

The background features a large, faded watermark of the University of Basrah logo. The logo is circular and contains a palm tree in the center, an open book at the base, and the year '1975' on both sides. The text 'UNIVERSITY OF BASRAH' and 'COLLEGE OF EDUCATION FOR HUMAN SCIENCES' is written around the bottom edge, while Arabic text is at the top.

English Grammar
Fourth Year
2021-2022

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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].

Formal Indicators of Subordination 1

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*)

Formal Indicators of Subordination 2

- **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]

Formal Indicators of Subordination 3

- Correlative subordinators:

as.....so

whether } *or*
if }

as

so

..... *as*

such

so

..... *that*

such

less

more

.....*than*

adj+er

Formal Indicators of Subordination 4

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.*