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The Structure of Sentences and their Connection.

By reference to the first number of the *Review*, our readers will perceive that all the words of a language are divided in three classes; namely, principals, expletives, and conjunctions.

These assume the forms of sentences, when combined to express the sentiments of the mind. A simple sentence is, therefore, the verbal expression of a simple sentiment; and a compound sentence is the verbal expression of a compound sentiment. Whether simple or compound, the sentence should be constructed to harmonize exactly with its mental archetype.

At first view, it seems strange that all languages should be governed in their structure, by one set of rules. But this surprise is soon dispelled when we come to consider that, among mankind, the arrangement of thoughts, in the mind itself, for the formation of sentiments, conforms likewise to one set of rules. More or fewer suggestions may happen in some minds than in others; and, in this respect, human genius is characterized by barrenness or fertility; but, so far as single sentiments are regarded as inceptions of external realities, every mind employs, alike, principal, expletive and conjunctive ideas, and no other; and by a common and regular process combines these so that they form, invariably, the theme, the predicate, and the accident; the only constituent parts of either simple or compound sentences.

This coincidence between the inward and outward arrangement of the symbols of thought and language, at the same time that it exacts a rigid conformity of the verbal expression with the mental type of which it is the representative, marks, with the most extreme minuteness, the distinction between the legitimate and superfluous use of the verbal symbols. And this mark of distinction is available, not only in the practice of modern languages; but in Greek and Latin, also, we become able, by it, to detect erroneous superfluities of diction with which, in one particular respect, both of these languages abound.

In proceeding now to lay down one general form for the structure of sentences, we shall do so, in the first

instance, with the English exclusively. The same form is applicable in all other languages; but as our readers are not supposed to be all acquainted with foreign tongues, and it is desirable that the form should be clearly understood, we consider it best to explain ourselves first in English.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

On the blackboard or slate draw two perpendicular lines, as below. The first space to the left is for the theme; the second or middle, for the predicate; and the third or right, for the accident. These three parts of a sentence as well as sentences themselves are joined together by a class of words called conjunctions. The place of the conjunctions is close to the left of each space; and their different kinds are here stated:—

Sentential Conjunctions.	Prodicative Conjunctions.	Accidental Conjunctions.
and	am	to
or	was	from
nor	have not*	in
either }	love	out
or }	hate	at
neither }	strikes	by
nor }	desire	through
	confess	there†
	think	then
	read	when
	have loved‡	also
	may strike	because
	should go	therefore
	became read	amidst
	shall have become read	exceedingly
		exactly

Here we have the conjunctions which join sentences and the parts of sentences. About these there can be no difficulty, for they invariably occupy the places assigned them in the above form. The next thing is to distinguish the words which belong to the theme;

* The negative forms part of the conjunction; therefore, "have not" is called a negative conjunction.

† "Have loved" is a compound conjunction, corresponding with AMAV in Latin.

‡ "I here," "then," "therefore," "amidst," "exactly," &c., signifying in that place, at that time, for that reason, in the middle, in an exact manner, form complete accidents, and consequently stand alone, in all cases. But, because they imply conjunctions, and stand in the same column with the conjunctions, they are assumed to belong to that class.