

Questionnaire on concessive conditional clauses

Version 2.0

EKKEHARD KÖNIG & MARTIN HASPELMATH
FU Berlin

In addition to answering the analytic questions, please translate all the example sentences (in boldface, numbered E1, E2, etc.)

1. The three major types of CONCESSIVE CONDITIONAL CLAUSES (CCs).

Scalar concessive conditional (SCC)

E1. Even if it rains, we will go outside.

Alternative concessive conditional (ACC)

E2. Whether it rains or the sun shines, we will go outside.

Universal concessive conditional (UCC)

E3. Wherever she goes, he will never leave her.

2. SCALAR CONCESSIVE CONDITIONALS

2.1. What are the structural features of scalar CCs (as in E1)? For each structural feature, give the other uses of that feature in the language. For function words, give the etymology if known.

- (a) special subordinator
- (b) focus particle ('even')
- (c) verbal mood
- (d) word order
- (e) correlative in main clause

2.2. Are there special similarities between SCCs and CONCESSIVE CLAUSES as in E4?

E4. Although it was raining, we went outside.

Are concessive conditionals and (factual) concessive clauses and constructions distinguished in one of the following ways?

- (a) through the choice of a special connective (e.g. English *even if/ even though*)
- (b) through an opposition of mood (e.g. Spanish)
- (c) through word order (German)
- (d) otherwise

2.3. Are there special similarities between SCCs and CONDITIONAL CLAUSES as in E5?

E5. If it rains, we will not go outside.

- 2.4. Are there special similarities between SCCs, conditionals, and direct or indirect (subordinate) POLAR INTERROGATIVES, as in E6-E7?

E6. Will it rain?

E7. We do not know if it will rain.

3. ALTERNATIVE CONCESSIVE CONDITONALS

- 3.1. What are the structural features of alternative CCs (as in E2)? For each structural feature, give the other uses of that feature in the language. For function words, give the etymology if known.

- (a) disjunctive expression(s) ('or')
- (b) special subordinator
- (c) focus particle ('even')
- (d) verbal mood
- (e) word order
- (f) correlative in main clause

- 3.2. Are there special similarities between ACCs and direct or indirect ALTERNATIVE INTERROGATIVES, as in E8-E9?

E8. Is it raining or is the sun shining?

E9. We do not know whether it is raining or the sun is shining.

- 3.3. Are there several different expressions for 'or'? What are the conditions for their use? Specifically, how is '(either...) or' expressed in the following constructions? Which form is used in ACCs?

E10. She will come (either) today or tomorrow.

E11. (Either) she left early or she never arrived.

E12. Give me an apple, or (else) I'll hit you.

4. UNIVERSAL CONCESSIVE CONDITIONALS

- 4.1. What are the structural features of universal CCs (as in E3)? For each structural feature, give the other uses of that feature in the language. For function words, give the etymology if known.

- (a) QU-pronoun ('who', 'what', 'where', 'how', etc.)
- (b) expression of indifference ('no matter')
- (c) special subordinator
- (d) focus particle ('even'), other particles
- (e) verbal mood
- (f) word order
- (g) correlative in main clause

- 4.2. Are there special similarities between UCCs and direct or indirect PARAMETRIC (WH-) INTERROGATIVES, as in E13-E14?

E13. Where is she going?

E14. I do not know where she is going.

- 4.3. Are there special similarities between UCCs and NON-SPECIFIC and SPECIFIC HEADLESS RELATIVE CLAUSES, as in E15-E17?

Universal concessive conditional clause

E15. Whatever she says, he remains silent.

Non-specific headless relative clause

E16. He repeats whatever she says.

Specific headless relative clause

E17. At the meeting he repeated what she had said the day before.

5. Are there structural features that are shared by two or all three constructions (SCCs, ACCs, and UCCs)?

- (a) verbal mood
- (b) special particles
- (c) word order
- (d) correlative in the main clause

6. Special subtypes of ACCs

- 6.1. How are ACCs expressed where the second alternative is the negated counterpart of the first alternative (cf. E18)?

E18. Whether it rains or not, we will go outside.
(Whether or not it rains, we will go outside.)

- 6.2. Are there any reduced ACCs, as in (i)-(iii)?

- (i) *I have to go to work, rain or no rain.*
- (ii) *Working or playing, Sarah is always intense.*
- (iii) (Lithuanian) *Gali negali, o išeiti reikes.*
‘Whether you can or not, you have to go out.’

- 6.3. Is there still some evidence that CCs are the result of a reduced complex construction, as in (i)-(iii)?

- (i) *It does not matter whether he comes or not, ...*
- (ii) *No matter whether he comes or not, ...*
- (iii) *Whether he comes or not, ...*

7. Special subtypes of UCCs

- 7.1. Are there UCCs with multiple variables (parameters), as in (i)-(ii)?

- (i) (Russian) *Kto by čto ni skazal, ja ne slušaju.*
‘(Lit.) Whoever says what(ever), I do not listen.’
- (ii) (Lezgian) *Ada hiq’wan čarar niz k̂xejt’ani, adaz sadrani žawab q̂wezwač.*
‘No matter how many letters he writes to whom, he never gets an answer.’

- 7.2. Is there a special way of expressing UCCs where the variable (parameter) is a degree expression?

E19. However much you try, you will never succeed.

- 7.3. Is it possible to reduce UCCs in any way, as in (i) or (ii)?

- (i) *She wants her story, no matter the price she has to pay.*
- (ii) *Whatever your problems, they can't be worse than mine.*

8. Are there any other, less syntacticized ways of expressing concessive conditional relations? The following examples provide an impression of the spread of variation in English:

- (i) *Let him be ever so bad, he has some good points.*
- (ii) *Be it ever so humble, there is no place like home.*
- (iii) *(Early Modern English) None can hear him, cry he never so loud.*
- (iv) *Try as I might, I could not lift the stone.*
- (v) *Laugh as much as you like, I shall stick to my plan.*
- (vi) *I don't care what you call it, it is exactly what we need.*