despite this; contrastive avowal, e.g. in fact, actually, as a matter of fact; correction of meaning, e.g. instead, rather, at least; closed dismissal, e.g. in any case, in either case, whichever way it is; and open-ended dismissal, e.g. any how, at any rate, however it is [3].

RESULTS

(РЕЗУЛЬТАТЫ/NAIJALAR). Causal Conjunctions express the cause or reason of what is being stated. They include: then, so, hence, therefore. Kinds of clausal conjunction include: specific causal. It is divided into three – (a) reason, e.g. for this reason, on account of this, on this basis, it follows; (b) result, e.g. as a result, in consequence, arising out of this and (c) purpose, e.g. for this purpose, with this in mind, to this end; simple emphatic, e.g. in that case, in such an event, that being so; direct respective, e.g. in this respect, in this regard, with reference to this; reversed polarity, e.g. otherwise, under other circumstances, in other respects, aside from this [4]. Temporal conjunctions represent sequence relationships between clauses and they include: next, secondly, then, in the end. Kinds of temporal conjunction include: simultaneous, e.g. just then, at the same time; preceding, e.g. previously, formerly, before that; conclusive, e.g. finally, at last, in conclusion; immediate, e.g. at once, thereupon, forthwith; repetitive, e.g. next time, on another occasion, later; specific, e.g. next day, an hour later; durative, e.g. meanwhile, in the interim, for the time being; here and now [4].

This is divided into three – (a) past, e.g. up to now, last time; (b) present, e.g. at this point, here, now and (c) future, e.g. from now on, henceforth (or henceforward); summarizing, e.g. to sum up, in short, briefly; resumptive, e.g. to resume, to return to the point. Moreover, Halliday, as cited by Saya and Fatemi, further classifies conjunction into three more abstract types: elaboration, extension and enhancement. Elaboration includes apposition like in other words and clarification like rather. Extension includes addition and variation like alternatively. Enhancement includes spatial-temporal like there, previously and causal-conditional like consequently and in that case. We deem it necessary to comment here that the above taxonomy by Halliday and their

examples are more of adverbs than conjunctions. Also on his part, Murthy outlines four types of conjunctions which are: coordinating, subordinating, correlative and compound conjunctions. We will consider them one after the other.

CONCLUSION

(ЗАКЛЮЧЕНИЕ/XULOSA). In conclusion, conjunctions are very important in English, and that is the main reason why we have taken time to discuss them widely in this paper, with a special focus on their meaning, types and uses or functions in the language. In doing this, many simple but straightforward sentential examples have been provided for easy comprehension. The major advantage of this article is that it has succeeded in making an attempt to present before the reader the basic information he/she needs as far as conjunctions in English are concerned. No doubt, this paper will continue to be of immense and invaluable value or use to the students and scholars in the fields of English and Linguistics any time anywhere both in this generation and generations yet unborn.

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