Mapping the Meaning and Functional Roles of the Conjunction *Fa* in Arabic Texts: An Approach to Mitigating Textual Incoherence

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Abstract This study mapped the meaning and function of the *fa* conjunction using the Functional Systemic Linguistics (FSL) approach. It focused on news and editorial genre texts on *ahram.org.eg* for its Modern Standard Arabic text types. Data were collected using the download-and-record method and Spradley's modified qualitative content model. This study categorized four meanings of *fa*: addition, comparison, temporal, and consequence. The news genre mainly featured temporal meanings, and in the editorial genre, meaning was more complex, with a dominance of consequential meanings. The *fa* function was also classified into internal and external. The internal function was used to organize arguments, and the external function was used to sequence events. A total of 118 instances were found: 16 in news (14 external, 2 internal) and 102 in editorials (73 internal, 29 external). This showed that *fa* in the news text organizes the event, and in the editorial text prepares the argument. Through this mapping, *fa* is positioned more as a logical navigator that maintains the integrity of text messages and mitigates incoherence.

Keywords: *The conjunction fa, Meaning, Function, Arabic discourse, Incoherence textual*

1. Introduction

Particles in Arabic are classified as a class of words that convey meaning when they are combined with other classes of words, such as nouns and verbs (El-Dachdach, 2000). In Arabic, there are no more than eighty particles which are grammatically classified into three types, namely particles that attach exclusively to nouns (*churūf tadkhulu 'alā al-ism*), particles that attach exclusively to verbs (*churūf tadkhulu 'alā al-fi'l*), and particles that can be associated with both nouns and verbs (*churūf tadkhulu 'alā al-ism wa al-fi'l*) (Ni'mah, 1988). In this classification, one particle that can be coupled with nouns and verbs is *fa*. This particle includes bilabial particles (*syafawi*), which are spoken with a breathy or voiceless quality (*mahmūs*) (Salman, 2003). The relationship of the particle *fa* to both nouns and verbs in the Arabic syntactic system renders it a complex particle. The complexity of *fa* has a significant effect on the emergence of alternate meanings and functions. Haywood and Nahmad (1962) explained *fa* as a particle that expresses causality and explains a natural sequence.

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Barakat (1982), Az-Zujaji (1986), and Ar-Rajichiy (1999) classify *fa* as a marker of syntactic coordination (*'athaf nasaqin*). Further, Salman (2003) classifies *fa* into thirteen meanings as well as functions that include *tartīb wa ta'qīb, wau, tafrī', taukīd, tazyīn, zā'idah, Ibtida' bi an-nakirah, tartīb adz-dzikrī, ta'qīb al-majāziy, isti'nāf, jawāb ammā, jawāb asy-syarthi,* and *as-sababiyyah*. Based on these opinions, it is found that the meaning and function of *fa* have not been clearly distinguished. They are still seen as a single aspect operating simultaneously. This means that if one meaning of *fa* is mentioned, its function also applies. In addition, there is no clear boundary between the position of *fa* as a connector (*rabith*), which links two entities (Al-Aziz, 2003; As-Sausuh, 2002) or as a conjunctor (*'athaf*) that connects two ideas or events (Barakat, 2007; Holes, 1995; Nahr, 2008). This is due to the use of analytical units that are still limited to the clause or sentence level.

The use of *fa* is concentrated at the clause or sentence level, resulting in fragmentation of its meaning and function. This raises the risk of failing to convey the full message of the text. The relationship between propositions appears disconnected, resulting in incoherence. In fact, *fa* is often seen as a logical link that maintains connectivity between paragraphs and the continuity of the flow of thought from one idea to the next. To perceive the broader meaning of fa and its macro-functional role, it is necessary to analyze it at the level of text and discourse. Thus, through this macro perspective, the reader will be better able to explain the structure of the text, and it can be used to diagnose the genre of a discourse (Santosa, 2010).

Based on the researchers' observations, studies that specifically examine *fa* are still very limited. Their approach is also focused on micro-linguistic perspectives. Alshbeil (2023), through his study of Surah Al-Kahf, found that certain conjunctions have a specific semantic impact, where *fa* specifically represents immediate sequence (*tartīb wa ta' qīb*) and causal relationships that depend heavily on the context of their use. Furthermore, from a classical grammar perspective, Larcher (2020) conducted a study on *fa* through the theory of classical grammarian Radi l-Din al-Astarabadi. The results of his research confirm that various types of *fa* fundamentally function as segments that mark the inseparable relationship between the topic and the comment in discourse. In addition, the study of *fa* has also been carried out in the field of translation by Saeed and Fareh (2006). They investigated translators' difficulties in translating Arabic sentences containing *fa* discourse markers into English. In a rhetorical context, a study conducted by Al-Hamdani and Harith (2024) confirms that the fa particle plays an important role as a logical link that coordinates arguments with conclusions, thereby strengthening persuasion.

There have also been many studies that have explored the conjunction in Arabic with contemporary approaches. Recent studies related to the use of conjunctions in structural aspects have been conducted by Yusupov et al. (2020), Schiattarella and Serreli (2024), and Albader (2025), which focus on syntactic distribution, semantic functions, and grammatical realization of Arabic conjunctions in various genres. In addition, conjunction research in the systemic functional linguistics (SFL) framework has also been conducted by Al-Hamzi (2026), Alamiri (2022), and Sellami-Baklouti (2021), which places conjunctions as semiotic devices for constructing text logic. These studies have not fully acknowledged the close relationship between the selection of conjunctive relations and language genres. In addition, existing research has not shown the existence of conjunctive relations that form the structure of texts systematically according to genre characters.

Referring to the various functional meanings that have been identified above, previous studies still tend to place *fa* in syntactic analysis that is limited to the micro-textual level. For this reason, the researcher identifies a gap to map the meaning and function of *fa* as a grammatical cohesion tool that operates at the macro-textual level. So far, researchers have not found a classification that explicitly separates the role of *fa* as a marker of the logical relationship between propositions and its role as a guardian of global coherence in a complete text. As a result, the ambiguity of the *fa* function often leads to fragmented meaning, making it difficult to comprehend the author's train of thought fully.

Therefore, this research is very important to be carried out to provide theoretical clarity regarding the distinction of meaning and function of *fa* through the linguistic perspective of the text. The urgency of this research lies in its efforts to minimize the incoherence of interpretation that arises due to the narrowing of the meaning of *fa* at the level of clauses or sentences only. By systematically remapping

the functions of *fa*, this research is expected to provide diagnostic instruments for the analysis of discourse genres and ensure that the messages in Arabic texts are conveyed as a unified, logical, and continuous set of ideas.

2. Theoretical Framework

This research draws on two main theoretical frameworks: genre theory and conjunction theory. Genre theory is used to detect genre types from predetermined text sources, and conjunction theory is used as the main analytical tool to determine the meaning and function of all *fa* conjunctions contained in the text.

2.1. Genre: Language as a Social Process

Hasan and Halliday (1985) state that genre is an organization or system that formulates forms of language to carry out social functions. Operationally, Martin and Rose (2003) define genre as a goal-oriented social process that is achieved gradually, a staged, goal-oriented social process. It is said to be "social" because people use the genre to communicate with others; it is said to be "goal-oriented" because people use genres to achieve communication goals; and it is said to be "stage" because to achieve that goal, it usually takes several stages through the development within the genre. In a broad sense, genre is understood as a cultural institution that underlies the text. These types of texts do not appear out of place but are born in a specific cultural sphere and background through a long social process. Certain types of texts are only born in certain cultures and are not found in other cultures (2003). Furthermore, there are two main genres: the macro genre and the micro genre (Martin, 1992). Macro genres are used to name texts, which may still contain subgenres. Whereas the microgenre is a specific type of text that serves as a building unit within the macrogenre. Micro-genres have a rhetorical structure, stages, and linguistic characteristics that are typical of achieving one specific social goal.

Based on the classification of genres above, this study places two main types of text, both of which are news texts and editorial texts, as macro genres. The selection of the two genres is based on their functional distinction. News texts in newspapers serve to provide up-to-date, factual, and objective information to readers about events that occur around them at the local, national, and international levels (Uswar & Harahap, 2022). On the other hand, editorial text in a newspaper serves to provide views and opinions from the editors or managers of the newspaper on an issue or event that is happening. In more detail, Sabedini (2016) put forward several functions of editorial texts, which include the presentation of the viewpoints and opinions of the newspaper's editorial board on a particular issue or event, a stimulant that stimulates discussion and debate among readers, a guide to readers on how to approach and think about a particular issue, an educational means to raise awareness among readers about a particular issue or event, and oversight of government policies and actions and other public institutions. Thus, the function of editorial text in a newspaper is very important: it provides views and opinions from newspaper editors or managers on current issues and events, and encourages healthy discussions and debates to enrich readers' understanding of the issues.

2.2 Meaning and Function of Conjunctions in the Framework of SFL

Conjunctions in the SFL tradition are based more on the logical meanings they construct and not on their physical forms. In its operational definition, conjunctions are defined as a form of conjunctive relations that realize the logic of discourse that connects events and ideas between clauses (Martin & Rose, 2003). Furthermore, meaning is seen as something expressed by language about the world inhabited by humans or about the world of imagination. In SFL, meaning is realized through words arranged in grammar, and one clause is not the result of the generation of another clause. In the context of conjunctions, the meaning of conjunctions is classified into four major classifications, namely addition, comparison, time, and consequence. Each of these major classifications has a more detailed classification. These four classifications apply to two external and internal classifications of the conjunction form (2003).

An external conjunction is a conjunction that connects two ideas in a complex clause, while an internal conjunction is a conjunction that connects ideas between two simplex clauses or two ideas in a paragraph. External conjunctions are oriented towards the sequence of events in one clause and events in another clause. Internal conjunctions are oriented to the series of ideas or arguments in one clause

and to the ideas or arguments in another clause, interclausally. In simple terms, it can be stated that internal conjunctions are used to organize ideas or arguments at the level of text or discourse. External conjunctions show more logical meaning at the level of clauses (Wiratno, 2018). In addition to the two classifications of conjunctions as outlined above, the existence of conjunctions is not always easy to identify, since conjunctions do not always appear explicitly, but also implicitly. If this is the case, what is identified is the meaning of conjunctions that is revealed, not only their physical existence in the clause. Thus, conjunctions in SFL can also be classified into explicit conjunctions, whose occurrence can be observed physically, and implicit conjunctions, whose occurrence cannot be observed physically.

3. Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative paradigm that treats linguistic phenomena as instances. The researchers utilized the SFL framework to analyze *fa* as a conjunction. They selected an Arabic-language online newspaper *ahram.org.eg*, using 10 news texts and 10 editorial texts. The selection of the two genres is based on their functional distinction. The primary data in this study focus solely on *fa* as a conjunction, while data describing fa as a connector were excluded. In addition, all *fa* conjunctions found in the text (either explicit or implicit or external or internal) are identified in bold and underlined. The external *fa* conjunction is expressed by the arrow to the right of the numbers indicating the clause number, while the internal fa conjunction is expressed by the arrow to the left of the numbers. Implicit conjunctions will be placed inside parentheses, while explicit conjunctions will not. Specifically, the researchers used the purposive sampling technique.

Finally, the data were analyzed using the content analysis of the Spradley model modified by Santosa (Santosa, 2017), consisting of domain, taxonomy, component, and cultural theme analysis. Domain analysis is used to determine the data and its sources. The data are in the form of *fa*, a conjunction in Arabic that connects clauses or levels within the text. Taxonomic analysis is used to classify data according to the theories underlying the research. This study uses the conjunction theory stated by Martin and Rose (1992a, b). Componential analysis was used to observe the relationship between categories, in which case the researchers looked at and analyzed domain categories and taxonomy simultaneously to obtain patterns of interaction between the two. As the final part of content analysis, cultural theme analysis was used to explain and discuss the patterns of relationships obtained in componential analysis with cutting-edge theories. The analysis of cultural themes was based on the context of the situation and the cultural context to explain the use of a predetermined genre. The main purpose of cultural theme analysis was to explain and discuss the above relationship patterns and to try to find the transferability of the findings with the results of other studies and relate them to the parent theory. In this analysis, new findings or new classifications are proposed and maintained to become changes or developments of a theory.

4. Results

4.1. Meaning and Function of the *fa* Conjunction

Based on the analysis of conjunctive relationships conducted on news texts and editorials on *ahram.org.eg*, the researchers identified 118 instances of the *fa* conjunction. Furthermore, based on these findings, the researchers classified the meaning, function, and distribution within each of the two genres, drawing on the SFL theory and the componential analysis design described in the previous section. The following is an analysis of the meanings, functions, and distributions of the *fa* conjunction as observed in the instances (Table 1).

Table 1
The Meaning of the Conjunction fa with External Functions in the News Genre

No	Meaning		Gloss	Quantity of instances
1	Additions	Additives	'And'	1
2	Time	Sequential	'After, next, then.'	5
		Simultaneous	'While, at the same time.'	2
3	Consequences	Effect	‘So,’ ‘thus,’ ‘therefore.’	6
	Σ			**14**

The results in Table 1 show that, across the 10 news genre texts studied, the meaning of *fa* identified consists of addition, temporal, and consequence. *Fa* with the meaning of addition indicates the supplementation of events and can be realized with the gloss 'and' in the text. Regarding temporal meaning, the conjunction *fa* has two senses: sequential and simultaneous time. The meaning of 'sequential time' refers to the time at which events occur in sequence. Sequential time indicates the chronological order in which events occur. This meaning can be conveyed by the glosses 'after,' 'next,' and 'then' in the text. Meanwhile, the simultaneous meaning indicates that events in the text occurred at the same time; this meaning is realized by the glosses 'while' and at the same time.' In addition, the conjunction *fa* with the meaning of consequence is also found to be realized with the glosses 'so,' 'thus,' and 'therefore.'

The meanings of the conjunction *fa* found in these news texts are bound to external functions. An external conjunction is a conjunction that connects two events within a complex clause (Santosa, 2003), representing a logical meaning oriented towards the sequencing of events between clauses (Wiratno, 2018). To uncover the logical relationship of the meanings mentioned above, their use can be observed through the conjunctive relations in the following text instances (Table 2).

Table 2
Conjunctive Relationship of fa in the News Macro Genre with the Meaning of Addition and Temporal

No.	Arabic Text	Gloss	Conjunctive Relationship
1.	(و) فى الوقت نفسه، تصاعدت أمس هجمات المستوطنين المتطرفين على الفلسطينيين،	At the same time, yesterday, extremist settler attacks against Palestinians increased.	1. Addition
2.	**فبينما** اقتحم ١١٥ منهم المسجد الأقصى المبارك أمس بحماية قوات الاحتلال	**While** 115 of them stormed the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque yesterday, under the protection of the occupying forces,	2. **Temporal: simultaneous**
3.	ونفذوا جولات استفزازية فى باحاته،	And they conducted provocative tours of its courtyards,	3. Addition
4.	وأدوا طقوسا تلمودية	Moreover, they perform Talmudic rituals.	4. Addition
5.	واصلوا على مدى الليلة قبل الماضية وأمس هجماتهم واعتداءاتهم على الفلسطينيين فى عدة طرق ومفترقات فى الضفة الغربية والقدس المحتلتين،	Throughout the night before and yesterday, they continued their attacks on Palestinians at several roads and intersections in the West Bank and occupied Jerusalem.	5. Addition 6. Addition 7. **Addition: expansion**
6.	وأغلقوا عدة طرق، بحماية من قوات الاحتلال.	and they blocked several roads under the protection of the occupying forces.	
7.	**ففى**محافظة رام الله والبيرة، هاجم مستوطنون مركبات المواطنين، قرب قرية الطيبة شرق مدينة رام الله	**And in** Ramallah and Al-Bireh provinces, settlers attacked residents' vehicles near the village of Taybeh, east of Ramallah.	

Table 2 is quoted from *ahram.org.eg*, the edition dated January 30, 2023. The main headline of this news is 'رام الله: العقوبات الإسرائيلية عنصرية وتحريض على مزيد من العنف والتصعيد' *Rāmallāh: al-'ūqūbātul Isrā'īliyyah 'unshuriyyatun wa tachrīdhun 'alā mazīdin minal 'unfi wa't-tash'īdi.* ('Ramallah: Israeli sanctions are racist and incite violence and escalation.').

The conjunction *fa* in clause 2 in the above text '... *Iqtachama 115 minhum.*' is classified as an explicit external conjunction that indicates simultaneous temporal meaning. This conjunction chronicles the simultaneity of the extremist settler attack on Palestinians with the raid carried out by 115 individuals, supported by the occupation forces, against the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The *fa* in this context creates temporal coherence, establishing the perception that events are happening concurrently rather than as random occurrences. Meanwhile, the conjunction *fa* in clause 7 '.... ***fa*** *fī muchāfazhati Ramallāh wal Bīrah*....'

is classed as an explicit external conjunction that indicates the meaning of the addition of the event 'and'. The *fa* in this context serves to supplement events from the previous texture. This *fa* links the incident at the Al-Aqsa Mosque with the incident of settlers attacking residents' vehicles near the village of Al-Taybeh, east of Ramallah. This *fa* serves a spatial transition that glues the textual logic together. Without this meaning, the structure of events occurring in the text would appear incoherent. It would obscure the context that the attacks on the Al-Aqsa Mosque and Ramallah were part of a single timeframe and motive. Through this meaning, *fa* prevents systemic fragmentation of the text.

Furthermore, the explicit external *fa* conjunction with the consequential meaning 'then' is found in the texture of the September 16, 2022 edition of *ahram.org.eg* news, entitled 'روسيا: أمريكا ستصبح طرفا بالحرب إذا زودت أوكرانيا بصواريخ متطورة' *Rūsiyā: Amrīkā satushbichu tharfan bilcharbi idzā zawwadat Ukrāniyyā bishawārīkh mutathawwirah* ('Russia: America will become a party to the war if it supplies Ukraine with advanced missiles'). Table 3 illustrates the conjunctive relationship of *fa* with the observable meaning of consequence.

Table 3
Conjunctive Relationship fa in the News Macro Genre with the Meaning of Consequences

No.	Arabic Text	Gloss	Conjunctive Relationship
1.	حذرت وزارة الخارجية الروسية، أمس من أن الوالايات المتحدة ستصبح طرفا مباشرا فى النزاع الأوكرانى	The Russian Foreign Ministry warned yesterday that the United States would be a direct party to the Ukraine conflict	1. -
2.	فى حال قررت تزويد أوكرانيا بصواريخ بعيدة المدى	If it decides to supply Ukraine with long-range missiles	2. Conditional
3.	وقالت المتحدثة باسم وزارة الخارجية الروسية، ماريا زاخاروفا	and Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said:	3. Addition
4.	إذا قررت الولايات المتحدة توريد صواريخ طويلة المدى إلى كييف	'If the United States decides to supply long-range missiles to Kiev	4. Conditional
5.	**فس**نعتبر ذلك تجاوزا للخط الأحمر	**Then** we will consider it a red line violation	**5. Consequences**
6.	وتصبح طرفا مباشرا فى النزاع	and be a party directly involved in the conflict'	6. Addition
7.	وأضافت: روسيا تحتفظ بالحق فى الرد بالشكل المناسب فى حال قررت واشنطن ذلك	Russia reserves the right to respond appropriately if Washington decides to do so	7. Addition

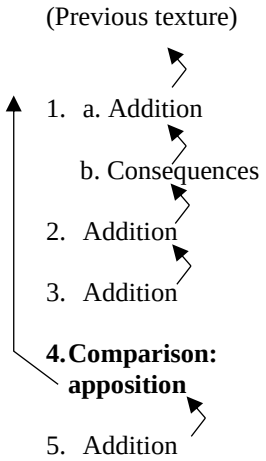
In Table 3, clauses 4 and 5 exhibit a conditional relationship. The conjunction *fa* contained in clause 5 (*fasana'tabiru dzālika tajāwuzan lilkhaththil achmar*) functions as a bridge that connects the conditions (the supply of missiles from the Americans) with the consequence (classification of the act as a violation). The *fa* in this context also serves as a clue to the reader that this is the most critical consequence that Zakharova wants to convey. The *fa* in this context explicitly binds clauses 4 and 5 within a single logical framework of causality (cause-effect), thereby achieving coherence as a highly unequivocal statement of a Russian diplomatic threat. Furthermore, the internally functioning *fa* conjunction can also appear in the news macro-genre. Table 4 presents the observable instances.

Table 4
The Meaning of the Conjunction fa with the Internal Function in the News Genre

No.	Meaning		Gloss	Quantity of Instances
1	Comparison	Apposition (re-explanation)	'That is', i.e'	2
	Σ			**2**

The instances in Table 4 illustrate the *fa* conjunction instances representing comparison. This meaning indicates the comparison of two identical ideas within the text and is realized by the gloss 'that is' and 'i.e.'. The conjunction *fa* in these instances has an internal function, connecting ideas or arguments presented between two simplex clauses or within a paragraph (Santosa, 2003). This function is found in limited quantities in news texts. This is due to the news genre's tendency to sequence events primarily. The logico-semantic relationship between clauses can be observed in the following Instances.

Table 5
Conjunctive Relationship of fa in News Genres with Comparative Meaning

No.	Arabic Text	Gloss	Conjunctive Relationships
1. a	وفى اليابان، دفعت الأزمة الحكومة اليابانية لمناقشة التدابير المطلوبة	In Japan, the crisis prompted the Japanese government to discuss the necessary measures	
B	لمنع انخفاض عامل احتياطى الطاقة إلى ما دون المستوى الحرج البالغ ٣.	to prevent the energy reserve factor from falling below the critical level of 3	
2.	كما ناقشت الحكومة لأول مرة منذ ٧ سنوات نظاما لتوفير الطاقة فى فصل الشتاء،	The government also discussed, for the first time in 7 years, a system to save energy in winter	
3.	وحث الأسر والشركات على خفض استهالكها للكهرباء	and urged households and businesses to reduce their electricity consumption.	
4.	ووفقا للوكالة **فإن** الخطة اليابانية تتضمن اقتصار استخدام الكهرباء على مكيفات الهواء والأجهزة الكهربائية الأخرى لتدفئة المساحات،	According to the agency -**that is**-, Japan's plan includes restrictions on the use of electricity for air conditioners and other electrical appliances, such as space heaters	
5.	وتقليل استهالك الكهرباء لألغراض الثانوية مثل اللوحات الإعالانية، وغيرها	and reduce electricity consumption for secondary purposes such as billboards, and so on	

In clause 4 above, specifically...*wawifqan lilwakālati fa innal khuththal Yābāniyyah tatadhammanu*...., an explicit internal conjunction was found to indicate comparative identity (re-explanation). Functionally, this fact provides specific details on the Japanese government's policy to reduce electricity consumption, which is the central theme of the discourse. The *fa* conjunction in Table 5 is used to elaborate on the events in clauses 1-3, which are constructed using the recount micro-genre. The presence of *fa* in clause 4 temporarily shifts the text's orientation from sequencing events to explaining policy content (explanation), thereby resulting in strong coherence between general statements and technical details.

Furthermore, the distribution pattern in the editorial genre exhibits significant shifts and appears to be in stark contrast to that in the news genre (Table 6). The frequency of the occurrence of *fa* conjunctions in the editorial genre increases sharply to 102 instances. This demonstrates the transformation of *fa*'s role becoming concentrated as a vital meta-discursive instrument within this genre.

Table 6
The Meaning of the Conjunction fa with External Functions in Editorial Genre

No.	Meaning		Gloss	Quantity of Instances
1	Temporal	Sequential	'Then'	1
2	Consequence	Causal	'Because'	15
		Effect	'So/Thus'	8
			'until/so that.'	4
		Condition	'if'	1
	Σ			**29**

This role transformation is characterized by the dominance of the internal function, accounting for 73 instances. The distribution of *fa* is spread across all stages of the text, from the Thesis stage to the Reiteration exposition micro-genre, and from the Statement of Issue to the Conclusion in the Discussion micro-genre. In this context, the conjunction *fa* connects ideas and arguments within the text to build a coherent logic.

Table 6 presents the meanings of the conjunction *fa* with its external function in the editorial genre. The first meaning that appears in this genre is temporal, with 1 instance. The conjunction *fa* with a temporal meaning indicates the chronological arrangement of the sequence of events and is realized by the gloss 'then.' Second, the *fa* conjunction is found to carry consequential meanings. These consequential meanings are classified into three derivative categories, namely causal, effect, and conditional. Regarding casual meaning, the conjunction *fa* explains the cause of an event. This meaning is highly dominant in the text and is realized with the gloss 'because' with 15 instances. Additionally, the conjunction *fa* explains the result, describing the consequences of the events in the text. This meaning is realized by the two main glosses 'until' and 'so that'. The conjunction *fa*, with a conditional meaning, describes the requirements that must be met for an event to occur, glossed as 'if.'

Furthermore, the meanings of *fa* with internal functions in the editorial genre consist of addition, comparison, and consequence. The meaning can be observed in the Table 7.

Table 7
The Meaning of Conjunctions and Internal Function in Editorial Genre

No.	Meaning		Gloss	Quantity of Instances
1	Addition	Development	'and'	24
2	Comparison	Apposition (Re-explanation)	'That is, for example, such as.'	12
		Contrast (Re-orientation)	'However,'	1
3	Consequences	Conclusive	'So'	8
			'Consequently'	4
			'Therefore'	2
			'Hence'	1
			'Thus, in this way.'	5
			'In short'	5
			'In brief'	1
			'To that end.'	1
		Justification	'In fact, precisely.'	1
		Countering (Concession)	'Of course, certainly.'	1
		Causal-Conditional	'So, because'	7
	Σ			**73**

Table 7 shows the findings regarding the meaning of *fa* with internal functions in the editorial genre. The conjunction *fa* with internal functions exhibits a very high frequency in this genre, with 73 instances. This high frequency confirms the nature of the editorial genre as one oriented toward structuring the ideas and arguments of newspaper editors regarding specific events (Sabedini, 2016). The meaning of the addition indicates the development of argumentation within the text and is realized by the gloss 'and.' Furthermore, the meaning of comparison is classified into two derivative meanings, namely apposition and contrastive. Apposition involves the re-formulation of an argument previously mentioned in the text, whereas contrastive comparison involves a redirection of the argument. Apposition-comparison is involved by the glosses 'i.e.,' for example, 'such as.' Finally, the meaning of consequence includes four derivative meanings: conclusive, justification, countering (concession), and causality. The inferential meaning is realized with glosses 'then,' 'consequently,' 'therefore,' 'hence, 'thus, 'so,' 'in short,' 'to that end'. The meaning of justification is realized with the gloss 'in fact' or 'precisely.' Furthermore, the meaning of countering is realized with the gloss 'of course' or 'certainly,' and while causality is realized with 'so' and 'because'.

Given the dominance of *fa* in shaping argumentative flow in the editorial genre, especially in concluding, the researcher focuses on a unique example in which the cohesive role of fa operates more subtly yet decisively through implicit internal functions. *Fa* with this function represents justification found within the Arguments Against stage of the discussion micro-genre. Table 8 shows the observable conjunctive relationships.

Table 8
The Conjunctive Relationship in Editorial Genres with the Meaning of Consequences-Justification

No.	Arabic Text	Gloss	Conjunctive Relationship
1.	ودائما أجد الحل فى قوله تعالى «ولو شاء ربك لجعل الناس أمة واحدة.»	Moreover, I always find a solution in the words of the Almighty, "And if your Lord wills, He will make man one nation."	(Previous Texture)
2.	لكن الله تعالى أراد ألا يسلب الناس حريتهم فى الاختيار	However, Almighty God does not want to deprive man of his freedom of choice.	**1.** Addition
3.	وأن يجعل منهم نمطا واحدا، ونسخا متماثلة فى الرأى والعقيدة والعرق واللون	and make them one of the same type, opinions, beliefs, races, and skin colours	**2.** Contrast
4. a	**(فـ)** إنما جعلنا الله شعوبا وقبائل	(**precisely**) Allah made us a nation and a tribe	**3.** Addition
B	لنتعارف	so that we can get to know each other	**4. a. Consequences: Justification**
5.	وندرك ما بيننا من فروق	and understand the differences between us	b. Purpose
6.	لكنه جعل من المعاملة المعيار الأهم فى الدين	but He made *muamalah* the most important criterion in religion	**5.** Addition
7.	**فعلى** كل إنسان أن يعتقد ما يراه	**Then** everyone must believe what he sees	**6.** Contrast
			7. Conclusion

Table 8 is excerpted from the editorial column (*qadhāyā' wa arā'*) of *ahram.org.eg*, February 25, 2022 edition. This editorial is titled ' الحوار الدينى بين بث الفرقة والتآلف والتسامح *Al-Chiwār a'd-dīniy bayna batsi-l-firqah wa a't-ta'alluf wa a't-tasāmuch*' which translates to 'Religious dialogue between the spread of division, harmony and tolerance.' In total, this discourse consists of 8 textures.

The interpretation of the implicit internal *fa*, which carries the meaning of justification for the argument, is derived from the conjunctive relationship between clause 4a and the previous two clauses. Upon observation, clauses 1 to 3 present the argument that God does not intend to deprive humans of their freedom of choice or make them uniform in all respects. The argument in clause 4a supports this claim ... *Innamā ja'alanallāhu syu'ūban wa qabā'ila* .... to strengthen the author's argumentative position. In this context, the clause performs a counter-argumentative function that justifies the claims made in the preceding clauses. The absence of conjunctions between these arguments would lead to incoherence and a failure to capture the intended message. For this reason, the logical relationship that cements the coherence between the rebuttal and its supporting reasons necessitates the implicit presence of the conjunction *fa*.

4.2. Distribution of the Conjunction *fa*

Based on the analysis above, the micro-genre found in news texts is the recount genre. This micro-genre has a social function of narrating the past to evoke or reanimate experiences; its stages are Orientation-Event-Reorientation (Wiratno, 2018). Furthermore, it is observed that the existence of conjunctions in texts is not always easy to identify, as they do not always appear explicitly, but may also be implicit. Thus, what is identified is the logico-semantic value of the conjunction revealed (Wiratno, 2018).

Consequently, conjunctions in SFL are also classified into explicit conjunctions, whose occurrence is physically observable, and implicit conjunctions, which are not physically present but are logically inferred. Table 9 shows the distribution of the *fa* conjunction in the news genres.

Table 9
Distribution of the Conjunction fa in News Genres

No	Micro-Genre	Phase	Meaning	External Functions		Internal Functions		Quantity of Instances
				Explicit	Implicit	Explicit	Implicit	
1	Recount	Event	Additions	1	-	-	-	1
			Time	7	-	-	2	9
			Consequences	4	2	-	-	6
	Σ							**16**

Table 9 shows the distribution of *fa* in news texts characterized by the recount micro-genre. The distribution of the conjunction *fa* is found only exclusively at the Event stage and is absent from the Orientation and Reorientation stages. In this stage, the functional distribution comprises the explicit external function, with the meanings of addition, temporal succession, and consequence. In contrast, the internal function is found only in the context of comparison.

Furthermore, in editorial texts that feature the micro-genre of exposition and discussion, the conjunction *fa* is distributed across all textual stages. The exposition micro-genre presents an argument as truth, while the discussion micro-genre addresses issues or controversies regarding a specific subject (Wiratno, 2018).

Table 10
Distribution of the Conjunction fa in Editorial Genre

No	Micro-Genre	Phase	Meaning	External Functions		Internal Functions		Quantity of Instances
				Explicit	Implicit	Explicit	Implicit	
1	Exposition	Thesis	Addition	-	-	3	-	3
			Comparison	-		3	1	4
			Temporal	1	-	-	-	1
			Consequence	4	-	3	-	7
		One-sided argument	Addition	-	-	13	-	13
			Comparison	-	-	6	-	6
			Temporal	-	-	-	-	-
			Consequence	13	1	14	3	31
		Reiteration	Addition	-	-	2	1	3
			Comparison	-	-	-	-	-
			Temporal	-	-	-	-	-
			Consequence	4	1	4	4	13
2	Discussion	Issue statement	Addition	-	-	-	-	-
			Comparison	-	-	-	-	-
			Temporal	-	-	-	-	-
			Consequence	-	-	1	-	1
		Supporting Arguments	Addition	-	-	3	-	3
			Comparison	-	-	-	-	-
			Temporal	-	-	-	-	-
			Consequence	-	1	1	-	2
		Opposing Argument	Addition	-	-	3	-	3
			Comparison	-	-	1	-	1
			Temporal	-	-	-	-	-

		Consequence	4	1	5	-	10
	Conclusion / Recommendations	Addition	-	-	-	-	-
		Comparison	-	-	-	-	-
		Temporal	-	-	-	-	-
		Consequence	-	-	1	-	1
Σ							**102**

Table 10 illustrates the distribution of the conjunctions identified at the Thesis stage, including explicit external functions with temporal and consequential meanings; explicit internal functions with meanings of addition, comparison, and consequence; and implicit internal functions with a meaning of comparison. At the Argumentation stage (one-sided), the distribution of conjunctions *fa* encompasses explicit external functions with consequential meanings; implicit external functions with consequential meanings; explicit internal functions with meanings of addition, comparison, and consequence; and implicit internal functions with consequential meanings. In the Reiteration stage, the distribution of *fa* includes explicit external and implicit external functions, both of which carry consequential meanings. Furthermore, this stage includes explicit internal functions with addition and consequence meanings, as well as implicit ones.

In the discussion micro-genre, the distribution of the *fa* conjunction is found in all four stages of the text. At the Statement of Issue stage, the *fa* conjunction identified includes an explicit internal function with a consequential meaning. At the supporting arguments stage, the *fa* conjunction includes an implicit external function with a consequential meaning, and an explicit internal function with addition and consequence meanings. In opposition, the *fa* conjunction includes explicit external functions and implicit external functions with consequential meanings, alongside explicit internal functions with meanings of addition, comparison, and consequence. Finally, at the Conclusion and Recommendation stage, the identified *fa* conjunction includes an explicit internal function with a consequential meaning.

5. Discussion

The most important thing revealed by this study is that the *fa* conjunction in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) texts plays a significant role and holds authority beyond serving merely as a clause link in traditional Arabic grammar. Its syntactic flexibility with other word classes is in harmony with its semantic adaptability in creating coherence. According to the researchers, the role of the *fa* conjunction is not limited to mechanical work patterns; it is a systematic, logical navigator that escorts the reader through the polysemic meanings it contains. This depends on the demands of the genre of text being served. The presence of *fa* becomes crucial for mitigating the risk of incoherence, ensuring the transition from tied ideas into a systemically integrated logic scheme.

The SFL approach, as an analytical model used in the context of Arabic digital media, provides a clearer picture of how the conjunction *fa* is used in practical situations. This helps to improve the understanding and delivery of information in the media. Furthermore, the unit analysis of this study is at the discourse level. This study is focused on news and editorial texts, which are contrasting types of discourse and have special characteristics. Moreover, both texts are sourced from *ahram.org.eg*, which is one of the well-known and second-oldest Arabic-language daily newspapers in Egypt, founded on December 27, 1875. For a long time, this newspaper has published many news articles and writings from influential figures in the Arab and Islamic world, such as Jamaluddin Al-Afghani and Muhammad Abduh. The newspaper has a digital version that is known, read, and frequently accessed by the international community. It is also often used as the main source of information that uses the Arabic *fushchā* language and can provide an example of good and productive use of MSA with ease of access and networking. The use of the text as a unit of analysis in this study is a novelty value that arises because, in previous research and studies, conjunction analysis often focuses on literary language or general sentences that do not consider the context of the media.

Upon closer examination, this study also shows the distinction between the meaning and function of the *fa* conjunction in the text. Regarding meaning, a more systematic and functional classification was

derived based on the context of use. In terms of functions, there are internal functions that structure arguments and external functions that structure events. These two functions can be either explicitly or implicitly stated, and their existence can be interpreted based on the conjunctive relationship between clauses and paragraphs. Furthermore, based on the distribution analysis, a model for analyzing *fa* was established by stages or phases within micro-genres.

In the cultural theme, the findings on the function of *fa*, which operate externally and internally, even explicitly and implicitly, suggest that Arabic is categorized as a high-context culture (Hall, 1976). In the structure of a particular text, conjunctions do not always appear explicitly. Indirectness information has become a common practice and is even seen as an advantage of Arab cultural characteristics in communication. Such characteristics lead to the interpretation of rhetorical devices that implicitly bridge the coherence of the text's information. Cohesive and coherent texts are integral to the characteristics of Arab society that emphasize the value of collectivity (Hofstede, 2011). In the sociocultural context, the multifunctional conjunction *fa* in the text ensures the harmony of Arabic discourse, which is rich in context, and maintains the coherence of the communication style of Arab society, which tends to be indirect. Through the mapping of the meaning and function of the *fa* conjunction that has been carried out, the subjective interpretation of the text can be avoided.

Finally, this research has implications for a more accurate understanding of the meaning of texts. The analysis of conjunctions in news and editorial texts helps readers and writers better understand the meaning to be conveyed. These conjunctions can significantly change the meaning of a clause or even the text and affect the reader's interpretation. Ultimately, understanding the meaning and function of *fa* with the SFL approach will help to connect information in news and editorial texts, improving coherence and connectivity between events and between ideas. No less important, analysis of the distribution of *fa* conjunctions in news and editorial texts can reveal unique language preferences in Arabic-language media texts. This can inform writers and editors about the use of text genres and help in delivering a more effective message.

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