

A GRAMMAR OF LATE MODERN ENGLISH

BY

H. POUTSMA

SOMETIME ENGLISH MASTER IN THE MUNICIPAL "GYMNASIUM"
AMSTERDAM

PART I

THE SENTENCE

SECOND HALF

THE COMPOSITE SENTENCE

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SECOND HALF.

THE COMPOSITE SENTENCE.

CHAPTER IX.

INTRODUCTION.

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1. A composite sentence is the union of two or more sentences which from their contents, the way in which they are arranged or joined together, and the manner in which they are uttered, form a whole.

2. The grammatical relation between the different members of a composite sentence is that of:

a) Co-ordination (parataxis), when they are grammatically of equal rank, as in:

He will go on a journey, and his brother will stay at home.

He will go on a journey, but his brother will stay at home.

He will go on a journey, therefore his brother will stay at home.

b) Subordination (hypotaxis), when one member represents an element (subject, nominal part of the predicate, object, etc.) of the other, as in:

What I told you rests on sufficient evidence.

My advice is that you should not meddle with the affair.

I gave him what I had received.

I will tell you all that I know of the matter.

He did not go out, because he was ill.

Note a) The distinction between co-ordination and subordination is sometimes rather a grammatical than a semantic one. Thus no appreciable difference in meaning is involved if the co-ordinative *and* is changed into the subordinative *while* in *John is a banker, and his brother holds a situation under government*. Conversely *while* might be replaced by *and* or *but*, the latter on the strength of the implied contrast, in: *Galsworthy at least had sympathy, while Ibsen stops short at understanding Manch. Guard.*, 12/11, 1926, 412 b.

The Church, after all, inherits her doctrines from the Reformation, while many of her customs and festivals are as old as Mithraism. *ib.*, 28/10, 1927, 322 c.

Substitution of *while* for *and*, however, would make the following sentence ambiguous:

The children were having their music lessons, and the baby was crying next-door. *SWEET*, N. E. Gr., § 2219.

For examples with *while* as a variant of *and*, the latter, in the writers' opinion, to be preferred to the former, see FOWLER, *the King's English*, 357.

In the proverb *Spare the rod and spoil the child* the first member clearly indicates a condition, so that *If you spare the rod, you will spoil the child* would be a more logical expression of the lesson contained in it.

Here follow some more examples with co-ordination that have approximate equivalents with subordination, the latter here placed within brackets:

Slaves cannot breathe in England; if their lungs | Receive our air, that moment they are free; | They touch our country, and their shackles fall. COWPER, *Task*, II, 40. (= ... As soon as they touch our country, their shackles fall.) The whole house was roaring with laughter and applause, and he saw only an ignoble farce that made him sad. THACK., *Pend.*, II, Ch. XIII, 135. (= ... while he saw only etc.)

I went at once; otherwise I should have missed him. O. E. D., s.v. *otherwise*, 2. (= If I had not gone at once, I should have missed him.)

Your arguments are very strong, nevertheless they do not convince me. SWEET, *N. E. Gr.*, § 409. (= Although your arguments are very strong, they do not convince me.)

This is no party question, for it touches us not as Liberals or Conservatives, but as citizens. *Manch. Guard.*, 22/10, 1883 (O. E. D.). (= ... because it touches us not ...)

Observe also that alternative adversative co-ordination (Ch. XI, 12) is often interchangeable with disjunctive concession (Ch. XVII, 98, Obs. VI). For further illustration see also Ch. LXI, 3. Compare especially ONIONS, *Adv. Eng. Synt.*, § 288—§ 300.

β) Students of Dutch and Old English (SWEET, *N. E. Gr.*, § 1776) are, no doubt, aware that the word-order in subordinate clauses often differs from that observed in co-ordinate clauses. As the above examples show, this is not mostly the case in Modern English. It is only certain subordinate questions that have another word-order than the corresponding direct questions in Modern English, as is shown by a comparison of *I wonder whether he has succeeded* with *Has he succeeded?* (Ch. VIII, 23).

In fact the main structural difference between subordinate and co-ordinate clauses, so far as they open with conjunctions, is the fact that the former may, as a rule, either precede or follow the head-clause, while in the latter the arrangement is fixed, the member containing the connecting link always standing last. Thus the order may be reversed in *My eldest son was bred at Oxford, as I intended him for the learned professions* (GOLDS., *Vic.*, Ch. I), but this could not be done with *Do as you are told, for much depends on it* (BAIN, *H. E. Gr.*, 109).

3. A sentence that is made up only of members that are co-ordinate is said to be compound. When a sentence contains one or more members that are subordinate to another member, it is called complex. See MASON, *Eng. Gram.*, § 400.
4. The members of a compound or complex sentence are called clauses. When two or more subordinate clauses are found in a complex sentence, a) they may represent the same element, as in *I shall tell you what I heard, and what I saw*, b) they may represent different elements, as in *When I am ready, I will tell you what I heard*, c) one clause may be contained in another, as in *I told him that I would come when I had finished the letter on which I was engaged*.

The member of a complex sentence to which a clause is subordinate is termed its *head-clause*.

5. Two or more complex sentences may be joined co-ordinatively, as in *I will tell your brother the news when I see him, but I do not think that he will arrive this week.*

A complex sentence may contain two or more clauses that are co-ordinate; e. g.: *I shall tell you afterwards what I saw, and what I heard.*

6. a) A sentence or clause may be said to be incomplete when part of it is left out, because it can be supplied from the context, i. e. from another sentence or clause with which it is syntactically connected; e. g.:

i. They rowed up to it: it was a boat, but empty, and floating bottom upwards. RID. HAG., Mees. Will, Ch. VIII, 80.

"Would not you like to be a mill-owner?" — "Shouldn't I?" Mrs. CRAIK, John Hal., Ch. X, 108.

ii. "Did you see any one you thought you recognized?" — "I should rather think I did!" Punch.

iii. This is not the same as that. MASON, Eng. Gram.³⁴, § 165.

He has not such a large income as my brother.

iv. If a man was great while living, he becomes tenfold greater when dead. CARLYLE, Hero Worship, I, 23.

The general impression seems to have been that Robert was a dunce, if not a reprobate. MAC., Clive, (498 b).

He sobbed as a child. LYTON, Night & Morn., 495.

He is more witty than wise. MASON, Eng. Gram.³⁴, § 109.

He did not sleep for a wonder that night any more than Amelia. THACK., Van. Fair, II, Ch. XXXII, 362.

Note a) It should be distinctly understood that the term incomplete is here used in a grammatical, not in a semantic sense, i. e. it refers to the structure of the sentence or clause, not to its meaning. See especially ONIONS, Adv. Eng. Synt., § 289.

b) Complex sentences may be rendered incomplete through the suppression of the head-clause or a subordinate clause.

i. "You'll want all to-morrow, I suppose?" said Scrooge. — "If quite convenient, sir." DICK., Christm. Car., I, 12. (= ... shall want all to-morrow, if quite convenient, sir.)

ii. The evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones. SHAK., Jul. Cæs., III, 2, 81. (= ... the good that men do is oft interred with their bones.)

Note a) In the case of a nominal predicate in an incomplete adverbial clause it is often the copula *to be* that is also dispensed with, although it is not to be found in the preceding part of the complex; thus in some of the above examples, and in:

I wrote a similar epitaph for my wife, though still living. GOLDS., Vic., Ch. II. (= though she was still living.)

I lose most of my fortune, if I marry without my aunt's consent, till of age. SHER., Riv., I, 2. (= till I am of age.)

The Sophists were hated by some because powerful, by others because shallow. LEWES, Hist. Philos., 114. (= because they were powerful, ... because they were shallow.)

β) When expanded into full clauses, incomplete clauses mostly have

a personal pronoun for their subject indicating the same person or thing as some (pro)noun in the head-clause; thus in the preceding examples. Sometimes there is no such co-incidence, as in:

Though summer, I knew on such a gloomy evening Mr. Rochester would like to see a cheerful hearth when he came home. CH. BRONTË, *Jane Eyre*, Ch. XXV, 338.

7. a) A compound sentence, or a group of clauses joined co-ordinatively together, which contains one or more than one incomplete member, is said to be contracted; thus:

i. He tried hard, but did not succeed. SWEET, *N. E. Gr.*, § 417.

Eclipse is first, and the rest nowhere. MAC., *Boswell's Life of Johnson*, (175*b*).

Your robe was not well made, nor your bonnet very fresh. THACK., *Pend.*, I, Ch. XXII, 234.

ii. In a masterly manner he had pointed out what should be the type for the various articles: who should report the markets; who the turf and ring; who the Church intelligence, and who the fashionable chit-chat. THACK., *Pend.*, I, Ch. XXXIII, 354.

- b) Contraction may be due to extensive suppression as in:

It's a pleasure to obey a laird; or should be, to the young. STEV., *Kidn.*, Ch. I, (193).

c) Contraction is avoided by precise speakers and writers when the part suppressed is not identical in form, function, or meaning with the corresponding part in the complete sentence or clause. "Incorrect" contraction mostly concerns sentences in which the predicate contains a form of the copula *to be*. This is, however, very common, even in the works of authors who are reputed to write pure English, so that it seems to be mere pedantry to find fault with it. Numerous instances may be found in HODGSON, *Errors in the Use of English*, 149 ff. So-called improper contraction is also found in:

Oh, I'm the chief of Ulva's isle, | And this Lord Ullin's daughter. CAMPBELL, *Lord Ullin's Daughter*, II.

Day after day, when school was over, and the pupils gone, did Nathaniel Pipkin sit himself down at the front window. DICK., *Pickw.*, Ch. XVII, 151.

The delusion is better than the truth sometimes, and fine dreams than dismal waking. THACK., *Pend.*, I, Ch. XIX, 200.

Kind hearts are more than coronets, | And simple faith than Norman blood. TEN., *Lady Clara Vere de Vere*, VII.

I don't know that the Queen is the better, or her enemies the worse, for me, since we parted last in Dublin city. KINGSLEY, *Westw. Ho!*, 213*a*.

I'm your born uncle, Davie, my man, and you my born nephew. STEV., *Kidn.*, Ch. III, (201).

The sky is not always as blue as this, nor our green wavelets so tame. DOR. GERARD, *The Etern. Wom.*, Ch. XV.

Though employment has been good, and wages high during the year, pauperism has shown a tendency to increase in London. *Times*.

In such a sentence as the following the contraction may be excused on the plea that the part within the commas is meant as a parenthetical insertion:

Nobody, not even the working-classes, cares about a Reform Bill KINGSLEY, *Alton Locke*, Pref., 106.

Such contractions as are found in the following examples would, however, hardly pass muster even with the most indulgent of grammatical critics:

Eh! cousin, a goddess in a mob-cap, that has to make her husband's gruel, ceases to be divine — I am sure of it. I should have been sulky and scolded. THACK., *Esm.*, III, Ch. IV, 349. (In its connexion with *sulky*, *been* is a copula in that with *scolded* it is the auxiliary of the passive voice.)

Well — perhaps there isn't much risk so long as he's infatuated and got money. GALSWORTHY, *In Chanc.*, Ch. III, (471). (The 's in connexion with *infatuated* represents a shortened *is*, in connexion with *got money* a shortened *has*.)

Also the following examples, although the elements to be supplied in the second member are all to be found in the first, are in bad taste:

Yet it was the man who blushed, the maid not at all. HARDY, *Madding Crowd*, Ch. III, 20.

A main entrance it was plainly meant to be, but never finished. STEV., *Kidn.*, Ch. II, (198).

The moon had passed behind the oak-tree now ... — the oak-tree his boy had been so fond of climbing, out of which he had once fallen and hurt himself, and hadn't cried. GALSW., *In Chanc.*, III, VII, (714).

In the following example the pronoun *they* has, most probably, fallen out through inadvertence of the press-reader or the compositor:

What sums he made can only be conjectured, but must have been enormous. MACAULAY (Fowler, *King's Eng.* 101).

8. Also the different elements of a sentence or clause may be compound, i. e. consist of two or more co-ordinate parts; e. g.:
Mrs. Smith and Professor Green called while you were out. SWEET, *N. E. Gr.*, § 405.

He had to stay at home, because he had to write several letters and post-cards.

Sentences and clauses with compound elements differ from contracted sentences, and groups of clauses, in that they really contain but one communication.

9. When either the subject or the predicate, or both, are suppressed, and cannot be supplied from the context, the sentence or clause is said to be elliptic (Ch. XXII); e. g.:

Well done! For shame!

Their's not to reason why. TEN., *Charge of the Light Brig.*, II.
Not a penny off, not a minute on! Slogan of the Miners.

10. The connexion of the members of a compound sentence or group of clauses, or of the parts of a compound element of a sentence or clause, may or may not be indicated by conjunctives. There are two kinds of co-ordinative conjunctives:

a) conjunctions, i. e. mere link-words, standing between the members or parts linked together, but belonging to no member or part in particular. The only co-ordinative conjunctions are *and*, *nor*, *but*, *or*, and *for*.

b) conjunctive adverbial adjuncts, i.e. words or word-groups performing the double service of modifying the second or following sentence or part, and linking it to a preceding one. Conjunctive adverbial adjuncts are, strictly speaking, unlimited in number. They include not only such words as necessarily point back to a preceding sentence, clause or element, like *also*, *too*, *however*, *yet*, *therefore*, *accordingly*; but any pronominal adverb, or word-group containing a pronominal word, may be used conjunctively. Thus in *They left for Rome; here they intended to spend the cold season*, or... *in this town they intended to spend the cold season*, the adverb *here* and the adverbial word-group *in this town* join the second sentence to the first. But the primary and commonest function of *here* and *this* is not that of conjunctive words. Compare with the above, for example, such sentences as *He came here*, *Will you read this again?* It is for this reason that only such conjunctive adverbial adjuncts as always have a linking function, will be discussed in the following §§.

Note. The conjunctive *neither* is partly conjunction, partly conjunctive adverb. It is a conjunction when it occurs singly and introduces the second member, in which case it is interchangeable with *nor*. It is a conjunctive adverb when it occurs as the correlative of *nor*, also when it stands either at the end or in the body of the second member. For instances see below. The conjunctive *either* is always a conjunctive adverb. For instances see below.

11. Most conjunctive adverbs and adverbial expressions may be found together with co-ordinative conjunctions, chiefly *and* and *but*; thus in:

I am myself indifferent honest; but yet I could accuse me of such things, that it were better my mother had not borne me. SHAK., HAMLET, III, 1, 124.

It is painful to be obliged to record the weaknesses of fathers, but it must be furthermore told of Costigan that... he would not unfrequently beg from his daughter, THACK., PEND., II, Ch. V, 53.

They also occur in either the head-clause or the subordinate clause of a complex sentence, as in:

i. Though Mr. Osgood's family was also understood to be of timeless origin, still he merely owned the farm he occupied. G. ELIOT, SIL. MARN., Ch. III, 18.
If Arthur was red, Fanny, on the contrary, was very worn and pale. THACK., PEND., II, Ch. II, 128.

ii. If, on the contrary, we had taken a fancy for the terrible,... we should easily have constructed a tale of thrilling interest. id., VAN. FAIR, I, Ch. VI, 52.

12. A connexion which is indicated by a conjunctive is called *syndetic*, one which is not indicated by any conjunctive *asyndetic* or *collateral*. When the conjunction *and* or *or*, or *nor* is repeated before each member of a compound sentence or element, the connexion is said to be *polysyndetic*.

Instances of *syndetic* connexion: My father was a native of Liverpool, and my mother was born in Manchester.

My father and my mother were in high spirits.

Johnsons are rare; yet, as has been asserted, Boswells perhaps still rarer. CARL., *Past and Pres.*, II, Ch. I, 36.

The papers were not ready, consequently they could not be signed.

Instances of asyndetic connexion: Fear God; honour the king! I came, I saw, I conquered.

His life will be safe — his possessions safe — his rank safe. LYTTON, *Rienzi*. (MÄTZN.², Eng. Gram.², III, 893).

Instances of polysyndetic connexion: We have ships, and men, and money and stores. WEBST., *Dict.*

The Cossack prince rubb'd down his horse, | And made for him a leafy bed, | And smooth'd his fetlocks and his mane, | And slack'd his girth and stripp'd his rein, | And joy'd to see how well he fed. BYRON, *Mazeppa*, III.

We will exchange him away for money, yea, for silver and gold, and for beef and for liquors, and for raiment. THACK., *Pend.*, II, Ch. IV, 43.

Note. Polysyndetic connexion is naturally more frequent in the spoken than in the written language, because in the former the mind is, as a rule, less prepared to mention the items of an enumeration than in the latter. It should also be observed that in polysyndetic connexion each item is uttered with a falling tone, while in (a)syndetic connexion the falling tone is reserved for the last. Compare JESPERSEN, *Phil. of Gram.*, 26f.

13. Co-ordination is chiefly of three kinds:

a) copulative, when the following sentence or clause is an extension of the preceding, as in:

He staid not for brake, and he stopp'd not for stone; | He swam the Eske river, where ford there was none. SCOTT, *Marm.*, V, XII, II.

I could not come, because I had to attend a meeting, and the chairman wanted my services.

b) adversative, when one sentence is opposed to the other, as in:

The Commons passed the bill, but the Lords threw it out. BAIN, *H. E. Gr.*, 105.

c) causal (or illative), when one sentence denotes the cause (reason or ground) of what is expressed by the other, as in:

He must have done it, for there was no one else in the room.

There was no one else in the room, therefore he must have done it.

This distinction is based upon the logical relations between the different conceptions expressed by the sentences, words or word-groups joined together. When the conjunction *and* precedes a conjunctive adverb, it is, accordingly, the latter which indicates the kind of co-ordination we have to deal with.

In the case of juxtaposition without any connecting word, and also when no other link-word is used than the conjunction *and*, there is often much room for understanding the relations in different ways, inasmuch that classification must sometimes seem arbitrary. See O. E. D., s. v. *and*, 7, 8. Thus the following examples may be given as instances of either copulative or adversative co-ordination:

God made the country, and man made the town. COWPER, *Taszk*, I, 749.

The evil that men do lives after them, | The good is oft interred with their bones. SHAK., *Jul. Cæs.*, III, 2, 70.

The following examples may be classified as instances of either copulative or causal co-ordination:

All remembered their affinity, and came frequently to see us. *GOLDS., Vic., Ch. I.*

I am a mortal and liable to fall. *DICK., Christm. Car., II, 30.*

Darkness is cheap and Scrooge liked it. *ib., I, 15.*

14. Subordinate clauses occur in three forms, viz.: a) full, i.e. with every element fully expressed; b) incomplete, i.e. with part of it suppressed (6, a); c) undeveloped, i.e. consisting of a verbal or nominal with or without one or more complements, as in:

i. To love one's neighbours is a Christian duty. *MASON, Eng. Gram.³¹, § 388.*

ii. Hating one's neighbour is forbidden by the Gospel. *ib., § 368.*

iii. * The sun having risen, we commenced our journey. *ib., § 372.*

** Supper ended, the assembly disperses for the night. *Athen.*

*** Clive was justly regarded as a man equal to any command. *MAC.. Clive, (507 b).*

Note. Undeveloped clauses answer to *beknopte bijzinnen* in Dutch. For detailed discussion see *DEN HERTOOG, Ned. Spraakkunst, II, 37.* See also *SPEYER, Lat. Spraakk., § 720*, where it is observed, "Men zou daarom de participia en infinitivi kunnen noemen, bijzinnen in den knop, en de bijzinnen ontplooid participia of infinitivi." Undeveloped clauses are called phrases in some English Grammars; thus in *MASON, Eng. Gram.³¹, § 401, foot-note; BAIN, H. E. Gr., 28.*

15. According to their meaning full subordinate clauses may be divided into: a) such as correspond to a statement; e.g.: *I told him that peace had been concluded*; b) such as correspond to a question; e.g.: *I asked him if peace had been concluded*; c) such as denote a person, animal or thing; e.g.: *Who steals my purse steals trash. I gave him what is good for him*; d) such as denote particulars of a person, animal or thing; e.g.: *This is the boy that broke the window. Look at the letter which I have written*; e) such as denote particulars of an action or state; e.g.: *He made off when he saw the police. Do unto others as you would be done unto.*

Appropriate names for those of the first and the second kind are, respectively, subordinate statements and subordinate questions. They are found in almost all the grammatical functions in which most nouns can be used, viz. in those of subject, nominal part of the predicate, object, whether prepositional or non-prepositional, adnominal adjunct, and adverbial adjunct (*Ch. XIII, 1; Ch. XIV, 1*).

There is not, unfortunately, a suitable name for the subordinate clauses of the third kind. For want of a better they are called substantive clauses in these pages. They also occur in

the most frequent functions of ordinary nouns, i. e. in all those above mentioned, except that of adnominal adjunct (Ch. XV, 1).

Note. Substantive clause is not, admittedly, a characterizing name for the third kind of subordinate clauses. It is objectionable because subordinate statements and subordinate questions, serving as they do the same grammatical functions as a substantive, may also be called by this name. As these latter are, however, markedly designated on the strength of a feature all their own, there is some justification in using the term substantive clause in a narrower sense, i. e. in applying it only to a subdivision.

The clauses of the fourth kind occur, naturally, only in the function of attributive adnominal adjunct, and from this function they may aptly be called attributive adnominal clauses (Ch. XXI).

The clauses of the fifth kind, from their being almost exclusively representative of adverbial adjuncts, have received the name of adverbial clauses (Ch. XVII).

16. When a subordinate clause is incomplete, the part that is wanting is to be supplied: 1) from a preceding sentence not constituting its head-clause, as in the example under ii in 6, *a*; 2) from its head-clause, as in the examples under iii and iv in 6; 3) from another co-ordinate clause, as in the example under ii in 7, *a*.
17. All verbals, whether substantival or adjectival, occur as constituents of undeveloped clauses. To these we may add nominals or equivalent word-groups, which also, either by themselves or in connexion with other words, often have the syntactical value of undeveloped clauses. We may, accordingly, distinguish: *a*) infinitive-, *b*) gerund-, *c*) participle-, and *d*) nominal undeveloped clauses.

All the types of full clauses have representatives in undeveloped clauses. Thus the infinitive-undeveloped clause corresponds to:

a subordinate statement in: It was determined to send a force against them. MAC., *Clive*, (509 *b*). Compare: It was determined that an expedition should be sent to the Hoogley. *ib.*, (514 *b*).

a subordinate question in: I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. STEV., *Kidn.*, Ch. III, (203). Compare: I didn't know whether I should laugh or cry.

a substantive clause in: They struggled with difficulties and wants, not having where to lay their heads. SWIFT, *Tale of a Tub*, Martin, (95 *a*). Compare: Here, as I take my solitary rounds | ... And ... return to view | Where once the cottage stood, the hawthorn grew, | Remembrance wakes with all her busy train. GOLDS., *Des. Vil.*, 80.

an attributive adnominal clause in: George was the first to recover himself. READE, *Never too late*, I, Ch. III, 50. Compare: George was the first who recovered himself.

an adverbial clause in: To hear him talk, one would suppose he was master here. MASON, *Eng. Gram.*, § 196. Compare: If you heard him talk, you would suppose he was master here.

For the sake of brevity, some abbreviations are used in the following discussions. Thus *infinitive-clause* stands for *infinitive undeveloped clause*, *gerund-clause* for *gerund undeveloped clause*, etc.; *infinitive statement* for *infinitive undeveloped clause representing a subordinate statement*; *infinitive question* for *infinitive undeveloped clause representing a subordinate question*, etc.

Note. Seeing that verbals that may be considered as simple elements of sentences or clauses present in almost every respect the same grammatical features as undeveloped clauses, they will be discussed under the same headings with the latter.

Undeveloped clauses may, besides, serve the function of predicative adnominal adjuncts; thus in:

I like boys to be quiet. SWEET, N. E. Gr., § 124.

The voice of the apprentice was heard calling "Master" in great alarm. G. ELIOT, Broth. Jac., Ch. III, (535).

CHAPTER X.

COPULATIVE CO-ORDINATION.

ORDER OF DISCUSSION.

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