

***“If that’s what she said, then that’s what she said”*: a usage-based, constructional analysis of pleonastic conditionals**

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This paper investigates so-called ‘Pleonastic Conditionals’ (PCs) in Present Day English:

- (1) *If I don’t remember, then I don’t remember, and that’s fine.* (SOAP, 2001, AMC)
- (2) *Sweetheart, I understand. If you have to go, you have to go.* (SOAP, 2003, Pass)
- (3) *Okay, I’ll see you when I’ll see you* (SOAP, 2007, GL)

These constructions can roughly be defined as pseudo-conditionals in which the antecedent and consequent are formally and semantically identical and therefore do not really express a condition. PCs have only received limited attention in the literature. To fill this research gap, this paper analyzes 2151 examples of *if* and *when*-PCs qualitatively and quantitatively. The corpus study uses offline data from three BYU corpora: the Movie Corpus (Davies 2019), TV Corpus (Davies 2019), and the Corpus of American Soap Operas (Davies 2011). By fitting a Logistic Regression Model, formal and especially discourse-pragmatic features of the construction are investigated.

It will be shown that PCs are stylistic, rhetorical templates of low frequency which are clearly different from default conditional clauses. Their tautological, pleonastic nature is used to express various discourse-pragmatic functions (some of which have been overlooked in the literature). Moreover, the *if*- and *when*-type have different preferences when it comes to their preferred syntactic variant, polarity value and their discourse-pragmatic function. The results are interpreted using the framework of Usage Based Cognitive Construction Grammar (UCCxG) and the study provides an informed constructional sketch of the Pleonastic Conditional network and discusses if and how it can be integrated into a larger network of conditional constructions.