## English Grammar Fourth Year 2019-2020

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# Week 7: The Complex Sentence

### Lecture No. 20:

- Subordination
- Formal Indicators of Subordination
  - Syntactic Functions of Dependent Clauses

#### **Subordination**

Subordination is a non-symmetrical relation, holding between two clauses in such a way that one is a constituent or part of the other. Subordination enables us to express a larger variety of relationships between ideas. It also allows us to show the relationships between facts or ideas more clearly. Compare:

- A. I don't admire her reasoning, and I reject her conclusions.
- B. Because I don't admire her reasoning, I reject her conclusions.

In sentence A, the coordinating conjunction *and* adds one fact to another. In sentence B, by changing one of the independent clauses to a dependent clause, we are able to bring out the relationship between the two facts [cause & result relationship].

In general, subordination is marked by some indications contained in the subordinate rather than the main clause. Such an indicator may be of a number of different kinds:

- 1. **Subordinators:** They have a relating or connecting function. They fall into the following types:
  - **Simple Subordinators:** (after, (al)though, as, because, before, if, once, since, that, until, when, where, while....etc
    - Compound subordinators: ending with that:

(but that, in that, in order that, insofar that (formal, rare), in the event that, save that (literary), such that)

- Compound subordinators: ending with optional that:

[assuming, considering, excepting, given, granted, granting, provided, providing, seeing, supposing ] (that)

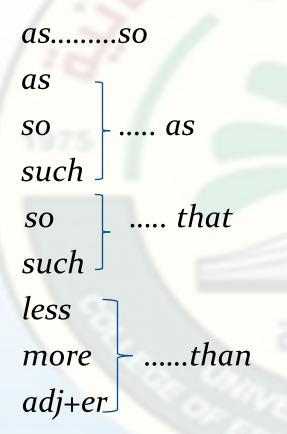
- Compound subordinators: ending with as:

[according as, as far as, as long as, as soon as, forasmuch as (formal), inasmuch as (formal), insofar as, insomuch as (formal)]

#### **Other Compound subordinators:**

[as if, as though, in case]

#### - Correlative subordinators:



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whether ] .... or if
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- 2. The clause is initiated by a wh-element:
  - When the cat's away, the mice will play.
- 3. Initial elements in the clause are inverted.
  - Were she here, she would support the motion.
- 4. The verb element of the clause is either nonfinite or absent.
  - Denying any interest in politics, she claimed that she wished to continue in forensic medicine.

#### **Syntactic Functions of Dependent Clauses 1**

Subordinate (dependent) clauses may function as subject, object, complement, or adverbial in a superordinate clause:

subject: That we need a larger computer has become obvious.

direct object: He doesn't know whether to send a gift.

indirect object: You can tell whoever is waiting that I'll be back in ten minutes.

subject complement: One likely result of the postponement is that the cost of constructing the college will be very much higher.

object complement: I know her to be reliable.

adverbial: When you see them, give them my best wishes.

#### **Syntactic Functions of Dependent Clauses 2**

In addition, subordinate clauses may function within these elements, e.g:

Post-modifier in noun phrase: (Few of the immigrants retained) the customs that they had brought with them.

prepositional complement: (It depends) on what we decide.

adjectival complementation: (We are) happy to see you.