

modified from Roberts (2016) Coherence, Salience, and Anaphora: the role of the QUD, Appendix A

Table 2: Asher & Lascarides' (2003) discourse relations¹

Highlighting in yellow indicates a role in **Intentional Structure**, in the sense of Roberts (2013) (*not* according to

A&L). A **SARG** is one of their Speech Act Related Goals.

Numbers in parenthesis (#) refer to examples following the table.

J&K: consensus rhetorical relations in the literature, per Jasinskaja & Karagjosova (2021)

Relation over arguments α, β	Veridical*	Indicative	Interrogative	Directive	additional notes
Content-level relations					
Q (uestion) A (nswer) P (air) §7.6.1, 313	✓		subordinating true direct answer (15)		QUD subordination
↓, Topic §4.7, 146	✓	subordinating			required for Background, Continuation, Narration
Narration ^{J&K} §4.8.2, 162 §7.6.4, 331	✓	coordinating (10)	subordinating (and then what?) (14)	coordinating (17)	spatio-temporal consequence (end of α = beginning of β) same- topic
Continuation §4.7, 146	✓	coordinating (6)			like Narration, requires same Topic , but lacks spatio- temp'l consequences
Elaboration ^{J&K} §4.8.1, 159 §7.6.4, 331	~✓ (modified Sat.Schema)	subordinating (8)	subordinating (answer to β elaborates on α) (13)	subordinating (18)	temporal-part relation between β and α
Background §4.8.3, 165 §7.6.4, 331	✓	coordinating; but in effect subordinating; see FBP (3)	subordinating (answer to β is background to α) (12)		temporal overlap b/n α and β like Narration, requires Topic related to it by FBP
F (ocus) B (ackground) P (air) §4.8.3, 165	✓	subordinating			only used for semantics of Background
Explanation ^{J&K} §4.8.1, 159 §7.6.4, 331	✓	subordinating (9)	subordinating (why?) (16)		temporal precedence b/n events dual of Result
Result ^{J&K} §4.8, 155 §7.6.4, 331	✓	coordinating [causal] (11)	subordinating [causal]	coordinating α normally results in β being true (20)	α normally results in β being true
Alternation (dynamic \vee) §4.8.5, 169					
Consequence (dynamic \Rightarrow) 4.8.5, 169		(4), (5)			

¹ from their Appendix D, pp.459ff

Relation over arguments α, β	Veridical*	Indicative	Interrogative	Directive	additional notes
Def(easible)- Consequence §4.8.5, 169	?			coordinating (19)	e.g., for bridging to prototypical participants; see (7)
Text Structuring relations one of these is required for ellipses per Asher (1993); they may coexist with other relations					
Contrast ^{J&K} §4.8.4, 168	✓	coordinating (21) [holds with Background]			α, β must have similar semantic structures with contrasting theme .
Parallel ^{J&K} §4.8.4, 168	✓	coordinating (22) [holds with Background]			also requires similar semantic structures, common theme
Cognitive-level relations semantics specified partly in terms of intentions, beliefs of interlocutors					
Acknowledgement §8.4, 361 [Pop g off G/q off QUD]		subordinating			S(β) has accepted or achieved S(α)'s SARG(s)
I(ndirect)QAPS §7.6.1, 313			subordinating (25)	IQAP _{r(request)} subordinating (26)	α must be a Q, β contextually entailing a direct answer to α
N(ot)E(nough) I(nformation) §7.6.1, 313		subordinating (27)			α must be a Q, β implying that S(β) can't answer
Plan-Correction §7.6.2, 320		subordinating (30)	subordinating (29)	subordinating (28)	β entails that S(β) won't accept/ can't help S(α) achieve her SARG(s)
Plan-Elab §7.6.2, 320	✓	subordinating (31)	Q-Elab subordinating (33) Often a type of Elaboration _q	R-Elab subordinating (34)	β provides info/asks Q/directs to elaborate a plan for achieving the SARG(s) of S(α)
P(artial)QAP §7.6.1, 313		subordinating	subordinating (32)		α a Q, β non-monotonically entailing a partial answer
Divergent relations					
Correction §8.3, 345		subordinating (35), (36)			
Counterevidence §8.2, 343		subordinating (37)			Like Correction , but only defeasible.
Dis(R) §8.3.1, 350		??			R(α, β), part of discourse context, is now in dispute

Relation over arguments α, β	Veridical*	Indicative	Interrogative	Directive	additional notes
Metatalk relations					
Consequence §7.6.5, 333		(38)			If α is true, then $S(\beta)$ has the SARG of β .
Explanation* §7.6.5, 333	✓	subordinating (39)	Explanation* (40)		β (or its answer) explains why $S(\alpha)$ has α 's SARG
Result §7.6.5, 333		(41)	?	?	e_α caused $S(\alpha)$ to utter β

*satisfies the Satisfaction Schema

About *coordinating* vs. *subordinating* relations: Per Jaskinskaja & Karagjosova (2021), “We know that the notion of discourse-structural subordination is useful and how it is useful [in explaining the occurrence of certain linguistic effects], but we still do not know what subordination is and why it has the effects it has.” See their section 3.2 for illustration and discussion.

Asher & Lascarides’ illustrative examples for some of these relations, as noted in the table:

- (3) Max opened the door. The room was pitch dark.
- (4) If there’s a bathroom, then it’s in a funny place.
- (5) Suppose there’s a bathroom. Then it’s in a funny place.
- (6)
 - a. The teacher asked the students to look for the lost cat.
 - b. John looked under the table.
 - c. Mary looked in the garden.
 - d. Max searched all the cupboards. (b) – (d) related by Continuation
- (7) If John scuba dives, he’ll bring his regulator.
- (8) John had a lovely meal last night. He ate lots of salmon.
- (12) A: Max arrived at the party at 8pm last night.
B: Who was there at the time?
- (13) A: Kluwer are accepting manuscripts at the moment.
B: What kind of manuscripts?
- (14) A: John arrived at the party at 8pm last night.
B: And then what happened?
- (15)
 - a. A: How can I get to the treasure?
 - b. B: By going to the secret valley and looking under the biggest tree.
- (16)
 - a. A: I want to go to the party tonight.
 - b. B: Why?

- (17) Go into John's office and get a red file folder.
- (18) Go to John's office and take a red file folder with you.
- (19) Smoke a packet of cigarettes a day and you will die before you're 50.
- (20) Turn left at the roundabout and you will see traffic lights.
- (21) a. John loves sport.
b. But he hates football. [Contrast]
- (22) a. John loves sport.
b. Bill loves sport too. [Parallel]
- (25) a. A: How can I get to the treasure?
b. B: It's at the secret valley, under the biggest tree.
- (26) a. How does one get to Princes Street?
b. Take the 33 bus.
- (27) a. A: Who's coming to the party?
b. B: I don't know.
- (28) a. A: Close the window.
b. B: I'm afraid I can't do that.
- (29) a. A: Has Max got a girlfriend?
b. B: Did you see the Giants?
- (30) a. A: Let's meet next Saturday.
b. B: I'm afraid I'm busy then.
- (31) A: I want to catch the 10.20 train.
B: It's leaving from platform 1.
- (32) a. A: Who's coming to the party?
b. B: Well, I know Mary isn't coming.
- (33) A: Can we meet next weekend?
B: How about next Saturday?
- (34) A: I want to catch the 10.20 train to London.
B: Go to platform 1.
- (35) A: John distributed the copies.
B: No, it was Sue who distributed the copies.
- (36) A: John went to jail. He was caught embezzling funds from the pension plan.
B: No! John was caught embezzling funds, but he went to jail because he was convicted of tax evasion.
- (37) A: John doesn't have a girlfriend.
B: He's been going to New York a lot lately.

- (39) Close the window. I'm cold.
- (40) A: It's getting late.
B: Aren't you enjoying yourself?
- (41) It's getting late. Can we leave now?