

Conjunct *However* and Detachment

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Kwon, Yonghyun. 2012. Conjunct *However* and Detachment. *The Linguistic Association of Korean Journal*. 20(3). 73-90. When conjunct *however* is used, it is almost always accompanied by a comma. Compared to other conjuncts, *however* requires a comma very strictly. This research will bring to light why conjunct *however* is unique in the requirement of a comma. The accompaniment of a comma to *however* is to detach the word from the rest of the clause. Without a high degree of detachment with the use of a comma, it would not be certain whether it is being used as conjunct or conjunction. That is, such a degree of detachment is needed to avoid a possible confusion between conjunct *however* and conjunction *however*. In addition, this research shows how adverbial *however* is in contrast with adverbial *whatever* and *though*, both of which also can function doubly, like *however*, as conjunction and adverbial. When these two are used as adverbial, the same degree of detachment is not maintained as in conjunct *however*. The syntactic reason is clarified here.

Key Words: *however*, conjunct, conjunction, detachment, comma

1. Introduction

This research is concerned with conjunct *however*. *However* breaks down into two ways. One use is as conjunct, and the other one is as conjunction.¹⁾

1) The term *conjunction* here is used to refer to a grammatical device linking two clauses in a sentence. When a sentence consists of two clauses, one is a subordinate clause and the other is a superordinate clause. A conjunction is placed before a subordinate clause, and links the two clause. In this paper, the term *conjunction* is used as a clausal linker. In contrast, the term *conjunct* belongs to the category of adverb in terms of parts of speech. Quirk et al (1985: 503) divides adverbs into adjunct, subjunct, disjunct, and conjunct. Adverb *however*

Conjunct is one of the four different categories for adverbial use, according to Quirk et al (1985: 503). Let us have a look at how *however* is used as conjunct. The example in (1) shows that conjunct *however* appears at the initial position of the clause.

- (1) Formal use of the language is very valuable for people just learning the Compassionate Communication process. *However*, the true foundation of Compassionate Communication is to maintain a consciousness that values everyone's needs. (Mackenzie, 2005, p. 94)

When conjunct *however* occupies the initial position of the clause, it is immediately followed by a comma,²⁾ as seen in (1). *However* does not always appear at the initial position of the clause. In (2a), *however* is positioned between *You must understand* and the following *that*-clause. In (2b), *however* is located between *For many people* and *any discussion*.

- (2) a. I'll tell you one thing – I can get rid of Mr Hyde any time I want. You must understand, *however*, that I take a great interest in poor Hyde. (Stevenson, 2008, p. 12)
- b. For many people, *however*, any discussion of what is grammatical or ungrammatical seems to lead to the issue of whether a structure is really 'good English' or not. (Yule, 1998, p. 3)

Both (2a) and (2b) indicate that when conjunct *however* appears at the mid-position of the clause, it is enclosed in commas. That is, conjunct *however*

belongs to the category of conjunct. For more details of each category, see Quirk et al (1985: 501-653) and Quirk & Greenbaum (1973: 207-50).

- 2) Wherever *however* appears in a clause, a comma is always with it. Sometimes even the presence and absence of a comma affect the meaning of a sentence because a comma indicates how clausal elements are integrated into or detached from the rest of the clause. The two sentences below are exactly the same except that (i) does not have a comma while (ii) does. For the difference in meaning between (i) and (ii), see Quirk et al (1985: 1077).

- (i) Raven didn't leave the party early because Carol was there.
 (ii) Raven didn't leave the party early, because Carol was there.

is completely set off from the rest of the clause by commas before and after the lexical item.

Even when conjunct *however* comes at the end of the clause, the detachment is maintained with the use of a comma. In this case, a comma comes before *however*, as in (3).³ The presence of a comma separates *however* and the rest of the clause.

- (3) The next item on my list of unjoyful tasks was driving the children to school. When I examined the reason behind that chore, *however*, I felt appreciation for the benefits my children received from attending their current school. (Rosenberg, 2003, p. 137)

We have seen three locational types of *however* within a clause: initial, middle, or final position. The examples in (1), (2), and (3) demonstrate that wherever it is positioned, conjunct *however* is strictly set off from the rest of the clause with the use of a comma, compared to other conjuncts.⁴ Especially when *however* comes at a mid-position, it is even enclosed by commas, which is a strong indication of its detachment.

The strict detachment of conjunct *however* is mentioned in Quirk et al (1985: 52) and Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 1747).⁵ However, they do not elaborate why conjunct *however* almost always requires a comma around it. The question is whether the requirement of a comma by conjunct *however* is just accidental or syntactically well-motivated. If it has to do with a syntactic motivation, it is worth to identify what is at work behind the detachment. This research will demonstrate that the detachment is attributed to syntactic reason.

3) There are two commas around *however* in (3). The one before *however* is to detach the conjunct from the rest of the clause. The one after *however* is to separate the when-subordinate clause and the superordinate clause.

4) We will see other conjuncts in the next section. It is extremely rare to find *however* without a comma. *However* hardly goes without a comma, if ever. Here is an exceptional example: *Monopoly was however justified by reference to universalistic and objective criteria of recruitment and achievement.* (Biber et al, 1999: 892)

5) Their observations will be introduced in the following section.

2. Other Conjuncts and Detachment

There are a number of conjuncts in English. However, other conjuncts are not so strictly separated from the rest of their clauses as *however*. *However* belongs to concessive conjuncts, according to Quirk and Greenbaum (1973: 247-8). Among concessive conjuncts⁶) are *however*, *nevertheless*, *still*, and *yet*. These conjuncts are allowed even without a comma around them. Let us consider (4):

- (4) a. I'm afraid he's crazy. *Still*, he's harmless. (Oxford English Dictionaries Online)
 b. It doesn't matter how much advice we give him: he still does exactly what he wants. (Leech and Svartvik, 1994, p. 182)

Still is a conjunct. The meaning is more or less the same as *however*. In (4a), *still* is followed by a comma in (4a) while *still* has no comma in (4b). Both of them, whether with or without a comma, are accepted. It means that *still* is not so strictly detached from the rest of the clause as *however*.

Nevertheless is also one of the concessive conjuncts. In respect of meaning, it is replaceable by *however*. In (5a), *nevertheless* comes together with a comma while it stands alone without a comma in (5b). The two examples show that whether *nevertheless* is accompanied by a comma or not, it does not matter much.

- (5) a. Their team hadn't lost a game the entire season. *Nevertheless*, we beat them by a huge margin last night. (Cambridge Dictionaries Online)
 b. He was extremely tired, but he was *nevertheless* unable to sleep until after midnight. (Leech and Svartvik, 1994, p. 180)

The main difference between *nevertheless* and *however* lies not in the meaning, but in the syntactic behavior. *However* is more syntactically detached

6) According to the classification in Quirk et al (1985: 634), among contrastive conjuncts are reformulatory, replacive, antithetic, and concessive.

from the other parts than *nevertheless*.

Yet is a concessive conjunct, but it almost always goes without a comma after it, as in (6):⁷⁾

- (6) He is poor, *yet* he is satisfied with his situation. (Quirk and Greenbaum, 1973, p. 249)

It means that *yet* is much more integrated into the rest of the clause than *however*. In this respect, *yet* stands at one extreme and *however* at the other extreme. *Still* and *nevertheless* stand in between the two.

Other conjuncts such as *thus* and *therefore* do not require a comma around them.⁸⁾ They also behave more independently of the requirement of a comma, as shown in (7):

- (7) a. The clearest instances are, *however*, found when the supplementary determination follows after the substantive, *thus* with a prepositional group and with a relative clause. (Jespersen, 1933, p. 169)
 b. When children reach the age of 11 or 12, they start growing fast. They *therefore* need more protein. (Leech and Svartvik, 1994, p. 183)

The examples from (1) to (7) demonstrate that *however* is more detached from its clause than other conjuncts. The reason that other conjuncts do not require a comma as strictly as *however* is simple. They are allowed to function as conjuncts only. They cannot be used as a conjunction. Therefore, they do not need to be distinguished between conjunction and conjunct. Thus, whether they are followed by a comma or not, they are always conjuncts. There is no room for them to be misunderstood as conjunctions.

By contrast, *however* can function in two ways: conjunction and conjunct, which requires a syntactic distinction between the two functions. When a

7) In example (6), the comma before *yet* is not for detachment between *He is poor* and *yet*. Instead, it is for detachment for the first clause and the second clause. For comparison, the *yet* is not a conjunct in *He is not here yet*.

8) *Thus* and *therefore* belong to the category of summative and resultive conjunct, according to Quirk et al (1985: 635).

conjunction links a subordinate and superordinate clause together, a comma is not placed before the conjunction. Conjunction *however* also follows the general rule. When *however* functions as a conjunct, it has to be distinct from conjunction *however*. It is because conjunct *however* is an adverb and thus it does not link two clauses in a sentence.

According to Eastwood (1994), a comma is not so strictly required when adverbials are short, as in (8):

- (8) a. Afterwards, we had to tidy up.
 b. Afterwards we had to tidy up. (Eastwood, 1994, p. 71)

In (8), *afterwards* is short, and so the presence and absence of a comma do not matter much. But *however* is as short as *afterwards* in terms of length. Despite the same length, *however* almost always requires a comma. It suggests that conjunct *however* has a syntactic⁹⁾ reason that it has to be detached from its clause.

In regard to the degree of detachment, Huddleston and Pullum (2002) compares *however* and *thus*. Here are the examples:

- (9) a. That is probably true. *However*, we should consider some alternatives.
 b. That is clearly unsatisfactory. *Thus* the original proposal still looks the best. (Huddleston & Pullum, 2002, p. 1747)

As to the relative degree of their detachment, they do not attempt to explain the difference:

In speech an initial *however* is characteristically prosodically detached from the rest, while *thus* is not, and this correlates with the fact that delimiting punctuation is very much more frequent with *however* than with *thus*. (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002, p. 1747)

It is nothing more than an observation in that the reason is not given there.

9) As mentioned earlier, not much semantic difference is noticeable between the concessive conjuncts such as *still*, *yet*, *nevertheless*.

Quirk et al (1985) is not very different from Huddleston and Pullum (2002). They mention:

Such sentence adverbials¹⁰⁾ are distinguished from adjuncts and subjuncts, adverbials which are more closely integrated with the rest of the clause... Characteristic of disjuncts and conjuncts are such markers of peripherality as separation from the rest of the clause by intonation boundaries in speech or by commas in writing. (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 52)

All the examples from (1) to (7) show that compared to conjunct *however*, other conjuncts do not strictly require a comma.¹¹⁾ *However* is most detached and it is almost always separated by a comma. In the following section, we will see why conjunction *however* and conjunct *however* should be distinguished by means of punctuation. Otherwise, readers will get lost as to the status of *however*. It is because one is derived from the other.

3. Conjunction to Conjunct

3.1 Clausal Ellipsis

Halliday and Hasan (1976) discusses ellipsis in relation to cohesion. Clausal ellipsis is part of ellipsis.¹²⁾ When a clause can be understood without being

10) Such sentence adverbials refer to *to my regret* and *however* in Quirk et al (1985: 52).

11) As mentioned earlier, the reason that other conjuncts are not strict with the requirement of a comma is that they function as conjunct only. The role of conjunction is not allowed to them. Thus, even without a comma, they cannot have room to be misunderstood as conjunction. It is because they are always conjuncts. *Therefore*, *thus*, and *but* below are all conjuncts. The examples show that they can be used without a comma.

(i) He was injured and *therefore* unable to play. (Oxford Dictionaries Online)

(ii) That is clearly unsatisfactory. *Thus* the original proposal still looks the best. (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 1747)

(iii) Miss Pross had red hair and a quick, sharp voice, and seemed at first sight a very alarming person. *But* everybody knew that she was in fact a warm-hearted and unselfish friend... (Dickens, 2000: 14)

12) Halliday and Hasan (1976) discusses three types of ellipsis: nominal, verbal, and clausal.

mentioned explicitly, it can go without saying. Let us take some examples:

(10) A: Is it Tuesday today?

B: I don't know. (Halliday & Hasan, 1976, p. 212)

B's utterance in (10) is *I don't know*. But we know that he means to say *I don't know if it is Tuesday today*. That is, what is left out in his utterance is the clause *it is Tuesday today*, because it can be understood from A's question. The clausal ellipsis makes the text much simpler. Further, it contributes to the enhancement of cohesion in the text.¹³⁾

The same type of clausal ellipsis is found in (11), too. *The lights are turned off* is omitted behind *why* in (11B):

(11) A: Why are the lights turned off?

B: I'm not supposed to say why. (Halliday & Hasan, 1976, p. 212)

As shown in (10) and (11), clausal ellipsis is very common. In this research, it will be claimed that conjunct *however* is derived from conjunction *however*, as a result of clausal ellipsis.

Let us look at some instances in which subordinate clauses are omitted and only conjunctions¹⁴⁾ remain. Clausal ellipsis happens with *though*. Usually, *though* acts as a conjunction. However, *though* is an adverbial in (12):

(12) A: That one's a nuisance.

B: That one's alright *though*. (Biber et al., 1999, p. 888)

In (12B), *though* is an adverbial in that *though* does not have its own clause. Adverbial *though* is assumed to be a reduction of its conjunctive counterpart: *though that one is a nuisance*.¹⁵⁾ The clausal ellipsis certainly works for

13) When we look at B's utterance alone, it is not clear what it means. We need to go back to A's utterance to understand what B means to say. That is how cohesion between the two utterances goes up. For the definition of cohesion, see Halliday and Hasan (1976: 4-6).

14) To be exact, it is not a conjunction any longer when a clausal ellipsis has happened. It has already turned into a conjunct.

effectiveness and simplicity. As a result, adverbial *though* comes into being.

The clausal ellipsis related to *though* is not an isolated case. Here are some more cases in which only conjunctions are left alone:

- (13) a. He talks *as* if he were my friend.
 b. In business, *as* in nature, the fittest only survive.

The original form of (13a) would be *He talks as he would talk if he were my friend. He would talk* is redundant because it can be recovered from *He talks*.¹⁶⁾ The examples in (13) are to show cases where only conjunctions remain alone as a result of clausal ellipsis.

3.2 Clausal Ellipsis and Conjunct *However*

It is very well known that *however* acts in two different ways: conjunct and conjunction. The examples in (14) are cases for conjunct:

- (14) He is penniless. *However*, he is happy.

(14) consists of two sentences. Conjunct *however* appears in the second sentence. The lexical item occupies the initial position, and the detachment of *however* is marked by a comma. If the *however* here were not followed by a comma, it should and would indicate that the *however* functions as a conjunction.¹⁷⁾ But the second sentence has only one clause, which means that the sentence does not need a conjunction.

However can act as a conjunction as well. *However* in (15) is a conjunction, not a conjunct:

- (15) *However* small the gift is, I am very happy.

15) The assumption will be discussed in 3.3 pattern distribution.

16) It is noticeable that there is a difference in the choice of a tense. *However, would talk* here is predictable considering that the structure in question is a subjunctive mood.

17) No conjunctions are followed by a comma behind them when they lead subordinate clauses. The example is: (i) If she left me, what my life would be like? (ii) *If, she left me, what my life would be like?

(15) has one sentence, which consists of two clauses. The clause headed by *however* is a subordinate clause while the other one is a superordinate clause. When two clauses appear in a sentence, they are required to be connected by a conjunction. The connection is made by *however* in (15). Thus *however* has the status of conjunction.¹⁸⁾ If the *however* here were followed by a comma, then the presence of the comma would indicate that the *however* is not a conjunction. But the situation in which two clauses are combined together into a sentence in (15) requires a conjunction. That is why a comma cannot be allowed behind *however* here.

Let us consider (16):

(16) The gift is small. *However*, I am very happy.

One noticeable difference between (15) and (16) is that the former has one sentence while the latter has two sentences. This difference has created a change in the status of *however* in (16). The second sentence in (16) consists of just one clause. Thus, *however* here is no longer a conjunction now. It is a conjunct.

Then, a question arises as to what process is involved in the change from conjunction *however* to conjunct *however*. Let us consider (17):

(17) The gift is small. *However small the gift is*, I am very happy.

However in (17) is a conjunction. (17) is made up of two sentences. The second sentence is composed of two clauses. The first clause of the second sentence is *However small the gift is*. But this part is the mere repetition of the first sentence (*the gift is small*) except for *however*. The repetition is very redundant. The redundancy provides a good motivation to cause a clausal ellipsis. When a clausal ellipsis applies, then *however* only remains. When *however* stands alone, it is now a conjunct, not a conjunction.

18) *However* in (15) has two roles: conjunction and adverb. The role of conjunction is to combine the two clauses together into a sentence. In addition, the *however* here modifies the adjective *small*. It is like relative pronouns in that they play two roles: conjunction and pronoun.

Clausal ellipsis turns (17) into (16). This says that conjunct *however* is derived from conjunction *however*. In this respect, *however* is distinct from other conjuncts such as *therefore*, *thus*, *still*, *yet*, which do not strictly require such a strong detachment from the other parts of the clause. These conjuncts do not have their corresponding conjunctions. Thus they have no possibility of double function.

The double function of *however* is the very reason that conjunct *however* strongly requires a comma. When *however* is used as a conjunct, the absence of a comma would create a confusion or incorrectness. With the comma removed, (16) would change to (18):

(18) *The gift is small. *However* I am very happy.

Let us consider why (18) is not acceptable. No detachment exists between *however* and *I am very happy*, when the comma after *however* has been removed. The lack of detachment directly connects *however* to *I am happy*. Then *however I am happy* becomes a subordinate clause. The presence of the subordinate clause presupposes the presence of its corresponding superordinate clause within its sentential boundary. Even so, no more clause exists in (18). That is the way (18) cannot be accepted. The very presence of a comma right after *however* in (16a) keeps a detachment between *however* and *I am happy*. *However*, detached from *I am happy* with the use of a comma behind *however*, is able to stand independently and act as conjunct, not as conjunction.

3.3 Pattern Distribution

It is pointed out earlier that conjunct *however* is derived from conjunction *however*. Maybe we wonder why the other way around is not possible: conjunction *however* from conjunct *however*. We will see here why it is more reasonable to get conjunct *however* from conjunction *however*.

How belongs to the *wh*-question class including *what*, *when*, *who*, *where*. These words can combine with *-ever*, and they become *whatever*, *whenever*, *whoever*, *wherever*. *However* also is a member of the class. Each of these words functions as conjunction, as in (19):¹⁹⁾

- (19) a. *Whoever* will do the job, it will not be easy.
 b. *Whichever* you take, you will not be happy.
 c. *Wherever* you go, you will succeed.
 d. *Whenever* you come, I will welcome you back.
 e. *Whatever* you do, you will like it.

The combination of *wh*-words and *ever* constitutes a syntactic pattern of creating a concessive clause. In this respect, *however* is not an exception. When they are in a concessive clause, they are conjunctions.²⁰⁾

However, not all of these words are allowed for conjunct. *However* and *whatever* are exceptionally allowed to go without their own clause.²¹⁾ The role of conjunction is more universal with this class than the role of conjunct.²²⁾ The role of conjunct is exceptional in that many other members of this class do not function as conjunct or adjunct.

Considering that almost all *wh*-words function as conjunction,²³⁾ conjunction *however* is unmarked while conjunct *however* is marked. Thus it is reasonable to say that conjunction *however* is the source of conjunct *however*, not the other way around. If conjunct *however* were the basis of conjunction *however*, it would not be easy to explain why other *wh-ever* words do not function as conjunct.

4. *Whatever* and *Though*

There are many conjunctions in English, but only *however*, *whatever* and

19) Swan (1995: 622) mentions the syntactic role of *whatever*, *whichever*, *however*, *whenever* and *wherever*: "A word of this kind has a double function, like a relative pronoun or adverb: it acts as a subject, object or adverb in its own clause, but it also acts as a conjunction, joining its clause to the rest of the sentence."

20) The *wh-ever* words in (19) are conjunctions in the sense that they connect subordinate clauses and superordinate clauses.

21) For the very reason, *whatever* will be discussed in the next section. It will be classified as adjunct, not as conjunct. The reason for the classification will be elaborated later on.

22) Biber et al (1999: 88) says, "...*wh*-words are often combined with *-ever*, which gives the form the meaning 'no matter what/when/where...'. Such forms are the rule in concessive *wh*-clauses."

23) *Whyever* usually does not function as a conjunction.

though out of them are allowed to function as both conjunction and adverbial s.²⁴) In this respect, *whatever* and *though* have a close parallel to *however*. For this very reason, here we need to identify how they are different from *however* in respect of the degree of detachment.

4.1 Adjunct *Whatever*

We have seen the case of *whatever* functioning as conjunction.²⁵) Now let us see how *whatever* is used as adverbial. The examples in (20) are the case for adverbial use:

- (20) a. He is not happy *whatever*.
 b. Don't expect my assistance *whatever*.
 c. You have no excuse *whatever*. (Leech and Svartvik, 1994, p. 155)

Considering the pattern in (19), it is not difficult to assume that the adverbial use stems from its conjunctive use. The conjunctive use would be like (21):

- (21) a. He is not happy *whatever he does*.
 b. Don't expect my assistance *whatever it is*.
 c. You have no excuse *whatever it is*.

Whatever is very similar to *however* in that the adverbial use of *whatever* is derived from its conjunctive counterpart. In contrast with conjunct *however*, the examples in (20) show that adverbial *whatever* does not require a comma. That is a big difference. The reason for the difference lies in the location of adverbial *whatever* within a clause. Unlike the various locations of *however*, the position of adverbial *whatever* is severely limited. As shown in (20), *whatever* is

24) *As*, discussed in (13), is a conjunction even if it is used alone as a result of clausal ellipsis. *As*, as used in this special condition, is not treated as conjunct. It is because *as* cannot be used alone, but it always requires the accompaniment of other elements (*if*-clause in (13a) and *in nature* in (13b)). In this sense, *as* is still a conjunction, not a conjunct.

25) (19e) is the case in which *whatever* is used as conjunction.

restricted to the final position of the clause. Another difference is that adverbial *whatever* occurs in a negative clause. Then it acts as a negative intensifier. Naturally, *whatever* comes behind a negative element. That is how its position within a clause is so restricted.

For this reason, *whatever* should not be treated as a conjunct as long as it is used as an intensifier. In fact, all intensifiers are regarded as adjunct, according to Quirk and Greenbaum (1973: 210).²⁶⁾ The difference between adjunct and conjunct is that conjuncts still remain more detached than adjuncts. Even if adjunct *whatever* is derived from conjunction *whatever*, adjunct *whatever* is now more attached to the clause where it appears,²⁷⁾ and is able to function as an intensifier. When it works as a negative intensifier, it should not be detached from the clause. Rather, it should be attached to it. That is how a comma, whose main role is to detach, is not required with adjunct *whatever*, when it acts as an intensifier.

4.2 Conjunct *though*

Conjunction *though* is very common. But it also functions as conjunct. Biber et al (1999) says, "*Though* is used in conversation as speakers mark contrasts between one clause and another." The examples are:

- (22) a. So it should have everything, I still think that it's a bit expensive
though.
b. They've got loads of dressy things for girls, not for boys *though*.
(Biber et al, 1999, p. 888)

26) Quirk and Greenbaum (1973: 218) treats *a wink* and *a thing* as non-assertive minimizer: (i) I didn't sleep *a wink* last night. (ii) I don't owe you *a thing*. The non-assertive minimizers belong to intensifiers. Swan (1995: 624) also treats *whatever* as a part of the clause where it appears, when it does not have its own clause: "After *any* and *no*, *whatever* can be used to mean 'at all'".

27) In (i), *whatever* belongs to the clause *he does*, but *whatever* in (ii) is part of the clause *he is not happy*. The syntactic status of *whatever* has changed from conjunction to adjunct.

- (i) He is not happy *whatever* he does.
(ii) He is not happy *whatever*.

To be more exact, *though* is not a conjunction but a conjunct in (22a) and (22b), in that it is not followed by a clause. Like *however*, conjunct *though* is supposed to be derived from conjunction *though*. Despite the derivational similarity, the examples in (22) show that *though* does not strictly require a comma.

The examples in (23) demonstrate that it does not really matter whether a comma is used or not.

- (23) a. Two heart attacks in a year. It hasn't stopped him smoking, *though*.
 b. It sounds like a lot of fun. Isn't it rather risky *though*?
 (Longman Dictionary Online)

A comma is used before *though* in (23a), while it is not in (23b). The same situation is found in Oxford Dictionaries Online:

- (24) a. It was nice of him to phone, *though*.
 b. I was hunting for work. Jobs were scarce *though*.
 (Oxford Dictionaries Online)

Then, a question arises as to why conjunct *though* is not so strict in the requirement of a comma. The answer has to do with the characteristic of conjunct *though*. First, conjunct *though* is exclusively limited to conversational settings.²⁸⁾ Accordingly, even when the conversation is transferred to a written text, the rule of a comma does not tend to be strictly observed.

The second reason has much more syntactic significance. It is that conjunct *though* appears only at the end of the clause. The position is severely restricted, unlike *however*. All the examples in (22), (23), and (24) show that conjunct *though* is positioned at the end of each clause. The fixed position of conjunct *though* naturally does not need as much detachment, marked by a comma, from the rest of the clause as *however*. While the positional freedom of conjunct

28) Biber et al (1999: 850) says, "*Though* is much more common overall in conversation and fiction than in news and academic prose...Most occurrences of *though* in conversation are as a linking adverbial. In the written registers, the vast majority of the occurrences are as a subordinator."

however needs to mark a distance from the other parts of its clause through a comma, the positional limitation of conjunct *though* does not require as much detachment, because its position is not so mobile.

In addition, compared to conjunct *though*, conjunct *however* is usually used in academic texts. According to Biber et al (1999: 562, 887), *however* is found in predominantly academic prose rather than in conversations. Academic settings need much more accuracy, which is supposed to require much stricter regulation of detachment, if necessary, in order to avoid a confusion.

5. Conclusion

However functions as conjunct and conjunction. Conjunct *however* is much stricter than other conjuncts in the requirement of a comma. When *however* is used as conjunct, it is almost always accompanied by a comma. When it is positioned in the middle of the clause, it is even enclosed in commas. That is, a high degree of detachment is required between conjunct *however* and the rest of its clause.

This research aims to identify the motivation of conjunct *however* to maintain the strict detachment. It is pointed out in this paper that the foremost reason is that conjunct *however* can be misunderstood as conjunction if *however* is not followed by a comma. When *however* is not followed by a comma, it means that the *however* functions as a conjunction, just as all other conjunctions do not need a comma. The accompaniment of a comma is designed to prevent *however* from being mistaken to be a conjunction. It means that the requirement of a comma by conjunct *however* is not just accidental but syntactically well-motivated.

Unlike *however*, all other conjuncts except *whatever*²⁹⁾ and *though* are allowed to function as adverb only. It means that they cannot function as conjunction. Thus, whether they are followed by a comma or not, they are always conjuncts. Thus they do not have a possibility of confusion. That is how they are not so

29) *Whatever* is not a conjunct. Instead, it should be classified as adjunct, which is discussed in 4.1.

sensitive to a comma as conjunct *however*.

Though and *whatever* can function as adverbial and conjunction, as *however* can. However, they do not require a comma as strictly as *however*. The differences are explained in this research.

When *whatever* stands alone without a comma, it functions as a negative intensifier. In this case, *whatever* is closely connected to the negative element in the clause. Considering the close connection with the negative element, there should not be a distance between *whatever* and the negative element of the clause. For that reason, *whatever* cannot be treated as conjunct in this use. Rather, it should be treated as an adjunct.

Though, when it is not followed by its own clause, functions as conjunct. In this case also, the requirement of a comma is not so strictly required as conjunct *however*. Despite the same derivational background, the reason for the difference between conjunct *however* and conjunct *though* in respect of the requirement of a comma is that the position of conjunct *though* is absolutely limited to the end of the clause while that of *however* is relatively much more mobile.

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