

SYNTACTIC FUNCTIONS OF *AS* IN ENGLISH

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ABSTRACT

The research is the result of a study which concerned with syntactic functions of **as** in English. The major purpose of this research is to provide as clear as possible some related aspects concerning the syntactic functions of **as** in English.

This research is based on the data obtained from references written by various outstanding linguists. This research uses the theory based on Herbert (1990) which calls this kind of study a library research and the theory related to the classification of **as** is adopted from Quirk (1973 and 1985). The data collection is conducted in several steps such as administrating some sentences, checking and verifying the data with the intuition of the writer herself and also with the theories given by various linguists. All sentences given in the examples are presented in the written form without their phonetic transcription. This research report is presented in the descriptive form which qualitative in nature, and thus, the method applied in this study is following Herbert (1990) which called descriptive research.

The functions of **as** in this research are as a subordinator to introduce complex sentences indicating adverb clauses such as adverb clause of time, adverb clause of concession or supposition, adverb clause of comparison of degree, adverb clause of comparison of manner, adverb clause of cause or reason, adverb clause of condition, adverb clause purpose, and adverb clause of result, as a preposition, as an intensifier and it may also be used in subjunctive mood.

Keywords: **as**, syntactic function.

1. Introduction

In general, the word **as** can be defined as a unique word. **As** is one of the significant word in English as it may carry a large number of functions in sentences. The word **as** is usually used as a conjunction especially as a subordinator, but it may also as a preposition. In some case, it may function as an intensifier and it is used in a subjunctive mood. The subordinator **as** can be used to construct various adverb clauses, and as an intensifier, it can modify various grammatical categories. The subordinator **as** can be used to construct various adverb clauses, and as an intensifier, it can modify various grammatical categories.

This research focuses on the description of various functions of **as** in English, as it is syntactically divided into four kinds: as a subordinator, as a preposition, as an intensifier, and as used in subjunctive mood. **As** as a subordinator can be used to construct various formations of adverb clauses, such as adverb clause of time, adverb clause of concession or supposition, adverb clause of comparison of degree, adverb clause of comparison of manner, adverb clause of cause or reason, adverb clause of condition, adverb clause of purpose, and adverb clause of result. Quirk et. al. (1985) give a clear description about what is called subordinator or subordinating conjunction. On the other hand, Wishon & Burks (1980) state that a subordinating conjunction introduces the adverbial clause and connects it with a word in the main clause.

A subordinating conjunction joins a clause to another on which it depends for its full

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meaning. As a subordinator, the word **as** functions to connect an independent clause and a dependent clause to form a complex sentence.

The word **as** is usually used as a subordinator to join an independent clause and a dependent clause to form a complex sentence. It can be put in the initial position as shown in the following examples:

- (1). **As soon as** I finished this homework, I went to sleep.
- (2). **As soon as** I wrap this package, I'll go to the post office.

As which is put in the initial position commonly indicates various kinds of adverb clause, such as adverb clause of time which is shown in the examples (1) and (2).

As a subordinator, **as** may also be put in the medial position of a sentence.

- (3). Thank you **as** you come to my party.
- (4). Thanks you **as** you reply my call.

The word **as** is put in the medial position of a sentence, when it is used as a preposition, as an intensifier and also in subjunctive mood as shown in the following examples:

- (5). The beautiful girl wrote **as** a journalist.
- (6). Mary was just **as** pale as he was.
- (7). She looked **as if/as though** she had finished the assignment.

Based on the above description, it can be said that the word **as** is a unique word because it can be put into various positions in the sentence i.e. in the initial position and in the medial position of a sentence.

The word **as** may be also categorized as a preposition, as an intensifier, and it can also be used in a subjunctive mood. The word **as** used as a preposition refers to an actual role. It can be shown in the following examples:

- (8). She spoke **as** a lawyer.
- (9). **As** a melting pot, Indonesia should be kept away from disharmony.

The preposition **as** can be categorized into a simple preposition. It is known as a simple preposition because of having a single word. A preposition is a word used to join one word to another word. Wren & Martin (1990) give a clear description about what is known as 'preposition', they note a preposition is a word placed before a noun or a pronoun to show in what relation the person or thing denoted by it

stands in regard to something else. (Wren&Martin, 1990:129).

Based on the given definition, it may be defined that a preposition is a word which comes before a noun or a pronoun which functions to connect one word to another and it cannot stand alone without any word following it.

The preposition **as** can be used after some transitive and intransitive verbs. The preposition **as** can be used after certain transitive verbs to indicate the role of the object or what it is thought to be. For examples:

- (10). I wanted to use him **as** an agent.
- (11). I treated business **as** a game.

The preposition **as** can be used after intransitive verbs to indicate what role or function the subject has or what identity they pretend to have. It can be shown the following examples:

- (12). He served **as** Kennedy's ambassador to India
- (13). They attempted to get an agent **as** a telephone repairman into the Stein residence.

The preposition **as + noun** is used to say what something really is or was (especially when we talk about someone's job or how we use something). In other words, the words **as** is used as a preposition to talk about someone's job or the function of a thing. It can be shown in the following examples:

- (14). A few years ago, I worked **as** a bus driver. (I really was a bus driver).
- (15). She uses the living room **as** her office. (It really is her office).

Prepositions have been called the biggest little word in English. They are usually quite short and significant looking, but they have very important functions. Prepositions are always followed by nouns (or pronouns) especially the preposition **as**. They are connective words that show the relationship between the nouns following them and one of the basic sentence elements: subject, verb, object, or complement.

The word **as** can be used as intensifier in a sentence. As an intensifier, the word **as** can be

used to make the meaning stronger. The word **as** as an intensifier functions as adowntoner.

- (16). He may have **as** good as done the assignment right now.(informal)
(17). They as good **as** broke the law.

The word **as** is also usually used in the past subjunctive mood which indicates fantasy or something unreal or impossible. It is usually by using **as if** or **as though**. After **as if/as though**, we sometimes use the past when we are talking about the present. For examples:

- (18). I don't like Norman. He talks **as if** he knew everything.
(19). My brother sometimes behaves **as if** he were my father.

When you use the past in this way, you can use **were** instead of was:

- (20). They treat me **as if** I were their own son. (I am not their son)
(21). Harry is only 50. Why do you talk about him **as if** he were an old man?

Based on the explanation above, the word **as** can give various meanings when it is used in various kinds of sentence. In the syntactic point of view, this word has an important position. It can be put into some parts of grammatical categories, such as conjunction to denote subordinating conjunction, preposition, and intensifier. The word **as** is commonly put in the initial position and in the middle position in a sentence, but the word **as** can never be used in the final position of a sentence.

2. Method of The Research

This research is based on the data obtained from references written by various outstanding linguists. Their explanation and analysis related to the topic has enriched the material required in this research. Thus, this is in accordance with Herbert (1990) which calls this kind of study a library research. The theory related to the classification of **as** is adopted from Quirk (1973 and 1985).

The data collection is conducted in several steps such as administering some sentences, checking and verifying the data with the

intuition of the writer herself and also with theories given by various linguists. However, most sentences given as examples are devoured from the writer's invention on the basis of her comprehension of the theory as well as her competence in English. Besides, discussions with some lecturers who know much about the topic have given more information required in accomplishing this research.

All sentences given in the examples are presented in the written form without their phonetic transcription. This research report is presented in the descriptive form which is qualitative in nature, and thus, the method applied in this study is following Herbert (1990) which is called descriptive research.

3. Discussion

This part discusses syntactic function of **as** in English.

1. As a Subordinator

Subordinator is a grammatical category which connects one dependent clause to one or more independent clauses. They create a complex sentence. A subordinator introduces a clause that depends on a main clause. The subordinator grammatically constitutes part of the dependent clause so that it usually initiates the dependent clause, and the position of the dependent clause itself may be before or after the main clause.

Subordinator is the most important formal device of subordination, particularly for finite clauses. Like preposition, which they resemble in having a relating function, subordinator forming the core of the class consists of a single word, but there is a large range of complex subordinator which functions to varying degrees. In addition, there is a small class of correlative subordinator, which combines two markers of subordinator, one being a subordinator.

As is a subordinator which may join together words or sentences. The subordinator **as** may be used to introduce various kinds of adverb clause such as: adverb clause of time, adverb clause of concession or supposition, adverb clause of comparison of degree, adverbs clause of comparison of manner, adverb clause of cause

or reason, adverb clause of condition, adverb clause of purpose, and adverb clause of result as described in the following.

1.1 To introduce Adverb Clause of Time

An adverb clause of time tells the time when the action described by the main verb takes place. It usually gives further information of the verb in the main clause or in the independent clause. An adverbial clause of time relates the time of the situation denoted in its clause to the time of the situation denoted in the independent clause. The time of the matrix clause may be previous to, subsequent to, or simultaneous with, the time of the adverbial clause.

The situation in the clauses may be viewed as occurring once or as recurring. Adverbial clauses of the time are adjuncts. Since they are commonly sentence adjuncts, they often appear initially and occasionally medially, sentence adjunct clauses are not dependent on the predication and are therefore more mobile.

The word **as** constitutes one of the commonest subordinators that is usually used to form adverb clause of time. Besides, some other combinations with **as** are also used to introduce this clause. The following are some phrases in which the subordinator **as** and its combinations are usually used to introduce adverb clause of time.

As, as soon as, as/so long as

As can be used:

- a. When the second action occurs before the first is finished.

- (1). **As** she left the classroom, she remembered her bag.
(2). Someone knocked at the door **as** I watched Tekevison in the living room.

- b. For two parallel actions which are usually done by the same subject, or one action is the result of the other.

- (3). She sang **as** she took a bath.
(4). **As** I saw him in the corner of the street, I called him loudly.

- c. To indicate during the time that, and it carries the same meaning as **while**.

- (5). **As** he stood in front of his office, he saw his girl friend enter the bar.

- (6). **As** she entered the class, she saw the lecturer give her friends the assignment.

As soon as means that one event happens, and another event happens soon afterwards. In other words, the second thing will happen immediately after the first thing happens.

- (7). **As soon as** he heard the news, he wrote to me.

- (8). **As soon as** I get the tickets, I will send it to you.

Based on the functions of **as** as a subordinator indicating time clause, it can be inferred that **as** is sometimes a synonym for **when**, **while** and **as soon as**.

- (9). **As/when/while** the examination approached, the students started to study.

- (10). **As/as soon as** I finished the assignment, I went to sleep.

As (so) Long as carries the meaning during all the time, from the beginning to the end. They are usually used as follows:

- a. If we say something is the case **as long as** or **so long as** something else is the case, we mean that it is only the case if the second thing is the case.

- (11). She cannot answer the questions **as/so long as** she does not study at home.

- (12). We were all right **as/so long as** we kept our heads down.

- b. If we say **as long as** or **so long as** something is the case, we are indicating that we shall only be satisfied if it is the case.

- (13). **As/so long as** your mother is not there, I will come to your house.

- (14). **As/so long as** it is another car, your brother will win the race.

- c. If something happens **as long as** or **so long as** something else happens. It means that it happens all the time that the second thing is happening or is the case.

- (15). You cannot turn the Television off **as/so long as** your parents are watching it.
- (16). **As/so long as** you are studying in the class, you may ask the lecturer about the difficult word.

d. To indicate that the first action is possible to occur if the second thing supports it, or is available.

(17). I will never go with your brother **as/so long as** he asks me for forgiveness.

(18). My brother will study at this faculty **as/so long as** my parents permit him.

Time clauses are used to say when something happens by referring to a period of time or to another event.

1.2 To introduce Adverb Clause of Concession or Supposition

Concessive clauses sometimes have unusual syntactic ordering when the subordinator is **as** or **though** or **although**. Concessive clauses indicate that the situation in the matrix clause is contrary to the expectation in the light of what is said in the concessive clause.

When the subordinator **as** introduces an adverb clause of concession or supposition, it carries the same meaning as **although** or **though**. It is usually used to mention that something which we accept is true but, nevertheless, does not affect the main thing we are saying.

A concessive clause introduced by the subordinator **as** is only possible to deal with when it is preceded by part of the predicate of the concessive clause. The parts of the predicate that may precede the subordinator **as** are predicate noun, predicate adjective, participle, adverb and verb.

a. Predicate Noun Precedes

- (19). Fool **as** she was, she knew how to make cake.
- (20). Girl **as** she was, she was chosen Miss Indonesia 2005.

b. Predicate Adjective Precedes

- (21). Patient **as** he was, he had no intention of waiting for more than three hours.

- (22). Foolish **as** she was, she could answer the questions.

c. Participle Precedes

- (23). Flattered **as** I was by her attention, I somehow knew that he was not the boy for me.
- (24). Badly damaged **as** it was, the ship managed to reach port.

d. Adverb Precedes

- (25). Rashly **as** she had behaved, she did not deserve the punishment he received.
- (26). Quickly **as** she studied, she could finish the assignment.

e. Verb Precedes

- (27). Detest him **as** we, we must admire what he has accomplished.
- (28). Change your mind **as** you will, you will gain no additional support.

1.3 To introduce Adverb Clause of Comparison of Degree

The action of the main verb, in this clause, is compared with that of the subordinate verb. The subordinator **as** can be used to indicate equal and multiple number comparisons.

a. Equal Comparison

An equal comparison indicates that two entities are (or are not if negative) exactly the same. The following rule generally applies to the equal comparison indicating degree of difference with adjective and adverb.

As + adj. / adv. + as
So + adj. / adv. + as

- (29). She is as beautiful as her mother.
- (30). She wanted someone to talk to as badly as I did.
- (31). The girl is not so/as diligent as you think.
- (32). The company has not grown so/as quickly as many of its rivals.

Based on the examples (31) and (32), they can be inferred that **so + adj./adv. + as** is used only in negative comparison while **as + adj./adv. + as** may be used both in positive and negative comparisons.

Comparison deals not only with adjective and adverb but also with noun. In other words, noun can also be used in comparison. The rules that usually apply to the comparison indicating degree of difference with noun are as follows:

the same + (noun) + as

(33). The girl speaks the same language as the boy.

(34). Mina buys the same T-shirt as her sister.

as + many/few + count noun + as

(35). My mother gives my brother ***as many candies-as*** my sister.

(36). Andi has a few opportunities to get good job ***as*** Dani.

as + much/little + uncount noun + as

(37). The girl sitting on the chair bought ***as much butter as*** my friend.

(38). Mr. Jumino gives the students ***as little homework as*** Mr. Purwarno.

Broadening our discussion of comparison, we take into account not only comparisons of nonequivalence (lack of equivalence on some scale) such as those expressed by more and less, but also comparisons based on other relationship. One such relationship is that of equivalence, expressed principally by the correlative ***as...as***.

The ***as...as*** construction is grammatically parallel the ***more...than*** construction, except that the ***as***-paradigm lacks the determinative, pronoun, and subjunct function of ***more***: these gaps are filled by ***as many*** (count) and ***as much*** (uncount). We can therefore parallel the functions of more substituting ***as many*** and ***as much*** where necessary:

- i. Determinative: Isabella has as many books as her brother (has).
- ii. Head of a noun phrase: as many of my friend are in Jakarta as (are) here.
- iii. Subjunct: I agree with you as much as (I agree with) Dedi.

iv. Modifier of a adjective head: The article was as objective as I expected (it would be).

v. Modifier of a premodifying adjective: It was as lively a discussion as we thought it would be.

vi. Modifier of an adverb: The time passed as quickly as (it passed) last year.

vii. Modifier of a premodifying adverb: I am as severely handicapped as you (are).

The reason for differenting (iv) and (vii) are the same as in the ***more...than*** construction. Contrast *I've never seen a dog as friendly as your cat* with the unacceptable **I've never seen as friendly a dog as your cat*.

(va). It was a discussion as lively as we thought it would be.

(viia). I am handicapped as severely as you (are).

There are parallel between a positive ***as...as*** sentence and negative ***more...than*** and ***less...than*** sentences:

a) Caesar was ***as*** ruthless ***as*** Atilla.

b) Atilla was not ***more*** ruthless ***than*** Caesar.

c) Caesar was not ***less*** ruthless ***than*** Atilla.

They are exactly synonymous, since (b) allows the possibility that Atilla was less ruthless and (c) that he was more ruthless. Similar parallels exist between a negative ***as...as*** sentence and positive ***more...than*** and ***less...than*** sentences, but negative ***as...as*** sentences (e.g.: *Caesar was not as ruthless as Atilla*) encourages the interpretation of ***more...than***, though a heavy stress on the first ***as*** allows the interpretation of ***more...than*** (e.g.: *Caesar was not as ruthless as Atilla; indeed, he was more ruthless*).

Based on the description, it can be said that count ***as many (...)*** ***as*** and uncount ***as much (...)*** ***as*** are equivalence to ***more (...)*** ***than***. In addition, ***as...as*** is used like ***more...than*** and ***less...than*** in a nonclausal comparison containing an explicit standard of comparison after the second ***as***.

b. Multiple Number Comparative

The subordinator ***as***, when used to introduce multiple number comparative is combined with the number multiples such *as half, twice, there times, etc.* the rules which generally apply to this type of comparison are:

Number multiple+ as+ much/many+(noun)+as

- (39). I paid **as much the meal as** they did.
(40). We got three times **as many people as** we expected.

Number multiple +as+adj./adv.+ (noun)+as

- (41). Even though he looks very young, he is twice **as old as my twenty-five-year-old sister**.
(42). She is not half **as diligent as** you think she is.

1.4 To introduce Adverb Clause of Comparison of Manner

Adverb clause of comparison of manner describes the manner of the action of the principal verb. The subordinator **as** and its combinations that usually apply to this type of clause are:

As, as if, as though, just as, much as

As is used if we simply want to talk about someone's behavior or the way something is done.

- (43). I don't understand why he behaves **as** he does.
(44). She does the assignment **as** I expected.

As if and **as though** are usually when we sometimes want to say that something is done in the way that it would be done if something were the case. We use a past tense in adverb clause of manner.

- (45). Presidents cannot dispose of comparison **as if** people did not exist.
(46). She treats him **as though** he was her own son.

As if and **as though** are also usually after linking verbs such as **feel** or **look**. We do this when we are comparing someone's feelings or appearance to the feelings or appearance they would have if something were the case.

- (47). He feels **as if** he has a headache.
(48). The girl looks **as if** she has finished the assignment.

Just as is used if we want to make a strong comparison as the following examples:

- (49). We will buy the house **just as** it is.
(50). I will take the course **just as** it is.

Much as is used if we want to make a fairly weak comparison as the following examples:

- (51). They are endeavouring to disguise this fact **much as** Jasper Johns did in the late 1950s.
(52). She has to be able to solve this problem **much as** her sister did in the previous year.

1.5 To introduce Adverb Clause of Cause or Reason

We subsume under clauses of reason or cause several types of subordinate clauses that convey basic similarities of relationship to their matrix clauses. For all types there is generally a temporal sequence such that the situation in the subordinator clause precedes in time that of the matrix clause.

An adverb clause of cause or reason answers the question **why?**. Besides, it may also add a remark which gives us a reason for stating a fact or opinion, after we have stated it. The subordinator **as** and its combinations generally used to introduce adverb clause of cause or reason are:

as, as/ so long as

As and **as/so long as** are used when the reason is already well-known, or is less important than the rest of the sentence, and they often begin the sentence. They carry the same meaning as **since**, and not as **because** which is generally used when the reason is the most important part of the sentence.

Reason clauses are most commonly introduced by the subordinators **because** (also cause) and **since**. Another subordinator is **as** which is used in the adverb clause of cause or reason replacing the meaning of **because** and **since** as it is shown in the following examples:

- (53). **As** I was feeling tired, I went to bed early.
(54). **As/so long as** his mother was not there, I come to his house.

Adverb clause of cause or reason introduced by the subordinator *as* can be preceded by the part of the predicate as shown in the following examples:

- (55). Knowing him *as* I do, I can tell you that he will never pay you the money he owes.
(56). Smart *as* she was, she has an ability to speak English well.

1.6 To introduce Adverb Clause of Condition

As/so long as can be used to introduce an adverb clause of condition which is used to replace the subordinator *if* in a sentence. *As long as* and *so long as* are subordinators to indicate adverb clause of condition which may be preceded by *just*. It can be shown in the following examples:

- (57). The girl was perfectly content *just as/so long as* she could stay home and take care of the house.
(58). *As/so long as* the lecturer of composition did not come into the classroom, the students went home.

As long as and *so long as* may imply condition ('provided that') as well as time:

- (59). I am happy *as/so long as* my friend are.
(60). She is sad *as/so long as* her husband is.

1.7 To introduce Adverb Clause of Purpose

Adverb clause of purpose is introduced by the subordinator *so as to* as shown in the following examples:

- (61). Students should take notes *so as to* make revision easier.
(62). The police explained the case *so as to* cause no confusion.

Adverb clause of purpose is also introduced by the subordinator *so as not to* to express negative purpose in the infinitive clause. It can be shown in the following examples:

- (63). My brother asks me to turn the volume of Television down *so as not to* wake his baby.
(64). *So as not to* cause offence, many of mourners stood at the back of the church.

1.8 To introduce Adverb Clause of Result

Adverb clause of result may be introduced by the subordinator *as a result* which is used to introduce the result of something as shown in the following examples:

- (65). It was raining and *as a result* we did not go out.
(66). The banks were closed and *as a result* we could not get any money.

Based on the above description, it can be said that the word *as* may function as a subordinator to construct various kinds of adverb clause in sentence.

2. As a Preposition

Preposition is a useful little word and a significant parts of speech in English besides noun, adjective, pronoun, verb, adverb, conjunction, and interjection. It has the function of connecting a noun or a pronoun to some other words. Wren and Martin (1990) define that "a preposition is a word placed before a noun or a pronoun to show in what relation the person or thing denoted by it stands in regard to something else."

The noun or pronoun which is used with a preposition is called its object. It is in the accusative case and is said to be governed by the preposition. A preposition is usually placed before its object, but sometimes it follows it.

In the most general term, a preposition expresses a relation between two entities, one being that represented by the prepositional complement, the other by another part of the sentence. The prepositional complement is characteristically a noun phrase or an nominal Wh-clause. Preposition has a relating or connecting function. In other words, preposition introduces complements which are nominal or nominalized. It is commonly called nominalization. Nominalization is any expression or form that shows a noun function and it has no concern with the numeral cases as 1,2,3, or a,b,c. the types of nominalizations that are always found in sentence structure formations refer to noun phrase and noun clause.

The function of the word *as* can be generally used a preposition which connect or relates one

word to another. The word *as* is sometimes used instead of *like* even as a preposition where a useful distinction should be kept between them, as in:

(67). He spoke *as* a leader of mankind.

[= in the capacity of]

(68). He spoke *like* a leader of mankind.

[=in the manner of]

The use of *like* instead of *as* is widely criticized in informal style. But, the use of *as* is commonly in formal style. The word *as* can be included into a simple preposition because the form of this preposition consists of a single word and one syllable. The word *as*, in formal English, as a preposition is followed by an objective pronoun as the prepositional complement.

The preposition *as* has the function of connecting noun or pronoun to another word, usually a noun, a verb or an adjective. In English, the preposition *as* is normally placed before a noun or pronoun. The preposition *as* may also be placed right after the verb as shown in the following examples:

(69). My sister danced *as* a dancer on the stage.

(70). The handsome boy fought *as* a boxer.

3. As an Intensifier

Intensifier is firstly by Quirk et.al. (1973), not much in other grammar books. Intensifier is a word used to emphasize an adjective or an adverb. Intensifier has a heightening or lowering effect on some units in the sentence. It is usually used to modify an adjective, an adverb or a verb. But in this research, the writer only discusses the word *as* as an intensifier which is usually used to modify adjectives and adverbs.

One of the functions of intensifier is as a downtoner. Downtoner has a lowering effect on the force of the verb or predication and many of them apply to gradable verbs. The intensifier *as* can be included into downtoner especially in an approximator. Approximators serve to express an approximation to the force of the verb, indicating that the verb concerned expresses more than is relevant. Approximators differ from most other downtoners in that they imply a denial of the truth-value of what is

denoted by the verb as shown in the following examples:

(71). They *as good as* ruined the school.

(72). She may have *as good as* finished the painting by now. (informal)

From the above examples, the intensifier *as* functions to emphasize the word between *as...as* to become stronger in meaning. Based on the description before, It can be said that the word *as* which functions as an intensifier is used to emphasize the meaning of an adjective stronger in meaning.

4. In a Subjunctive Mood

Mood is the state of one's feelings or mind at a particular time. Subjunctive mood is the state of one's feeling that is often used to express wishes, uncertainty, possibility, or condition.

Various sentences containing each of the forms of the subjunctive mood will be given and analysed as in the following sub-chapters. However, the word *as* can only be used in the past subjunctive mood which is used to indicate unreality or improbability.

The past subjunctive mood or the were-subjunctive carries a hypothetical or unreal meaning, in adverbial clauses introduced by such conjunctions *as if* and *as though*. This subjunctive is limited to the one form *were*, and thus breaks the concord rule of the indicative verb **BE** in the 1st and 3rd person singular of the past tense, but other verbs make use of past forms.

The past subjunctive form is used if the speaker is more doubtful about the statement. Besides, it commonly indicates something unreal or contrary to fact and thus are very similar in form to unreal conditional sentences. Therefore, the verb in the past subjunctive must be in the past tense or past perfect. The past tense form of *be*, in the contrary to the fact statement, must be *were* and never *was*.

The past subjunctive is used after *as if/as though* to indicate unreality or improbability, as shown in the following examples:

(73). He orders me about *as if* I were his wife.
(but I am not his wife)

- (74). He walks **as though** he were drunk. (but he is not drink)
- (75). She acts **as if** she were an artist. (but she is not an artist)
- (76). The girls teaches **as if** she were a teacher. (but she is not a teacher)

- **Rules of Past Sbjunctive Mood**

Past subjunctive mood is formed with some basic rules as follows:

- **As if or as though + Subject + Past Verb**

- (77). He asks me to do everthing **as if** I were his mife.
- (78). He believes **as if** he owened the place.
- (79). She cries **as if** she were guilty.
- (80). She tries to cross the river **as if** she could swim.
- (81). They play guitar **as if** they were professional musicians.

Based on the above description, it can be said that the word **as** in the phrases **as if** and **as though** is used in the past subjunctive to

indicate something unreal or contrary to the fact.

4. Conclusion

The word **as** is one of the grammatical aspects which is endlessly studied. It may function as a subordinator to introduce complex sentences indicating adverb clauses such as adverb clause of time, adverb clause of concession or supposition, adverb clause of comparison of degree, adverb clause of comparison of manner, adverb clause of cause or reason, adverb clause of condition, adverb clause purpose, and adverb clause of result, as a preposition, as an intensifier and it may also be used in subjunctive mood. Since this research is only a brief discussion; therefore, some other grammatical aspects concerning this topic can still be attempted. However, it is hoped that this brief scientific work may be of some use for English learners as well as English users, particularly for those who are interested in attempting researchers concerning grammatical aspects.

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