

Clause combining: Introduction, Classifications

Nicole Nau (UAM Poznań)
Academia Grammaticorum
Salensis Sexta, Salos August 2009

Program of the lecture

- Rigid classifications of clause linkage
(Traditional approach, Halliday)
- Formal characteristics of clause linkage
(Integration, connectives, word order,
deranking, interlacing)
- Scalar classifications of clause linkage
(Lehmann, Croft)
- Semantic aspects of clause combining
(Text relations, relations on different levels,
case study)

Examples

1. Latvians have had a tough six months. // Although the rest of the world has also felt the global financial crisis, few countries have seen their GDP decrease by 18% or their unemployment rate jump to double digits. // Typically dark Baltic days were made darker by the economic gloom. // But the summer sunshine is finally having an effect on Riga's inhabitants.

Examples

1. One third of Latvia's population is displaced by the war and much of its industry shipped to Russia. // Still, the country grows rapidly: land is redistributed to the peasants, and soon Latvia has one of the highest living standards in Europe.

Examples

4. *In Your Pocket* is Europe's biggest publisher of locally produced travel guides, producing almost four million guides per year.
6. Turn left when leaving the station.
7. walk across the parking lot to find the bus stop
8. To get there on foot, turn left, walk through the underpass and follow the signs [...]

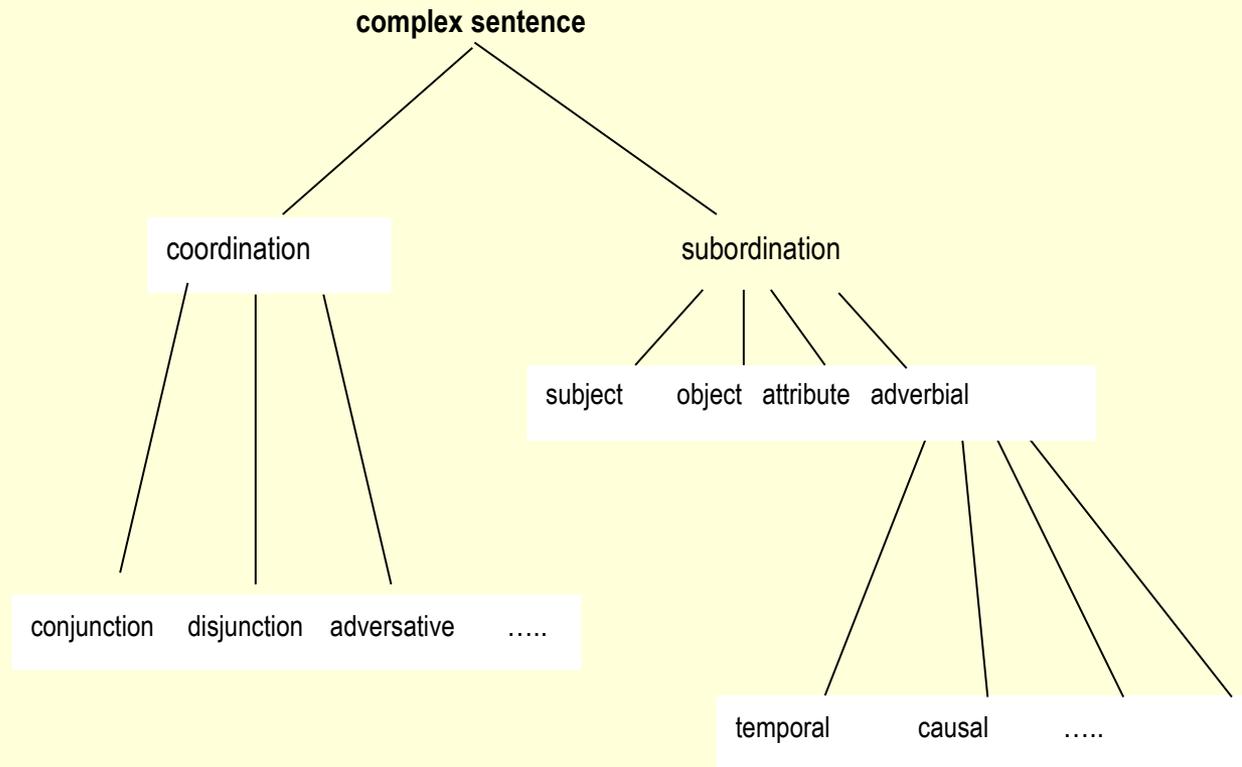
Semantic subtypes of coordination

- **Conjunction:** *The train station (..) underwent massive renovations, **and** has been modernized with a spacious central hall and many shopping and eating options. (9)*
- **Disjunction:** *Reserve a hotel room **or** rent a car in the arrivals hall. (10)*
- **Adversative conjunction:** *Car rental and currency exchange are available here, **but** you might want to leave the terminal [...] (11)*

Semantic subtypes of adverbial clauses

- **Temporal:** *After the Russians capture Riga in 1710, 90,000 people are left in all over Livonia. (12)*
- **Causal:** *you might want to leave the terminal, make a right and then enter the Schengen arrival hall **because** it offers more services. (11)*
- **Conditional:** ***If** you've departed from a non-Schengen country such as Ireland, the UK or the US, you'll arrive in a different terminal at the north end of the airport building. (11)*
- **Concessive:** ***Although** Latvia was once an involuntary Soviet republic, visitors should not come to Riga with high hopes of seeing grand statues of Lenin, Stalin and other objects from that bygone era. (13)*
- ...

Traditional classification of complex sentences



Complement clauses and relative clauses

- food and drink prices [that will make you **think** [you've travelled back in time]] (14)
- I **know** [what he does] / [that he'll do it]
- [**Those who** enjoy a good pint and **who** frequent pubs and clubs] should always be on the lookout for any suspicious characters especially on Līvu laukums after midnight. (15)
- [Whoever enjoys a good pint] will like this pub.
- The orange walls and the red lanterns that hang from the office tile ceiling are not [what one would call stylish], but that doesn't seem to be [what the owners were shooting for]. (16)

Relative clauses and noun complement clauses

- food and drink **prices** [that will make you think you've travelled back in time]
- the red **lanterns** [that hang from the office tile ceiling]
- the **fact** [that stronger competition has entered the arena] (17)
- It's hard to figure out what's odder, **the fact that** this place specialises in both Indian and Caucasian cuisine **or that** it's a chain of restaurants located exclusively in large shopping malls. (18)

Restrictive and non-restrictive relative clauses

Restrictive:

A red granite monument, once dedicated to the Latvian **riflemen** [**who protected Lenin after the Revolution of 1917**], still exists on Strēlnieku laukums, but now honours all of the riflemen – Whites and Reds. (13)

Non-restrictive:

Most of these **monuments** [**, which are viewed as symbols of oppression by the local population,**] have been removed. (13)

More non-restrictive relative clauses

19. Follow signs down to the Central Hall, **under which are renovated pay toilets and a baggage room.**
20. Tourists looking for a good deal can purchase the Riga Card, **which provides free use of trams, buses and trolleybuses, free admission discounts at museums [...] and much more.**
21. Riga is founded in 1201, **when Bishop Albert builds a castle on the site.**
22. [he was] rushed to hospital **where his blood test revealed an astounding 7.22 parts per mille of alcohol**

Another suggestion for classification

	dependent	embedded	
parataxis	-	-	(traditional coordination)
hypotaxis	+	-	(traditional adverbial clauses)
subordination	+	+	(complement and relative clauses)

Parataxis, hypotaxis: Halliday 1994

- **Hypotaxis** is the relation between a **dependent** element and its **dominant**, the element on which it is dependent.
- **Parataxis** is the relation between two like elements of equal status, one **initiating** and the other **continuing**. Both the initiating and the continuing element are free, in the sense that each could stand as a functioning whole.

Embedding is not clause combining

Halliday 1994

- Whereas parataxis and hypotaxis are relations between clauses [...] embedding is not. **Embedding** is a mechanism whereby a clause or phrase comes to function as a constituent within the structure of a group, which itself is a constituent of a clause. [...] in hypotaxis one clause is dependent on another, but in no sense is it a constituent part of it. As always, the fact that the two categories are clearly distinct in principle does not mean that every instance can be definitively assigned to one or the other on some fixed and easily identifiable criterion.

Further distinctions made by Halliday

- **Elaborating** ('i.e.'): one clause expands another by elaborating on it (or some portion of it): restating in other words, specifying in greater detail, commenting, or exemplifying.

*Latvians love to smoke **and** until recently you could see them lighting up almost anywhere, from barstools in local pubs to hospital beds. (3)*

*Riga is founded in 1201, **when** Bishop Albert builds a castle on the site. (21)*

In Your Pocket is Europe's biggest publisher of locally produced travel guides, producing almost four million guides per year. (4)

Further distinctions made by Halliday

- **Extending** ('and, or'): one clause expands another by extending beyond it: adding some new element, giving an exception to it, or offering an alternative.
- **Enhancing** ('so, yet, then'): one clause expands another by embellishing around it: qualifying it with some circumstantial feature of time, place, cause or condition.