

Bi-dimensional Grammar: a unified account of clause-linking by subordinating and coordinating conjunctions

Keywords: *clause-linking, adverbial subordination, coordination, conjunctions, bi-dimensional grammar, semantic subordination, integration, dependency*

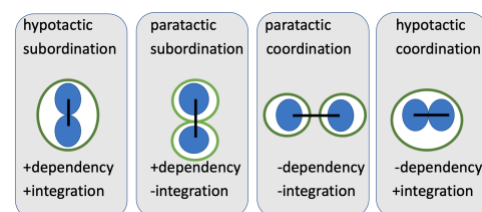
The topic of this presentation is the syntactic clause-linking via subordinating and coordinating conjunctions, such as *because, since, and, but*. **I argue in favor of** a bi-dimensional Grammar, with syntactic and semantic (in a structural sense) layers, to capture the various clause-linking possibilities by subordinating and coordinating conjunctions in a fine-grained and unified way.

The main question is that *subordination* and *coordination* are too rigorous to account for the configurations expressed by conjunctions: Furthermore, the accounts on the heterogeneity of adverbial subordination are typically not linked to those on coordination types: if subordinating conjunctions allow integrated (1) or non-integrated (2) constructions (Verstraete 2007, Haegeman 2022), coordination is analyzed in terms of balanced/symmetric vs. unbalanced/asymmetric usages. Few studies concentrate on the so-called *semantically subordinate* usages of some coordinators, whereby the two clauses are integrated within one illocutionary unit, e.g the left-subordinated AND (3, Culicover & Jackendoff 2005), as well as the traditional SN/PA bipartition by Anscombre & Ducrot for French MAIS (4, BUT). These two studies have not been (to my knowledge) related, despite the common term *semantic subordination*. Moreover, this term is used not only in the structural sense of illocutionary integration, but also in the semantic sense of asymmetric relation, which is confusing:

1. John came back BECAUSE he loves you. It is because John loves you that he came back
2. SINCE you love me, please come back. * It is since you love me that please come back.
3. One more can of beer AND I'm leaving.
4. He is not intelligent, MAIS only a hard worker.

Analyses: Critically revising a number of accounts on various subordinating and coordinating conjunctions in different frameworks, **I elaborate** a unified account for their different usages via two bivalent parameters, situated at the syntactic and semantic levels of the grammatical architecture, namely, a) syntactic dependency/independence and b) semantic/illocutionary (non-)integration (hypotax/paratax, in Ducrot's terms), see table I. The cross-cutting of the values of these parameters condition four major clause-linking categories, as illustrated in II:

Dimension	parameter	values
syntactic	dependency	Subordination-coordination
semantic	Illocutionary integration	Hypotax-paratax



I. Two dimensions, two bivalent parameters

II. Four-partition of clauses introduced by subordinating and coordinating conjunctions

Conclusion: This bi-dimensional grammar gives not only a unified representation of the subordinating adverbial clauses and coordinated conjuncts, but also unifies the intuitions on syntactic coordinators, by Culicover & Jackendoff (generative framework), those by Ducrot, as well as simplifies the 3-level architecture of clause-linking advocated by Belyaev (2015) within Lexical-Functional Grammar framework. I hence offer a unifying metalanguage for inter-translating and reconciliating the multiple existing accounts in the domain of conjunctive clause-linking, showing that the outcomes of these works can perfectly be matched and/or put together within a unique picture, though have typically been not considered from a comparative perspective, since are elaborated in different terms, illustrated on different languages, and within different conceptual frameworks and traditions.

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