

## THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COORDINATING AND SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS USED TO EXPRESS CONCESSION

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### 1. Introduction

To create a piece of continuous speaking or writing, it is vital to use correct linking. Conjunctions are words whose function is to join the thing together. The relation between the things joined is most commonly shown by the particular conjunctions chosen. For instance, the conjunctions "but, yet, although, however, and nevertheless" express the concession relation as the following examples show:

- 1- He is very rich, but he makes his money honestly.
- 2- Although I respect your opinion highly, I must disagree with you in this case.
- 3- You deserve to be punished; however, I'll forgive you this time.

Clauses of concession express something that opposes the main clause but the thing expressed does not deny or negate the fact or validity of the main clause. It is as Roberts (1954:327) puts it "I concede this (adverb clause) to be true; yet this (main clause) is true also." In other words, a concessive relation indicates that what is being said is related to what has been said before in the way defined by Quirk, as stated by Greenbaum (1969:37), "the concessive relation may be said to exist between two parts of an

utterance when one part is surprising in view of the other .."

Both coordinating and subordinating conjunctions used to express concession are the subject of this study. It is to be remembered that more emphasis is going to be thrown on BUT and ALTHOUGH for they are the most significant connectors used to introduce the relation concerned. More specifically, the study is an attempt to reveal the relation between the two conjunctions.

### 2- Coordinating Conjunctions

Coordinating Conjunctions join words, phrases, or clauses of equal grammatical rank. The most common conjunction used to express the notion of concession is BUT. BUT may be used to connect any sentence elements of the same class. The following examples might help to make this clear:

Noun : 4 The aggressor was not Zeki but Ali.

Verb : 5 He smiled but remained silent.

Adjective 6 Her smile is quick but friendly.

Adverb : 7 She works slowly but carefully.

Prease : 8 They watched him rowing hard but getting nowhere.

Clause : 9- Suha is a girl who can swim but who is afraid to drive .

Sentence : 10- Estella always asked for advice , but she never takes it .

Other conjunctions are " yet , still and only" :

11- Tom has many faults , yet he always does his work perfectly .

12- Mr. John ate a lot , still he never got fat .

13- I would go with you , only I had no money .

From a logical or notional point of view , such conjunctions are regarded as " adversative" by some writers like Wren and Martin (1985 : 208) , Freeman (1970 : 247) and Gleason (1965:342) .

BUT/ and YET may be used to show a contrast between two ideas , the second being opposite or an objection to the first , Buckler and Mc. Avoy (1965:157) remark that YET suggests that the second element is something we might not ordinarily expect . There is a sense of modification in YET and contradiction in BUT :

14- He studied hard , but he failed .

15- Huda was good at English , yet she was never given good marks

Another difference between them , stated by Quirk et. al (1985:922-3) , is that BUT does not allow another conjunction to precede it while YET allows :

16- \*She was angry and but she did what is required .

17- she was angry and yet she did what is required .

There are certain cases in which both conjunctions are doubled

up . Examples include :

18- The workers may complain , but they haven't said anything yet .

19- My father was tired , but he couldn't sleep yet .

What is more , the concessive relation could be expressed by means of conjunctions such as HOWEVER and NEVERTHELESS . These behave in a quite different way in the sense that they can move around in the sentences they introduce :

20-A- The mountain was very high ; however , he climbed it .

B- The mountain was very high ; he , however , climbed it .

C- The mountain was very high ; he climbed it , however .

21- The machines are old ( ; nevertheless , ) they have ( , nevertheless , ) increased production ( , nevertheless ) .

It is worth mentioning that coordination involves deleting the elements from the second sentence that are identical with the corresponding elements in the first sentence and then joining the different elements with the suitable conjunction to make them more compact . Thus :

22-A- Rita is beautiful but dumb . is a contracted way of saying :

B- Rita is beautiful , but she is dumb .

So is (23) in which the subject is co-referential with that of the preceding clause :

23- The author wanted to make a speech but (he) didn't know how to begin .

## 2-1 Clauses Introduced by BUT

We have observed that BUT denotes contrast . Semantically speaking , this contrast may be because what is said in the second conjoin is unexpected in view of what is said in the first conjoin :

24- I was too busy , but I had to join the seminar .

25- They played very well , but they did not win .

Quirk and Greenbaum (1983:259) add that this contrast may be a restatement in affirmative terms of what has been said or implied negatively in the first conjoin :

26- She did not waste her time in the week before the exam but studied hard every evening .

27- I agree with his facts , but I disagree with his conclusions .

With the first type of contrast (24 and 25) , we can insert in the but clause a concessive conjunct like "yet" ; with the second type (26 and 27) , we can insert the antithetic conjunct : on the contrary .

As well as linking two main clauses , BUT can link a maximum of two subordinate clauses . Even so , it can only link certain types of subordinate clauses . Quirk et. al (1972:556-7) refer to following kinds :

A- That - Clauses :

28- They told me that Ann would take them by her car but (that) they might be late .

29- He said that exercises strengthen the lungs but (that) they must not be overdone .

B- Temporal - adverbial clauses :

30- I met him after the meeting was over but before he started work .

31- They will sell the house before she arrives but after he comes .

C- Clauses introduced by the same conjuncts which might be wh-words , in order that purposive "so that" or "because" . In such cases , the first part of the sentence is negative and it contrasts with the part that follows BUT :

32- I did not know who killed her but who accompanied the murderer .

33- They do not save so that they could buy a house but so that they could by a buy new car .

Thus , the pattern followed for using two subordinate clauses linked together is :

main clause+subordinate clause+coordinating conjunction+subordinate clause .

## 2-2 AND , OR , and BUT

Of all the other coordinating conjunctions , AND and OR differ in several respects from BUT . Here , we are going to discuss one feature to see how sentences are interpreted when joined by these connectors . Greenbaum (1969 :30) asserts that only AND and OR are "pure coordinators " while BUT is one of several " portmanteau items" defined as " those that contain the component AND , such that " a b but c " is interpreted as " a and b but c " . Thus , the sentence :

34-A He will write to her , he will phone her , or he will visit

her.  
is interpreted as :  
B- He will write to her , or he will  
phone her , or he will visit her.  
whereas the sentence :  
35-A He will write to her , he will  
phone her , but he will not visit  
her .  
is interpreted as :  
B - He will write to her , and he will  
phone her , but he will not visit  
her .

In addition to that (i.e. , linking  
of more than two clauses), there is a  
restriction on the permissibility of  
these conjunctions in relation to  
particular pairing of strings .  
Fowler (1977 : 152-3) refers to this  
restriction . Conjunctions are not  
interchangeable and which one may  
be selected depends on the strings  
being joined . For illustration , there  
are unacceptable sentences in the  
following :

- 36- Jack and Mary are studying .
- 37- \*Jack or is studying .
- 38- Jack but Mary is studying .
- 39- Jack and not Mary is studying.
- 40- \*Jack or not Mary is studying.
- 41- Jack but not Mary is studying .
- 42- Jack likes music and Mary  
prefers movies .
- 43- \*Jack likes music or Mary  
prefers movies .
- 44- Jack likes music but Mary  
prefers movies .

On the other hand , absolute  
coordination should imply complete  
interchangeability . Gleason (1965 :  
335) signifies that if two clauses in a  
sentence can be interchanged  
without altering meaning , they may  
be considered to be joined in  
coordination . As far as BUT is

concerned , the following are good  
instances of this :

- 45- Boys study but girls play .
- 46- Girls play but boys study .
- 47- The president came but he did  
not stay long .
- 48- The president did not stay long  
but he came .

### 3- Subordinating Conjunctions

Subordinating , unlike  
coordinating , conjunctions join  
clauses that are not equal in rank .  
Concession statements accompany  
clauses concerning unexpected  
result . Clauses of concession are  
chiefly introduced by  
ALTHOUGH and THOUGH and  
occasionally by "even though ,  
even if , while , whereas ,  
however , and whatever" . Since  
these clauses express contrast ,  
some writers such as Todd (1985 :  
42) , Close (1978 : 64) and  
Zandvoort (1977 : 219) call them  
adverbial clauses of "contrast" .

#### 3-1 Major Concession Subordina-

tors . Clauses of concession are  
most commonly introduced by  
ALTHOUGH and its more  
colloquial variant THOUGH . they  
may precede or follow the result  
clause :

- 49- Although he respects his  
father's opinion , he is much  
educated than he is .

- 50- She finished first though she  
began late .

THOUGH and ALTHOUGH , as  
conjunctions , are almost used  
interchangeably to introduce  
concessive clauses (51 and 52) .

Yet , THOUGH (but not although)  
is used as a conjunct (53 and 54) :

- 51- Although the hall was

crowded, he managed to find a seat.

52- Though the hall was crowded , he managed to find a seat .

53- The criminal didn't want to confess , he did , though .

54- She has studied English for ten years , she will never speak it properly , though .

Obviously , (51 and 52) are complex sentences while (53and54) are not so because there is no clause of concession in it in spite of the fact that the conjunct **THOUGH** gives a concessive meaning .

There is also a common construction in which the concessive relation is expressed by **THOUGH** . As is sometimes used as a substitute for **THOUGH** . Most grammarians on the subject including Tregidgo (1981:163) , Thomson (1973:567) , Frank (1972:247) and Graver (1971:308) refer to this construction . In such circumstances , the concessive clause has unusual syntactic orderings . The subordinator **THOUGH** or **As** occurs in non-initial position after an adjective , adverb , or a verb :

55- Young though (as) he is, Ahmed holds a responsible position in the firm . (Though he is young ...)

56- Much as I admire her as a writer , I do not like her as a woman ."(Although I admire her a great deal ...)

57- Try as you may , you never seem able to do the work satisfactorily .(Though you try hard ...).

In such sentences ,

**ALTHOUGH**, unlike **though** , is immobile .

58- \*Tired although she is , she still continues , to play .

Moreover , the concessive relation could be expressed by means of non-finite and verbless clauses , i.e. , by leaving out understood words or "recoverable elements" as called so transformationally by La Palombara (1976:285) . This occurs when the subject of the main and subordinate clauses refer to the same person . For illustration :

59- Although wanting to know the answer , he didn't look it up .

60- Though beaten , They are not disgraced .

61- Although (he was) exhausted , he staggered on .

62- Although anxious to get away , she waited an hour for me .

### 3-2 Other Subordinators :

Concession clauses could be introduced by other subordinators having the meaning of **ALTHOUGH** . Now , we are in a position to mention the following types :

**FIRST :** When the concessive meaning is stressed , some grammarians like Graver (1971:205) , Eckersley and Eckersley (1963:341) and House and Harman (1950:412) prefer to use **EVEN IF** and **EVEN THOUGH** . Close (1978:64) signifies that whereas **EVEN THOUGH** emphasises the idea of contrast between two clauses and implies " in that as well as every other circumstance" , **EVEN IF**

adds the idea of contrast to an if-clauses and implies "under that as well as every other condition" Conditional IF is the opposite of concessive ALTHOUGH in meaning, EVEN could be used with though but not with 'although' :

63- The scientist learned a great deal from the experiment even though it failed .

64- Even though he is old and weak , he works hard .

65- Even if they win , they don't have the better team .

66- I shouldn't work for him even if he offered me a big salary .

67- \*I like him even although I know he does not like me .

SECONDLY : WHILE and WHEREAS are sometimes used to point a contrast between comparable things . Grammarians such as Chander and Ranchan (1986:5) , Wren and Martin (1985:219) and Quirk et. al (1972:749) state that WHILE can express contrast and be replaced by WHEREAS . Others like Thomson (1973:56) , Hook and Mathews (1956:350) and House and Harman (1950:412) employ WHILE as a substitute for ALTHOUGH :

68- while this was true for some , it was not true for all .

69- While I sympathize with your proposal , I can't accept it .

70- Whereas Henry is lazy , his sister is very active .

71- Whereas Susan has numerous enemies , her brother is loved by every one .

It is notable that some grammarians advise against the use of While in concessive clauses , though such usage is common in

English , on the account that they insist on WHILE for temporal clauses to avoid their confusion .

For instance , the following could express both time and concession :

72- While his father is going from one jail to another , George becomes an important executive .

73- While she was soon to become a mother , she fled to Italy .

THIRDLY : Clauses of concession could be introduced by one of "wh-compound words" like "whatever and however" and by the constructions "no matter wh... and it doesn't matter wh... " For illustration , HOWEVER goes with an adjective , adverb , or a verb .

74- However drunk he was , he wouldn't have been so rude to her .

75- However carefully she drives , she may have an accident even

76- However you try , you will never succeed .

The use of HOWEVER in the examples above is similar to the use of WHATEVER in the examples below :

77-A Whatever happens , I shall meet her .

78-A Whatever he says , no body believes him .

79-A Whatever books you read , you will never learn anything.

The meaning of these sentences are:

77-B It doesn't matter what happens , or no matter what happens I shall meet her .

78-B It doesn't matter what he says , or no matter what he says , no body believes him .

79-B It doesn't matter what books you read , or no matter what books you read , you will never learn anything .

Consequently , Close (1978:65) suggests that we can replace "whatever" and similar words like "whoever" , "whenever" , and "wherever" by "no matter what , no matter who , no matter when , and no matter where" respectively :

80- Whoever was absent , it wasn't my friend .

81- Whenever she travelled , it was certainly not yesterday .

82- Wherever it was lost , it was not in my house .

It should be noted that there is a semantic difference between such clauses and the apparently identical time and place clauses beginning with "whenever and wherever" For illustration the locative meaning in the following sentence :

83- Wherever he lives , he can keep a dog .

Is that "he can keep a dog at any place where he may live" . While the concessive meaning is that "it doesn't matter where he lives , he can keep a dog" not necessarily in the same place .

On the whole , the difference between such clauses and "although clauses" is a matter of emphasis . In the examples below , we have three degrees of emphasis , as given by Kench (1981:203) .

84- Although she was ill , she never went to a doctor .

85- However ill she was , she never went to a doctor .

86- No matter how ill she was , she

never went to a doctor .

(85) is more emphatic than (84) because it brings all the power of HOWEVER to bear on the adjective , as does NO MATTER HOW .

#### 4- The Relationship Between Coordinating And Subordinating Conjunctions

We are now in a position to reveal the relationship between coordinating and subordinating conjunctions that are used to express the idea of concession :

1- Generally speaking , both coordinators and subordinators involve the linking of units but the latter is different from the former in the sense that coordinators , as Marcus (1977:188) remarks , imply equal emphasis on each message whereas subordinators give more importance to one message while downgrading the other . For Quirk et. al (1972:795) , it is notable that in spoken English coordinate structures are often preferred to equivalent structures of subordination . However there are similar semantic relationships in both (87) and (88) though the ordering of the relationship is different :

87- He talks much , but he has done nothing .

88- Although he talks , he has done nothing .

Kench (1981:203) and Campbell (1962:26) agree with Sledd (1958:357) that such

sentences differ slightly in meaning and considerably in emphasis . Thus , they are nearly synonymous but structurally contrasting in the sense that the same content is expressed in clauses of different forms . In (87) , we have uttered a compound sentence but this one may be exactly translated by the complex sentence (88) . Put more precisely , the complex sentence could be re-worded two coordinate clauses joined by with BUT . So , the following :

- 89- They went swimming although the sea was rough .
- 90- I decided to take the course although it costs a lot of money . can become :
- 91- The sea was rough , but they went swimming .
- 92- The course costs a lot of money , but I decided to take it .

Quirk et. al (1985:988) illustrate this relation as follows :

- 2- Another important feature about the conjunctions under study is the freedom of movement that they allow clauses . Greenbaum (1969:29) points out that a clause introduced by a coordinator is sequentially related to the previous clause and cannot be transposed to a position before or within that clause . Therefore , the order of the following two clauses is fixed ; otherwise , the sentence becomes unacceptable .

- 95- Ann likes John but she is not in love with him .
- 96- \*But she is not in love with him , Ann likes John .

On the contrary , the nearly synonymous sentence with a

subordinator does permit this inversion . Transformationally speaking , Lester (1971:336) demonstrates that the distinguishing characteristic of subordinating conjunctions is that the subordinator and the following sentence can be moved to the first position in the sentence by a certain rule called "the subordinating - conjunction switch rule" .

97-A book is a book although there is nothing in it .

98- Although there is nothing in it , a book is a book .

- 3- As far as ellipsis is concerned , coordinators such as BUT and YET allow ellipsis of the subject of the clause they introduce when the subject is identical with that of the previous clause :

- 99- He often goes to the theater but hardly ever goes to the concert .

In subordinate clauses ellipsis of the subject alone or the subject with auxiliaries is generally not allowed :

- 100- He did not stop playing although he had hurt his legs .
- 101- \*He did not stop playing although (had) hurt his legs .

But , if the auxiliary is "be" , we can omit both subject and auxiliary in the subordinate abbreviated clauses . (Quirk et. al , 1972:575-6).

- 102- Layla was looking well although (she was) working hard .

- 4- It is instructive to contrast



coordinators and subordinators with respect to cataphoric reference . Quirk et. al (1972:554) denote that when clauses are linked by BUT , a pronoun in the first clause can't have cataphoric (forward) reference a noun in the second clause . However , when the clauses are joined by ALTHOUGH , the pronoun can (but need not) have cataphoric reference . Thus , whereas SHE in (103) cannot refer to RITA it can in (104) :

- 103- She was not very beautiful but Rita managed to get herself a wealthy husband .  
104- Although she was not very beautiful , Rita managed to get herself a wealthy husband .

In (105) , the pronoun is anaphoric :

- 105- Rita managed to get herself a wealthy husband although she was not very beautiful .

Anyway , in limited cases , it is possible for the noun phrase in the second clause to have the same reference if it contains a general noun or if it characterizes the person referred to:

- 106- She was not very beautiful , but [the girl your foolish daughter] managed to get herself a wealthy husband .  
5- Some conjunctions are used in pairs so as to emphasize the fact that two ideas are involved . Such ones are called "correlatives" . Wren and Martin (1985:207) agree with Quirk et. al (1985:644-5) that

subordinators like "although and even if" could be combined with conjuncts such as "yet and nevertheless" in one sentence so that the latter would emphasize the relation indicated by the formers :

- 107- Though all efforts fail , yet we shall never surrender .  
108- Although the plan had certain weakness , nevertheless we decided to adopt it .

It is to be noted that ALTHOUGH could be compared with YET but it could not be so with BUT . Halliday and Hasaan , as stated by Goddard (1979:218) , assert that the construction "although ... but" is wrong because a structure cannot be both "hypotactic" (i.e. subordinating) and "paratactic" (i.e. coordinating) at the same time :

- 109- \*Although it was raining hard , but was went home .  
6- English sentences could be divided into simple , complex and compound . The conjunctions used with the first type are "despite and in spite of;" with the second one "though , although , even though and however" , and with the third , "but , yet and however" . A sentence is might be inverted from one type by changing the conjunctions above . Here are good instances of this :110-A She bought very few things , but she spent a lot of money (compound) .  
B- Although she bought very few things , she spent a lot of

- money (complex) .
- C- In spite of buying very few things , she spent a lot of money (Simple) .
- 111-A She made good attempts , yet the results were wrong . (Compound) .
- B- Though she made good attempts , the results were wrong . (Complex) .
- C- Despite her good attempts , the results were wrong . (Simple) .
- 112-A He tried hard ; however , she failed . (compound)
- B- However hard he tried , he failed . (Complex) .
- C- In spite of trying hard , she failed . (Simple) .

#### 5- Conclusion

As this study has shown , both similarities and differences in their expressions of concessive relation are displayed . The coordinator BUT joins ideas equal in rank but opposite in thought . Equivalent or nearly equivalent expressions are YET and NEVERTHELESS . YET weaker than BUT and stronger than NEVERTHELESS . ALTHOUGH , as a subordinator , is the approximate equivalent of BUT as a coordinator . "Though , although , however , whatever , while , in spite of and despite" could be used to combine the opposing or contrasting statements .

It is best to see the differences between the two types of conjunctions under study by examples :

- 113- The new teacher has a university degree . He is not a good teacher .
- 114- The new teacher has a

university degree , but he is not a good teacher .

- 115- Although (though) the new teacher has a university degree , he is not a good teacher .

- 116- The new teacher is not good though (although) he has a university degree ,

- 117- In spite of having a university degree , the new teacher is not good .

- 118- The new teacher has a university degree ; however (nevertheless) , he is not good

Sentences (113 and 117) are simple . (114 and 118) are compound while (115 and 116) are complex .

Overlap of conjunctions results in different meanings .

Thus , (119 and 120) are different :

- 119- She is poor but honest .

- 120- She is poor though honest .

In (119) , here poverty has not made her dishonest while in (120) her honesty has not made her rich . (119) is similar to "

- 121- She is honest though poor .

For emphasis , (119) becomes :

- 122- Although she is poor , yet she is honest .

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