



The Use of Causal Conjunction Found in “Bali Sun” E-News Articles

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Abstract

Conjunction is an important element used to connect words, phrases, or clauses in a sentence. The function of conjunction is to clarify the meaning of a sentence so that it is easily understood by the writer and the reader. The aim of this research is to identify the types of causal conjunction in website of *Bali Sun* E-news articles. This website uploads daily news about Bali using English. Topics that are often discussed are about tourism, arts and culture, economy, social, development and others. The method used is descriptive qualitative method. That use Halliday and Hassan's (1976) theory. The result of this study is the discovery of five types of conjunctions that are stated as causal conjunctions, namely: so, therefore, because, since and as. From the five different kinds of causal conjunctions discovered, the causal conjunction *so* is the most widely used. The frequent use of *so* indicates that the cause-and-effect meaning is being made too simple in online news. Using a wider variety of conjunctions could help make the news articles clearer and more meaningful.

Keywords: *conjunction, e-news, causal conjunction*

Abstrak

Komponen penting untuk menggabungkan kata, frasa, atau klausa dalam kalimat adalah kata penghubung. Konjungsi berfungsi memperjelas makna dari sebuah kalimat sehingga mudah dipahami oleh penulis dan pembaca. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis konjungsi kausalitas yang ada pada artikel-artikel di website Bali Sun E-news. Website ini mengunggah berita harian seputar Bali dengan menggunakan bahasa Inggris. Topik yang sering dibahas adalah mengenai pariwisata, seni dan budaya, ekonomi, sosial, pembangunan dan lain-lain. Salah satu metode yang digunakan adalah metode kualitatif deskriptif. Dengan menerapkan teori dari Halliday dan Hassan (1976). Temuan penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa lima kategori yang dinyatakan sebagai konjungsi kausal, yaitu: so, therefore, because, since, dan as. Dari kelima jenis konjungsi kausal yang ditemukan, konjungsi kausal *so* adalah yang paling banyak digunakan. Frekuensi penggunaan *so* yang tinggi menunjukkan bahwa hubungan sebab-akibat dalam berita online cenderung disederhanakan secara berlebihan. Penggunaan konjungsi yang lebih beragam dapat meningkatkan kejelasan dan kedalaman isi artikel.

Kata kunci: *konjungsi, berita, konjungsi kausal*

Introduction

English is one of the world's languages that is very important to learn in order to share knowledge with others. The world language that is commonly used is English. With English we can communicate, share information with foreigners. Learning English has several benefits, one of which is that it can understand global news or information such as BBC News, CNN news or others. With this it can help us to know about events that occur between nations. In addition to understanding the English language, language delivery is also very important to understand. Besides the use of English, skills for good and informative language delivery are also important. Knowledge of the use of grammar, pronunciations, as well as cohesion and coherence are needed. One of the important elements in conveying information is the need for a conjunction. This conjunction can help readers to understand more deeply the meaning of a context that is conveyed.

The term "conjunction" originates from the Latin "con" (together) and "jungere" (to join) Leech, Geoffrey (1975), indicating its fundamental role in joining linguistic units. Conjunctions are crucial linguistic elements that join words, phrases, clauses, or sentences to improve their coherence and flow of discourse. It is also a grammatical cohesion tool that function to connect parts of the text and show semantic relationships in these part Halliday and Hassan (1976:227). The use of conjunction is crucial for creating cohesion in writing and speech. They help clarify relationships between ideas, indicate contrasts or comparisons, and establish casual links. For instance, in a narrative or argumentative text, conjunctions guide readers through the progression of thoughts and enhance understanding by signalling how different parts of the text to one another.

According to Halliday and Hassan (1976), conjunction is also the part of grammatical cohesion. Grammatical cohesion is a relationship of meaning in the text that can form a sentence. A word element that depends on one sentence and another, if without this connecting sentence, the sentence will be difficult to understand. Understanding the events that occur is certainly due to the element of cause and effect. This is categorized in one type of conjunction, namely causal. Causal conjunction expresses the cause and effect of an event that written in a sentence (Halliday and Hassan 1976). Causal conjunctions play an important role in conveying information. With this it can help readers to understand the clarity of the cause and effect of an event that occurs, build a strong argument by showing one fact and also supported by other facts in a context, providing context internally and externally. In an electronic news article, the delivery of cause and effect is generally found with events that use external conjunctions. Martin (1992), divides conjunctions into two categories: external and internal. External conjunctions link logical and experiential real-world occurrences, like cause-and-effect, time linkages, and an addition of information. However, Internal conjunctions link arguments, assessments, or structures within the discourse itself rather than describing the relationship between actual occurrences.

A number of studies have been conducted on the application of conjunctions and grammatical cohesion in various text. Mahadewi et al. (2022) analyzed conjunctions in Bali Travel News and identified different types of conjunctions used, along with their meaning and function in news discourse. Their study highlights how

conjunction contribute to textual coherences in journalistic writing. Other relevant studies have focused on conjunctions in literary texts. Antari and Juniarta (2024) investigated the types and function of conjunctions in the novel *The Target*. Their findings show that additive conjunctions were the most frequently used in the novel, indicating a pattern of linking similar ideas within the narrative. Similarly, Riandhani and Ayomi (2023) examined the use of causal conjunction in Colleen Hoover's *November 9*. They categorized the causal conjunctions into five types: general causal relation (61 instances), specific causal relation (30), conditional causal (4), and general reversed causal relation (10), with a total of 105 causal conjunction identified. Their study provides a detailed classification of causal relation in literary text. In addition to these studies, some researchers have examined broader aspects of grammatical cohesion. Indriani et al. (2021) analyzed grammatical cohesion in *The Yak* magazine and found two main types: references (personal and demonstrative) and conjunctions (additive, adversative, causal, and temporal). Their research underscores the role of cohesive devices in maintaining clarity and flow in magazine writing. Likewise, Amut and Ardiantari (2023) focused on grammatical cohesion in descriptive text written by student at Universitas Mahasaraswati Denpasar.

There are still a number of gaps in the literature, especially when it comes to the discourse of causal conjunctions, even if previous research has offered insightful information about the use of conjunctions and grammatical coherence across a variety of text types. For example, studies by Mahadewi et al. (2022) and Indriani et al. (2021) have highlighted how conjunctions improve textual coherence in journalistic and magazine writing, respectively. However, these analyses mainly concentrate on more general cohesive devices without going into great detail about the pragmatic and discursive roles of causal conjunctions in non-literary contexts. Similar to this, studies on literary texts, like those by Riandhani and Ayomi (2023) and Antari and Juniarta (2024), provide thorough categorisations of conjunction types, including causal relations in novels, but they frequently place more emphasis on structural categorisation and frequency than on the interpretive aspects of how causal conjunctions influence discourse meaning, narrative progression, or reader inference. Additionally, Amut and Ardiantari (2023) investigate grammatical cohesion in student-written descriptive texts, emphasising conjunctions and references. However, their research is restricted to educational contexts and does not investigate the contributions of causal conjunctions to discourse coherence in diverse or cross-cultural communicative environments.

Their study revealed that references and conjunctions were the dominant cohesion types, with conjunctions being the most frequently used. Collectively, these studies demonstrate the significant role of conjunction in ensuring cohesion and coherence across various genres, from news article to literary and student text. However, while these studies offer useful insight, further research is still needed to explore how specific types of conjunctions, such as causal conjunctions function in digital news platforms, particularly on the context of English-language media in Bali.

This research aims to analyze conjunctions in Balinese news, especially causal conjunctions. Causal conjunctions are essential for establishing cause-and-effect links in texts, especially news items. In order to show textual coherence and cohesiveness in the context under discussion, it is necessary to analyze these conjunctions in order

to understand the underlying causes and effects of events or ideas conveyed. This study analyzes e-news from The Bali Sun E-news website. The Bali Sun is interesting to study because it uses English as the language of information delivery and also discusses general topics about Bali that are rarely discussed on other e-news sites.

Method

The data of this study were taken from the E-news website of “TheBaliSun”. This website publishes E-news about Bali in daily life issue. The researcher selected ten E-news articles as the data source. these ten articles were published between March and May 2025 and mostly discussed the development of the tourism sector in Bali, including culture and other related topics. Besides that, this website also helps foreigners to get information about Bali because the news from the *Bali Sun* is written in English.

To present the analysis, the researcher focused on identifying the types of causal conjunctions. To collect the data, the researcher used an observational method. There were four steps in collecting the data: searching for articles to be included in the dataset, reading through each article to gain a proper understanding, taking notes, and classifying the words into types of causal conjunction based on the theory of Halliday and Hassan’s (1976). The data was analyzed using the descriptive qualitative approach. According to Creswell (2014), qualitative research is a method for studying and understanding the significance that group members attach to a social human issue. Emergent questions and techniques are part of the process, along with data that is usually gathered in the participant's environment and data analysis that progresses inductively from specific to broad topics.

Result and Discussion

In this section, the author present data collected from the “*Bali Sun*” E-news using 10 selected articles as data sources. These articles cover very interesting things related to tourism that affects the social-economy in Bali, development in Bali, and the others relevant issue. Halliday and Hassan's (1976) theory is used in the analysis to identify the various types of causal conjunctions. From the collected data, there were 28 data that can be classified as the causal conjunction. Five types of causal conjunction were found in the data source, which are presented in the table below:

No	Types of Causal Conjunction	Total	Percentage
1	<i>So</i>	15	53,5%
2	<i>Therefore</i>	2	7%

3	<i>Because</i>	6	21,5%
4	<i>Since</i>	4	14,5%
5	<i>As</i>	1	3, 5%
Total		28	100%

The table shows a total of 28 causal conjunctions found in The Bali Sun e-news articles. The most frequently used causal conjunction is *so*, which appears 15 times (53.5%). This is followed by *because*, with 6 occurrences (21.5%); *since*, with 4 occurrences (14.5%); *therefore*, with 2 occurrences (7%); and *as*, with 1 occurrence (3.5%). The word "so" is more frequently used as a causal conjunction because it effectively conveys ideas, such as describing the effects of tourism or social difficulties in Bali. This analysis is based on the classification of causal conjunctions proposed by Halliday and Hassan (1976).

Causal Conjunction

Causal conjunctions convey the consequence, reason, or purpose linkages between clauses, according to Halliday and Hassan (1976). Causal conjunction function as connecting words that link cause-and-effect relationships within sentences. In an e-news article, there is often a problem or issue being discussed, which involves cause and their effects. To clearly express this relationship, conjunctions are needed to help readers understand the context more easily. Causal conjunctions can appear either at the beginning or in the middle of a sentence. Examples of causal conjunctions found in The Bali Sun e-news article included:

a. *So*

The conjunction *so* is the most frequently occurring word found in *Bali Sun* E-news articles. *So*, as a causal conjunction that conveys outcome or impact. According to Halliday and Hasan (1976), this word is employed to indicate that the second sentence follows directly from the first. This conjunction can be interpreted as concluding a statement that was previously the cause and also shows the result of the statement. Besides that, the conjunction *so* can be a purpose conjunction.

Data 1:

*“At Jatiluwih, tourism leaders are on a mission to help tourists connect more meaningfully to Balinese culture and nature. **So**, they have created a new tourist attraction within the Jatiluwih Rice Terrace landscape, allowing tourist to dive deep into a whole new world of information and activities”.*
(*Bali Sun*, April 25,2025)

From the data above, the sentence states that tourism leaders want to help foreign guests connect with Bali's nature and culture. Then they created a new tourist attraction in the terraced rice fields of Jatiluwih. The conjunction *so* on the data above

showed the causal conjunction that connect two clauses of the first sentence “tourism leaders are on a mission to help tourists connect more meaningfully to Balinese culture and nature” into the second sentence “they have created a new tourist attraction within the Jatiluwih Rice Terrace landscape...”. Thus, *so* serves as a connector, showing a cause-and-effect link between two phrases.

In this sentence, *so* connect the leaders’ mission to the creation of a tourist attraction. While the sentence is grammatically correct, the use of *so* makes the cause-effect relationship seem overly straightforward and perhaps even causal. It gives the impression that the creation of the attraction is a simple, direct result of the mission, without acknowledging, funding, or cultural considerations. Overuse of *so* in a news article can make complex social, economic, or cultural developments seem too simplistic, which may reduce the perceived depth or credibility of the information. More precise conjunctions such as *therefore*, *as a result*, or *consequently* can signal a more formal tone and reflect a more nuanced connection between ideas.

Data 2:

“On behalf of the Ministry of Tourism, Deputy Minister Puspa reiterated to tourists visiting all destinations in Indonesia, including in Bali, not to distribute gifts, donations, or treats directly to children, but rather through coordination with village institutions, community leaders, NGOs, or local governments so that assistance can be distributed appropriately and responsibly”. (Bali Sun, May 22, 2025)

From the data above, the use of causal conjunction *so that* has a different meaning from data1. This second data gives the conjunction *so that* is expresses a causal purpose, not just a simple cause and effect. This is because the sentences explained, that foreign visitors to Indonesia or Bali are not allowed to give children presents, gifts, or snacks; instead, they must work with local organizations or others to ensure that the money is spent sensibly and appropriately.

b. *Therefore*

The conjunction *therefore* has same potentials as a *however* (Halliday and Hassan 1976). This conjunction is used to connect a statement that gives a reasoning or argument from two sentences that contain cause and effect. Therefore, the word is employed to confirm or wrap up an event that has already been mentioned. It is frequently used in formal statements and never comes at the start of a sentence without a pertinent term that comes before it. Consequently, it becomes a word that is frequently employed to highlight the formal and logical inference made from the previous assertion.

Data 3:

*“Pemayun told reporters that the fee needs to be socialized ‘massively’ for more international tourists to become aware of their obligations while visiting the province. He explained “One of the challenges in implementing this levy is the lack of information amongst tourists. **Therefore**, socialization will continue to be improved so that this policy can run more effectively.” (Bali Sun, March 16, 2025)*

From the data above, the head of the Bali Tourism office Pemayun, stated that tax collection for foreign tourists who come to Bali is still difficult to do, due to the lack of information known by tourists. Therefore, he strives for the socialization of this tax to continue to be improved so that the tax policy can run more effectively. The conjunction *therefore* becomes a link of reasoning to continue to carry out a socialization so that foreign tourists know about the mandatory payment of the tax. The use of the word *therefore* in news articles can emphasize the clarity of an event that contains cause and effect. The word *therefore* is also very formal in use. This can make it easier for readers to understand the meaning of a context in the news.

c. Because

The conjunction *because* is part of the causal conjunction. Halliday and Hassan (1976) state the causal conjunction *because* indicates the cause or reason for the circumstance or activity that is being described in the main phrase. *Because* has a function to connects independent clauses and dependent clauses that contain causes. This conjunction explains a reason why a conflict or problem can occur between cause-and-effect sentences.

Data 4:

*“Ni Wayan Laksmi, a hotel employee, shared with reporters “We have to rent a house in the suburbs or even in other cities **because** we can no longer afford to live in Denpasar. How can we compete with foreigners who pay with dollars?” (Bali Sun, May 22, 2025)*

From the data above, the conjunction *because* has a function to explain the cause-and-effect sentences. The first clause showed Laksmi sharing her experiences that she has to rent a house in the suburbs or in another city, the second sentence showed she can no longer afford to live in Denpasar and she cannot compete with the foreigners who pay with dollars. The second sentence is the reason why she rents a house. The function of the word *because* is to explain the reason. The use of the word *because* is quite clear and commonly used to express a reason for a sentence that states

cause and effect. It gives the impression of a reason for an event that is easy for the reader to understand.

Data 5:

*“Governor Koster told reporters that this new legislation will see more strict enforcement of an existing set of regulations. He noted “The sanctions are related to licensing and will be conveyed that the hotel is not environmentally friendly. As soon as possible it will be implemented, **because** the regulations already exist.” (Bali Sun, March 30, 2025)*

From the data above, the word *because* is a causal conjunction that connects two clausal words cause and effect. According to Governor Koster's remark, the new law must be put into effect right away because it is already available. Since the regulation already exists, the word *because* serves as a causal conjunction in this instance, stating the rationale behind the implementation action. The context is given a clear and unambiguous meaning by the sentence's use of the conjunction *because*. As the explanation for an event is given directly in the reasons that follow, readers will find it easier to comprehend the logical relationship between events when the sentence structure prioritizes impact over cause.

d. *Since*

Since as a subordinating conjunction that connects the cause clause and the main clause or base clause. “*Since*” here means “*because*”, it functions as a causal conjunction that connects cause-and-effect in two clauses. *Since* is employed to begin an adverbial sentence that demonstrates reason or cause, according to Quirk et al. (1985).

Data 6:

*“He notes that there is an urgency to develop a mass incinerator in central Bali **since** all open landfill sites across the island are already at over capacity.” (Bali Sun, April 8, 2025)*

From data above, the causal conjunction *since* as a coordinating conjunction. The second clause showed “*Since* all open landfill sites across the island are already at over capacity” this is a main clause between cause-and-effect sentences. Causal conjunction *since* has function to explain Explain the cause or argument behind the first clause's assertion. It functions also the same as the causal conjunction *because* it expresses the reason for the cause-and-effect sentences. This *since*, which is frequently employed in formal contexts like news, denotes a reason that the reader already knows or assumes to be clear.

Data 7:

*“Ida Bhatara Turun Kabeh is a deeply important Balinese Hindu ceremony that is conducted every April-May in the province. Ida Bhatara Turun Kabeh literally translates from Balinese to mean ‘All the Gods Descend’ and **since** Mount Agung is considered in Balinese Hinduism as the home of the Gods, the landscape must be kept clear for their arrival.” (Bali Sun, April 9, 2025)*

From the data above, the causal conjunction *since* has function to connect the cause-and-effect of two main clauses in one sentence. The data discussed about Hindu's ceremony in Bali that call 'Ida Bhatara Turun Kabeh' it means 'All the Gods Descend' and in the religion of Balinese Hinduism, Mount Agung is where the Gods reside. The word *since* is explain the reason of why the landscape of Mount Agung must be clear. *Since* on the data is the causal conjunctions relate clauses and state the cause of an event. Words like *because* are commonly used to express specific reasons. However, the use of the word *since* to indicate causality is less frequently found in news stories. In contrast, the use of *because* and *due to* tends to provide a clearer and more formal tone, although their function is essentially the same as *since*.

e. *As*

As is employed as a causal conjunction to indicate logical thinking, particularly in written or formal language, according to Halliday and Hassan (1976). The conjunction *as* can be categorized as a causal conjunction because it can be used to connect cause-and-effect relations in a sentence. These types of causal conjunctions have the same function as *because*. This can be categorized because there is already a definite reason or cause in the causal sentence. This conjunction can be positioned at the beginning of the sentence or in the middle of the sentence.

Data 8:

*“Tourist must remember to bring cash, **as** card machines are seldom found around these parts.” (Bali Sun, May 28, 2025)*

From the data above, the position of causal conjunction *as* is in the middle of sentences. It connects the dependent clause (tourists must remember to bring cash) and the main clause of the topic (card machines are seldom found around these parts). The function of the conjunction *as* from the data is to express the reason or cause of why the tourist must remember to bring cash. It functions also the same as the causal conjunction *because* it expresses the reason for the cause-and-effect sentences, but the use of causal conjunction *as* is more formally.

Conclusion

The analysis of causal conjunction in The Bali Sun e-news articles reveals the important role these linguistic elements play in constructing clear and coherent cause and effect relationships within journalistic writing. From the 10 selected articles, a total of 28 causal conjunctions were identified, with *so* being the most frequently used (53.5%). This dominance suggests a preference for straightforward and conversational linking devices in the news content. However, the heavy reliance on *so* may lead to an oversimplification of complex ideas, reducing the depth of explanation in certain context. The study highlights the need for more varied use of causal conjunctions such as *because*, *since*, *therefore*, and *as* to enhance the clarity, nuance, and rhetorical strength of informational text. Applying Halliday and Hassan’s (1976) framework has proven effective in classifying these conjunctions and analyzing their distribution and function. Ultimately, a more balanced use of causal connectors can contribute to more engaging and informative online journalism.

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