

**SYNTACTIC ANALYSIS OF MARK TWAIN'S *ABOUT BARBERS* ON
LEECH'S METHOD****Dinuk Putri Wulandari**✉

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Info Artikel*Sejarah Artikel:*

Diterima Juni 2015

Disetujui Juli 2015

Dipublikasikan Agustus
2015*Keywords:*parse, sentence structure,
syntax**Abstract**

This final project discusses the syntactic analysis of Mark Twain's About Barbers on Leech's Method which focusses on its sentence structure and sentence construction. The problems in this study are: how every sentence of Mark Twain's About Barbers is analyzed syntactically, what the types of sentence structures are used in About Barbers story, what the most dominant type of sentence structures is used in About Barbers story. The objectives of the study are to have a closer look to the elements of syntactical units, to construct of the sentences of About Barbers story, to show and to explain types of the sentence structures used in About Barbers story, to reckon the frequency of types of sentence structures found in About Barbers story and their degree in percent. The sources of the data in this study are the script of the short story. The data taken from the script are in the forms of phrases, sentences, and dialogues. In collecting the data, I used some steps like reading, identifying, inventorying, classifying, and reporting. In analyzing the data, I identified every sentence by parsing analysis with labelling and then counted the percentage of every sentence to get information the most dominant of sentence structure types used in the story. The result shows that compound sentence structure dominates the short story with the amount of frequency 24 in number. Then, compound-complex sentence structure follows it with 16 sentences. The percentage of simple sentence structure is 15%. Complex sentence structure are 18%. Compound-complex sentence is 27% and the last compound sentence structure is 40%. With regards to the previous results, it can be concluded that this text is dominated by compound sentences. Compound sentence contains more than one meaning to be interpreted, so it is a little bit complicated to catch the meaning for English young learners. The result of this study will help students in understanding the compositions of sentences and how the sentence constructed. Besides, it can help English teachers to consider if this work is understandable or suitable for the students.

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ISSN 2252-6463

INTRODUCTION

In human being community, people use language to conduct social interaction. Language is very important for human life. We cannot imagine how the world would be without language. Language is a way to communicate, share ideas and express feelings. Language is not only used for daily conversation, but also used in education, research and science, either in spoken or written. There are various ways to present language, such as spoken, written, and body language. Written languages use symbols to build words. The entire set of words is the language's vocabulary. The ways in which the words can be meaningfully combined is defined by the language's *syntax* and grammar.

Syntax is a part of grammar. Syntactic grammar can also be said that it discusses the relationship between words in the speech. The study of syntax includes of the phrases, clauses, and sentences. Syntactic function is as a subject, predicate, object, information and complementary.

Accordingly, we have to study syntax because it has a great role in any language and its product, in this case in written form, for example short story which is read by all language users. Hence, syntax is one of basic elements for making up the composition to every language that the users will master if they want to express their idea within spoken or written.

There are some definition of syntax. The first definition is taken from Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary of English (1995:1212) which states that syntax is the arrangement of words into phrases and of phrases into sentences. It means that the arrangement from words into phrases until become a simple sentence or complex sentence.

According to Soelistia (2007:45) in his handout of style and structure literature, understanding syntax means knowing what the author does with word order, sentence variety, and rhythm. Syntax refers to the way words and phrases are arranged to form phrases and sentence. Syntax means sentence structure.

Leech and Short (1981:159) in their book *Style in Fiction: A Linguistic Introduction to English Fictional Prose* which state that when we want to analyze a writer's sentence structure, we should look at the sentences and see how they are constructed. That is because by looking at the sentences and seeing how they are constructed, we will know how complex the sentences are.

From some definitions above, we can conclude that syntax is a branch of linguistics which talks about structure of sentences, clauses, and phrases.

One of the factors of an author being a good author is the use of syntax in his work. The arrangement of words will determine readers to choose the most preferable and suitable work for each of them according to their favor, interest and reading ability.

Samuel Langhorne Clemes, better known by his pen name Mark Twain, was an American author and humorist. He is noted for his novels *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885), called "The Great American Novel" and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and many kinds of short story. People are still favoring his works. We must pay attention to the author's methods of linguistics study in reading a literary works because it is a technical knowledge in literature.

In this final project, I am interested in analyzing one of short stories *About Barbers* by Mark Twain, especially syntactical analysis because it is very interesting and close to our life.

DISCUSSION

1. Syntactic Analysis of *About Barbers* Story

Languages have rules. The rules of language are called grammar. The reason for these rules is that a person needs be able to speak indeterminately large number of sentences in a lifetime. The effort would be impossible great if every sentence had to be studied separately.

By studying the rules for connecting words it is possible to analyze an infinite number of sentences, all of which are meant for people who know the syntax. Thus it is possible to analyze many sentences that I have never read before. A finite number of rules facilitates an infinite

number of sentences that can be simultaneously understood by both the researcher and the reader.

To acquire kinds of syntactic role, we need to analyze the sentences that we meet in the short story thoroughly. The term Syntax analysis is simply changed into parse and parsing by the searching machine in internet. The American Heritage Dictionary of the English language defines, parse is to break (a sentence) down into its component parts of speech with an explanation of the form, function, and syntactical relationship of each part; to describe (a word) by stating its part of speech, form, and syntactical relationship in a sentence.

There are 60 sentences and only 12 sentences taken as examples which are considered representative to answer question number one. These sentences are taken because all elements of syntactic role can be found in these sentences. The following is the analysis of each data.

a. Simple sentences

- Sentence number 4

I got shaved this morning as usual.

[S P A A]

This is a simple sentence that represents direct sentence containing a relative clause.

- Sentence number 9

I watched the probabilities with strong interest.

[S P O A]

It is a simple sentence because it consists of one independent clause.

- Sentence number 19

At last my turn came.

[A S P]

It is a simple sentence because it consists of one independent clause. b. Compound sentences

- Sentence number 14

I stayed out fifteen minutes, and then went back, hoping for better luck.

[S P A] + [P A A ____]
[P A]

It is a compound sentence. It has three independent clauses that are joined with comma and coordinating conjunction. It represents

indirect subordinate clause containing a comparative clause.

- Sentence number 20

A voice said "Next!" and I surrendered to -- No. 2, of course.

[A ____ S P] + [S A]
[S P]

The sentence above consists of two independent clauses. It represents direct subordinate clause containing noun clause.

- Sentence number 37

Now he began to shave, digging his fingers into my countenance to stretch the skin and bundling and tumbling my head this way and that as convenience in shaving demanded.

[S P A] + [P O A A] + [P O] + [cj P A]

We can find four independent clauses that are joined with comma and coordinating conjunction. It represents direct subordinate clause containing a number of clause, they are adverbial and prepositional clause. Because of that, this sentence called compound sentence.

c. Complex Sentences

- Sentence number 5

A man approached the door from Jones Street as I approached it from Main -- a thing that always happens.

[S P O A _____] + [S cj A P]
[S P O A]

It is a complex sentence. It represents direct subordinate clause and containing of prepositional clause.

- Sentence number 26

I said I did not want it trimmed.

[S P A _____]
[S P O A]

There is only one independent clause in the sentence above. It represents indirect subordinate clause containing an adverbial clause.

- Sentence number 42

He immediately sharpened his razor -- he might have done it before.

[S A P O] + [S P O A]

There are two independent clauses in the sentence above, and also represents direct subordinate clause containing a number of

clauses, they are adverbial, noun and prepositional clause.

d. Compound complex sentences

- Sentence number 6

I hurried up, but it was of no use; he entered the door one little step ahead of me, and I followed in on his heels and saw him take the only vacant chair, the one presided over by the best barber.

[S P cj S P A] + [S P O] + [cj S P A cj P O]

[S P A]

It is a compound-complex sentence. It has two independent clauses and represents three subordinate clauses. They are noun clause, adverbial clause and prepositional clause.

- Sentence number 29

He yearned over it reflectively a moment, and then asked with a disparaging manner, who cut it? I came back at him promptly with a "You did!" I had him there.

[S P O A A] + [A P A] + [S P O] + [S P A A ____] + [S P O A]

[S P]

The sentence above indicates a compound-complex sentence. It has five independent clauses that are joined with comma and coordinating conjunction. It represents indirect subordinate clause and containing prepositional clause.

- Sentence number 47

Next he poked bay rum into the cut place with his towel, then choked the wound with powdered starch, then soaked it with bay rum again, and would have gone on soaking and powdering it forevermore, no doubt, if I had not rebelled and begged off.

[S P O A] + [A P O A] + [P A P O A A]

[P A P O A A _____]

[cj S P P]

It is a compound complex sentence which has three independent clauses. It represents indirect subordinate clause containing an adverbial clause.

The representative data above, it is obvious now that the elements of syntactical role in the short story revealed. Next is the summarization of the founding. The elements of the Function Class are: S, P, A, O, C, Cj.

2. Types of Sentence Structures Used in *About Barbers Story*

Martin and Ohmann (1962:177) declare that:

A simple sentence contains one independent clause. A complex sentence contains one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses. A compound sentence contains two or more independent clauses and no dependent clause. A compound complex sentence contains two or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

The following is the representative data taken from the data which are already presented on previous problem statement. The data is shrunk into four sentences which are considered to represent the overall analyzed data which can be seen on Appendices.

1. Simple sentence

- Sentence number 2

These never change.

[S A P]

This is a simple sentence and shows an adverbial clause.

2. Compound sentence

- Sentence number 14

I stayed out fifteen minutes, and then went back, hoping for better luck.

[S P A] + [P A A ____]

[P A]

It is a compound sentence. It has three independent clauses that are joined with comma and coordinating conjunction. It represents indirect subordinate clause containing a comparative clause.

3. Complex sentence

- Sentence number 27

He explored again and said it was pretty long for the present style -- better have a little taken off; it needed it behind especially.

[S P A _____] + [A P O] + [S P O A]

A]

N O	Types of Sentence Structure	Found in Data Number	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Simple sentence	2, 4, 7, 9, 19, 21, 51, 53, 55	9	15%
2.	Compound sentence	1, 14, 15, 18, 20, 23, 24, 25, 30, 32, 36, 37, 38, 40, 43, 45, 46, 48, 49, 52, 54, 56, 58, 59	24	40%
3.	Complex sentence	3, 5, 10, 11, 16, 26, 27, 28, 42, 50, 60	11	18%
4.	Compound-complex sentence	6, 8, 12, 13, 17, 22, 29, 31, 33, 34, 35, 39, 41, 44, 47, 57	16	27%

[P O C A]

There are three independent clauses and two subordinate clauses, they are comparative and adverbial clause in the sentence above. We can call complex sentence. It represents indirect subordinate clause.

- 4. Compound-complex sentence
- Sentence number 57

He returned to business after the miscarriage of this last enterprise, sprinkled me all over, legs and all, greased my hair in defiance of my protest against it, rubbed and scrubbed a good deal of it out by the roots, and combed and brushed the rest, parting it behind, and plastering the eternal inverted arch of hair down on my forehead, and then, while combing my scant eyebrows and defiling them with pomade, strung out an account of the achievements of a six-ounce black-and-tan terrier of his till I heard the whistles blow for noon, and knew I was five minutes too late for the train.

[S P A ____] + [P O A _____] + [P P O A] + [P P O _____] +
 [S A] [P O A A]
 [P O A ____]
 [P O A]
 [A P O _____] + [P O A A
]
 [cj P O A] [cj S P O A
 A _____]
 [P S P A A]

It is a compound complex sentence. It consists of six independent clauses that are joined with comma and coordinating conjunction and two subordinate clauses they are direct and indirect subordinate clause, containing adverbial and relative clause.

3. The Most Dominant Type of Sentence Structures Used in *About Barbers Story*

The result of the sentence structure analysis can be seen in the following table. The formula to count the percentage is:

$$\frac{\text{Frequency}}{\text{The number of overall sentences}} \times 100\%$$

For the whole analysis, it can be seen on Appendices.

From the table above, it can be seen that there are 60 sentences composed in Mark Twain's *About Barbes*. The table shows that compound sentence structure dominates the short story with the amount of frequency 24 in number. It means that 24 sentences have two or more independent clause. The clauses are joined by a coordinating conjunction (with or without comma), a correlative conjunction (with or without comma), a semicolon that functions as a conjunction, a colon instead of a semicolon between two sentences when the second sentence explains or illustrates the first sentence and no coordinating conjunction is being used to connect the sentences, or a conjunctive adverb preceded by a semicolon. A conjunction can be used to make a compound sentence. Conjunction are words such as for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so (the first letters of which spell 'fanboys'). The coordinators found in the text are: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so. The use of a comma to separate two independent clauses without the addition of an appropriate conjunction is called a comma splice and is generally considered an error (when used in the English language).

Then, compound-complex sentence structure follows it with 16 sentences. A complex sentence has one or more dependent clauses (also called subordinate clauses). Since a dependent clause cannot stand on its own as a sentence, complex sentence must also have at least one independent clause. A sentence with two or more independent clauses plus one or more dependent clauses is called compound-complex or complex-compound. A clause with a subject and a verb, dependent clause and adverbial function, specifying time, place, or manner is called adverbial clause.

Simple sentence structure has 9 sentences. A simple sentence structure contains one independent clause and no dependent clauses. This simple sentence has one independent clause which contains one subject. The predicate is a verb phrase that consists of more than one word. Simple sentence is followed by complex sentence that has 11 sentences. A complex sentence has at least one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses. Dependent clauses cannot be sentences on their own. They depend on an independent clause to support them. The independent clause in a complex sentence carries the main meaning, but either clause may come first. When the dependent clause comes first, it is always followed by comma.

The table also presents the percentage of each sentence structure. Simple sentence structure has percentage 15%. It is followed by complex sentence structure that is 18%. Compound-complex structure is 27% and the last compound sentence structure is 40%. The word compound means that something is made up of two or more elements, so it makes sense that these sentences express two or more main ideas. It is little bit complicated to catch the meaning. It can be seen in sentence number 15 and sentence number 20.

Each sentence will be explained here:

Sentence number 15

Of course all the chairs were occupied now, and four men sat waiting, silent, unsociable, distraught, and looking bored, as men always do who are waiting their turn in a barber's shop.

[A S P A] + [S P A A A] + [S A P] + [S]

[S P O A]

It is a compound sentence. It has four independent clauses. It represents indirect subordinate clause containing a comparative clause.

Sentence number 20

A voice said "Next!" and I surrendered to -- No. 2, of course.

[A ___ S P] + [S A]

[S P]

The sentence above consists of two independent clauses. It represents direct subordinate clause containing noun clause.

We can also find the most complex sentence from the table above. It is found in sentence number 16 because there are four independent clauses, two subordinate clauses. It represents indirect subordinate clause containing a comparative clause and prepositional clause.

The sentence as follows:

Then I read the greasy names on the private bayrum bottles; read the names and noted the numbers on the private shaving-cups in the pigeonholes; studied the stained and damaged cheap prints on the walls, of battles, early Presidents, and voluptuous recumbent sultanas, and the tiresome and everlasting young girl putting her grandfather's spectacles on; execrated in my heart the cheerful canary and the distracting parrot that few barbers' shops are without.

CONCLUSION

About Barbers, a short story by Mark Twain is dominated by compound sentence structure with the frequency 24 in number. Then, compound-complex sentence structure follows it with 16 sentences. Simple sentence structures has frequency 9 sentences and 15% in percentage. Complex sentence structure is 18%. Compound-complex sentence is 27% and the last compound sentence structure is 40%.

Compound sentence structure dominates the short story with the amount of frequency 24 in number. It means that 24 sentences have at least one independent clause and one or more

subordinate clause. Compound-complex sentence structure follows it with 16 sentences. Complex sentence structure has 11 sentences. It has one or more dependent clauses (also called subordinate clauses). Since a dependent clause cannot stand on its own as a sentence, complex sentences must also have at least one independent clause. Then, Simple sentence structure has 9 sentences. A simple sentence structure contains one independent clause and no dependent clauses. This simple sentence has one independent clause which contains one subject.

This text is recommended for students in Advanced Level (High School students or above) because it is dominated by compound sentence. Compound sentence has two or more independent clauses making statements, questions, or commands, while complex has only one main clause. Compound sentence contains more than one meaning to be interpreted. It is little bit complicated to catch the meaning. It can be seen in sentence number 15 and sentence number 20 where there are two independent clauses found in those sentences joined by comma and coordinating conjunction.

I hope the result of this study will help students in understanding the compositions of sentences and how the sentence constructed. Besides, it can help English teachers to consider if this work is readable and understandable for their students.

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