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A Linguistic Study of Linking Adverbs in English

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

(قَدْ هَلَا يَسْتَوِي الذِّئْبُ يَفْطَمُوهُ
وَالذِّئْبُ لَا يَفْطَمُوهُ إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُولُو
الْأَلْبَابِ)

صَبْرًا وَاللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ

(النمر: ٩)

Dedication

To :

Our families

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Introduction

Linking adverbs are adverbs that are used to link ideas or clauses in spoken or written sentences. They could be also called conjunctives . We use a very wide variety of linking adverbs. Some are more commonly used in formal written English, while others are more characteristics of informal spoken language. This research paper includes two chapters, the first one is entitled as syntax of linking adverbs. It's divided into three sections, each section elaborates on definitions , syntactic features of linking adverbs, positions of linking adverbs and the use of linking adverbs with or without conjunctions .

On the other hand, the second chapter is entitled as semantics of linking adverbs, which is divided into two sections, each one of these sections tackles the functions of the use of linking adverbs and semantic categories of linking adverbs.

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Chapter One

Syntax of Linking Adverbs

1.0 Introduction

This chapter is going to explain what is meant by linking adverbs by studying a list of definitions with examples .

In addition to definitions ; syntactic features of linking adverbs are clarified with examples on each one.

All possible positions of linking adverbs whether they are initial , medial or final are going to be shown with examples.

The last part of this chapter states the usage of linking adverbs as well as , it is going to show the cases in which linking adverbs and conjunctions are being together in the same sentence.

1.1 Definitions and Syntactic Features of Linking Adverbs

Linking Adverbs are used to connect two written or spoken ideas , linking adverbs have one of these three meanings:

First , adding something :

1.1 *In addition* to losing his money; his father punished him.

Second , showing contrast :

1.2 *However* he passed the exam; he is not very good student.

Third , summarizing :

1.3 She was always speaking to me in a very kind way I can not forget even her voice ;*in brief* , she was great . (Alexander, 1998:104)

Linking adverbs are parts of speech which have connective functions rather than adding something new to the phrase ; linking adverbs also show how two phrases are being together .

1.4 *Although* the sun was shining ; the weather was not very warm. (Biber et al.,2003: 356)

Linking adverbs introduce ‘when ,where and what ’ the event occurring , so linking adverbs are transition words in which they provide contrasts , summaries , additions or time sequences.

Linking adverbs usually occur in dependent clauses ; they connect phrases to make sentences or they may connect sentences in order to make paragraphs.

Linking adverbs are used as a guide which helps the reader to know the relationship between ideas, they add more details to the text in order to make it deeper.

1.5 You must do your homework; *otherwise*, you might get bad marks . (Anderson, 2005: 104)

The main function of linking adverbs is to link two elements whether they are phrases , clauses or sentences .

Linking adverbs ,concerning the structure are two types ; the first one is single word adverbs like *however* (showing contrast) , *moreover* (showing addition) , *meanwhile* (showing time sequence) , *otherwise* (showing alternative) . The second type is adverbial phrases, like *nevertheless* and *nonetheless* (which mean in spite of) . (Leech,2006:60)

The researchers adopt the following definition of Biber et al (2003:356) as adverbs are used to connect one clause to another , and show sequences of cause and effect and other relationships.

Linking adverbs have some syntactic features:

Firstly, most of linking adverbs can be used in questions:

1.6a *Anyway*, have you studied that chapter or not ?

1.6b Are you *as a result*, agree with him ?

Secondly, some linking adverbs like *yet* , *so* and *hence* can not take initial positions in indirect questions:

1.7 *She asked whether *yet*, they would return.

Other linking adverbs can take any position in indirect question:

1.8 She asked whether *as a result*, they would return.

Third, linking adverbs can occur with imperative sentences in both positive and negative forms:

1.9a *Any way*, return to your work.

1.9b *Otherwise*, do not come and ask me what to do.

Fourth, linking adverbs do not accept modification at all:

1.10 *Very *moreover* , **Incidentally* enough .

Fifth, some of linking adverbs can act as coordinators; like those in which they are used for enumeration and addition, while others can not.

1.11 *Last* and the most important point.

Sixth, linking adverbs usually occur in independent finite phrases as the following:

A-With adverbial clauses:

1.12 I met her in college when ;*however*, it was holiday.

B-With restrictive relative clauses;

1.13 She is considered a good student who might ; *any way*, take the highest mark.

C- With non- restrictive relative clauses:

1.14 Sara who is my classmate and who ;*moreover* , knows how to study beside working.(Quirk et al. ,1972:646-647)

1.2 Positions of Linking Adverbs

Linking adverbs are related to the previous or following phrase ; the common positions of linking adverbs are initial positions , but they can be in medial or final positions. (Eastwood, 2002:267)

1.2.1 Linking Adverbs in Initial Positions

Linking adverbs may take a place before the subject or other sentence elements:

1.15 *Therefore*, my phone has been broken ; I did not call her.

Some of linking adverbs can be only in initial positions and it is unacceptable to occur in any other position:

1.16a *So*, they were in vacation ; they were not able to come to our party.

1.16b They were not able to come to our party ; *so* they were in vacation.(unacceptable). (Biber et al. 2003: 359, 395)

The common position for linking adverbs are initial positions ; when they come initially , they are usually separated from the following phrase by a tone unit pause in speaking or commas in writing:

1.17 *Therefore*, she was sick; she could not sleep.

Linking adverbs have a syntactic feature in which they can be moved with their clauses in front of the preceding clause, in such case; the meaning will be different :

1.18a She did her homework ; *therefore* , I gave her a present.

1.18b I gave her a present; *therefore* , She did her homework.

One can easily see the difference between these two examples; the relationship between phrases changed and *therefore* most refer to preceding clause. (Quirk et al., 1972:526)

1.2.2 Linking Adverbs in Medial Positions

Linking adverbs , if they did not come initially , they would be in independent tone unit or in closed commas in order to prevent confusion with the indication of information focus.

Adverbs in medial positions may take one of these three places:
First: Between the subject and the verb phrase:

1.19 Tom *although* , was studying well ; he failed in the exam.

Second: After the operator but before the main verb:

1.20 Tom was *although*, studying well; he failed in the exam.

Third: After the main verb but before other sentence elements:

1.21 Tom was study *although* , well ; he failed in the exam. (Biber et al. ,2003:359-360)

1.2.2 Linking Adverbs in Final Positions

Linking adverbs which denote reasons may occur in final positions and there should be commas before them to avoid ambiguity with adjuncts :

1.22a The weather is bad ; she would not go out ,*then*. (linking adverb)

1.22b What would we do then. (adjunct; after that) (Quirk et al. ,1972:528)

It is possible for linking adverbs to be after obligatory elements at the end of sentence:

1.23 I tried hardly to advice her ; she would not listen ,*however*.

Some linking adverbs are used in common ways within conversations in final positions like ‘ *anyway* ‘ *though* and *then* ‘ :

1.24 Try to read that book again; this would help you, *anyway*. (Biber et al.,2003:360, 395)

1.3 The Use of Linking Adverbs With or Without Conjunctions

Conjunctions are linguistic forms that join together words, phrases, clauses or sentences. Conjunctions are subdivided into coordinators and subordinators.

Linking adverbs are similar to coordinators in conversations. *Anyway* and *though* are useful to mark contrast or concessive relationship while *so* and *then* are useful to mark result inference relationship.

An important role is taken by these common linking adverbs in which they show how the action is developed and how events are connected together , they also show the relationship between events clearly.

1.25 X:I wrote my answer in this way .

Y: *Then*, your answer is correct.

Another important role for *anyway* is that , some times it is used by speakers to change their main point ; the following short conversation will show this point :

1.26 X: Why did you fail in this exam? It was easy to pass.

Y: I failed in it because I did not study at all.

X: *Anyway* , try not to lose the other exams. (Biber et al. 2007:886-887)

Linking adverbs look like coordinators; however, they are not strong as coordinators. Another difference between them that they are punctuated differently, some linking adverbs seem to be limited to specific conjunctions as in the following:

However, *then* and *though* mean (but).

Else and *again* mean (or).

Beside , still, yet , and nevertheless mean (and , but).

A Phrase which contains a linking adverb can be connected with a preceding phrase by one of conjunction like (and) or (but) .

Not all linking adverbs can immediately follow conjunctions , *however* and *though* can not occur after conjunctions , in addition if they are preceding by conjunctions , they can not be in initial positions.

1.27 He did not study well; but he passed the exam ,*though*.

Though here can not be used at the beginning of the sentence because it is preceding by (but).

1.28 *Though* , he did not study well ; he passed the exam.

Here *though* takes an initial position because it comes alone without a conjunction word.

1.29 *He did not study well; but *though* ,he passed the exam.

It is ungrammatical for conjunction words to be followed immediately by linking adverbs.

Other conjunction words like (so, only , yet, and again) are unacceptable to be with linking adverbs. (Quirk et al. , 1985:645-646)

Chapter Two

Semantics of Linking Adverbs

2.0 Introduction

This chapter sheds light on the functions of linking adverbs and how one can achieve coherence and cohesion in the sentence by using linking adverbs .

The second part of this chapter explains different semantic categories of linking adverbs with examples , showing that linking adverbs include different messages ; which at the end enable the writer to send ideas and the reader to receive these ideas.

2.1 Functions of The Use of Linking Adverbs

The most important use of linking adverbs is to provide the writer as well as the reader with means in which they make or create focus , provide coherence and organize the text ; linking adverbs are powerful and effective tools in reading or writing any text because they show how an argument is developed.

When reading any text ; linking adverbs make the reader follow the writer's thought and also one can know how writer's ideas are developed. (Sotirious , 1991 :66).

Absence of linking adverbs in writing may make the text ambiguous , since the reader will miss some important connection between ideas and will be unable to recognize them:

2.1 He believes in ghosts.

2.2 , He is afraid of darkness.

Both of the above sentences are grammatically correct but the reader can not understand how these facts are related to each other ; this problem can be solved by providing actual connection between these two sentences through the use of suitable linking adverbs as in the following:
2.3 He believes in ghosts ; therefore , he is afraid of darkness. (Lado and Fries , 1964: 264).

The typical function of linking adverbs is to enable the listener to infer connection between two segments of discourse usually with the following or previous sentences , since they do this function , linking adverbs are considered as a type of cohesive devices.

The lexical meaning of these words *moreover* , *therefore* , *however* , *etc* may add little or no prepositional content themselves , the idea is that these expressions serve to specify the relationship among sentences whether they are written or spoken , in which as a result enable the reader to get logical hang between ideas to make sense of their meaning . (Clece_Murica and Larsen_Freeman , 1999 : 521).

Combined and complex sentences are different from separated sequences of simple sentences . Combined and complex sentences whether they are written or spoken have the property to be understandable text ; while separated simple sentences can not ; unless one add some connectors in order to clarify the relationship between each idea with another . So an important role of linking adverbs is to give semantic consideration of the patterns of sentences .

Linking adverbs distinguish themselves from other cohesive devices. They are not only for reaching one sentence into the following or preceding sentences , rather they show the real cause that put together two sentences or more.

2.4 " Mister peters says today's super annuitant were led to believe they would be taken care of their old age and *that*_most not change ". (cited in Zihan , 2014: 5).

In this case , one can notice *that* here is a primary cohesive device which refers to mister peter's statement that today's super annuitants would be taken care of in their age.

2.5 "Er very big er formal biblical language "*I mean* he uses the word ye rather than the word you and so forth"(Ibid. : 6)

Here *I mean* is finite clause functions as linking adverb which has role not only linking together , rather it marks the relationship between these two sentences ; the second one is an explanation of the one before it. (Halliday and Hasan ,1976 :4 , 226).

2.2 Semantic Categories of Linking Adverbs

There are seven categories under which linking adverbs are placed. They are further subdivided into ten other subcategories . Through that seventeen categories, different lexical meanings as well as textual meanings are obtained . The classification can be seen from the diagram below:

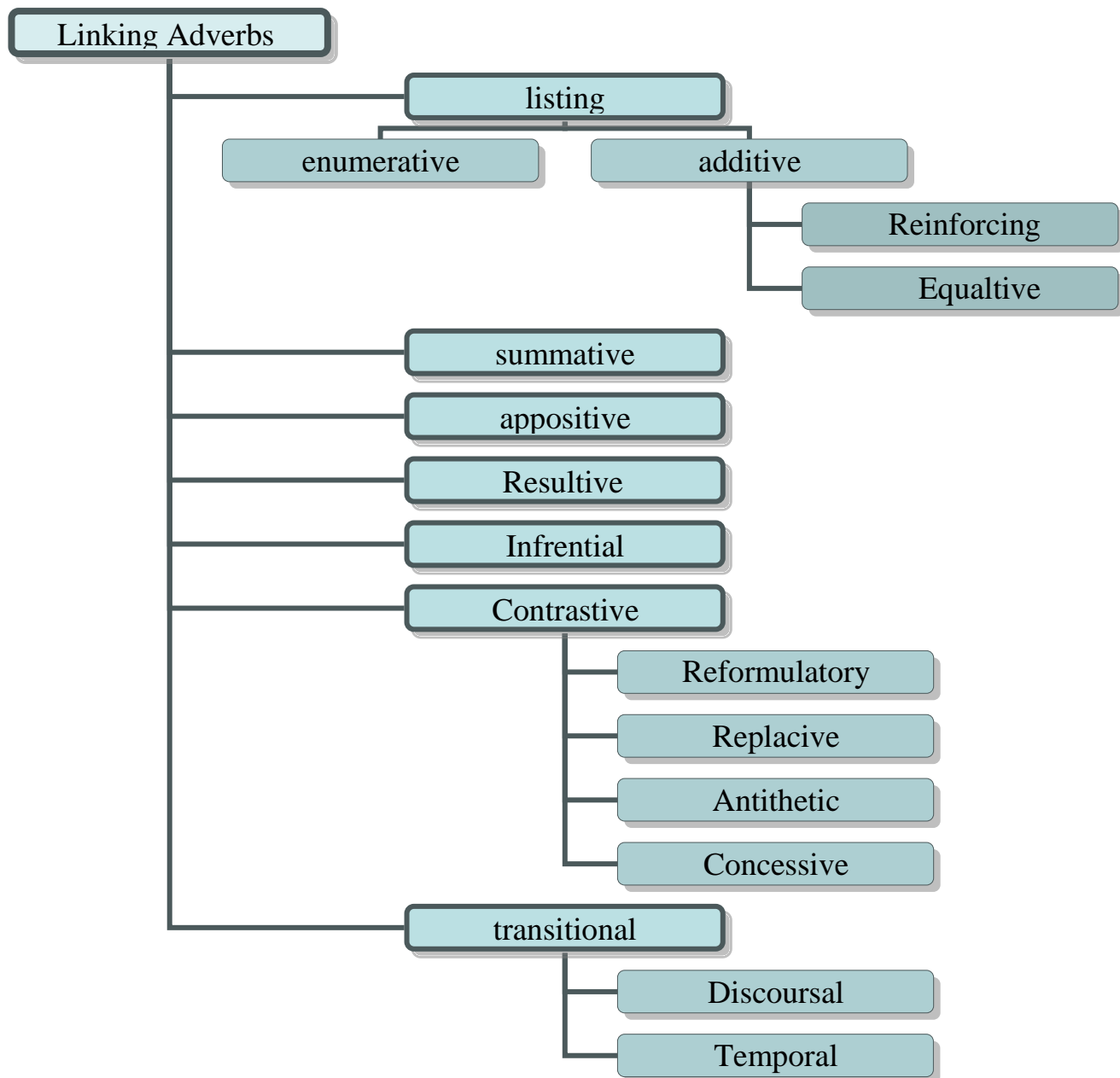


Diagram (1) Categories of Linking Adverbs (after Quirk et al. ,1985 :634)

Enumerative is an open class of linking adverbs. It is not only to list items but also to make start and end points:

2.4 I sent you the message *first* , after that I called you .

Summative *therefore* , *thus*, ... *etc* and appositive *homely* , *for example*... *etc* have much in common; they precede an item which is linked to. Functions of summatives; in one hand, are to introduce items :
 2.6 She lost her bag and her car broken down ; *all in all* , she had a bad day.

Appositives, on the other hand, are concerned with expressing the content of the preceding item or items in other forms :

2.7 He likes sweet meals ; *that is* , cake, juice and chocolate .

But if the appositive applies to more than one preceding item, there is usually a summative implication :

2.8 He likes , cake, juice and chocolate ; *in other word*, any sweet meals .
(Quirk et al. , 1985 : 634-639)

Resultive *therefore , consequently...etc* and inferential *other wise, then , in other word ... etc* have much in common with each other as well as with additive , summative and appositive :

2.9 *Hence* I get wet yesterday ; I get bad cold .

Contrastive group is subdivided into reformulatory *rather , more precisely ... etc* , replacive *better , worse ...etc* , concessive *yet , however.. etc* ; contrastive is the famous and formal type in which it is obviously close to the appositive but it differs in seeking less to add another formulation presenting either contrastive words or contrastive matter in relation to what has been preceded.

As for the last category named transitional is concerned , the authors propose two subdivided transitional into discursal *by the way , incidentally, ...etc* and temporal *mean time , mean while ,... etc* indicating shift attention to another topic or to a temporally related event:

2.10 I went to ask you about your trip but ; *by the way* , have you finished your research paper ?

Temporal is used sometimes to make sequence of events:

2.11 She had a great deal of money ; *eventually* , she need to buy a house.
(Ibid.)

Biber et al (1999 :875-879) state that linking adverbs are subdivided into seven categories.

The first category is enumeration used to list pieces of information and organize the message in texts according to writer's choice, the order of enumerative items may follow logic or time sequence but this is not always necessary:

2.12 Ask her if she works this night *first*, then invite her to come .

As for the addition category, linking adverbs are used to indicate that new items are in addition to other items. *like wise , similarly ... etc* :

2.13 He is kind , gentle and *above all*; he has high morality.

The second category is summative which shows a piece of message in sentence, intends to conclude or sum up the information that comes after it. These linking adverbs are found at the end of paragraphs.

2.14 She lost her phone , she had an accident and her child get ill ; *all in all* , she is not lucky today.

An appositive linking adverb shows that the second unit of the text is to be related either as equivalent to or included in the preceding unit.

2. 15 She had the opportunity to be successful ; *for instance* , she is smart.

The two next categories are result and inference, they are semantically very similar . This group of linking adverbs state that the second unit of discourse brings the result or consequence of the unit that follows it similarly or differently . This category encompasses linking adverbs that signal some contrasts between different messages in text .

2.16 I have already drunk coffee ; *as a result* , I cant sleep now .

2. 17 We supposed to work together ; *instead* , you left me alone.

The final category of linking adverbs is the one named transition , it signals a change from one topic in sentence to another , these topics are loosely connected or even not connected to one another .

2.18 They were taking in a loud voice , *eventually* ; they stopped their chatter and being silent. (Biber et al. ,1999 : 878 – 879)

Conclusions

The researchers arrive at the following conclusions:

- 1-** Linking adverbs can be defined as parts of speech which have connective functions rather than adding something new to the phase ; they also show how two phrases are being together.
- 2-** Syntactic features of these adverbs state that, they can be used with different types of sentences whether they are statements , questions or commands .
- 3 –** Linking adverbs do not have fixed position in the sentence. Changing their positions some times affect the meaning of the sentences.
- 4-** Some linking adverbs can be used with conjuncts in the same sentence while others can not .
- 5-** Linking adverbs are useful tools to achieve coherence and cohesion and make the text understandable.

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