

The Use of Disjunct in Charlotte Bronte's Novel '*Jane Eyre*'

Asmaa Amjad A-Khafaji

asmaa_amjad96@yahoo.com

Abstract

Disjuncts are a type of adverbial adjunct that are thought to be more superior to and detached from sentence elements. They express information that is thought to be the speaker's or writer's attitude towards, or a descriptive statement of, the propositional content of the sentence, "expressing, for example, the speaker's degree of truthfulness or his manner of speaking," but is not thought to be necessary to the sentence in which it appears. This study's main focus is on the disjunct use in *Jane Eyre*, a work written by Charlotte Bronte. The reader will learn about the types and structures of disjuncts, which are versatile discourse devices, from this book, which makes it important. There are two components to this study. The theoretical portion is in part one, while the practical part is in part two. The study attempts to fulfill the following aims, investigate a theoretical background about disjuncts as well as identify the types of disjuncts used in Charlotte Bronte's Novel *Jane Eyre*. It is expected that the research is of great value for researchers, English students, linguists and textbook designers. The results of this paper indicate that there are both content disjuncts and style disjuncts are used in Charlotte Bronte's Novel *Jane Eyre*.

Key Words: Disjunct, Novel, Style, Attitude, Content.

1.1 Introduction

The study of literary linguistics looks at linguistic symmetries and how the literary form makes use of the linguistic form to understand formal characteristics of literary texts in a regular way. Writing literary writings is done through language. (Hundarenko, 2019: 98).

The Use of Disjunct in Charlotte Bronte's Novel '*Jane Eyre*'

Asmaa Amjad A-Khafaji

It might be convenient to begin with a short introduction to the general notion of adverbials before looking at the subcategory of disjuncts in depth. So, adverbials are terms used to provide more information about a verb. Also, adverbials used to refer to a noun, verbal phrase, prepositional phrase, noun phrase or a clause that take form as just an adverb takes in a sentence, adverbials function like adjectives, modifying verbs and adverbs (Biber *et al.*, 1999: 762).

As a kind of adverbial adjunct, disjuncts are thought to be more superior to and detached from sentence elements. They convey information that is not seen as crucial to the sentence in which they appear but rather the writer's or speaker's attitude towards, or description of, the propositional content of the sentence, "expressing, for example, the speaker's degree of truthfulness or his manner of speaking."

The present paper deals mainly with Disjuncts in the English language that have been used in Charlotte Bronte's novel *Jane Eyre*. The importance of this paper is that it will direct the reader to an extent to the nature and form of disjuncts in the discourse that are multifunctional instruments. There are two components to this study. The theoretical portion is in part one, while the practical part is in part two.

1.2 The Problem

This research focuses on disjuncts, a crucial topic in the realm of syntax. An adverbial sentence that stresses the concept or style of what is being spoken or written is called a disjunct in English grammar. In other words, a disjunct is a statement or phrase that explicitly communicates the viewpoint of the speaker or writer. This are also called adjuncts of sentences or modifiers of sentences. So, in this study the researcher will analyze disjuncts in Charlotte Bronte's Novel *Jane*

Eyre, also the present study tries to show the types of disjuncts and how they are used in these texts as well as why disjuncts are used in some speeches in the texts and what is the purpose of using these disjuncts.

This study is an attempt to answer the following questions:

1. What is meant by disjunct?
2. What are the types of disjuncts?
3. What are the types of disjuncts that have used in Charlotte Bronte's novel *Jane Eyre*?

1.2 The Aims

This study deals with an important area in the field of syntax, namely disjuncts. The study aims at:

1. Describing the notion of disjuncts, its importance, and its place in the field of linguistics.
2. Presenting a detailed illustration of the types of disjuncts.
3. Conducting an analysis of disjuncts in Charlotte Bronte's novel *Jane Eyre*.

1.3 The Hypothesis

It is hypothesised that: Charlotte Bronte's language in *Jane Eyre* uses content disjuncts more frequently than style disjuncts.

1.4 The Procedures

The following procedures will be adopted in conducting this study:

1. Presenting a theoretical background of disjuncts.
2. Selecting some literary texts.
3. Analyzing the data under the study.
4. Presenting conclusions for the study based on the analyzed data.

1.5 The Limits

The Use of Disjunct in Charlotte Bronte's Novel 'Jane Eyre'

Asmaa Amjad A-Khafaji

This study examines the syntactic structure of disjuncts in *Jane Eyre*, a novel by Charlotte Bronte. The current study's sample consists of a few selected excerpts from *Jane Eyre*, a novel by Charlotte Bronte.

1.6 The Value

It is hoped that linguists, translators, English language learners, English teachers, and textbook designers would find some significance and usefulness in the current study. It does so by explaining the types of disjuncts in English and identify them in the novel "Jane Eyre". This would help to understand more about the English language and the English culture.

2. Review of Related Literature

2.1 Definitions of Disjuncts

Disjuncts are optional additions to a clause that convey the speaker's or writer's attitude towards the message's substance. Disjuncts are not a part of the predicate; instead, they are more movable and loosely connected to the phrase. Disjuncts are frequently broken up by commas because they are less connected to the body of the phrase than adjuncts are, according to Davidson (2003: 451). In contrast to Brinton (2000: 222), disjuncts affect the entire subject (S) of a sentence rather than simply a verb phrase (VP).

According to Quirk et al. (1985: 84), the disjuncts' shape and the placements of their adverbials do not distinguish them from adjuncts or subjuncts. Based on graphological and tonal representations, disjunct adverbials seem to be joined to sentences by syntactic relations (Steward, 2013).

Although, in grammar, the word "disjunct" is often used to refer to parenthetical elements of different kinds (Espinal, 1991: 105), which is a type of

adverbial with a superior position in relation to the sentence in which it functions. Disjuncts are constituents with an illocutionary meaning that is implicit, an adverbial is inserted in a sentence which expresses the illocutionary force explicitly.

Disjuncts are a class of optional structure that serve as a parenthetical remark to the sentence in which they appear. They are crucial to maintaining the conversation's natural flow and fluidity, according to Crystal (2003: 84). Disjuncts are described as parenthetical, or not integrated into the phrase whose meaning they qualify, according to Nash (1986: 37).

He provides the following examples to contrast how "amazingly" is used as a disjunct in the second case and as an adverb in the first:

1. *He cycled across the desert amazingly.*(means:in an amazing way)
2. *Amazingly,he cycled across the desert.*(means:I am amazed by this)

2.2 Types of Disjuncts

Quirk et al. (1985: 103) distinguish between two categories of disjuncts: content (degree of truth; value judgement) and style (modality and method; respect).

2.2.1 Style

Style disjuncts indicate the circumstances under which the listener should understand the phrase by conveying the speaker's observation of the form or style of what is being communicated. For comparison, Greenbaum & Quirk (1991: 181) provide the following example:

3. *Mr. Brown neglects his kids.*
4. *From my own perspective, Mr. Brown neglects his kids.*
5. *Seriously,do you intend to quit ?*
6. *Personally,I don't approve of him.*
7. *Strictly speaking, no one is allowed in to enter this district .*

The Use of Disjunct in Charlotte Bronte's Novel 'Jane Eyre'

Asmaa Amjad A-Khafaji

It is possible to express the link between a style disjunct and its sentence by using a matching clause with a verb of speaking as the subject, (I). As a result, occasionally the disjunct has a whole clausal form, as in:

8. *Frankly, I'm exhausted.*

"Frankly" means "I tell you honestly" or "I say honestly." In cases when the sentence is a question, the disjunct could be unclear. According to Quirk et al. (1985: 615), the adverbial might be used to express "I ask you frankly" or, more likely, "Tell me frankly." According to Quirk et al. (1985: 615–516), the following subclasses of adverbs are frequently employed as style disjuncts:

a. Modality and manner

The disjuncts listed below are categorised under modality and manner: roughly, in short, simply, candidly, plainly, honestly, seriously, rigorously, genuinely, trustworthy, and confidentially. As an illustration:

9. *I don't need your money, confidentially.*

Prepositional phrases and clauses can also have this kind of style disjunction.

As an illustration:

10. *In short, he is happy but mad.*

11. *Putting it bluntly, she has little market value.*

b. Respect

These kinds of disjunct adverbs include literally, metaphorically, figuratively, generally, and rigidly. As an illustration:

12. *Generally, the summer season has already begun by June.*

Respect disjuncts may take the shape of larger sentences or phrases. As an illustration:

13. *Generally speaking, the winter this year is colder than last year.*

14. *If I may say so and with all due respect none of you are a match to fight this man.*

Certain adverb phrases have a meaning that corresponds to them in another structure, according to Quirk et al. (1985: 617), despite their style being disjunct.

As an illustration, substitute "frankly" in:

15. *Frankly, they have no chance.*

2.2.2 Content

According to Quirk & Greenbaum (1989: 243), content disjuncts, also known as attitude disjuncts, express the speaker's opinion on the subject matter of his speech.

Generally speaking, they are limited to declarative clauses:

16. *Obviously, no one expected her to be here today.*

Quirk, et al. (1985) and Eastwood (2000: 276) concur that content disjuncts such as "surprisingly," "fortunately," and "luckily" may be employed to "evaluate" and "comment" on what we are saying.

17. *The newspaper was not interested in the story, surprisingly.*

Prepositional phrases and clauses can also be used to create content disjuncts:

18. *To my regret, she did not accept his offer.*

19. *What is even more remarkable, she manages to win the case and prove those men innocent.*

According to Greenbaum and Quirk (1991:183), there are two types of content disjuncts:

A.Certainty: These disjuncts provide observations on the veracity of what is stated, expressing scepticism, emphatically affirming it, or putting forward contingencies like reasons or circumstances. As an illustration:

20. *The novel was (unbelievably, apparently, perhaps) written by Francis Beaumont.*

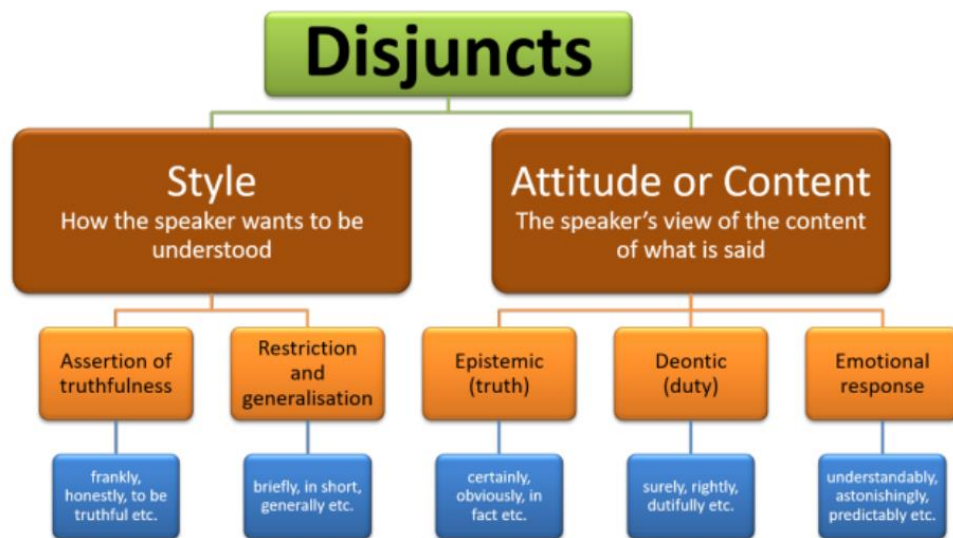
The Use of Disjunct in Charlotte Bronte's Novel 'Jane Eyre'

Asmaa Amjad A-Khafaji

B.Evaluation: By use of evaluation, these disjuncts convey a viewpoint about a statement. As an illustration:

21. Wisely, Mr. Jefferson consulted his lawyer.

Figure (1): Style & Content Disjuncts as presented by Quirk, et al. (1985: 615)



3. Methodology and Analysis

3.1 The Literary Text to be Analyzed

Before conducting the analysis of Disjuncts in *Jane Eyre* Novel that has written by Charlotte Bronte, it seems that it is necessary to provide the reader with some details about the novel. English author Charlotte Bronte's work *Jane Eyre* is a first-person account told from the viewpoint of the titular character.

The tale takes place late in George III's reign (1760–1820) at a location in the north of England.[A] It passes through five unique phases: Jane's early years were spent being physically and emotionally mistreated by her aunt and cousins at Gateshead Hall; her schooling at Lowood School, where she made friends and had role models but also experienced hardships and oppression; her employment as a governess at Thorn-field Hall, where she fell in love with her employer, Edward Fairfax Rochester; her stay at the Moor House, where she accepted a marriage

proposal from her distant but sincere clergyman cousin, St. John Rivers; and finally, Jane's reunion and union with her beloved Rochester. Throughout these sections, the book presents opinions on a number of important societal issues and ideas, many of which are critical of the status quo.

3.2 Research Design

The section presents the analysis of the data that have been collected by the researcher. The analysis will be taken from a syntactic perspective concerning disjuncts in selected speeches from *Jane Eyre* Novel that has written by Charlotte Bronte.

3.3 Analysis and Discussion

3.3.1 Analysis

As regards the realization of primary disjuncts in *Jane Eyre* Novel that has written by Charlotte Bronte, we can identify that of their use:

Text No.1

“Seriously, though,, I don't think she loves me, “Are you happy, Jane?” And again, and again I answered, “Yes.” After which he murmured, “It will atone—it will atone. Have I not found her friendless, and cold, and comfortless? Will I not guard, and cherish, and solace her? It will expiate at God’s tribunal. I know my Maker sanctions what I do. For the world’s judgment—I wash my hands thereof. For man’s opinion—I defy it.”

Analysis

Jane recalls in Chapter 23 how she instantly and happily accepted Mr. Rochester's declaration of love and marriage proposal. It's clear from Mr. Rochester's comments to Jane that he is committed and passionate. Jane and Mr. Rochester stand for the idea of true love in the midst of big disparities and societal rejection.

As previously mentioned, style disjuncts express the speaker's attitude and desire to be understood. They indicate how the speaker wants to be interpreted rather than making direct comments on the content of what is being stated.

The Use of Disjunct in Charlotte Bronte's Novel 'Jane Eyre'

Asmaa Amjad A-Khafaji

They can have a variety of tastes, but regardless of the format, they always convey the same message: the speaker's style.

Text No.2

“Honestly, it seemed I had found a brother; one I could be proud of—one I could love; and two sisters, whose qualities were such, that when I knew them but as mere strangers, they had inspired me with genuine affection and admiration... This was wealth indeed!—wealth to the heart!—a mine of pure genial affections. This was a blessing, bright, vivid, and exhilarating!—not like the ponderous gift of gold—rich and welcome enough in its way but sobering from its weight”

Analysis

Jane shares her happiness at discovering a true family and home. Jane informs the reader in this quotation how thrilled she is to learn that St. John, Diana, and Mary Rivers are her real blood relations. She also learned that she received a sizable sum of money, but finding she had a brother and sisters makes her immensely happier. Jane reiterates her huge desire to have a family and a sense of home when she calls this news "wealth indeed."

Since attitude disjuncts, sometimes referred to as content disjuncts, are virtually always adverbs, they are easier to evaluate and instruct. They serve three purposes:

to convey the speaker's opinion on a proposition's veracity. This is an epistemic modality (to which, naturally, the list of related guides at the conclusion [links to a guide on this site](#)).

To convey the speaker's opinion on the necessity or desirability of a situation or occurrence. When it comes to duties and desirability, this is a type of deontic modality.

To convey the speaker's response to a situation or occurrence.

Each of these categories forms a teaching unit (or series of units) and can be tackled independently of the other categories. That's a sensible approach because it goes from meaning and intention to the selection of form rather than the other way round.

3.3.2 Discussion

The main reason for using Jane Eyre as a study sample is to highlight some of the complicated sentences that are characteristic of Charlotte Bronte's style and are probably influenced by the many disjuncts used in 19th-century Romanticism. The author has inscribed the topic under investigation with care and devoted it to the second edition. The Vintage Classics Library, which offers the Vintage catalogue of classics publishers, released the book. It is divided into two volumes of 545 pages each, with 38 chapters. Throughout the research process, we examined every sentence that had a disjunct in great detail. These were then gathered and categorised using the Quirk et al. (1985) approach into primary categories and subcategories. Drawing from the theoretical insights, three research hypotheses have been developed. They were all three developed in accordance with the factual theory of Biber et al. (1999).

H1: Charlotte Brontë uses more content disjuncts than style disjuncts in her writing of Jane Eyre.

The first hypothesis was selected because content disjuncts evaluate the whole declaration in addition to focusing on the actual conditions and specific content of the utterance. Fictional works such as Jane Eyre tend to include more content disjuncts than style disjuncts, which are probably more prevalent in conversation than in any other register. Content disjuncts are typically employed in fiction language to convey uncertainty or the plausibility of the statement.

4. Conclusion

Disjuncts are a specific type of adverbial adjunct that are used to express information that is seen to represent the writer's or speaker's attitude towards the propositional content of the phrase, or a descriptive description of it, but which is

The Use of Disjunct in Charlotte Brontë's Novel 'Jane Eyre'

Asmaa Amjad A-Khafaji

not considered vital to the sentence in which it appears. A comma or string of commas typically indicates a disjunct, which disrupts the flow of the phrase. Typically, a disjunct evaluates the remainder of the phrase. We may claim that it alters the entire phrase even though it normally only affects the verb.

Since it could help them completely understand another linguistic phenomena, we expect that students studying the English language and who are interested with English syntax would find the current study useful.

References

- Biber, D .Johansson, S. Leech, G. Gonrad, S. Finegan, E. (1999). *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English*. Perason Education Limited.
- Brinton, L. (1992). The Historical Present in Charlotte Brontë's Novels: Some Discourse Functions. Style. Available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/42945970>
- Crystal, David (2003). *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Ltd.
- Davidson, G. (2003). *Phrases, Clauses and Sentences*. Singapore: B & Jo Enterprise Pte. Ltd.
- Eastwood, J. (2000). *Oxford Guide to English Grammar*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Espinal, M.T. (1991). *The Representation of Disjunct Constituents*. Language 67(4), 726-762. Retrieved December 19, 2018 from www.jstor.org/stable/415075
- Greenbaum, Sidney & Quirk, Randolph (1991). *A Student's Grammar of the English Language*. UK: Longman Group UK Limited.
- Hundarenko, O. (2019). *Challenges of Teaching Academic Writing Skills in ESL Classroom (Based on International Teaching Experience)*. Revista

Românească pentru Educație Multidimensională, 11(4), 70-83.
doi:10.18662/rrem/158.

Nash, W. (1986). *English Usage*. London; Routledge and Keg and Paul PIC.

Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., & Svartvik, J. (1985). *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*. New York: Longman Inc.

Quirk, Randolph & Greenbaum, Sidney (1989). *A University Grammar of English*.
UK: Longman Group UK Limited.

Staveley, P. (2013). *Becoming Charlotte: AS Recreative Writing Tips*. Word Press.

Retrieved January, 23 2019 from
<https://mrstaveley.wordpress.com/2013/11/25/becoming-charlotteas-recreative-writing-tips/>