

## CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

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### ABSTRAT

*This study dealt with the using of conditional sentences in delivering a message especially in a newspaper. The purposes of this study was to describe the conditional sentences that occurred in the opinion texts and to derive the dominant category of conditional sentences in delivering a message in a newspaper then to reasoning why it was actualized in the way it was. This study conducted by using descriptive method with a qualitative approach. The data of this study were the opinion texts from the daily newspaper of The Jakarta Post. Determining, identifying, and analyzing were the steps in analyzing the data. The findings of this research show that all the types of conditional sentences are used in delivering the message in the opinion texts in The Jakarta Post. The using of conditional type I is likely to 52,70%; type II is 14,19%; type III is 0,68% and 0 conditional is 32,43%. So from the findings it shows that the most dominant type that used in opinion texts in The Jakarta Post is conditional sentences type I. The findings of this study are very useful for the editors of newspaper in editing the news before it is printed. They need to know conditional sentences well in order to relate one clause to another clause in delivering the message so the information can be understood by the readers easily. By knowing the conditional sentences well it will be easier to know and to understand the message written down in the newspaper.*

**Keywords:** *conditional sentences, opinion text, grammatical, newspaper, descriptive method, Jakarta Post*

### 1) INTRODUCTION

One of the important patterns in English language is „conditional sentence“. It has been used to refer to a number of sentence types. Sometimes it is used as an assumption concept that encompasses all instances of delaying a sentence. Sometimes it is used interchangeably with a particular kind of sentence deferment. In this case the

Indonesian students should study the conditional sentence because this sentence is related to the implicit meaning on three types of conditional. (Armstrong et al 2013:10) Thomson and Martinet (1995: 197) say that conditional sentence has two parts are “if”-clause and main clause. They also state that conditional sentence has three kinds or types; in which each kind contains a different pair of tenses in some variations. Conditional type I refer to real conditional or possible situations, type II refers to information in unreal conditional or improbable

situations, type III refers to information in the past conditional because it concerns only past situations with hypothetical results.

In this case, language plays an important role in delivering a message. As we have already known that language is divided into two types, namely: written language and spoken language. This study focuses on the written language that used in a newspaper. The researcher takes newspaper rather than a textbook as the object of the study because the language that used in newspaper and textbook are very different each other. In the language of newspaper, the language that used is not too formal and the impression is to provide and updated information. Meanwhile, the language in the textbook is more use formal language and its information is more emphasize on scientific information rather than the information it self. Based on the researcher’s experience during reading a newspaper, there is some information in the newspaper used conditional sentences, and this makes some of the readers do not understand the

meaning. As we know that each type of conditional sentences has different meaning. In this researchers emphasize the analysis of conditional sentences in a newspaper. Since there are many kinds of newspaper, this research is going to analyze the opinion texts in The Jakarta Post Newspaper especially the use of conditional sentences in the opinion text in order to find out how the reader can know the relation of the clauses in order to get the meaning of information in text so the reader can get better understanding about the information from a newspaper.

### **Conditional Sentences**

Conditional sentence is something that has to be fulfilled before something else can happen. Besides that, conditional sentences are used to express the cause and effect or temporal sequences of the two events. Conditional sentence contains two clauses, they are: the condition clause and the subsequent clause that are dependent on each other.

A conditional sentence describes the condition that is necessary for a particular result to occur. The conjunctions; if, even if, when, whenever, whether, and unless often appear in conditional sentences. The meaning of conditional sentences determines which verb tenses to be used in the independent and subordinate clauses (Lane and Lange, 1993).

Thomson and Martinet (1995:197) write that conditional sentences have two parts: if clause and main clause. Meanwhile, according to Elliot (2006:4), a conditional sentence is a two clause sentence in which the first clause states a supposition or hypothesis and the second clause states the results if that condition is met.

### **Opinion Texts**

Opinion text is basically just writing about our opinion about something or a certain subject. Examples: if your subject was online transportation, you could say that you have a positive opinion of them because it can make everything simple in delivering something. In general, an opinion is a judgment, viewpoint, or statement that is not conclusive. Every people have different opinion of

something based on the context. Text should be based on the context. Thus, context has a part to play; it uses different language in different situations with different people. On the other hand, it means different context will have a different text. Ellis (2003:80) defines that the context of an utterance can mean two different things that refer to the situation in which the utterance is produced; this is the “situational context”. Both types of context influences the choice of language forms and therefore have an effect on output. In this sense, the context has relation to linguistics meaning. It means that the meaning must relate to context.

### **Types of Conditional Sentences**

There are many types of conditional sentences based on the experts of linguistics. In general there are three types of conditional sentences but most grammar books tend to recognize four basic configurations of tenses in conditional sentences which vary in structure according to the time that we are talking about (past, present or future) and the meaning. These four types are normally referred to as the zero, first, second and third conditionals. In conditional sentences have two parts: the ifclause and the main clause. In the sentence “If she studies hard she will pass the test”, „if she studies hard“ is if-clause and „she will pass the test“ is main clause. Here some types of conditional sentences based on some experts:

McCarthy (2008) and Yanti D, (2018) states that most students focus on four common patterns of conditional sentences or if-clauses which are often called zero, first, second and third conditionals. In English we have four ways to make conditional (if) sentences. Here is how to make them:

#### **(1). Zero (0) Conditional**

This type is used for scientific facts or general truths. „If“ can be substituted for „when“. For examples:

- a) If you boil water to 100°C, it boils
- b) When you boil water to 100°C, it boils.
- c) If there is a shortage of any product, prices of that product go up.
- d) My parents get angry if I come home late.

- e) If you want to leave a message, speak after the tone.

## (2). First Conditional

This type is used with „will/can + base verb“ for a probable future result. For examples:

- a) If you study hard, your English will improve.
- b) If I get enough sleep, I will feel better.
- c) If you swallow some of the cleaning fluid, it will kill you.
- d) If I get a little humility, I will be perfect.
- e) I will a castle, if I am a millionaire.

## (3). Second Conditional

This type uses the „simple past“ with „modal + base verb“ for imagined, impossible or unreal future situations. For examples.

- a) If I won the lottery, I would buy a plane.
- b) If you met Johnny Deep, what would you ask him ?
- c) We wouldn't finish in time unless everyone worked faster.
- d) If I went to London, I could visit the British Museum.
- e) You'd get fatter if you ate too much.

## (4).. Third Conditional

This type uses the „past perfect“ with „modal + have + past participle“. It is usually used to express a past regret about something which did not happen in the past. For examples:

- a) If I had won the lottery, I would have bought a plane.
- b) If I had been taller, I could have played in the NBA.
- c) If you had visited Scotland, you could have visited Edinburgh Castle.
- d) If we'd taken the first turning, we would have been at home by now.
- e) The meeting would've finished before 1:00 if you'd said less.

## Conclusion

The results from comprehension, production, and discourse test showed that there was no fixed hierarchical order of difficulty among conditional sentences under investigation. The result gained from comprehension test

showed that it was type 3 which was the easiest to comprehend, followed by type 2, and type 1. Different results were showed on production test in which the easiest was type 2, followed by type 1, and type 3. While from discourse test, the order of difficulty from the easiest to the most difficult was type 1, type 3 and type 2. In regards to the position of the if clause, all the three tests showed the same results in which the if clause in the initial position was easier for the subjects to comprehend and to produce than if it was in the final position. Regarding the positive or negative conditionals, the results gained from comprehension and production test showed that positive conditionals were easier to comprehend than the negative ones. However, the discourse test showed that it was the negative conditionals which were slightly easier to comprehend than positive ones. In the case of the involvement of the 1st and/or 2nd person, the result from the comprehension and production test revealed that the presence of the 1st and/or the 2nd person in the situation and in the conditional construction made a conditional sentence easier to comprehend and to produce. Conversely, the discourse test showed that the absence of the 1st and/or 2nd person made the conditional sentences slightly easier to comprehend than the presence of these personal pronouns. Moreover, the result from the comprehension test showed that conditional sentence was easier to comprehend if information was located in the main clause than if it is in the if clause. This research also discovered three strategies. The first was Contrary-to-the-Fact Condition for All Conditional Types. The result from the sentential test revealed that subjects tended to regard all types of conditional sentences as contrary-to-the-fact condition so that they judged the positive conditionals as having the negative meaning, and negative conditionals as having the positive meaning. The second strategy was the Copying Strategy. The analysis of the data from the comprehension test revealed subjects' tendency to copy a certain clause. The copying strategy could also be seen in the production test in which

subjects cut and pasted the subjects, predicates/verbs, and objects found in the given situations and then arranged them to form conditional constructions. Unfortunately, subjects cut and pasted some of the words from the given situation without making sufficient changes to the word forms. The third strategy was the Form Strategy. The data from the comprehension and production test showed that subjects memorized the syntactic forms of the conditional sentences so that they were successful in producing grammatically correct conditional constructions without fully understanding the context. Subjects tended to change future tense (be it in a stem or in a situation) into present tense, present tense into past tense, and past tense into past perfect tense. Conditional sentences are statements of an “if-then” or “unless” situation. These sentences express situations and their probable results. Conditional sentences are frequently used to discuss the outcomes of research studies or are part of a hypothesis statement. Conditional sentences are essential for stating and testing conditions and their results. Most authors of scientific papers use such statements, particularly in the Introduction and Discussion sections. Essentially, the verb tenses used in the if-clause and the result clause must adhere to the type of conditional sentences being expressed. To ensure your conditional sentences are contextually correct, you can use Trinka, an AI-powered writing assistant. It is the world’s first language enhancement tool that is custom-built for academic and technical writing, and has several exclusive features to help you write clear and concise conditional sentences.

### Types of Conditional Sentences

Conditional sentences contain two clauses the *condition* clause (*if* or *unless*) and the *main* clause. There are five kinds of conditional sentences, each conveying a

different meaning. Some conditional sentences refer to the common truths and others to hypothetical situations.

#### 1. **Zero conditional sentences**

refer to a common truth or factual relationships. These sentences assert that one condition always results in the same outcome. For instance:

If you put ice cubes in a glass of water, they melt.

Note that both clauses are in the present tense.

#### 2. **First conditional sentences** present

a possible situation and its probable result. The degree of certainty is lower compared to the *zero* conditional. For instance:

If you eat green vegetables, you will feel *amazing*.

Note that the present tense is used in the *if*-clause and the future tense in the main clause.

#### 3. **Second conditional sentences** express unreal conditions

**and their probable results— speculation, for example.**

*If I had control over food production, I would end world hunger.*

Note the use of the simple past tense in the *if*-clause and the modal verb (i.e., would, could, should) in the main clause.

**4. Third conditional sentences are slightly different. They propose that the outcome would be different had the past been different. This kind of conditional expresses a situation that is contrary to fact. For instance:**

*If you had told me, I would have brought dinner for you.*

Note that the condition and the result did not occur. The past perfect tense (had + past participle form of the verb) is used in the *if*-clause, and the verb (would) plus “have” plus the past participle of the verb is used in the main clause.

- **Mixed type conditional sentences refer to a situation in the**

**past and its probable result in the present. For instance,**

*If I had learned to ride earlier, I would be a big rodeo star by now.*

Note that the past perfect verb is used in the *if*-clause, and the present conditional verb is used in the main clause.

Punctuating conditional sentences is easy. Use a comma to separate the *if*-clause from the main clause when the *if*-clause comes first.

#### **A Few Exceptions to the Rules**

In the sentence given below, we use the simple future verb in the *if*-clause:

*If Vitamin D eases my arthritis pain, I will take some supplements every day.*

Note that the action in the *if*-clause hasn't taken place yet, but will occur after the action in the main clause is taken. The use of “were + infinitive verb” (e.g., were to fall) in the *if*-clause is another exception. This phrase is used to highlight the significance of the outcome of something that *might* occur. For instance:

*If she were to fall on her shoulder again, she would have to have surgery.*

The action in the *if*-clause (were to fall) displays the subjunctive mood, i.e., a grammatical feature in English for expressing wishes, proposals, suggestions, or imagined situations.

### **Significance to Researchers**

In your research, you are likely to either perform your independent experiments or use the outcomes of others' experiments to conduct a meta-analysis. In either case, you will be required to report your evaluation and conclusions. In doing so, there will be situations in which the outcomes of your study or even future studies are based on specific conditions. Your findings are based on evidence, data, or theory. You might present your conclusions as likelihoods that something has already occurred, is presently happening, or will take place at some point. This is where a conditional sentence plays a critical role. The verb tenses used in the *if*-clause and the result clause must adhere to the type of conditional being expressed. Here's where Trinka, an AI-driven writing assistant, can help. It is the world's first language enhancement tool that is custom-built for academic and

technical writing, and has several exclusive features to make your manuscript ready for the global audience.

### **Thank you note conditional sentences**

I may not always say how much I love both of you but I can say I have a big place in my heart only for you two. Thank you, mom and dad, for raising me so perfectly!

Getting parents like you by my side makes me what I am today. Thank you so much for supporting me unconditionally.

God has blessed us in so many ways, but the biggest of them all is our parents. They deserve the best from us always. Thank you to all the parents in the world!

Thank you for helping me to shape my life with positivity and passion. Without you, I'd never been the person I am today. Thank you for everything!

If people could choose their parents before they were born, they'd all choose you because you are just awesome. Thank you for being my parent only!

I have a heart full of love for you two. You have raised me with all the love and kindness in the world. Thank you for being so nice and caring.

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