Conference Paper

The Conjunctive Expressions and Their Types in Arabic News Discourse: A Case Study on Indonesia Al-Youm Arabic News Website

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Abstract

The purpose of this research is (1) to reveal the use of conjunctive expressions in Arabic news discourse by taking sample on Indonesia al-Youm Arabic news website and (2) to reveal their types on that discourse. As for what is meant by conjunctive expression in this paper is linguistic or grammatical units used to combine words with words, phrases with phrase, clauses with clauses, sentences with sentences, or paragraphs with paragraphs. Thus, the conjunctive expression has the main function as a determinant of a discourse coherence and cohesiveness since it is linking the ideas between sentences or paragraphs. The result of the research showed that conjunctions in the Arabic news discourse, especially in Indonesia al-Youm Arabic news website, were expressed in several grammatical units such as words and phrases. The words capable of delivering the conjunctive expression are the particles of conjunction itself and some particular adverbs. The phrases capable of delivering the conjunctive expression are prepositional and adverbial phrases. Furthermore, the conjunctive expressions found in this Arabic news discourse are divided into four types, they are additive (*idhāfī*), adversative (*idhrābī*), causal (*sababī*), and temporal (*zamanī*).

Keywords: Conjunction, Conjunctive Expression, Arabic News Discourse, Indonesia Al-Youm

1. Introduction

Indonesia al-Youm (abbreviated as IY) is a news website in Arabic that has been launched since April 2014. The name is taken from Arabic, which means *Indonesia Hari Ini* (Indonesia Today). Indonesia al-Youm grew up to meet, in general, the needs of the community and Arab readers, in particular, for news and developments in Indonesia hour by hour. Indonesia al-Youm Arabic news website is comprehensive and covers a variety of fields including politics, health, economics, sports, culture, and tourism (indonesiaalyoum.com/هيئة-التحرير/).

News, as a form of the discourse has its own characteristics that relatively occupy a newspaper. The content of the news discourse emphasizes the fact of the occurrence of

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an event in the community and is presented with a certain formula. The language used in the news is included in the category of transactional language that has characteristics and is more oriented towards delivering a message effectively (Badara, 2013:26).

To be able to convey the message effectively, the important thing that needs to be considered carefully is about arranging sentences and paragraphs as a whole discourse. This arrangement of sentences and paragraphs is related to one of the most important language functions, namely the textual function of language, because this function allows us to organize what we say or write into a coherent and cohesive piece of text (Morley, 2000:7; Halliday, 2014:30).

Morley (2000:14) emphasizes that through the textual function the speaker is able, firstly, to give a thematic structure to the elements of the clause content, thereby highlighting one or other element in first position and giving it thematic prominence. Secondly, the speaker is able to organise the clause content in terms of information units. Thirdly, the speaker is able to use pro forma expressions to refer to one or more elements previously mentioned in the discourse without having to repeat their information content in full. Fourthly, through ellipsis, the speaker can omit entirely repeated mention of those elements which he/she considers to be recoverable from an earlier part of the discourse. Lastly, through the resources of conjunction the speaker can insert words and phrases to mark different types of cohesive relationships between clauses and sentences (Morley, 2000:14-17).

This paper discusses the conjunctive expressions and their types in Arabic news discourse, especially in Indonesia Al-Youm Arabic news website. The main purpose of this research is to reveal and map the conjunctive expressions in Arabic news discourse. Indeed, there are some notions in Arabic grammar itself that discuss about the conjunction. However, the Arabic news discourse as part of the Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) have some expressions that are found (other than those already discussed in traditional Arabic grammar) which also can be functioned as conjunctive expressions. Thus, there needs to be a further and deeper study about the conjunctive expression in Arabic news discourse.

The previous researches related to the conjunction in Arabic have been done by Alazzawie (2014) in his article "*The Discourse Wa in Standard Arabic; A Syntactic and Semantic Analysis*", Hussein (2008) in his article "*Discourse Marker "But" in English and Standard Arabic; One Procedure and Different Implementations*", and many more. However, these studies are highlighting the conjunction as the discourse marker in Arabic rather than specifically discussing its expressions and types.

In order to spell out the conjunction devices found in the Arabic news website, this research is, mainly, using the work of Halliday and Hasan's *Cohesion in English* (1976) related to the discussion of types of conjunction. In addition, this research is also considering the traditional Arabic grammar notions related to the conjunctive expression (particles of conjunction) which known as term "*Athaf*" or *Churuf al-'Athaf* (Haywood & Nahmad, 1962:436; Abdul-Ghani, 2011:363). The conjunction is somewhat different from the other cohesive relation (reference, substitution, and ellipsis) (Halliday and Hasan, 1976:226). According to Kridalaksana (2002:130), a conjunction is a particle used to combine words with words, phrase with phrase, a clause with clause, a sentence with sentence, and paragraph with paragraph. A conjunction is considered to be one of the most important cohesive devices, since it is linking ideas between sentences and paragraphs. Conjunctive elements are cohesive not in themselves but indirectly by virtue of their specific meanings; they are not primarily devices for reaching out into the preceding (or following) text, but they express certain meanings which presuppose the presence of other components in the discourse (Halliday and Hasan, 1976:226).

2. Research Method

This research is a qualitative one, and it is using the descriptive method in delivering the result of the analysis because it is only focused on the circumstance of conjunctive expression appearance and its type in Arabic news discourse, not in quantity or amount of both elements. Qualitative research is an attribute of social action that stresses on the way people analyze and make sense of their experiences to understand the social reality of individuals (Mohajan, 2018:2). The purpose of qualitative research is to describe and interpret issues or phenomena systematically from the point of view of the individual or population being studied and to generate new concepts and theories (Mohajan, 2018:2).

The source of data in this research is Indonesia al-Youm Arabic news website. In this case, the research uses purposive sampling and limits his study to a certain period (June 2019) due to the data adequacy. In the process of collecting data, the combination of uninvolved conversation observation (*Simak Bebas Libat Cakap*) and note-taking techniques are used. This method is carried out by observing the use of language without being directly involved in the formation and appearance of prospective data formed from linguistic events that were examined, while the note-taking technique is done by taking notes the data on the data card which is followed by classification immediately (Sudaryanto, 1988:2-5).

In the analysis stage, distributional and identity methods of analysis are used. The distributional method is used because some of the determinants of data analysis in this study are basically become the parts or elements of the research object itself, while the identity method is used because some of the determinants of data analysis are outside or not being a part of the concerned language (Sudaryanto, 2015:15&19). In this case, English is used as a reference and comparison to determine the conjunction types in Arabic.

3. Findings and Discussion

There are several conjunctive expressions in Indonesia al-Youm Arabic news website. They are expressed in the form of words and phrases. The words that have an ability to express the conjunction are particles of conjunction (*churūf al-'athf*) itself and some particular adverbs (*azh-zharf/ al-chāl*), while the phrases that have the same ability are prepositional (*al-'Ibārah al-makhfūdhah/ al-jārriyyah*) and adverbial phrase (*al-ibārah azh-zharfiyyah/ ibārah al-chāliyyah*). Several types of conjunctive types found in that discourse, are additive (*idhafiy*), adversative (*idhrabiy*), causal (*sababiy*), and temporal (*zamaniy*).

The discussion regarding the findings of the research results above is combined into one section due to efficiency. The conjunctive expressions found on the Indonesia al-Youm Arabic news website are classified according to their grammatical unit and part of speech. Furthermore, each conjunctive expression that has been classified is given a sign or description of its conjunctive types immediately. The result of the analysis is presented in the table as following way; (1) the conjunctive expression, (2) the Arabic-Latin transcription (3) the meaning(s), and (4) the type of conjunction.

3.1. Particles of Conjunction (Churūf al-`Athf)

(1)	و	أو	ف	ثم	لكن	حتى	ل
(2)	*Wa*	*Au*	*Fa*	*Tsumma*	*Lakin*	*Chattā*	*Li*
(3)	And	Or	So	Then	But, Yet	Up to, Until	For, Because
(4)	Additive	Additive	Additive, Causal	Temporal	Adversative	Temporal	Causal

3.2. Adverb (azh-Zharf/ al-Chāl)

(1)	رغم (أن)	أيضًا	أوَّلًا	ثانيًا	ثالثًا
(2)	*Raghma (an)*	*Aidhan*	*Awwalan*	*Tsāniyan*	*Tsālitsan*
(3)	Although, Though	Also, And, Likewise, Furthermore	Firstly	Secondly	Thirdly
(4)	Adversative	Additive	Temporal	Temporal	Temporal

3.3. Prepositional Phrase (al-`Ibārah al-Makhfūdhah/ al-Jārriyyah)

(1)	في حين	في نفس الفترة	في نفس الوقت	في الوقت نفسه	في الوقت الحالي
(2)	*Fī Chīnin*	*Fī Nafsi al-Fatrati*	*Fī Nafsi al-Waqti*	*Fī al-Waqti Nafsahu*	*Fī al-Waqti al-Chālī*
(3)	While, Whereas, However	At the Same Time, In the Same Period	At the Same Time	At the Same Time	At Present
(4)	Adversative	Temporal	Temporal	Temporal	Temporal

(1)	في المستقبل	في الشأن	على الرغم	مع ذلك
(2)	*Fī al-Mustaqbal*	*Fī asy-Sya'ni*	*'Alā ar-Raghmi*	*Ma'a Dzālika*
(3)	In the Future, Hereafter, Soon, After a Time	In this Regard/ Respect, In this Matter	Although	However, Yet, Nevertheless
(4)	Temporal	Causal	Adversative	Adversative

(1)	لهذ السبب	من أجل	بالتالي	بالإضافة
(2)	*Li Hadzihi as-Sababi*	*Min Ajli*	*Bi at-Tālī*	*Bi al-Idhāfati*
(3)	For This Reason, Consequently	For, Because	Subsequently, Hence	In Addition, Moreover
(4)	Causal	Causal	Temporal	Additive

3.4. Adverbial Phrase (al-Ibārah azh-Zharfiyyah/ Ibārah al-Chāliyyah)

(1)	بينما	كذلك	بعد ذلك	علاوة على ذلك	بعد وقت قصير
(2)	*Bainamā*	*Kadzālika*	*Ba'da Dzālika*	*'Alāwatan 'alā Dzālika*	*Ba'da Waqtin Qashīrin*
(3)	While, Meanwhile, However, Nevertheless	Likewise, Also, Then	Then, Subsequently, After That	Furthermore, Moreover	After a Short Time, After a While
(4)	Adversative, Temporal	Additive	Causal, Temporal	Causal	Temporal

Here is an example regarding the discussion of conjunctive expression found at Indonesia Al-Youm Arabic news website:

...وتشير الإحصاءات الديموغرافية إلى أن متوسط سن الزواج في عام ١٩٨٥ كان ٢٨.٢ للرجال و٢٥.٥ للنساء، بينما ارتفع المتوسط بحلول عام ٢٠١٧ إلى ٣١.١ للرجال و٢٩.٤ للنساء... (إندونيسيا اليوم - ١١ يونيو ٢٠١٩)

/Wa tusyīru al-ichshā'ātu ad-dīmūghrāfiyyatu ilā anna mutawassitha sinni az-zawāji fī 'āmi 1985 kāna 28.2 li ar-rijāli wa 25.5 li an-nisā'l, **bainamā** *irtafa'a al-mutawassithu bichulūli 'āmi 2017 ilā 31.1 li ar-rijāl wa 29.4 li an-nisā'/*

'Demographic statistics indicate that the average age of marriage in 1985 was 28.2 for men and 25.5 for women, **meanwhile** this average rose throughout 2017 to 31.1 for men and 29.4 for women' (IY - 11th June 2019).

This paragraph uses the adverbial phrase "*bainamā*" which is compounded by word "*bainā*" and "*mā*" as the conjunctive device between the two sentences above. In traditional Arabic grammatical thought, this phrase (*bainamā*) is discussed in the adverb of time (*zharf zamān*), which is word "*mā*" as the second part of this phrase shows the meaning of past time (Sarhan,2007:52; ad-Daqr: 1982:127-128). According to el-Zohairy (2015:823-824), this conjunctive device can indicate the things happened at the same time or refers to the things happened during an intervening space of time, and it is also can indicate the opposite or contrast meaning of the sentences. Thus, the phrase "*bainamā*" is related to the temporal and adversative conjunctive type.

See the following partition of discourse of below:

وتشير الإحصاءات الديموغرافية إلى أن متوسط سن الزواج في عام ١٩٨٥ كان ٢٨.٢ للرجال و٢٥.٥ للنساء

"The demographic statistics indicate that the average age of marriage in 1985 was 28.2 for men and 25.5 for women" - *the first sentence*

بينما

"Meanwhile" - *the conjunction (connector) of sentence*

ارتفع المتوسط بحلول عام ٢٠١٧ إلى ٣١.١ للرجال و٢٩.٤ للنساء

"This average rose throughout 2017 to 31.1 for men and 29.4 for women" - *the second sentence*

The information contained in the second sentence above is happened after or during an intervening space of time from the first one. This can be seen easily from the information of the time (year) submitted in both sentences. Hereafter, the information contained in the second sentence above is also can be interpreted as an opposite or contrast from the previous one because although both sentences reveal the same information about an increasement of the average age of marriage, but it should be noted that the writer main purpose is to compare this increasement in two different time (year).

4. Conclusion

Based on the result of the analysis, it can be concluded that there are several conjunctive expressions in Arabic news discourse, especially in Indonesia al-Youm Arabic news website. They are expressed in the form of words and phrases. The words that can express the conjunction are particles of conjunction (*churūf al-'athf*) itself and some particular adverbs (*azh-zharf/ al-chāl*), while the phrases that have the same ability are prepositional (*al-'ibārah al-makhfūdhah/ al-jārriyyah*) and adverbial phrase (*al-ibārah azh-zharfiyyah/ ibārah al-chāliyyah*). Furthermore, several types of conjunctive types found in that discourse, are additive (*idhafiy*), adversative (*idhrabiy*), causal (*sababiy*), and temporal (*zamaniy*).

This research is a preliminary one. It means that this research can be developed by expanding the sources of the data and exploring a stronger and sharper analysis. It is not something impossible that if the collected data here is much larger and more various it can be recorded or printed into a pocket dictionary that is useful and applicable for students or anyone to make it easier for them to make an essay in Arabic.

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