Before making a general survey of Old English conjunctions, the problems involving the definition of the term "conjunction" must first be addressed.

Basing his definition on the etymology of the word, G.O. Curme states, "A conjunction is a word that joins together sentences or parts of a sentence."1) Grammarians interpret this vague definition differently when classifying words under the label "conjunction." The most conspicuous discrepancy in this respect among traditional grammarians is seen in their handling some of what are called "conjunctive adverbs,"2) "secondary conjunctions,"3) and "correlative conjunctions."4) E. Kruisinga remarks, "A rigid classification of words as conjunctions, distinct from other parts of speech, is evidently impossible."5)

This is especially the case when defining and classifying Old English conjunctions. Indeed in English, it is not an easy task to distinguish words which are to be labelled as "conjunction" from other parts of speech which also work to connect clauses or parts of a sentence semantically. One reason for this difficulty lies in its transitional state of syntactic change in the Old English period; namely, the shift from paratactic construction to hypotactic one as seen in the following description by G.O. Curme.

In Old English, we often find in the subordinate clause instead of where the form there: 'Wuna þær þe leofost ys' (Genesis, XX, 15) = 'Dwell where it is most pleasant to thee,' literally, 'Dwell there: it is most pleasant to thee.' The there was originally a determinative, pointing to the following explanatory remark, later gradually becoming closely associated with it, forming with it a subordinate
clause of place and serving as its connective, binding it to the principal proposition and thus becoming a relative conjunction.\(^7\)

Syntactic changes like the example above serve to complicate the classification task. Besides this, the correlative use of conjunctions were very common in Old English. These correlative also make the distinction between conjunction and adverb difficult. Moreover, as in Modern English, a good many of the Old English conjunctions are formally identical with adverbs or prepositions, and smaller number of them with nouns or verbs. S.O. Andrew addresses this as follows.

Words like ða, ær, nu are ambiguous in their written form: each one of them is really a homograph and represents two different parts of speech, an adverb and a conjunction which must always have been distinguished in the spoken language as stressed and unstressed.\(^7\)

Without records of the spoken language, these correlatives continue to fluster the grammarian. Because of these peculiarities pertaining to Old English conjunctions and for practical purposes, words or group of words whose functions are equivalent to the ‘pure’ conjunctions of Old English in the category of ‘conjunction-equivalents’ have been included.

1.1. Old English Coordinate Conjunctions

The common coordinate conjunctions in Old English are *ond, oppe* and *ac*, but some correlative words and phrases also function coordinately. Many of the words which belong to this group can also be used in some other functions, mostly as adverbs or as prepositions, or as both. As mentioned before, it is not always possible to distinguish between adverb and conjunction, therefore words that have both functions as coordinate conjunctions have been included in this survey. The connective character of these adverbs and prepositions becomes much clearer when an uninflected particle *pe* is added after them. In addition, the similarity bet-
ween conjunctions and prepositions is notably greater than that between conjunctions and adverbs.

Coordinate conjunctions and their equivalents have been classified into four groups after the traditional manner, citing sentence examples from *Beowulf* wherever possible, and if the right example is not found in *Beowulf* from other Old English prose works or poetry.

1.1.1. Copulative Coordinate Conjunctions

*ond*: Hafa nu *ond* geheald husa selest,\(^8\)

\((658\ a-b)\)

=Hold now *and* guard the best of the houses,\(^9\)

*aegper...ond*: Me is *pet* hearma mæst: he *wæs* aegðer min mæg

*ond* min hlaðord. (The Battle of Maldon 223b-224a)

=It is the greatest of griefs to me: he was *both* my kinsman *and* my lord.

*aegðer ge...ge*: *Ægðer ge* hades, *ge* eðels polige,

(SECULAR LAWS OF KING Cnut L.C.S. 41)

=let him forfeit *both* degree *and* counter,

*ge*: ond nu oþer cwom

mihhtig manscæða, wolde hyre mæg wrecan,

*ge* feor hafað fæhðe gestælæd, (1338b-1340b)

=now the other has come, a mighty worker of wrong, would avenge her kinsman, *and* has carried far her revenge,

*ge...ge*: Ic па leode wit

*ge* wið feond *ge* wið freond fæste geworhte,

æghwæs uñtelæ hælde wisan. (1863b-1865b)

=I know your people, blameless in every respect, set firm after the old way *both* as to foe *and* to friend.

*samod...ond*: Niht *samod* *ond* dæg

(Bosworth-Toller)\(^10\)

=both night *and* day

*ne...ne*: *ne* leof *ne* lað (511a)

=friend *nor* enemy

*ne...ne...ne*: Ic hit þe gehate: *ne* he on helm losap
Besides the conjunction equivalents in Old English of adverbs — in paratactic constructions they might be considered to function as coordinate conjunctions.

Coordinate Conjunction-Equivalents: *eac* (also), *eac swelc* (as also), *swelc eac* (as also), *furpum* (also, even)

1.1.2. Alternative Coordinate Conjunctions

**oppe:**

ic pæt þonne forhicge, swa me Higelac sie,
min mondrihten, modes bliðe,
pæt ic sweord bere *opðe* sidne scyld,

(435a-437b)

=Therefore, so that my liege lord Hygelac may be glad of me in his heart, I scorn to bear sword or broad shield,

Ic pæt hogode, þa ic on holm gestah,
sæbat gesæt mid minra secga gedriht,
pæt ic anunga eowra leoda

willan geworhte, *opðe* on wæl crunge,
feondgrapum fæst. (633a-636a)

=I resolved, when I set out on the sea, sat down in the sea-boat with my band of men, that I should altogether fulfill the will of your people or else fall in slaughter, fast in the foe's grasp.

**swa...swa:**

Sie ðæt on cyninges dome *swa* deað

*swa* lif swa he him forgifan wille,

(Bosworth-Toller)

=be it in the judgement of the king, *as* well death *as* life,
as he will grant him,

**pe...pe:**

Hwyder he gelæded sy, *pe* to wite, *pe* to wuldr
whether he would be guided into torture or into glory,

1.1.3. **Adversative Coordinate Conjunctions**

**ac:**
ne gefeh he þære fæhðe,  *ac* he hine feor forwæc,
Metod for þy manc mancynne fram.
(109a-110b)

=(Cain) has no pleasure in that feud, *but* He banished him far from mankind, the Ruler, for that misdeed,

_Ac_ nearly always follows a negative clause, the adversative function appears with varying degrees of logical strictness; occasionally it shades off into the connective-adversative type (almost = and) as seen in the following example.\(^{11}\)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{þæt him hildegrap} & \quad \text{hrepere ne mihten,} \\
\text{eorres inwiffeng} & \quad \text{aldre gesceþan,} \\
\text{ac se hwita helm} & \quad \text{hafelan were,} \\
\end{align*}
\]
(1446a-1448b)

=so that foe’s grip might not harm his heart, or grasp of angry enemy his life, _but_ (= and) the bright helmet guarded his head,

Adversative Coordinate Conjunction-Equivalents:

_furpum_ (also, even) _huru_ (however, indeed), _hwæpere_ (however, yet), _swa peah_ (however, yet), _peah_ (however, yet), _peah hwæpere_ (however, yet).

1.1.4. **Causal Coordinate Conjunctions**

An Old English preposition _for_ governs the dative or instrumental dative case and _for_ is quite often used with an oblique case of _þæt_. Then this combination of words serves a conjunctional force functioning as a prepositional conjunction. There are several variations of this type: _for pam, for pan, for þæm, for pon, for þy, for þi_, etc.

These groups of words are sometimes written together like _for pon_. According to Bruce Mitchell, “these conjunctions probably grew out of an originally adverbial use of a prepositional phrase such as occurs in ‘ond _for pon ic ðe bebiode þæt ðu...’_(= and for that I command you that you...)

[131]
and in 'for pan wearō her on felda folc totwæmed...' (=because of that the army here in the field was divided...)

When an indeclinable particle pe is added to one of these phrases, it clearly displays the conjunctive character. If it is translated into because, it is classified as a causal subordinate conjunction and treated later.

\[\text{forpon pe:} \quad \text{wæs him Beowulfes sið,}\]
\[\text{modges merefaren,} \quad \text{micel æfpunca,}\]
\[\text{forpon pe he ne upe,} \quad \text{pæt senig oðer man}\]
\[\text{æfre mærdā pon ma} \quad \text{middangeardes}\]
\[\text{gehede under heofenum} \quad \text{ponne he sylfa—:}\]
\[\text{(501b-505b)}\]

=to him was Beowulf's undertaking, the brave seafarer, a great vexation, for he would not allow that any other man of middle-earth should ever achieve more glory under the heavens than himself.

Causal Coordinate Conjunction-Equivalents: *huru* (however, yet), *hweæ pere* (however), *swa peah, swa peah hweæpere, peah, peah hweæpere, ponne* (however).

1.2. Old English Subordinate Conjunctions

In order to express the logical relationship between clauses clearly, various subordinate conjunctions are employed in Old English as they are in Modern English. One of the remarkable features of Old English subordinate conjunctions lies in the frequent use of correlative such as ær...ær, *nu...nu, siþpan...siþpan, swa...swa, panon...panon, þæs...þæs, þæt...þæt, þær...þær, þæah... þæah, þider... þider, ponne...ponne, py...by, and so on.

These correlative conjunctions show the early stage of hypotactic construction. In other words, the state of parataxis is marked in Old English by the correlative use of the same particles. Originally most of the elements of these correlative subordinate conjunctions were demonstrative pronouns or adverbs; and such being the case, two clauses could be taken as parataxis. Even the most frequent and versatile subordinate conjunction *that* in Modern English has its origin in paratactic construction.
in Old English as seen in the following example.

and eac we magon oncnawan ðæt, ðæt ða earman and ða untruman sint to retanne, (Pastoral Care 180-19)

= and we can also understand that the poor and weak are to be cheered,\(^{13}\)

In Old English the 'pure' subordinate conjunctions which are use only as conjunctions are very few what are called primary conjunctions such as *gif* and *peah*. In what follows, conjunctions and their equivalents are classified in two groups: (1) subordinate conjunctions introducing noun clauses and (2) subordinate conjunctions introducing adverb clauses.

1.2.1. Subordinate Conjunctions Introducing Noun Clauses

Kinds: *pæt, pætte (= pæt pe), gif*

*pæt*: (As Subject)

Him on mod bearn,

*pæt* healreced

hatan wolde,

medocærn micel

men gewyrcean

þon[n]e yldo bearn

æfre gefrunon,

(67b-70b)

= It came to his mind *that* he would command men to construct a hall, a mead-building larger than the children of men had ever heard of,

(As Direct Object)

Swa sceal (geong g) uma gode gewyrcean,

fromum feohgiftum on fæder (bea)rme,

*pæt* hine on ylde eft gewunigen

wilgesîpas,

(20a-23a)

= In this way a young man ought by his good deeds, by giving splendid gifts while still in his father's house, to make sure that later in life beloved companions will stand by him,

In the example above there is no introductory word in the main clause but one sometimes appears in the main clause as follows:

Ic *pæt* gehyre, *pæt* pis is hold weorod

frean Scyldinga,

(290a-291a)
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=I understand this; that here is a troop friendly to the Scylding's king.

In the next example an indirect object is in the main clause and a direct object clause is introduced by *paet*.

_Eow het secgan_ sigurehten min,

aldor East-Dena, *paet he eower æpelu can,*

(391a-392b)

=The lord of the East-Danes, my victorious prince, has

bidden (me) say _to you that_ he knows your noble ancestry,

(As Subject Complement)

Wæs þeaw hyra,

*paet* hie oft næron    an wig gearwe,

(1246b-1247b)

**It was their custom that they were always ready for war,*

*paette:* As is known, *paette* was formed by *paet* plus _pe_ by assimilating the _p_ in _pe_ into _t_ of _paet_. Below are some sentence examples in which _paette_ is used as a subordinate conjunction introducing a noun clause.

(As Subject)

_forðam [secgum] wearð,*

ylda bearnum  undyrne cuð

gyddum geomore,  _paette_ Grendel wan

hwile wið Hrothgar,  (149b-151a)

**it became well-known to [the men] and to the children of men, through

mournful lays, _that_ Grendel had fought a long time with Hrothgar,

ic wene _ðætte_ noht monige begiondan Humbre næren

(Bruce Mitchell, p.68)

=I believe _that_ there were not many beyond the Humber

(As Appositive)

_Ne bið swylæ swenlic þeaw*

idese to efnanne, þeah ðe hio ænlicu sy,

*paette* freoðuwebbe  feoreas onsece

æfter ligetorne  leofne mannan

(1940b-1943b)

=Such is no queenly custom for a woman to practice,
though she is peerless— *that* one who weaves peace should take away the life of a beloved man after pretended injury.

Examples of subject complement and adjectival complement were not found in this survey of limited Old English materials.

gif: (=gief, gyf, gef)

This subordinate conjunction introduces only object clauses.

(As Direct Object)

\[ 
\text{gief} \text{ him waren} \\
\text{after neodlaðu[m]} \text{ niet getæse.} \\
\text{(1319b-1320b)}
\]

= asked *if* the night had been pleasant according to his desires.

1.2.2. Subordinate Conjunctions Introducing Adverb Clauses

Following convention, subordinate conjunctions introducing adverb clauses have been divided into seven groups: (1) place (2) time (3) purpose or result (4) cause or reason (5) comparison (6) concession (7) condition.

(1) **Place**

Kinds: *pær, pider, panon, swa hwær swa, swa hwider swa, swa wide swa*, etc.

The most typical conjunction introducing an adverb clause is *pær*, which was used for *there* or *where* in Old English. *pær* was employed originally as demonstrative adverb to indicate the explanatory sentence which followed it. Then this *pær* came to be considered a part of the latter of two sentences placed in parallel. So the sentence structure with *pær* between two sentences shows parataxis as seen above.

*pær*: This conjunction can be used alone, doubled, or even correlative, and it has demonstrative and relative force as Modern English *where* or *whither*.

\[ 
\text{gæ pær he wille!} \\
\text{(139b)}
\]

= go where he will!

God gefilde mid flæsce *pær pær ðæt ribb wæs.*

\[ 
\text{(Genesis 2-21)}
\]

= God took (it) through the flesh *where* the rib was.
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\[ \text{pær pin goldhold \(=\) your treasure is, pær is pin heorte.} \]

(Matthew vi-21)

\[ \text{pider: pider was also originally an adverb. It is sometimes followed by pe} \]

in order to make the conjunctive force clearer.

\[ \text{Far pu pider pe wille (Bruce Mitchell, p. 92)} \]

\[ \text{= Go wherever you wish} \]

\[ \text{swa hwider swa:} \]

\[ \text{Far pu nu swa hwider swa pu wille (Bruce Mitchell, p. 92)} \]

\[ \text{= Go now wherever you wish} \]

\[ \text{swa hwær swa:} \]

\[ \text{Swa hwær swa he on wic oððe on tunas eode,} \]

(Bosworth-Toller)

\[ \text{= Wherever he went in the village or in the towns,} \]

In Old English \(\text{hwær} \) in addition to \(\text{pær} \) was already used as a relative conjunction which introduces an indirect interrogative statement.

\[ \text{hwær: ða fægn wuldres aldor Cain hwær Abel eorpan wære,} \]

(Genesis 1003)

\[ \text{= the Prince of glory asked Cain where on earth Abel was,} \]

Equivalents: \(\text{panon, swa, wide swa,} \) and some other place-adverbs can also used conjunctively.

(2) Time

Kinds: \(\text{pa, ponne, mid pam(pe), pa hwille (pe), penden, siþpan, pæs (pe), ær, oð, oð pe, oð pæt, hwonne, swa lange swa, etc.} \)

\[ \text{pa:} \]

\[ \text{heard hondlocen} \]

\[ \text{heard hondlocen} \]

\[ \text{hringiren scir} \]

\[ \text{song in searwum,} \]

\[ \text{pa hie to sele furðum} \]

\[ \text{in hyra gryregeatum} \]

\[ \text{gangan cwomon.} \]

(321b-324b)

\[ \text{= War-corset shone, hard and hand-wrought, bright iron} \]

\[ \text{rings sang on their armour when they first came walking to} \]

\[ \text{the hall in their grim gear.} \]

\[ \text{pa} \) often appears with another \(\text{pa} \) correlative as in the following example, showing a paratactic construction.} \]
\(\textit{pa se cyng pæt hierde, pa wende he hine west.}\)

(Bruce Mitchell, p.60)

\(= \text{When the king heard that, then he turned west.}\)

Sometimes \(pa\) form is doubled.

\(\textit{ða pa scipu gearwe wæron} \) (R. Quirk and C.L. Wrenn, p99)\(^{14}\)

\(= \text{when the ships were ready}\)

When one of two correlative \(pa\) clauses has the word-order V.S., it must be the principal clause and \(pa\) must mean \textit{then}. Mitchell says that "the temporal clause introduced by \(pa\) may have the order S.V.\(^{15}\)

\(\text{ponne:} \)

\(\text{Wyrd oft nereð}
\text{unfægne eorl,} \quad \text{ponne his ellen deah}
\)

\(= \text{Fate often saves an undoomed man when his courage is good.}\)

\(\text{ponne...ponne:} \)

\(\textit{ponne wæs þeos medoheal} \quad \textit{on morgentid,}
\textit{drihtsele dreorfah,} \quad \textit{ponne dæg lixte,}
\)

\(= \text{Then in the morning this meadhall was a hall shining with blood, when the day lightened,}\)

Mitchell gives us a very clear explanation as to the difference of the uses between \(pa\) and \(ponne\) as follows.

"\(pa\) is used only of a single completed act in the past and \(ponne\) is frequentative \textit{whenever.}\)"\(^{16}\)

\(\text{mid pam pe:} \)

\(\textit{Mid ðam ðe he hig geseah ða efste he,}
\)

\(= \text{When he saw them, he then hurried.}\)

\(\text{pa...ærest:} \)

\(\textit{pa pæt Offan mæg ærest onfunde,}
\textit{pæt se eorl nolde yrhðo gepolian,}
\textit{he let him \(pa\) of handum leofne fleogan}
\textit{hafoc wip pæs holtes,} \) (The Battle of Maldon, 5-8a)

\(= \text{As soon as the kinsman of Offa discovered this, that the}\)
earl would not tolerate slackness, he let his beloved falcon fly from his hands toward the wood,

\textit{penden:}

\begin{align*}
\text{hu him æt æte speow,} \\
\text{wæl reafode.} \\
\text{(3026b-3027b)}
\end{align*}

\(\text{=how he fared at the feast} \textit{when} \text{with the wolf he spoiled the slain bodies.}\)

\textit{sidðan:}

\begin{align*}
\text{Nalles holinga} & \quad \text{Hoces dohtor} \\
\text{meotodsceaf} & \quad \text{syppðan morgen com,} \\
\text{(1076a-1077b)} & \\
\text{=Not without cause did Hoc's daughter lament the decree} \\
\text{of destiny} \textit{when} \text{morning came,}\n\end{align*}

\textit{pæs(\textit{pe})}: \quad \begin{align*}
\text{pæt wæs ymb twelf monap pæs ðe he ær hider comon,} & \quad \text{(Bosworth-Toller)} \\
\text{=It was about twelve months} \textit{since} \text{they had come here first,}\n\end{align*}

\textit{ær}: \quad \begin{align*}
\text{gebåd wintra worn,} & \quad \text{ær he on weg hwurfe,} \\
\text{(264a-b)} & \\
\text{=(he) lived many winters} \textit{before} \text{he went on his way,}\n\end{align*}

Besides \textit{ær}, its prepositional phrase \textit{ær pam pe} was sometimes used as a conjunction meaning \textit{before} or \textit{until}.

\textit{ær pam pe:}

\begin{align*}
\text{Ic wæs ær pam pe Abraham wæs.} \\
\text{(\textit{West-Saxon Gospel According To St. John 8:58})} \\
\text{=I existed} \textit{before} \text{Abraham was born.}\n\end{align*}

\textit{oð:}

\begin{align*}
\text{[Gif] ic wylle pæt he wunige ðus oð ic cumme, hwæt to pe?} & \quad \text{(\textit{West-Saxon Gospel According To St. John 21:22})} \\
\text{=If it should be my will that he wait} \textit{until} \text{I come, what is it to you?}\n\end{align*}

\textit{oð pæt:}

\begin{align*}
\text{Swa ða drihtguman} & \quad \text{dreamum lifdon,} \\
\text{eadiglice} & \quad \text{oð ðæt an ongan}\n\end{align*}
fyrene fre(m) man feond on helle;
(99a-101b)

=Thus these warriors lived in joy, blessed, until one began
to do evil deeds, a hellish enemy;

hwonne: (hwanne, hwænne, hwanon)
Hit earfope is ænegum menn to witanne hwonne he geclænsod,
(Bosworth-Toller)

=It is difficult for any man to know when he is cleansed,

pe:

hrof ana genæs

calles ansund, pe se aglæca
fyrendædum fag on fleam gewand
(999b-1001b)

=the roof alone came through unharmed when the monster,
outlawed for his crimes, tuned in fight,

Various time-adverbs are intervened between swa and swa and they
are used as adverbial conjunctions to introduce clauses of time.
Equivalents: swa lange swa (as long as)
swa hrape swa (as quickly as)
swa oft swa (as often as)
sona swa (as soon as)

(3) Purpose and Result
As Mitchell states,\textsuperscript{17} "a result is often a fulfilled purpose and a purpose
is a yet-to-be-completed result; these two have much in common." For
this reason, this category include both conjunctions introducing purpose
clauses and result clauses.

Kinds: (Purpose) (Result)
\textit{pæt} \textit{pæt}
\textit{pætte} \textit{pætte}
swa \textit{pæt} swa \textit{pæt}
swa...\textit{pæt} swa...\textit{pæt}
\textit{py leas (pe)} to \textit{pæs...pæt}

\textit{pæt}: (purpose)

Ic sceal forð sprecan

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gen ymbe Grendel,  

*paet* ðu geare cunne,  

(2069b-2070b)

= I shall speak still more of Grendel, *that* you may readily know,

It is generally agreed that purpose clauses take the subjunctive.\(^{18}\) On the other hand, as seen in the next example, result clauses take the indicative.

*paet*: (result)

\[ \begin{align*}  
\text{Pa wæs Hroðgare} & \quad \text{heresped gyfen,} \\
\text{wiges weorðmynd,} & \quad \text{*paet* him his winemagas} \\
\text{georne hyrdon,} & \quad (64a-66a) 
\end{align*} \]

= Then Hrothgar was given success in warfare, glory in battle, *so that* his retainers gladly obeyed him.

*paet*: (purpose)

\[ \begin{align*}  
\text{Beforan ðæm temple stod ðæren ceac, *paet* menn} \\
\text{meahten hira ðowean,} & \quad \text{(Bosworth-Toller)} 
\end{align*} \]

= Before the shrine stood the basin, *so that* men could cleanse their hands,

*paet*: (result)

\[ \begin{align*}  
\text{Woldon hie feorhlean facne gyldan *paet* he} \\
\text{dægweorc dreore geþohte,} & \quad \text{(Bosworth-Toller)} 
\end{align*} \]

= They wanted to gild revenge for bloodshed by deceit, *so that* he should pay for that deed with blood,

*swa*:

\[ \begin{align*}  
\text{Swa manlice} & \quad \text{mære þeoden,} \\
\text{hordweard hælepá} & \quad \text{heæporæsas geald} \\
\text{mearum ond madmum, *swa* hy næfre man lyhð,} & \quad \text{se þe secgan wile soð æfter rihte.} \\
\end{align*} \]

(1046a-1049b)

= So generously the famous prince, guardian of the hoard, repaid the warrior’s battle-deeds with horses and treasure *that* no man will ever find fault with them— not he that will speak truth according to what is right.

*swa paet*: (result)

\[ \begin{align*}  
\text{*Swa paet* he hreas...on corðan,} & \quad \text{(140)} 
\end{align*} \]
so that he fell to the ground,

swa...paet: (result)

ic wille paet hi hit hældan swa kynelice...paet paer ne be numen of na gelt,

= I want (this) that they may possess it so royally that there be no payment taken from it,

peas...paet: (purpose)

Gewunige he fæstende, paet he wite paet seo mæsse
sy gesungen,

= let him continue his fast so that he may know the mass has been sung,

to peas...paet: (result)

Forpon nis peas modwlone mon ofer eorpan,
ne his gifena peas god, ne in geogupe to peas hwæt,
ne in his dædum to peas deor, ne him his dryhten to peas hold,

paet he a his sæfore sorge næbbe,
to hwon hine Dryhten gedon wille. (The Seafarer 39a-43b)

= Truly there is no man on earth so proud of heart, no so generous of his gifts, nor so vigorous in youth, nor so brave in his deeds, nor with a lord so gracious to him, that he has not always anxiety on his seafaring.

py læs (pe): (purpose)

sælde to sande sidfærne scip
oncerbendum fæst, py læs hym ypa ðrym
wudu wynsuman forwrecan meahte.

(1917a-1919b)

=(Beowulf) moored the deep ship in the sand, fast by its anchor ropes, lest the force of the waves should drive away the fair wooden vessel.

pa: (result)

ofor swanræde secean wolde,
mærne peoden, pa him wæs manna þearf.
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(199b-201b)

said he would seek the war-king over the swan’s road, famous prince, since he had need of men.

(4) Cause

Causal clauses are introduced mainly by *nu*, *pæs* (*pe*), and various word groups headed by *for*, but sometimes introduced by *pe*, *py pe*, *swelc*, etc.

Kinds: *nu*, *pæs* (*pe*), *pe*, *py pe*, *py*, *swelc* (*swilce*, *swylce*)

**nu:**

\[ \text{nu ic pus feorran com,} \]

\[ \text{pæt ic mote ana [ond] minra eorla gedryht,} \]

\[ \text{pes hearda heap, Heorot fælsian.} \]

\[ \text{=now that I have come so far, that alone with my company of earls, this band of hardy men, I may cleanse Heorot.} \]

**pæs** (*pe*):

\[ \text{— pone cwealm gewræc} \]

\[ \text{ece Drihten, pæs pe he Abel slog;} \]

\[ \text{(430b-432b)} \]

**The eternal Lord avenged the murderer because he slew Abel,**

**forðam:** (*forðan*, *forðon*)

\[ \text{-leah ðe hlaford us} \]

\[ \text{pis ellenweorc} \]

\[ \text{to gefremmanne, folces hyrde,} \]

\[ \text{forðam he manna mæst mæða gefremede,} \]

\[ \text{dæda dollicra. (2642b-2646a)} \]

\[ \text{=though our lord intended to do this work of courage alone, as keeper of the folk, because among men he had performed the greatest deeds of glory, daring actions.} \]

**forpon pe:**

\[ \text{wæs him Beowulfes sið,} \]

\[ \text{modges merefaren, micel æfþunca,} \]

\[ \text{forpon pe he ne upe, pæt ænig oðer man} \]

\[ \text{æfre mæða þon ma middangeardes} \]

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gehede under heofenum ponne he sylfa-;  
(501b-505b)

=to him was Beowulf's undertaking, the brave seafarer, a 
great vexation, for he would not allow that any other man of 
middle-earth should ever achieve more glory under the 
heavens than himself;

pe:

ahte ic holdra þy læs,
deorre dugudæ, pe þa deað fornæm.  
(487b-488b)

=I had fewer faithful men, beloved retainers, for death had 
destroyed them.

(5) **Comparison or Manner**

Clauses of comparison in Old English are classified into four different 
types by Mitchell.¹⁹)

1. Comparisons involving 'than' are expressed by *ponne* or *pon ma pe*.
2. Comparisons involving 'as' may be expressed by *swa, swa,...swa, swa* 
   +superative, *swylce, swylce... swa, þæs (pe).*
3. Comparisons involving 'the...the' are expressed by *þy...þy*.
4. Comparisons involving 'hypothesis' are expressed by *swa* or *swilce*.

**ponne:**  

Him on mod bearn,  
þæt healreced hatan wolde,  
medoærn micel men gewyrceæn  
*pon[n]e yldo bearn* æfre gefrunon,  
(67b-70b)

=It came to his mind that he would command men to 
construct a hall, a mead-building larger than the children 
of men had ever heard of,

**pon ma pe:**

He nat hwæt him towæard bip, *pon ma ȝu wistest*  
(Bosworth-Toller)

=He knows not what will happen to him any more than 
thou knowest

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*swa*: Onlegena strengan *swa swa* is arom

(Bosworth-Toller)

=stronger applications *such as* is copperas

*swa...swa*:

Wæs se gryre læssa
efne swa micle,
wiggyre wifes
ponne heoru bunden,

(1282b-1285a)

=The attack was the less terrible by just *so much as* is the
strength of women, the war-terror of a wife, less than an
armed man's.

*swa+superative*:

*swa ðu oftost onæge* (Mitchell, p83)

=as often as you can

*swa hie selest mihton*

=as well as they could

*swylce*:

Swurdleoma stod,

*swylce eal Finnsburuh fyrenu være.*

(The Fight at Finnsburg 35b-36b)

=There was gleaming of swords *as if* all Finnesburh was
in flames.

*pæ (pe)*:

*pæs pe* hie gewislicost
idese onlicnes:

(1349b-1351a)

=One of them, *so far as* they could clearly discern, was the
likeness of a woman.

*py...py*:

Hyge sceal *py* heardra,
mod sceal *py* mare,

(The Battle of Maldon 312a-313b)

=Courage must be *the* stronger, heart *the* bolder, courage
must (be) *the* greater, as our strength diminishes.
(6) **Concession**

Most of the concessive clauses were introduced by *peah* (*pe*) in Old English and the prevailing mood was the subjunctive. *Sam...sam* introduced disjunctive concessions.

**Kinds:**  
*peah*:  
\[ \text{Done siðfæt him snotere ceorlas} \]
\[ \text{lythwon logon, peah he him leof wære;} \]

\[ = \text{Very little did wise men blame him for that adventure, though he was dear to them;} \]

*peah...eall:*

\[ \text{forþan ic hine sweorde swebban nelle,} \]
\[ \text{alдр e beneotan, peah ic eal mæge;} \]

\[ = \text{therefore I will not put him to sleep with a sword, so take away his life, though surely I might.} \]

*sam...sam:*

\[ \text{sam hit sy sumor sam winter} \]

\[ = \text{whether it is summer or winter} \]

Besides these subordinate conjunctions introducing concessive clauses, concession was also expressed by the word-order without any conjunction.\(^{21}\)

(7) **Condition**

Conditional clauses in Old English were introduced mainly by *gif* or *paer*, both meaning *if*. And negative conditional clauses were introduced by *butan*, or *nympe*, meaning *unless* or *except that*. Occasionally in Old English prose, conditions as well as concession were expressed by the word-order ‘Verb+Subject’ without any concession.\(^{22}\)

*gif:*

\[ \text{Nu ic suna minum syllan wolde} \]
\[ \text{guðgewædu, paer me gifeðe swa} \]
\[ \text{ænig yrfeweard æfter wære} \]
\[ \text{lìce gelenge. (2729a-2732a)} \]

\[ = \text{Now I would wish to give my son my war-clothing, if} \]
any heir after me, part of flesh, were granted.

**butan:**

\[ \text{pæt he for mundgripe} \quad \text{minum scolde} \]
\[ \text{licgean lifbysig,} \quad \text{**butan** his lic swice:} \]
\[ (965a-966b) \]

=so that because of my hard-grip he should lie struggling for life—**unless** his body should escape:

**nympe:***(nemne, nefne)*

\[ \text{pæt hit a mid gemete} \quad \text{manna ænig} \]
\[ \text{betic ond banfang} \quad \text{tobrecan meahte,} \]
\[ \text{listum tolocan,} \quad \text{**nympe** liges fæpm} \]
\[ \text{swulge on swapule.} \quad (779a-782a) \]

=No wise men of the Scylding ever before thought that any men in any manner might break it down, splendid with bright horns, have skill to destroy it, **unless** flame should embrace it, swallow it in fire.

**swa:**

\[ \text{Hu seo prag gewat,} \]
\[ \text{genap under nihthelm,} \quad \text{**swa** heo no wäre!} \]
\[ (\text{The Wanderer 95b-96b}) \]

=How the time has passed away, has darkened under the shadow of night, *as if* it had never been!

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**Notes**

This paper is a modified version of the first chapter of my master’s thesis submitted to the Graduate School of International Christian University.

2) Conjunctive adverbs are considered as conjunctional equivalents or even as members of conjunctions by some grammarians. E. Kruisinga says: “It follows from the definition of conjunctions in 1475 that it is not always possible to distinguish between an adverb and a conjunction; for a word may have something of either function. This is often the case with *now, only, still, yet, however, moreover, besides, again, indeed;* also the anaphoric pronominal adverbs, such as *hence, thus, etc.,*” E. Kruisinga., *A Handbook of Present-Day English, II English Accidence and Syntax* (Croningen, 1932) p.412.
Curme classifies adverbs which function as conjunctions into two groups; (1) coordinating conjunctive adverbs, (2) subordinating conjunctive adverbs, and includes them in the category of conjunctions in *Accidence*, p. 74 ff. H. Sweet also considers conjunctive adverbs as conjunctions, though he calls them half-conjunctions. H. Sweet, 1891. p.143.

3) As secondary conjunctions, five types are seen in Modern English as follows:
(1) from nouns; *while*, the *first time*, the *moment*, the *instance*, *every time*, for fear (*that*), in case, in order that, etc.
(2) from pronoun; *that*
(3) from verbs; *suppose*, supposing (*that*), *providing* (*that*), *provided* (*that*), granted (*that*), etc.
(4) from adverbs; *now* (*that*), once, directly, immediately, so, etc.
(5) from prepositions; after, before, but, except (*that*), for, save (*that*) since, till, etc.

The correlative use of conjunctions show the early stage of conjunctions. In Old English there were many correlative conjunctions. B. Mitchell says as follows; “Much of the difficulty with correlative pairs arises from the fact (with a few exceptions such as *gif*... *ponne* if...then’) the conjunction and adverb have the same form, e.g. *pa* can mean both ‘when’ and ‘then’. B. Mitchell., A Guide to Old English, Oxford (Basil Blackwell, 1964) p.66.

Kruisinga, p.416.


8) Quotations and line-references from *Beowulf* are based on Fr. Klaeber’s third edition with First and Second Supplement (D.C. Heath And Company, 1950). Quotations and line-references with no title before them show *Beowulf* hereafter.

9) As for the Modern English translations for Old English verses of *Beowulf*, I used mostly E.T. Donaldson’s *Translation* (New York, 1966). But where Donaldson’s translation does not indicate the syntactical differences between Old English and Modern English, I translated the verses into Modern English in order to show the differences. In such cases, double asterisks (***) appear before the translations.


11) Klaeber, the glossary of *Beowulf*.

12) Mitchell, p.87.

13) This Old English example was quated from L. Kellner, 1892, p.49.


15) Mitchell, p.66.

16) Mitchell, p. 87.

17) Mitchell, p.93.
Mitchell, p. 93. However Mitchell adds; “This proposition cannot be proved for it is only by classifying all clauses with the subjunctive as purpose and all clauses with the indicative as result that we can deduce the rule.

Mitchell, p. 95.

Mitchell pp. 95–96.”...Here eall is an adverb, perhaps with the sense ‘easily.’ But this probably represents a stage in the development of ‘although’:

Mitchell says; “Concession can sometimes be expressed by putting the verb first without any conjunction. The two most common types are swelte ic, libbe ic, ‘whether I live or die’ and hycge swa he wille ‘let him think as he will,’ ‘no matter what he thinks.’ The first type often occurs in the form wylle ic, nylle ic. ‘willy-nilly.’” p.96.

He cites the following example: eaðe mihte þes cwyde beon læwedu mannum bedigold, nere seo gastlice getacning, = this saying could easily be concealed from laymen, were it not (for) its spiritual meaning.