

Result Clause : Analyses and Reduction

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1- Introduction

The expression of result relations is a rewarding area for anyone interested in the subject. English makes use of certain structures and conjunctions to express result clauses. This study is an attempt to describe and examine the basic syntactic and semantic aspects of adverbial clauses and phrase of result through which English expresses the idea mainly. Thus, the purpose of the study is to examine some of the factors that determine their distribution and use.

The relation between result clauses and those of purpose and cause will be revealed too. The present study attempts to suggest some tentative transformational rules which convert clauses into phrases since the meaning indicated by both are identical.

2- Result Clause Analysis

An adverbial clause of result expresses the idea that what has happened or that may happen is the result of the action or state expressed in the main clause. Let us consider how the following sentences are combined using "so ...that": The man was very tired. He could scarcely stand.

1- The man was so tired that he could scarcely stand.

"That he could scarcely stand" is the subordinate adverbial clause of result of the man being so tired.

Clauses of result are introduced by "so ... that", "such ...that and "so that". Each subordinator behaves differently from the other. The pattern for "so ...that" is "so + adjective + that":

2- Sara is so emotional that every little thing upsets her.

3- The food was so delicious that we ate all of it.

It is to be noted that 'so' in (2) and (3) goes with an adjective without a noun. If a noun comes with 'so', the pattern will be "so + adjective + noun + that":

4- He was so rude a man that he lost all his friends.

5- She was so active a lady that she worked all of the day without taking a rest.

A variant pattern for 'so ... that' is "so + adverb + that":

6- The thief ran so fast that no one could catch him.

7- The girl spoke so well that she convinced everybody of her innocence, or "so + noun + that":

8- Ahmed has so little money that he

has to get a job .

- 9- There are so many students that classes are crowded .

Wren and Martin (1985 : 286) state that " so ... that " is sometimes separated in such a way that ' so ' begins the main clause . In these cases, a reversal of word order in the main clause is required for the purpose of emphasis

- 10- So good a teacher is he that all respect him .

- 11- So cold was it that many died .

Close (1978 : 66) summarizes the patterns of " so + adjective + that " saying that we could have variation like the following :

- 12- She made a speech so remarkable
so remarkable a speech
So remarkable was her speech
that she was elected the chairman.

- 13- He gave a lecture so good
so good a lecture
So good was his lecture
that all of the students clapped when he finished .

A study carried out by Altenberg (1984 : 41) shows the distribution of the result clauses introduced by ' so ... that ' and ' so adjective .. (reversed) ' . The study draws an analysis of British English based on a sample of 100 - 000 words from both the spoken London - Lund Corpus (LLC) and the written Lancaster Oslo - Bergen Corpus (LOB) . The result arrived at are illustrated in the following

table :

TYPE	LLC	LOB	TOTAL
so ... that	25	22	47
so adjective (reversed)	0	1	1

On the other hand , adverbial clauses of result may be introduced by "such that" . Here , the pattern is "such + adjective + noun + that" .

- 14- That is such an ugly chair that he is going to give it away .

(a + singular countable noun)

- 15- Those are such ugly chairs that he is going to give them away .

(plural countable nouns)

- 16- That is such ugly furniture that he is going to give it away .

(noncountable noun)

"Such + noun + that " is another variant pattern .

- 17- Nada behaved in such a manner that her reputation suffered .

- 18- The Roman built in such a way that their walls are still standing.

Sometimes 'such' may be used as a pronoun (usually after a form of 'be') in a clause of result .

- 19- The experience was such that I will never forget it .

- 20- The insect was such that we couldn't see it .

It is worth mentioning that 'such' is never used after 'much' and 'many' . Thomson and Martinet (1990 - 254) signify that 'so' may be used with both .

- 21- She hates her work so much that she is thinking of resigning.

- 22- The patterns were so many that it takes a long time to learn them .

In both patterns of result clause (i . e

'so ...that' and 'such ...that'), the subordinating conjunction 'that' is sometimes understood and not expressed as .

23- It was so late I waited no longer.

24- This is such a noisy street you have to shout when you speak .

In addition to these two patterns , Eckersley and Eckersley (1980 - 343) point out that a clause of "simple result" is usually introduced by "so that" .

25- The teacher was speaking very quickly , so that it was difficult to hear what he said .

26- Very heavy rain fell so that the rivers were soon in flood .

3- Result and purpose

A remarkable relationship with which grammarians have been concerned is that of result and purpose . Clauses of result overlap with those of purpose semantically and syntactically . Quirk et . al (1985 - 1108) indicate that the chief semantic difference is that result clauses are factual rather than putative . That is to say , both clauses express result but here the result is achieved whereas in the purpose it is yet to be achieved - it is desired or aimed - at result . Therefore , a result clause does not require a modal auxiliary . Put it another way , in purpose sentences , something is done deliberately in order to bring about a certain result while in result ones, something happens by chance and brings about a certain result .

27- She sat in the front row so that she heard every word of the lecture . (Result)

28- She sat in the front row so that she could hear every word of the lecture . (purpose)

Tregidgo (1988 - 196) confirm that the word 'that' in (27) is unnecessary sine the sentence is more readily understood as giving the actual result rather than the result expected.

On the other hand , quirk et . al (1972 - 754) refer to a syntactic difference between result and purpose clauses in that whereas the former is a disjunct (29) the latter is an adjunct (30) , thus , only the purpose clause can form the focus of a cleft sentence (31) . The following examples may clarify this :

29- I know him well so that I speak to him on your behalf .

30- We took a taxi so that we could get there early .

31- It was so that we could get there early we took a taxi .

32- * It was so that I speak to him on your behalf I know him well.

Furthermore most grammarians on the subject such as Graver (1971 : 307) , Frank (1972 : 252) and Quirk et . al (1985 : 1109) agree that result clauses , unlike purpose ones , are positionally fixed , i . e . , they are sequentially related to the previous clause and cannot be transposed to a position before or within it . Purpose clauses may be moved to initial position .

33- * So that he did not understand fully , the doctor explained the nature of his illness in medical terms .

34- So that he could not understand fully , the doctor explained the nature of his illness in medical terms .

Another difference may also be observed in the sense that resultative 'so that' clauses cannot be linked to each other by another conjunction like 'and' while purposive 'so that' can.

35- * They went on arguing in a nasty tone , so that in the end I lost my patience and so that left contented .

36- He saved much money so that he could have a house built and so that he could buy a new car .

4- Result and Cause

Result clauses are like an inversion of cause . We can express the same meaning by reversing the two clauses of result (main and subordinate) and using a subordinator of cause such as , 'because' , 'since' and 'as' .

37- The lecturer spoke so fast that I found it difficult to make any notes .

38- As the lecturer spoke very fast , I found it difficult to make any notes .

What comes before the word ' that ' indicates the result cause while what comes after it indicates the result .

In addition , we have already said that result clauses cannot form focus of a cleft sentence because they are disjuncts , clauses of cause introduced by ' because ' only and not any other causal subordinator can form this .

39- It is because he is kind that we like our teacher .

40- * It is since (as) he kind that we like our teacher .

Gethin (1983 :47) mentions that there are two types of result clause ,

namely material or physical (41) and mental or psychological (43) . These two kinds correspond to the two types of cause : material (42) and psychological (44) . For illustration :

41- There are so few cars with a spare seat that it takes me a long time to get a lift .

42- Since there are very few cars with a spare seat , it takes me a long time to get a lift .

43- I am an incorrigible optimist so that I thought I'd be able to get to work by bus .

44- As I am an incorrigible optimist , I thought I'd be able to get to work by bus .

What is more , the causal and resultative resolution can be expressed by conjuncts . Of the conjunctive adverbs used , two are worth illustration ' so ' and ' therefore ' .

45- The small boy was so exhausted that he fell asleep on the bus .

46- The small boy fell asleep on the bus because he was very exhausted .

47- The small boy was very exhausted ; therefore (so) , he fell asleep on the bus .

5- Reduction of Result Clauses

It is possible to express the same content in clauses of different form . As far as the subject under study is concerned , we can utter a complex sentence containing adverbial clauses of result which may be translated by a simple sentence and the two sentences may express the same thing with

different emphasis . Of course , the matrix (main) clause is by nature more emphatic than the subordinate clause .

Subordinate clauses or "embedded sentences" , so they are so called in modern description by Todd (1985 :45) , can sometimes be reduced or compressed to prases in two ways . But before the application of any transformational rule , i . e . , reduction , certaaain structural analysis have to be observed . The transformation is always carried out on the embedded sentence .

FIRST : If the embedded sentence (result clause) is positive , we can distinguish two types .

TYPE - A -

48- He is so foolish that he believes every thing .

——>He is foolish enough to believe every thing .

49- She is such a kind girl that she helps others .

——>She is kind enough to help others .

50- The stars are so bright that the boy can see them .

——>The stars are bright enough for the boy to see .

51- They did their duty so loyally that everyone praised them .

——>They did their duty loyally enough to praise .

The examples above reveal a number of points . Whether the subject noun phrases of the matrix and embedded sentences are the same as in (48) and (49) or different

as in (50) and (51) does not matter . The subject noun phrase of the embedded sentence is deleted if it is the same as that of the matrix one after applying the phrase transformation of result .. When , as in (50) , there is a significant change of grammatical subject (the stars ... the boy) , the second subject is introduced into the 'enough construction' by ' for ' . The subordinators ' so ...that ' or ' such ...that ' are deleted . Instead , ' enough + infinitive ' after the adjectives (48 , 49 , and 50) or adverbs (51) are added . Taking these points into consideration , we can produce the following tentative transformational rule .

Sub + NP + Aux + V +X

——>enough (for +NP) + infinitive +X

TAPE - B -

52- Susan has so much money that she buys another car .

——>Susan has enough money to buy another car .

53- He drank so much milk that he get quite fat .

——>He drank enough milk to get quite fat .

54- There are so many desks that you can sit anywhere .

——>There are enough desks (for you) to sit anywhere .

In this type , the embedded sentences are different from those in the first type in the sense that they consist of nouns (plus modifiers) between 'so' and 'that' while in the other group they consist of adjectives or adverbs there . Once

again , the same transformations are performed on the embedded sentence with an exception . The exception is the 'enough' * comes before the noun of the matrix sentence (money , milk , and desks) in (52 , 53 and 54) respectively which is in turn followed by the infinitive . Considering the points mentioned , the tentative transformational rule for this type can be set up as follows:

Sub + NP + Aux + V + X
 —> enough + noun (of the matrix sentence) + infinitive + X

SECONDLY : If the embedded sentence is negative like the following , we need another rule .

55- you are so young that you cannot understand this .

You are too young to understand this .

56- This chair is valuable that no one should sit on it .

—> This chair is too valuable (for anyone) to sit on .

57- Jack behaved so carefully that he did not make any mistake .

—> Jack behaved too carefully to make any mistake . All the previous points considered , the following tentative transformational rule can be formalized :

Sub + NP + Aux + not + V + X
 —> too + adjective or adverb (of the matrix sentence) (for + NP (of the embedded sentence)) + infinitive
 Here , the negative symbol 'not' is deleted . The infinitive is followed if necessary by a preposition ('on' in

(56)) which relates it correctly to the noun at the beginning of the sentence; not : This chair is too valuable for anyone to sit .

In addition to these two ways of erduction , we find that an infinitive precede by 'as' can replace a finite adverbial clause of result . This is normal in asking questions about peoples intentions as a link for result and its most common use is in the request 'Would you be so kind as to ...'

58- Professor Robert was in such bad health that he was obliged to resign .

—> Professor Robert was in such bad health as to be obliged to resign .

59- He was so ill that he had to send for a doctor .

—> He was ill as to send for a doctor .

Here , the rule is :

Sub + NP + Aux + V + X
 —> as + infinitive + X

Discussing the result arrived at by Altenberg on pages (2-3) , the distributions of ' too ... adjective or adverb to ' , ' so ... as to ' and ' so adjective or adverb that or as to ' are as follows :

TYPE	LLC	LOB	TOTAL
too Adj/Adv to	9	12	21
so .. as to	2	3	5
so Adj/Adv that /as to	27	26	53

6- Conclusion

As this study has shown, both similarities and differences of result relations are displayed. An adverbial clause of result states the consequence of the predication in the matrix clause. The link 'so ... that' is used with adverbs and adjectives when they are not followed by a noun. However, it is also used with the quantitative adjectives such as: many, much, few and little whether they are followed by a noun or not. Moreover, it is sometime used with adjective plus noun instead of 'such ... that'. Thus, the following sentence.

60 It is such a terrible experience that I will never forget it is the equivalent of.

61- The experience is so terrible that I will never forget it.

"such + a + adjective + noun" is replaceable by "so + adjective + a + noun" so that 'such a boring lecture' is replaceable by 'so boring a lecture'.

Result clauses are closely related to purpose in frequently (though not necessarily) indicating the fulfilment of a purpose. A difference is observed in the sequence of tenses in the two sentences and the clauses in purpose are reversible. Inversion of the two clauses of result will yield a sentence of the causal relation.

The meanings indicated by

clauses and phrases of result are almost identical. "Enough + infinitive" produces positive clauses of result while "too + infinitive" negative clause. 'Enough' can be either an adverb (of degree) or an adjective (of quantity). As an adverb, it comes after the word it qualifies; as an adjective, it comes before the word it qualifies.

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