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# **Adverbial Clauses of Time: A Linguistic Study**

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

((وَبَشِّرِ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا  
الْأَنْهَارُ كُلَّمَا رُزِقُوا مِنْهَا مِنْ ثَمَرَةٍ رِزْقًا قَالُوا هَذَا الَّذِي رُزِقْنَا مِنْ قَبْلُ  
وَأُتُوا بِهِ مُتَشَابِهًا وَلَهُمْ فِيهَا أَزْوَاجٌ مُطَهَّرَةٌ وَهُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ))

صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ

(البقرة: ٢٥)

**To our Parents and Friends**

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# Contents

## **Chapter One: Adverbial Clauses in English**

1.1	A Look at Adverbial Clauses	1
1.2	Classes of Adverbial Clauses	2
1.2.1	Adverbial Clauses of Place	2
1.2.2	Adverbial Clauses of Reason or Cause	3
1.2.3	Adverbial Clauses of Condition	3
1.2.4	Adverbial Clauses of Result	4
1.2.5	Adverbial Clauses of Purpose	5
1.2.6	Adverbial Clauses of Comparison	6
1.2.7	Adverbial Clauses of Concession	6
1.2.8	Adverbial Clauses of Manner	7
1.2.9	Adverbial Clauses of Proportion	8
1.2.10	Adverbial Clauses of Preference	8
1.2.11	Adverbial Clauses of supplement	9

## **Chapter Two: Adverbial Clauses of Time** 10

2.1	Definitions of Adverbial Clauses of Time	10
2.2	Types of Adverbial Clauses of Time	11
2.1.1	Finite Adverbial Clauses of Time	11
2.1.2	Non-Finite and Verbless Clauses of Time	13
2.3	Subordinators in Adverbial Clauses of Time	15
	Conclusions	24
	Bibliography	25

## **Abstract**

This research is concerned with a linguistic study of adverbial clauses of time in English. Adverbial clauses of time are mainly sentence adjuncts whose main function is to provide additional information on when something is done. These clauses are tackled from the syntactic and semantic points of view.

The research is divided into two chapters. The first chapter sheds light on adverbial clauses in English with reference to definitions, types and positions. The second chapter concentrates on adverbial clauses of time with reference to definitions, types, positions and subordinators starting these clauses.

Finally, the conclusions sum up the findings of the research.

# Chapter One

## Adverbial Clauses in English

### 1.1 A Look at Adverbial Clauses

Before talking about adverbial clauses, one should know what is meant by some items such as : a clause, whether dependent or independent. A clause is a set of words that is formed at least from a subject and a verb . It can be dependent and independent. An independent clause is a clause that can come as a sentence alone whereas a dependant clause is one that must be connected with an independent clause. As such, adverbial clauses are dependent clauses that must be linked with independent clause (Smally et al , 2000 : 327-8).

Adverbial clauses can play a role which is similar to an adverb or a prepositional phrase . They can often start with a conjunction just like '**after , because or so that** '. Adverbial clauses can occur in a position at the beginning , at the end or in middle of the sentence within the main clause ( in general of order frequency ). Here, medial position is rather rare . When they occur at the beginning of the sentence, they will be followed by a comma as in:

1. After we had finished work, we all went to the pub.
- 2- A lot has happened since last summer.
- 3- We could , if you like , play cards. (Quirk and Greenbaum , 1973: 322).

These clauses can be non-finite clauses, for example, one can use a clause with to-infinitive as in (4) or participle as in (5):

- 4- Just check it again highlight it .
- 5- I was sitting in the restaurant eating my food (Underwood, 2005: 336).

After certain conjunctions, one can use adverbial clauses without the subject and the verb to be when the meaning can be understood from the context as in (6) :

6- A car must be taxed when (it is ) on the road (Underwood, 2005 : 337 )

Biber et al ( 2002 : 373 ) show that adverbial clauses are appropriate into many of the semantic categories especially in time as in (7) , place as in (8) or contingency as in (9):

7- When I last saw you , you lived in Washington.

8- Wherever possible , all moving parts should be tested.

9- He must be lying if he told you that .

Adverbials are kinds of clauses with their main functions : to add circumstantial information about the proposition in the clause, to show speaker/writer stance across the clause, or to join the clause to some other with unit of discourse (Biber et al , 1999: 762 ).

## 1.2 Classes of Adverbial Clauses

Quirk and Greenbaum (1973 : 322 ) point out that adverbial clauses can be classified into many types with subordinating conjunctions that can precede each type of clause which are as follows :

### 1.2.1 Adverbial Clauses of Place

Adverbial clauses of place start with conjunctions '**where** , **wherever** '. These clauses can be finite as in (10 ) , non-finite as in (11) or verbless as in (12) starting with the same subordinators:

10 - They went wherever they could find job.

11- wherever known, all moving parts should be tested.

12- Where known, such facts have been reported.

There is a relation similar to conditions (wherever possible, whenever possible, if possible) that can found a general meaning is characteristic of verbless and non finite clause , and in part reflects major similarities between several adverbial relationships (Ibid : 323).



### 1.2.2 Adverbial Clauses of Reason or Cause

These clausal start with the conjunctions ' **because, as, and since**' as in:

13- I gave him the money because he needed it. (Quirk and Greenbaum ,1973 : 327 )

The conjunctions " because, because of , and since " can be used in the sentence to make adverbial clause of reason . for example :

14- Jackie Chan has charmed moviegoers around the world because of his delightful on screen personality.

The other conjunctions that can be used to show causes include '**thus , therefore, as a result and for this reason**'. These transitional words are used to link two independent clauses (Smally et al , 2000 : 336 ).

A conjunction like '**because**' is used to form an adverbial clause of reason . For example :

15- I did wrong because I was tired .

Also, there are other conjunctions just as '**as , since , seeing (that) , and now**' . The conjunctions ' **because** and **since**' are used as an answer to the question '**why**' (Maurer , 2000 : 353).

### 1.2.3 Adverbial Clauses of Condition

These adverbial clauses show the dependent of one or group of circumstances on another as in :

16- If you tread her kindly , (then ) she will do anything for you (Quirk and Greenbaum, 1973 : 323).

The interference between conditional and concessive clauses can be expressed by certain conjunction like ' **even if**' which explain

both the contingent dependence of one circumstance upon another and the surprising nature of this dependence. These clauses can be introduced by the subordinators 'if' (positive) and unless (negative) 'if' and 'unless' form non-finite and verbless clauses (Quirk and Greenbaum, 1973 : 323).

Biber et al (2002 : 373-4) illustrate that this type of adverbial clauses can be divided into three subtypes which are open class. These clauses do not explain whether the condition is fulfilled or not as in :

17- Read the paper if you don't believe me .

But if the clause shows that the condition is not fulfilled, it is called hypothetical or also called unreal, for example :

18- IF he had had a coin , he would have tossed it .

The last type, which is named rhetorical condition, can be in the form of a condition but combined with the main clause make form a strong assertion.

### **1.2.4 Adverbial Clauses of Result**

This type of adverbial is formed by linking two sentences using 'so / such' as in:

19- That building is so tall that I can't climb to the top .

Because this type is positioned at the end, so there is no need for the comma (Smally et al , 2000 : 337-8).

Clauses of result are factual rather than putative or unreal because they contain an ordinary verb form without a modal auxiliary . For example :

20- We planted many shrubs, so (that) the garden soon looked beautiful (Quirk and Greenbaum, 1973: 328)

Maurer(2000 :345) points out that clauses of result present the result of an event that is described by ' **so that** ' or by the use of ' **so + adjective + that** ' or by ' **such + noun phrase + that** :

21- The elastic cards attached to their backs are so strong and flexible that you can close the door below without hitting it .

### 1.2.5 Adverbial Clauses of Purpose

Adverbial clauses of purpose show or explain the purpose for a particular action or event. These clauses also tell why or what is the purpose of doing something. The phrase 'in order +infinitive ' can be used to make these clauses or to show purpose:

22-Light the fire in order to boil the water. (Smalley et al, 2000:335).

These clauses can also be introduced by using the conjunctions '**so that** 'and '**in order that**'. These two conjunctions can be substitute each other since they have the same meaning and they are used in the same way in the sentence. They are often followed by modals like '**will**':

23-Wear gloves so that you will not cut your fingers.

24-Wear gloves in order that you will not cut your fingers.(Ibid)

Clauses of purpose are adjuncts that can be finite or non-finite clauses. These clauses can be introduced by using many other subordinating conjunctions that give the purpose of doing something like 'to, and so as to':

25-I left early to catch the train. (Quirk and Greenbaum,1973:328)

The use of '**for**' with a noun phrase can give the meaning of purpose of doing an action,so it can be used to make clauses of purpose :

26-I went out for some fresh air(Underwood, 2005:341)

### 1.2.6 Adverbial Clauses of Comparison

Adverbial clauses of comparison make a comparison of quality or show the comparison between two or more things or events. This can be introduced by the use of conjunctions like **'than, as much as, and as many as'**:

27-There seem to be far fewer singular, individualized practices today than there were in the past. (Maurer,2000 : 353).

Quirk and Greenbaum (1973:328) define adverbial clauses of comparison as those that provide a transference to the Adverbial clause. Subordinating conjunctions that introduce these clauses are **'as if, as though '**:

28-He looks as if he is going to be ill.

Sometimes, these clauses show the version of subject-operator . In this case, the operator comes before the subject:

29- The present owner collects pictures,as did several of his ancestors.

Such clauses, as dependent clauses, are introduced by the conjunctions **'just as, in the same way that '**.These conjunctions indicate comparison:

30-Just as John and Ali differ in nationality ,they also differ in education. (Smalley et al ,2000 :331)

### 1.2.7 Adverbial Clauses of Concession

Clauses of concession state a contrast or unexpected idea. This means that these clauses show an idea that is not expected by the reader:

31-He refuses to retire, even though he is now 100 years old.

These clauses can be introduced by the use of the subordinators **'although, though, and even though '**. The subordinators **'though'**

and **'even though'** are not commonly used in adverbial clauses of concession, **'although'** is often used more commonly in these clauses. The use of **'though'** is often in speech while **'even though'** often used when the speaker or the writer wants to be more intensive in his speech. So, the conjunction **'though'** is more intensive and more emphatic in use than **'although'** (Smalley et al, 2000 : 332-3).

Clauses of concession can be either finite clause that is the clause whose verb element is a finite verb phrase, or non-finite, that is the clause whose verb element is non-finite verb phrase. These clauses can also be verbless clauses which containing no verb element (Quirk and Greenbaum, 1973 : 326).

These clauses show that if the same thing takes place in two contrasting conditions, there must be something surprising about these two things or about one of them. This can be introduced by the use of some subordinators like **'as'** and **'though'**. These clauses can also be marked by **'that'** when it's position in the sentence is after the subject complement:

32-Naked as I was, I braved the storm

33-Sneer unkindly though you may ,Mary is very popular (Ibid).

### 1.2.8 Adverbial clauses of Manner

Quirk and Greenbaum (Ibid :328) define clauses of manner as the clauses that express something or express an event that happen **'in the same way that'**. This can be achieved by using **'exactly as, just as'**:

34-Please do it (exactly ) as I want (in the way that I want ).

35-Just as a moth is attracted by a light, so he was surprised by her.

The use of **'just as'** in adverbial clauses of manner is different from it's use in clauses of comparison. Since, when it is used in clauses of manner, it is often followed by **'so'** that introduces the main clause. Also, it can be written as **'just as'** or only **'as'**. While in clauses of comparison, it is often followed by a noun or a pronoun and written as **'just as'**:

36-(Just)as Mary is a good student, so is her brother.

### 1.2.9 Adverbial clauses of Proportion

Adverbial clauses of proportion are used to show the attribution or state between two things. These clauses often contain '**the**' with comparative and also there should be '**the**' with comparative in the main clause :

37-The more you astound and astonish people, the happier you'll be. (Biber et al, 2002: 374).

Clauses of proportion express the equivalence or the degree between two events or circumstances. So, there is a relation between the two things expressed. These clauses are introduced by 'as (with or without so)' or by the.....the with comparatives:

38-As he grew disheartened, so his work deteriorated .

39-The more he thought about it, the less he liked it.

40-The harder he worked, the happier he felt. (Quirk and Greenbaum, 1973: 329).

### 1.2.10 Adverbial Clauses of Preference

Biber et al (2002 : 374) point out that these clauses are used to express or to show preferences. This means that these clauses show that something or someone is preferred than another one:

41-I prefer to visit my friends rather than sitting at home.

These clauses often use the subordinator '**rather than**' which is followed by a non-finite verb.

Clauses of preference use the subordinator '**sooner than**' with a bare infinitive that following the subordinators :

42-Sooner than go there by car ,I'd take the slowest train. (Quirk and Greenbaum, 1973 : 329).

### **1.2.11 Adverbial Clauses of Supplement**

Biber et al (2002: 374-5) define adverbial clauses of supplement as the clauses that complete the information or the event stated in the main clause. These clauses can be either finite or non-finite clauses ,but are usually non-finite clauses and usually come as ing-clauses and ed-clauses :

43- She shook her head , still gazing at the patterns of sunshine on the grass outside the hut.

44-Overcome by curiosity, he started at his odd face , at the scar.....

### **1.2.12 Adverbial Clauses of Time**

Adverbial clauses of time show the time relationship between two clauses by using certain conjunctions which are indicating time:

45-First I go to the shop, then I go home. (Smalley et al , 2000 : 328).

These clauses are used to talk about something that happens when something else takes place ,so these clauses express two things that are happen at the same time :

46-When Ahmed was eating, the doorbell rang.  
(Hewings, 2005: 158).

Adverbial clauses of time will be covered with more detail in the next chapter because it is the main concern of this research.

## Chapter two

### Adverbial Clauses of Time

#### 2-1 Definition of Adverbial Clauses of Time

Adverbial clauses of time, which are considered as the most common class, add information about the action described in the clause, answering the question '**when**'. They include both obligatory adverbial as in (47) and optional adverbial as in (48):

47. Where were you this evening then? you weren't in phonology  
48. Writers on style have differed [a great deal ][in their understanding of the topic (Biber et al, 1999:783).

Adverbial clauses of time are the clauses that express time in relation to the independent clause. The idea of time in adverbial clause can occur with, before or after the time in independent clause:

49. As he sitting there at the table, he look around for a way to escape  
50. I held the flashlight while my brother was sitting up the tent. (Smalley et al, 2000: 328).

These clauses are introduced by some subordinators like '**since, after, before, when**' and many other subordinators:

51. When I last saw you ,you lived in Iraq. (Quirk and Greenbaum,1973:322).

These clauses can also be used to talk about more than one thing happening at the same time:

52. I always fell down when I was coming down the stairs. (Underwood, 2005:238).

Adverbial clauses of time are adjuncts and because these clauses are adjuncts, they often come initially and sometimes in the middle. This means that the these clauses are mobile that can



occur in different places in the sentence. Such clauses also are used to link the time of the action or state indicated in it's clause to the time of the action or situation indicated in the independent clause:

53. When in difficulty, confer the pamphlet.

54. Complete your job as soon as possible (Quirk et al, 1985:1079-80).

These clauses have several subordinators that primarily express the time of the situation. It also used to talk about something that occurs when something else takes place to mean 'during the time that':

55. As Ali was sleeping, the phone rang. (Hewings, 2005: 158).

Such a type of adverbial clauses does not only depend on subordinators to express the relationship between the time of the two situations expressed in the two clauses (adverbial and main clause ), but they depend also on other devices in the two clauses such as tense and aspect, the semantic category of verbs, adverbs, adjectives and nouns expressing time. These clauses can be either finite or non-finite clauses that often begin with some subordinators like **'after, until, till, as, when:**

56. After I'd finished my work, I went to the market. (Ibid.)

## **2.2 Types of Adverbial Clauses of Time**

This section tackles the types of adverbial clauses of time which are finite and non-finite. These clauses will be explained in terms of form and position.

### **2.2.1 Finite Adverbial Clauses of Time**

These clauses can be introduced by some conjunctions like **'after, since, until, when, as long as, while, till, whenever, as soon as, before'** as in:

57. When Layla last saw you, you were in London.

58. Ali didn't start to read until he was twelve years old (Quirk and Greenbaum, 1973:322).

They are used to show the time or duration of the action and questions. The dependent and independent clauses may occur at one time ;or one may occur before /after the second, or it may occur until the other has begun (Adverbial Clauses of Time, 2017:4).

The initial adverbial clauses play is structuring subsequent discourse. This is especially important function of beginning time and condition clauses. They can define the scene for string of actions:

59. When I Took Ali to The School, I had to drag him into school.

Or may the clauses set the scene for only one action (hypothetically one):

60. If Nora hadn't either won the race or finished second ,she would have been out of the championship (Biber et al, 2002:379)

Finite adverbial clauses can be found in both position :at the beginning and at the end of the main clause. Initially, many of these clauses consist of information that is said in the preceding sentences which show a kind of coherence while the maintaining clause gives new information:

61. When you're young, everything was reversible (Biber et al , 1999:835)

Also, Finite adverbial clauses have tense , aspect or modality which are different from these of the main clause due to semantic relationship expressed by time as in:

62. Yesterday Albert and Tom were frantically doing that practice before it got done

Such a difference reflects the idea of time in which one event starts first and need to period of time as expressed by past progressive, the second event is short and comes after; as expressed by past simple (Biber et al, 2002:377).

## 2-2-2: Non-finite and Verbless Clauses of Time

Non-finite clauses can occur in independent clauses preceded by some conjunctions including '**after, before ,on and since**':

63. I felt guilty after eating all chocolate (Underwood, 2005:337)

These clauses are more constrained due to the fact that the subject is either understood from the content or implied. If it is understood, the subject must have the same reference to that of the independent clause:

64. I borrowed a portable phone to ring Albert to complain (Biber et al, 2002 :337)

Non- finite clauses can have the feature of the condensing adverbial meaning into minimal words. The use of non finite expresses robust preference for meaning category and record (Ibid:377).

Non- finite Adverbial clauses can be divided into three types 'to infinitive, -ing , -ed, verbless'. First of all, the -ing clause of time which mark that the activity can be more or less done at the same time:

65. Whistling to herself, the office-girl went out (Adverbial clauses of time, 2017:5).

These clauses of time start with one of these conjunctions such as '**once, till, until, when, and whilst**':

66. Be careful, when you crossing the road

67. Once having made a promise, you should kept it (Quirk and Greenbroom, 1973:322).

The most common type of non-finite is -ing clauses. These are addition clauses with unlimited semantic roles. This kind of clauses occupies initial position. The initial position of this type has two important roles of contributing to narrative. The adverb clause produces an activity or state of duration ,but the main clause shows one-time action inside the time frame of that activity or state:

68. Hiding beneath a bit of desert rock ,Ali needed to himself  
(Biber et al , 1999: 832 )

In addition, -ing clause without a subject can also show time relationship :

69. Nearing the entrance, he shook hands with his acquaintances ( Quirk and Greenboam 1973:322)

Second , -ed clauses of time can begin with one of the conjunctions such as ' **as soon as, once ,until, till, whenever, when, while** ':

70. Once published, the book caused remarkable stir (Quirk et al, 1985:1078).

Third , to-infinitive clause can be used to express result ; this use is the most common for this type ,however it can be used for purpose:

71. To smooth the way, the school has taken special steps  
(Biber et al, 2002:377)

To-infinitive clauses have the role of time without conjunctions or subject, showing the result of the situation:

72. John left, never to return.

Such clauses are limited to final position to indicate the similarity between them and result clauses (Quirk et al, 1985:1079).

Moreover, verbless clauses can indicate time; this type can be found after some conjunctions that are used with -ed clauses such '**as soon as, once, until, till, whenever, when ,while**':

73. When in difficulty, consult the manual (Quirk et al,1985:1079).

The clauses with the conjunction '**as soon as** ' seems more specified with a few adjectives that can be used with nominal clause to cover the meaning whatever they can . The subject of verbless clauses is implied and expressed by (it) which refers to the main clause:

74. John watched TV until too tired to do anything so (Ibid).

Biber et al (2002:376) sustain that finite adverbial clauses are more common than non-finite clauses. They have various advantages over the other types of clauses .Finite clauses have conjunctions that express a vast variety of meanings. In comparison , non-finite clauses are more specified range of meaning.

## **2.3 Subordinators in Adverbial Clauses of Time**

In adverbial clauses of time, there are several subordinators to be used. These are '**after, before, as, once, since, till, until, when, whenever, while, now (that),as long as, so long as, as soon as**'. Each one of these conjunctions has it's own meaning. They are as follows :

### **1-When**

This subordinator can be used to talk about an action which interrupts another one. This action is often shorter than the one which is interrupted. This subordinator expresses the action which happened in the past:

75.**When** he arrived, the party was finished.

It can also be used to explain two or more things happening at the same time:

76. I usually fell down **when** I was coming down the stairs  
(Underwood,2005:337).

Such a type of subordinator also shows that two actions which occur one after another:

77.**When** I clicked on the image, the screen went blank. (Ibid: 338).

'When' is often used to express the interfere in time between the two situations in the two clauses :

78. He cut his fingers **when** shaving.(Quirk et al,1985: 1083).

Hewings (2005:158) adds that 'when' is used to make a clause which talks about an action that happens at the same time as another one is takes place :

79.He was playing in the street **when** he saw a speeding car.

Such a subordinator describes the idea that one action happens closely after another, especially when one of these actions causes the other:

80.You'll see my garden on the left **when** you cross the street.

'**When**' also shows an action or situation which happen regularly or repeated:

81.It was shiny **when** my father and I arrived at the airport.  
(Smalley et al,2000:328).

Azar (1989: 298)adds that the conjunction '**when**' means "at that time or (at the moment)".It expresses either simple past or simple present :

82.**when** I arrived, she was talking with her friend.

83. **When** I see him tomorrow, I will thank him.

## 2-While

Such a subordinator is used to refer to something continuing for a period of time:

84. **While** we were walking, we saw a dog.

As with '**when**', it can also be used to talk about two or more actions occurring at the same time:

85. He often fell down **while** he coming down the stairs.  
(Underwood, 2005: 337).

The subordinator '**while**' indicates that the situation expressed is in get forward or in progress :

86. **While** I am sitting there on the chair, I glance around for a way to escape. (Smalley et al, 2000: 328).

'**While**' is used to mean 'during that time' which expresses the action in past continues :

87. **While** I was walking home, it began to make clouds.  
(Azar, 1989: 298).

## 3-As

Such a subordinator is sometimes similar in meaning to '**when**' and '**while**', but there are some differences between them. Underwood (2005: 338) illustrates that the subordinator '**as**' is used to talk about the idea that 'a change in one thing goes with a change in another':

88. **As** we drove further east, the ground got wet.

Quirk et al (1985:1083)add that this subordinator shows the idea of interfere in time between the two situations in the two clauses:

89.He cut his hair as cutting

'As' is preferable in showing two longer events or situations which take place at the same time. As with '**while**' ,this subordinator can also be used to mean that the events expressed is in progress:

90.I went swimming **as** sara cleaned the table

91.**As** I am sitting there on the bed,I glance around for a way to escape. (Smalley et al, 2000:328)

Azar (1989:298)points out that the meaning of '**as**' is "during that time is expressed through the use of past progressive:

92.**As** she was walking to school, it began to rain.

## 4-Before and After

The two subordinators '**before** and **after**' show that there is an action happening before or after another action:

93.The food arrived **before** I'd left.

94.The food arrived **after** I'd left. (Hewings, 2005: 158).

Quirk et al (1985: 1080-1)illustrate that the difference between '**before**'and' **after**' is that the subordinator '**before**' indicates that the event in adverbial clause happened before or leading up to the event or action in the main clause as in example(95) , while '**after**' indicates that the action in the adverbial clause happens after that in the main clause as in example(96):

95.I started my meal **before** Ali left.

96.I went to sleep **after** eating my food.



Underwood (2005:239) adds that When the phrase is explaining a period of time , '**before** 'is used after this phrase :

97. It was a year before John dared to ask Loura out.

'**Before**, which means 'before that moment', is used with either past simple or simple present as shown by examples (98) and (99) , while 'after 'could mean "after that moment "which is used with either the present for future events or 'past or past perfect 'for past events as in examples (100) and (101):

98. I will leave **before** she comes.

99. She had left **before** he came.

100. **After** he graduates, he will get a job.

101. **After** he had graduated, he got a job. (Azar, 1989:298).

## 5-Until and Till

Smalley et al (2000: 330) maintain that the subordinators '**till** and **until**' show that the event in the adverbial clause represents the end of the action in the independent clause:

102. You can't go outside **until** /**till** you finish your homework.

Also, Underwood (2005: 239) illustrates the idea that an action or event occurs later than expected through using '**till**' and '**until**':

103. I didn't get to the house **until** midnight.

Hewings (2005: 158) adds that '**until** 'is used to talk about something that happens and continues to a period of time ,then stops:

104. They sat on the beach **until** the Sun sets, and then they went home.

When the adverbial clause is the result of the action described in the main clause, this can be expressed through the use of '**until**' :

105. she cleaned the dishes **until** they shone.

'**Till**' is used similarly to '**until**', but is far less common as a subordinator. '**Until**' indicates the time up to which the action in the adverbial clause applies:

106. I disliked Ali **until** I got to know him. (Quirk et al, 1985: 1080-81).

These two subordinators 'till' and 'until' which are used to mean "to that time" and then the event is no longer happens. Both of them can be used to with either simple past or simple present; and '**till**' is used generally in speaking rather than writing:

107. He stayed there **until** he finished his work.

108. He stayed there **till** he finished his work. (Azar, 1989 : 298).

## 6-Once

This conjunction is used to refer to the idea that something in the main clause will happen as a completion of the action on the adverbial clause:

109. **Once** I reach my town, I am going to visit my uncle. (Smalley et al, 2005 : 330).

Quirk et al (1985:1084) point out that such a subordinator is used to show a sequence in which the event in the main clause happens after that in the subordinate clause. This subordinator also adds the idea of proximity in relation to the time of the two actions or events:

110. I'll eat **once** I finish eating the meal.

Azar (1989 : 298) adds that '**once**' could mean when one action occurs, another action occurs closely afterwards:

111. Once it stops raining, we'll walk.

## 7-Since

This subordinator is used to refer to the idea that the event in the main clause started at the moment indicated in the adverbial clause and still in the present:

112. Ever **since** he was a young, he have had the capability to get angry easily (Smalley et al ,2000 : 330).

As with '**once**' , '**since**' shows that the situation in which the action in the main clause happens after that in the subordinate clause; 'since ' here indicates the beginning of the duration after which the event in the main clause applies :

113. I feel much more relax **since** I left school (Quirk et al ,1985: 1084).

When using 'since' it means "from that time to the present ".the main clause is often in the present perfect tense while the adverbial clause is in the past simple :

114. I haven't seen him **since** he left the town (Azar ,1989 : 298).

## 8-Whenever

This subordinator shows that the action expressed happens repeatedly or regularly; it is often used in the simple tense only because the action occurs regularly:

115. **Whenever** he call my name, I come walking to you. (Smalley et al , 2005: 329).

Quirk et al (1985: 1083) show that '**whenever**' is commonly used to make habitual adverbial, showing that the situation is frequent. It also indicates that the two situations interfere in time:

116. He visits his friends **whenever** possible .

## 9-Now (that)

This subordinator combines reason with tentative meaning, the event is indicated either in past or present time. It also shows simultaneity:

117. I am happy **now that** my father is present. (Ibid :1084).

## 10- As Long as and so Long as

These two subordinators often imply an overlap in time between the two clauses when they are used as a temporal conjunctions. Through using these two conjunctions ,the two clauses must be periodic. Both of them indicate that the events begin and end at the same time:

118. **As long as** I write a letter, I use my pen.

119. she'll continue working **so long as** she has the power. (Ibid: 1083).

These two subordinators mean during all that time ,from the beginning of the action to the end:

120. I will never look at him again **as long as** I live.

121. I will never look at him again **so long as** I live. (Azar, 1989:298).

## 11- As Soon As

It is used to express the idea that when one action happens another one occurs soon after it:

122. **As soon as** it stops raining, I will walk. ( Azar , 1989:298)

Similarly, Quirk et al (1985: 1084) add that this subordinator shows the idea that the event in the main clause comes after that in the subordinate clause . It also adds the idea of proximity in time of the two events :

123. **As soon as** I left , I began walking.

In addition, Smalley et al (2000: 330) illustrate that this subordinator is used to indicate that the even in the main clause happens as a completion of the action in the adverbial clause:

124. **As soon as** we arrived to the beach, we began to set up a camp.

This subordinator refers to the idea that one thing happens closely after another one:

125. **As soon as** the doors were open, the students rushed in. (Underwood, 2005: 338).

There are some other subordinators which are used in adverbial clause of time like 'immediately, hardly ,no sooner, by.....'and many others.

## Conclusions

Time clauses are subordinate clauses which usually go with the main clause showing time relationship that exists between these two clauses. They follow the rule of sequence of tenses. That is, if the verb in the main clause is in the past, present or future form, the verb in time clauses will be in the past, present or future form respectively.

As sentence adjuncts, time clauses are of three types. First, they can be finite introduced by certain subordinators such as '**when, while, before, after, as, as soon as**'. In this sense, the verb will have tense, aspect and modality. Finite adverbial clauses can be found in both positions: at the beginning and at the end of the main clause. This type is considered as the most common one.

Second, they can be non-finite realized differently by -ed clause, -ing clause and to- infinitive clause. Third, they can be verbless clauses. -Ing clauses start with one of these conjunctions such as '**once, till, until, when, and whilst**'; and this type of clauses is considered as the most common type of non-finite clauses and it occurs in end-position only. -Ed clauses might be introduced by one of the subordinators such as '**as soon as, once, till, until, whenever, when, while**'. They occur at the beginning of the main clause. Whereas -to infinitive clauses are restricted to final position having the role of time relation without conjunctions. Verbless clauses are introduced by the subordinators '**once, till, until, when, while, whenever**'; and they occur initially.

Time clauses indicating temporal sequence are introduced by such subordinating conjunctions as **before, after, when, as soon as**. Simultaneity is included under temporal and is mainly realized by clauses introduced by **while**, a conjunction which indicates that something is going on at the same time as the action in the main clause, and this often occurs together with a verb in the progressive form or the -ing form alone. Simultaneity can also be expressed by the -ing form alone following a finite verb form.

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