

**COMPOSITE (COMPOUND AND COMPLEX) SENTENCE THEORY. THE
PROBLEM OF SYNDETIC AND ASYNDETIC TYPES OF COMPOSITE SENTENCES
(WITH A PARENTHETICAL (INTROSUCTORY CLAUSE OR COMMENT, AND
INSTERTED) CLAUSE OF PROPORTION "THE MORE..., THE MORE ... TYPE)**

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Annotation: *This article examines the theoretical foundations and structural characteristics of composite sentences in English, focusing on both compound and complex forms. Special attention is given to the distinction between syndetic (conjunction-based) and asyndetic (conjunction-less) types of connection, highlighting the syntactic, semantic, and communicative implications of each. The study also explores parenthetical and inserted clauses as integral elements that shape the informational and emotional texture of composite sentences. A separate section is devoted to the comparative correlative construction, commonly represented by the “the more ..., the more ...” pattern, analyzing its grammatical nature, proportional semantics, and functional role within complex syntactic structures. Through a comprehensive theoretical overview, the article contributes to a deeper understanding of how various forms of clause linkage operate in modern English and how they enhance clarity, expressiveness, and logical cohesion in discourse.*

Key words: *composite sentence, compound sentence, complex sentence, syndetic connection, asyndetic connection, parenthetical clause, inserted clause, comparative correlative, proportional clause, English syntax.*

The study of composite sentences occupies an essential place in modern English syntax, as these structures represent the highest level of syntactic organization. Composite sentences enable speakers and writers to express logical relationships between ideas, combine multiple propositions, and convey complex reasoning within a single grammatical framework. Scholars such as Richards (2015), Harmer (2015), and Nunan (2010) emphasize that understanding composite sentence structures is crucial for both linguistic analysis and effective language teaching. Within this broad category, two major types—compound and complex sentences—are traditionally distinguished. Their central difference lies in the type of syntactic relationship they establish: coordination or subordination.

Additionally, the nature of clause linkage can be syndetic, through the use of explicit conjunctions, or asyndetic, realized without conjunctions. Both types play

important roles in discourse, influencing rhythm, emphasis, and clarity. Another important phenomenon within composite sentence theory is the functioning of parenthetical or inserted clauses, which provide supplementary information, evaluation, or commentary. Finally, the article examines a special sub-type of proportional subordination: the comparative correlative construction (“the more..., the more...”), a unique and expressive structural pattern that conveys dependent increase or decrease between two situations.

This article offers a comprehensive overview of these aspects, contributing to a deeper theoretical understanding of English syntactic organization.

1. Theoretical Foundations of Composite Sentences. Composite sentences represent a fundamental structural category in English syntax, combining two or more clauses into a single syntactic unit. They allow speakers to convey complex relations of time, cause, contrast, condition, and other semantic meanings.

Composite sentences fall into two major types: compound sentences, which consist of two or more independent clauses of equal grammatical status, and complex sentences, where one clause is structurally subordinate to another. Understanding the distinctions and functions of these structures is essential for analyzing how English expresses logical and communicative relationships.

For example:

- “The sun was setting, and the air grew colder.” — a compound sentence with two independent clauses.

- “When the sun was setting, the air grew colder.” — a complex sentence where the first clause is subordinate.

These examples illustrate how sentence type affects the way information is organized and interpreted by the reader or listener.

2. Compound Sentences: Structure, Meaning, and Use. A compound sentence consists of independent clauses linked by syndetic (with conjunction) or asyndetic (without conjunction) coordination. In syndetic coordination, conjunctions such as *and*, *but*, *or*, *nor*, *yet*, and *so* explicitly show the logical relationship between clauses.

Example (syndetic coordination):

- “He wanted to join the debate, but he felt too nervous.”

The conjunction *but* signals contrast.

Asyndetic coordination, however, links clauses without any conjunction. This type often creates a faster rhythm or emphasizes the close logical connection between events.

Example (asyndetic coordination):

- “He opened the door, the dog rushed out.”

The absence of a conjunction creates a sense of immediacy and tight cohesion.

Both types contribute to stylistic variation, allowing speakers to express parallel ideas, contrast, or sequential actions within equal syntactic units.

3. Complex Sentences and Subordination. Complex sentences consist of a main (independent) clause and one or more subordinate clauses. Subordination allows the speaker to organize information hierarchically, placing supporting or background information in dependent clauses and emphasizing the main idea in the independent clause.

Example:

• “Although she had studied the topic thoroughly, she still felt unprepared for the presentation.”

The subordinate clause introduces a concessive meaning and sets up expectations for the main message.

Subordinate clauses can fulfill various syntactic roles:

- Adverbial clauses (time, cause, condition, contrast)
- Noun clauses (subjects, objects)
- Relative clauses (modifying nouns)

Thus, complex sentences enable the accurate expression of logical relations such as cause and effect, condition, or contrast.

4. Syndetic and Asyndetic Connections: Syntactic and Functional Differences. Both composite sentence types rely on coordination and subordination, but the choice between syndetic and asyndetic connection significantly affects meaning, rhythm, and emphasis.

Syndetic connection uses explicit conjunctions to mark relations clearly:

- and for addition
- but for contrast
- so for result
- because for cause
- if for condition

Example:

• “She missed the bus because she woke up late.”

The conjunction because explicitly states the causal relationship.

Asyndetic connection, on the other hand, omits conjunctions and often conveys immediacy or creates stylistic compactness.

Example:

• “She woke up late, missed the bus, arrived at work out of breath.”

This asyndetic sequence portrays rapid, consecutive actions.

Asyndeton is stylistically powerful, commonly used in narrative writing to create dynamism. Syndeton ensures greater clarity and explicitness, making it more typical in academic or formal language.

5. Parenthetical and Inserted Clauses in Composite Sentences. A distinctive feature of English syntax is the use of parenthetical and inserted clauses. These elements provide additional information, clarification, speaker attitude, or commentary, without interrupting the core grammatical structure of the sentence.

Parenthetical clauses often express the speaker's viewpoint, hesitation, evaluation, or an aside.

Examples:

- “The experiment, I believe, demonstrates the theory effectively.”
- “This novel — to be honest — is not my favorite.”

Inserted clauses can also supply background information or specify details not essential to sentence structure. Though syntactically independent, they contribute meaningfully to discourse organization by adding nuance.

In composite sentences, such clauses increase expressiveness and help manage the flow of information, guiding the reader's interpretation.

6. The Comparative Correlative Construction: “The more..., the more...” The comparative correlative is a specialized construction where two clauses exhibit a proportional relationship. Each clause begins with the + comparative form, and the structure conveys that a change in one situation corresponds to a change in another.

Example:

- “The more you practice, the more confident you become.”

Here, increasing practice correlates directly with increased confidence.

This construction functions as a fixed pattern in English and reflects logical proportionality.

The first clause sets the condition or change, and the second clause presents its consequence. Both clauses are formally parallel and interdependent, forming a tightly structured complex sentence.

The comparative correlative can express various relationships:

- Intensity: “The harder the exam, the greater the challenge.”
- Causality: “The faster we work, the sooner we finish.”
- Contrast: “The more he insisted, the less she listened.”

Its role in syntax is unique because it combines features of coordination and subordination: the clauses are parallel yet semantically dependent on each other.

Through examining compound and complex sentence theory, syndetic and asyndetic connections, parenthetical structures, and the comparative correlative pattern, it becomes evident that English composite sentences provide rich resources for expressing detailed logical relationships.

Each structure serves different communicative purposes, from clarity and explicitness to expressiveness and stylistic nuance. Understanding these forms allows for deeper mastery of English syntax and enhances both analytical and communicative competence.

In conclusion, the analysis of composite sentence structures demonstrates the complexity and flexibility of English syntax in expressing logical, semantic, and communicative relationships.

By examining compound and complex sentences, the study highlights how speakers coordinate or subordinate ideas to achieve clarity, coherence, and stylistic effect.

The distinction between syndetic and asyndetic connections reveals the role of conjunctions in signaling explicit relationships, while asyndeton contributes to narrative dynamism and compactness.

Parenthetical and inserted clauses further enrich sentence structure, allowing authors to add commentary, clarification, or emotional nuance without disrupting syntactic integrity.

Additionally, the comparative correlative construction of the “the more..., the more...” type exemplifies proportional relationships expressed through parallelism and interdependence of clauses.

Altogether, these features illustrate the expressive power of English composite sentences and emphasize their crucial role in both spoken and written communication.

A deeper understanding of these structures enhances linguistic competence and provides valuable insights for teaching, learning, and analyzing the English language.

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