

## Topic: Coordination

a/ **syndetic**, units are linked by coordinating conjunctions (by coordinators)

b/ **asyndetic**, coordinators are not present (but could be inserted)

c/ **polysyndetic coordination** - coordinator is repeated between each pair of units

Examples: a/ *He tried hard, but he failed.*

b/ *He tried hard, (and) yet he failed.*

c/ *The weather was nice and the sun was shining and the water was marvelous.*

**Linkers:** **coordinators** (coordinating conjunctions) - syndetic coordination

**conjuncts** (adverbials) - asyndetic coordination

**subordinators** (subordinating conjunctions) - syndetic subordination

**1. coordination** (units are on the same syntactic level)

**2. subordination** (one of the units is a constituent of a superordinate unit)

Examples: 1. *He tried hard, but he failed.*

2. *Although he tried hard, he failed.*

### Coordinators:

three central coordinators: *and, or, but*

somewhere between 'pure' coordinators and 'pure' subordinators: *for, so that* (in the meaning "with the result that")

1. unlike e.g. conjuncts, coordinators are restricted to the initial position in the second clause, e.g. *John plays the banjo, and his sister plays the violin.* x *John plays the banjo; his sister, moreover, plays the violin.*);

2. coordinated clauses (with *and, or, and but*) are sequentially fixed in relation to the previous clause (not true for most subordinators *Although she cried, he gave it away.*);

3. coordinators (all) are not preceded by a conjunction;

4. they can link clause constituents (the same applies to conjuncts *yet, so, time adverb then*) e.g. *You may come tomorrow or may phone today.*

5. they can link subordinate clauses, e.g. *I wonder whether I should stay or whether I should leave immediately.*

6. they (*and, or*) can link more than two clauses - **multiple coordination**.

### Correlatives (endorsing item and a coordinator):

**three main pairs:** *either ... or* (emphasizes the exclusive meaning of *or*),

*both ... and* (emphasizes the additive meaning of *and* and

singles out the segregatory meaning of *and* rather than combinatory meaning),

*neither ... nor* (negative counterpart of *both ... and*, emphasizes

that the negation applies to both units);

**one marginal pair:** *not (only) ... but (also)*

Examples: *Either you or your sister can stay.*

*Both David and Jane got divorced.* (not from each other)

*Mary is neither happy nor sad.*

*He came not to help us, but to talk to us.*

*Not Henry, but his wife is the owner.*

*Not only was he late, but he also forgot his glasses.*

**Notes:** 1. According to prescriptive tradition, the use of correlatives is unacceptable when there are three or more conjoins.

2. Correlatives should introduce parallel units, i.e. units of equivalent function.

### Simple coordination

coordination, in which a single clause or clause constituent is linked to others that are parallel in meaning, in function, and (generally) in form:

**conjoin + conjoin = conjoint**

two ways of analysing simple coordination of clause constituents:

1. an elliptical version of clause constituents, two clauses in which a subject and an operator have been ellipted from the second clause:

*She has trimmed the hedge and O mowed the lawn.*

2. a single clause containing two coordinated predications, which together constitute the predication of the clause:

*She has [[trimmed the hedge] and [mowed the lawn]].*

### **Types of simple coordination:**

c. of clauses, c. of predicates and predications (the most reduced form being preferred), c. of noun phrases and their constituents (combinatory and segregatory coordination of noun phrases, e.g. *John and Mary make a pleasant couple.* and *John and Mary know the answer.*), c. within noun phrases, etc.

### **Complex coordination**

coordination in which the conjoins are **combinations of units** rather than single units, usually requiring a **strong parallelism** between the conjoins, therefore tending to be used in **written style** of English, two types:

1. each conjoin consists of contiguous elements and the conjoins are combined in final position, e.g. *He gave me a book on stamps and Mary a book on painting.* Oi + Od

2. conjoins are not in final position, e.g. *John admires, but Mary hates, modern music.*

### **Gapping**

is a type of complex coordination in which a second or subsequent conjoin contains a **medial ellipsis**, so that the elements in these conjoins are not contiguous, e.g. *One girl has written a poem, and the other O a short story.* S + O

### **Appended coordination**

characteristic of informal speech, occurs when an elliptical clause (involving one element or contiguous elements) is appended to a previous clause:

e.g. *My mother plays badminton, and sometimes even tennis.*

### **Pseudo-coordination**

mostly found in informal speech; several types:

a/ the c. of two verbs that has an idiomatic function similar to that of a catenative construction (e.g. *I'll try and come.*)

b/ the c. of two adjectives of which the first functions as an intensifier of the second (e.g. *His speech was nice and short.*)

c/ the c. of identical comparative forms of adjectives, adverbs, and determiners that expresses a continuing increase in degree (e.g. *She felt more and more angry.*)

d/ the c. of two or more identical forms of verbs and adverbs that expresses continuation or repetition (e.g. *He talked and talked and talked.*)

e/ the c. of two identical nouns to indicate different kinds (e.g. *You can find doctors and doctors.*)

f/ the c. of three or more identical nouns to indicate a large number or quantity (e.g. *We saw dogs and dogs and dogs all over the place.*)

### **Quasi-coordination**

most of the quasi-coordinators are related to comparative forms: *as well as*, *as much as*, *rather than*, *more than*. They sometimes resemble coordinators in that they link a variety of constituents.

Examples:

*John, as well as his brothers, was responsible for the loss.*

*I am going to forget the whole affair, rather than cause trouble.*