

TYPES OF CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

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Abstract:

Conditional sentences or conditional clauses express an imagined situations or conditions and the possible results of that situations. These sentences consist of a main clause and a conditional dependent clause. The current research will highlight conditional sentences and their types. It provides detailed information about conditional sentences or clauses and their types such as predictive conditional, counterfactual conditional and mixed conditional. This research concludes the following: first, the conditional sentences have two clauses, one of them is the main clause and the other is condition clause. Second, conditional sentences can describe the reality and unreality.

Keywords: (Conditional sentences, predictive conditional, counterfactual conditional, mixed conditional)

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الملخص:

الجملة الشرطية، والمعروفة أيضا بالعبارات الشرطية تعبر عن شروط أو مواقف خيالية والنتائج المحتملة لتلك المواقف. تتكون هذه الجملة من عبارة رئيسية وعبارة شرطية تابعة لها. البحث الحالي يسلط الضوء على الجملة الشرطية وأنواعها وكذلك يتناول البحث معلومات مفصلة عن الجملة الشرطية وأنواعها مثل الشرط التنبؤي، الشرط المعاكس والشرط المختلط. وقد توصل البحث الى عدد من الاستنتاجات. اولاً، للجملة الشرطية عبارتان احدهما العبارة الرئيسية والاخرى العبارة الشرطية. ثانياً، الجملة الشرطية يمكن ان تصف المواقف الواقعية والغير واقعية.

Introduction

A conditional sentence is a statement that discusses elements or hypothetical events, as well as their implications. The if – clause and the consequence are both included in the conditional sentence.

1.1 Definition of conditional sentence

According to Crystal (2003, p. 94), a conditional is a grammatical term that refers to clauses whose semantic role is the expression of hypotheses. The conditional clause is introduced in English by the words if or unless. According to Richards and Schmidt (2002, p. 105), a conditional clause begins with similar – meaning conjunctions like if or unless. The state or situation described in this clause is contingent on something that could occur or is described in another clause. For example:

- 1- If I study hard, I will succeed.
- 2- If she knew the truth, she would tell us.
- 3- We will stay at home if it snows.
- 4- He will get angry if I'm late for the party.
- 5- Will you help Nada if she asks you?

Conditional sentences, according to Mead (1996, p.5), are sentences that communicate factual factors or hypothetical circumstances and their effects. Because the validity of the main phrase of the sentence is conditional on the occurrence of specified circumstances, which are expressed in a dependent clause, these sentences are called conditional.

The conditional clause, according to Quirk and Greenbaum (1989, p. 323), convey that one occurrence or group of circumstances is dependent on another.

Soars & John (2006, p.138) state that the conditional clause if ... can be at the beginning or at the end of a sentence. If it comes first, we use a comma at the end of a clause, if it comes last, we do not use a comma.

6 - If I find your book, I will send it to you.

٧- I will send the book to you if I find it.

8- If I have her address, I will send her an invitation.

9- She would call him if she knew his telephone number.

1.2 Types of conditional sentences

Dancygier (1998, p. 43) distinguishes between two types of conditional sentences: those which are factual or predictive and

those which are counterfactual, referring to a situation that did not or does not exist.

1.2.1 Predictive conditional

A predictive conditional sentences concern the situation which dependent on hypothetical future events, but these events entirely possible. The consequences are statements about the future, present or past time. (ibid, 1998, p. 65).

1.2.2 Counterfactual conditional

Traugott & et al (1986, p. 4) mention that the situations in counterfactual condition sentences are dependent on the conditions which are known to be false. The time frame of the hypothetical situations may be present, future or past, on the contrary the time frame of the conditions do not correspond to that of the consequences.

Ware (2009, p. 18) divides conditional clauses into three types:

1 -present tense + future tense

10- If my cheque comes, I will buy us all a meal.

11- If it rains, I won't play outside .

These sentences are expressed possible future events.

Murphy (2012, p. 50) states that we use present simple after if clause for the future. For example:

12- I will be angry if it happens again. (not if it will happen).

Soars and john (ibid, p. 138) confirm that "English uses a present tense in the conditional clause, not a future form." for example:

13- If it rains - not if it will rain.

2- past simple + conditional

14- If I had a lot of money, I would buy a car.

15- If I had more time, I would help you.

16- If I were rich, I would never work again.

17- if the weather improved, our crops would flourish.

These are possible but improbable future events .

Soars and john (ibid, p. 141) mention that the past verb forms are used in second clause to show that the fact is different from reality. For example:

18- If I lived in a big house, I would invite all my friends. (but I live in a small house).

Murphy (ibid, p. 78) mentions that the use the past simple after if in the second type of conditional clause clarify that someone imagine a situation, but the meaning is present not past.

for example:

19- If you were in my position, what would you do ? (but you were not in my position).

3- past perfect + conditional perfect

20- If I had not had a lot of work to do, I would have gone mad. (I did not go mad because I had a lot of work).

21- If the weather had been bad, we wouldn't have enjoyed our stay. (the weather wasn't bad, so we enjoyed our stay)

These are hypotheses about the past. It is impossible to change what happened now. The past is utilized to convey improbability in the present or future, according to Gordon (1985, p. 85), and the past perfect is employed to refer to impossible events that did not occur in the past.

1.3 Mixed conditionals

Mixed conditionals are those clauses in which the time of conditional clause or if clause is different from the time in the main clause or the result clause. Nolan (2016 , p . 93) mentions that The term 'mixed' refers to different time references within

each 'Mixed' conditional. we are able to convey different nuances by varying time references. For example:

1 st conditional	2 nd conditional	Mixture of both (in that order)
If he misses his train, he will be late.	If he missed his train, he would be late.	If he missed his train, he will be late.

Bell and Gower (2003, p. 202) state that "it is possible to mix conditionals type 2 and 3, particularly when a past event had an effect in the present.". May (2014, p. 93) confirms the opinions of other writers when he says that the mixed conditionals usually use parts second and third conditionals.

Subbotin and Ace (2014, p. 203 -204) divides mixed conditional into two types:

1-Present result of a past conditional

In this sort of mixed conditional, the tense in the if – clause is past perfect, and the tense in the main part is present conditional.

22- If I had worked harder at school, I would have a better job now.

This sentence express a situation which is different from reality in the past and in the present .The first part of this sentence is contrary to past fact - I didn't work hard at school, so the result is contrary to present fact. So – I haven't got a good job.

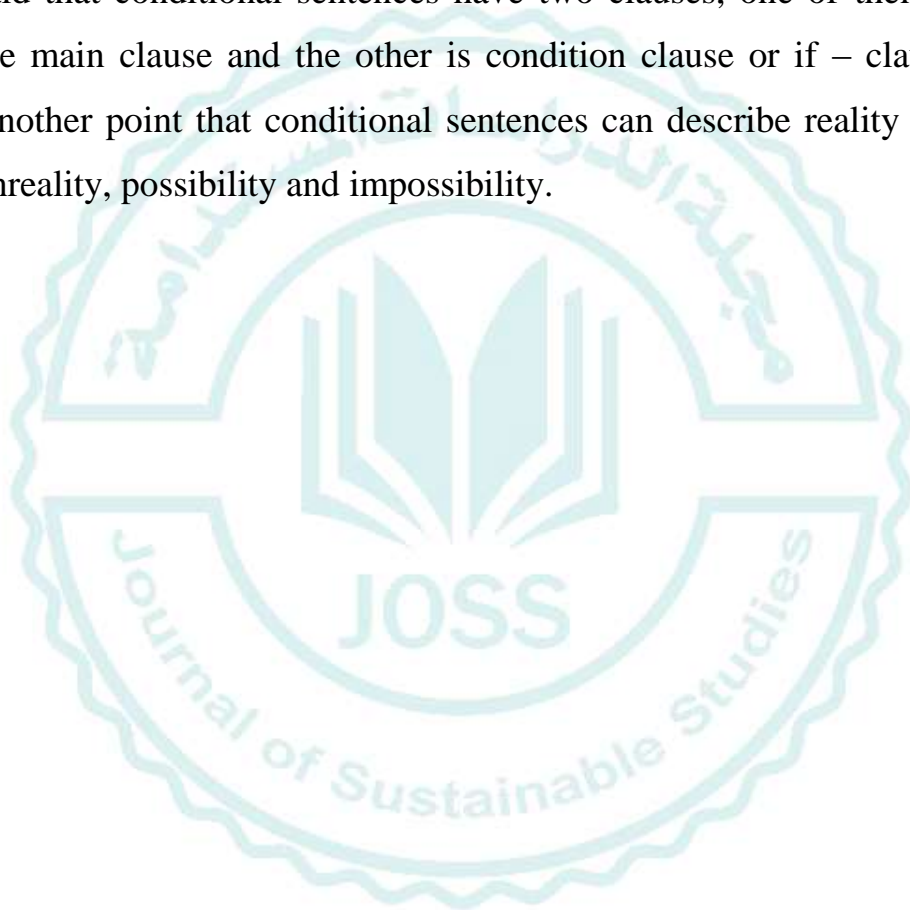
2-past result of present conditional .

23- If I wasn't afraid of spiders , I would have picked it up.

The if – clause's time is now or always, and the main clause's time is before now. So the first part of the if – clause contradicts current reality – I am terrified of spiders, and the main clause contradicts previous reality – I failed to pick it up.

Conclusion

To sum up this research, different scholars have offered various definitions and different classifications for the conditional sentences, but all of them have agreed on a specific points which said that conditional sentences have two clauses, one of them is the main clause and the other is condition clause or if – clause. Another point that conditional sentences can describe reality and unreality, possibility and impossibility.



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