

# ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HEBREW LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

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A–F

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## Coordination: Modern Hebrew

Coordination refers to a syntactic structure consisting of two or more linguistic units bound together and functionally equivalent at the same level of structure by means of a linking device, in which none of the components is in any way syntactically subordinate to or syntactically dependent on any of the others. The syntactically coordinated units can function as a constituent in a sentence (*coordinated phrase; multiple part*) or as an independent clause (*coordinated clause*) and can be used in any syntactic role or in any type of a sentence, e.g., *dan ve-dina halxu la-te'atron* 'Dan and Dina went to the theater' (subject); *ha-so'adim axlu karix ve-salat* 'The diners ate a sandwich and salad' (object); *chikiti le-dan u-le-dina šaloš o' arba' daqot* 'I waited for Dan and Dina three or four minutes' (indirect object; modifier); *ha-saxqanim hayu 'ayefim, laxen hem hifsidu ba-misxaq* 'The players were tired, therefore they lost the game' (coordination of two main clauses); *ha-saxqanim hayu 'ayefim, laxen hem hifsidu ba-misxaq, še-lo yašnu kol ha-layla*, 'The players, who did not sleep all night, were tired, therefore they lost the game' (coordination of a complex sentence with another clause); *menahel ha-qvuša hodia' še-ha-saxqanim hayu 'ayefim, ve-laxen hem hifsidu ba-misxaq* 'The team manager announced that the players were tired, and therefore they lost the game' (coordinate clause in a complex sentence); *hem hifsidu ba-misxaq, u-ve-gadol* 'They lost the game, and in a big way' (coordination of a main clause and a phrase).

Coordination frequently occurs in a syndetic construction (*syndeton*) where the individual elements are connected by a coordinating conjunction (*coordinator; conjunction*). The coordinators characterize the semantic relations of the coordination, creating two types of logical structure, *symmetric* coordination, where the coordinated constituents can be reversed, and *asymmetric* coordination, where the coordinated constituents cannot be reversed without altering meaning (sometimes creating nonsense).

A conjunctive relation (ו *ve-* 'and', וגם *ve-gam* 'and also', וגם...גם *gam...ve-gam* 'both...and', ולא...לא *lo...ve-lo*, 'neither...nor', etc.), e.g., *dan axal, ve-dina sixxaq* 'Dan ate and Dina played' and a disjunctive relation (או *o* 'or', או...או *o...o* 'either...or', etc.), such as *dan o dina ya'asu 'et ha-ma'ala* 'Dan or Dina will do the task', have the same meaning when the constituents are reversed. In contrast, *ha-sus ma'ad ve-nafal* 'The horse stumbled and fell' cannot be reversed to *\*ha-sus nafal u-ma'ad* 'The horse fell and stumbled', and thus involves asymmetric coordination. In addition to the additive meaning, there are other relations expressed in coordination: adversative relation (אבל *aval* 'but', אולם *ulam* 'however', ואילו *ve-ilu* 'whereas', לא...לא *lo...ela* 'not...but', etc.), resultative (לכן *laxen* 'therefore', לפיכך *lexixax* 'hence', אי לכך *i lexax* 'for that reason', etc.), purposive (לשם כך *lešem kax* 'for that purpose', etc.), renunciation (אף על פי כן *af-'al-pi-xen* 'nevertheless', למרות זאת *lamrot zot* 'despite this', בכל זאת *be-xol zot* 'in spite of this', etc.), explanation (זאת אומרת *zot 'omeret* 'this means', כלומר *k-lomar* 'that is [to say]', לדוגמה *le-dugma* 'for example', etc.) are typical of asymmetric coordination. In asyndetic constructions (*asyndeton*), the individual elements are not connected with conjunctions, e.g., *dan halax, dina miš'ara* 'Dan went, Dina stayed'. In sequences of words or phrases, the conjunctive element occurs only on the last component, e.g., *dina ohevet šoqolad, sukaryot, qašefet ve-'ugot* 'Dina loves chocolate, candies, whipped cream and cakes'. Asyndetic constructions are often used to achieve a dramatic form of expression, as in *bati, ra'iti, qaniti* 'I came, I saw, I bought'.

In transformational grammar, the syntactic description of the coordinated phrase focuses mainly on the assumed *deletion procedures*, i.e., the presumed process by which conjoined sentences, which are identical apart from one constituent in each, are reduced to a coordination of the two constituents. According to such a view, an example like *dan ve-dina noldu be-xefa* 'Dan and Dina were born in Haifa' is derived from two coordinated clauses: *dan nolad be-xefa* 'Dan was born in Haifa', and *dina*

בחיפה נולדה *dina nolda be-xefa* ‘Dina was born in Haifa’; *אכלנו תפוח ואגס* *’axalnu tapuax ve-’agas* ‘We ate an apple and a pear’ is derived from *אכלנו תפוח* *’axalnu tapuax* ‘We ate an apple’ and *אגס* *’agas* ‘We ate a pear’, etc. In most Hebrew textbooks a sentence which contains coordinated phrases is called *משפט כולל* *mišpaṭ kolel* (lit: ‘inclusive sentence’ or ‘multiple sentence’) (Yoeli 1966:112–115; Ornan 1971; Blau 1972; Sadka 1997:35–58; 320–340), though there are those who associate it with the simple sentence (Bin Nun 1967; Azar 1977:45–72; Fruchtmann 1981:54). According to several scholars coordinated verbal predicates are not considered phrases but rather clauses. Hence, *דן הדיח את הכלים וטאטא* *dan bediax ’et ha-kelim ve-tiṭe ’et ha-rišpa* ‘Dan washed the dishes and swept the floor’ or *אכלתי ושתיתי* *’axalti ve-šatiti* ‘I ate and drank’, do not involve coordination of phrases like constructions of the type *דן ורן אחים* *dan ve-ran ’axim* ‘Dan and Ran are brothers’ or coordination of predicate substantives, as in *דן חכם ונדיב* *dan xaxam ve-nadiv* ‘Dan is wise and generous’, because the former consists of an inseparable suffix morpheme indicating the subject, and, therefore, its two constituents are to be considered coordinated clauses (Ornan 1971; Sadka 1997:320–340).

Some coordinated phrases are unacceptable in normative Hebrew, but exist in colloquial varieties, e.g., two coordinated construct-state forms, such as *מורי ותלמידי הכיתה* \**more ve-talmide ha-kita* \*‘The teachers and the students of the class’ (instead of *מורי הכיתה ותלמידיה* *more ha-kita ve-talmideha* ‘The teachers of the class and its students’); unacceptable are also the following types: coordinated preposition-conjunction, e.g., *עבדתי לפני ואחרי* \**avadi lifne ve-’axare ha-šqi’a* \*‘I worked before and after sunset’ (instead of *עבדתי לפני השקיעה ואחריה* *avadi lifne ha-šqi’a ve-’axareha* ‘I worked before sunset and after it’); or the omission of the prepositions in each coordinated phrase, e.g., *נסעתי לחדרה, חיפה* \**nasa’ti le-xadera, xefa ve-’ako* \*‘I traveled to Hadera, Haifa and Acre’ (instead of *נסעתי לחדרה, לחיפה ולעכו* *nasa’ti le-xadera u-le-’ako*).

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## Copper Scroll (3Q15)

The Copper Scroll is a list of buried treasure, written in Hebrew on three sheets of copper originally riveted together, and laid out in twelve columns like an ordinary parchment scroll. It was discovered in 1952 in Cave 3 behind Qumran as part of the manuscript discoveries which became known as the Dead Sea Scrolls (→ Dead Sea Scrolls: Linguistic Features). However, it is unlike the other scrolls, not only in terms of the unusual material on which the text is inscribed and the unusual nature of its contents, but also the kind of Hebrew in which it is written. Because it can be dated to the 1st (or possibly the 2nd) century C.E., it represents a unique witness to the evolution of Hebrew as it developed from the classical Hebrew of the