

An Analytical Study on the Usage of Complex Sentence Structures
from the Book on the Life of the Buddha Written by
Rev. Siridhamma

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Abstract

The purposes of this research were 1) to study the usage of complex sentence structures from the book on the life of the Buddha written by Rev. Siridhamma, 2) to analyze the usage of complex sentence structures from the book on the life of the Buddha written by Rev. Siridhamma, and 3) to show the frequency of the usage of complex sentence structures from the book on the life of the Buddha written by Rev. Siridhamma.

This study was focused on a documentary method by reading and studying some books connecting the topic of the problem. Researcher collected data from the book called the life of the Buddha written by Rev. Siridhamma.

This study obtained some important findings. Firstly, a complex sentence was a sentence that contained one independent clause with one or more dependent clause and a dependent clause was a clause that could not stand by alone, so it needed an independent clause to be a complete sentence. Secondly, there were also three types of clauses in an independent clause: noun clause, relative clause and adverb clause. Thirdly, as a result, the researcher found the frequency and percentage of clauses based on its types and functions in complex sentence in the book called the life of the Buddha written by Rev.

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Siridhamma: (1) noun clause with the frequency of 121 or 11.79%, (2) relative clause with frequency of 148 or 21.76%, and (3) adverb clause with the frequency of 411 or 60.44%.

Keywords: Complex Sentences, Noun Clauses, Adjective Clauses, Adverb Clauses

Introduction

In the world, there are roughly 295 countries and 650 languages being spoken by people and English language has become the most special and international language among these languages because the English language has more opportunities for people who are learning it. Although being the original language of England before, English became primary or secondary of many countries such as United states, Singapore, Austria, Canada and India today. According to international communication, both of the speaking skill and the writing skill are equal important for communicators who want to know their ideas to other. If the sender speaks or write wrongly the receiver will misunderstand what he or she want to mean, so the communicator should take care not to use sentences that case misunderstanding.

Through history, the art of writing has been the most important part of human beings because we can read or learn invaluable philosophies, scientific discoveries, and literatures from their writing. Though some great historical persons like Socrates did not write, we can read or learn their Thought and experiences from the writing of their disciples. Ron Cowan, (2008)

Jay Maurer, (2006) defines that grammar is the set of rule that describes how words and groups of words can be arranged to form sentences in a particular language, the knowledge of grammar supports not only writing skill but also reading skill. Although knowing almost all vocabularies in a paragraphs, sometime,

some students can not translate the sentences in the paragraphs because of ignorance of grammar. So the more we learn grammar, the more we can read or write.

According to English grammar, there are four types of main sentences: simple sentence, complex sentence, compound sentence and compound - complex sentence or mix sentence. Complex sentence is a sentence that contains one independent clause with one or more dependent clause. Sentences with both an independent clause and dependent clause are called complex sentences. “Complex sentences can have more than one subordinate (dependent) clause”. There are three basic types of clauses derived from independent or subordinate clause in complex sentence: Noun clause, Relative clause and Adverb clause. (Wren & Martin, 2000).

L G. Alexander, (2003) gives the definition of noun clause is a dependent clause that functions as a noun, that is as a subject, object, or complement. The clause doing the same work as the noun is called a noun clause. Non clauses are one kind of dependent clauses that function like a noun in the sentences and it also can be used in the same way as a noun phrase. Noun clauses usually follow the main clause and are introduced by subordinate conjunctions. These subordinate conjunctions are: (1) That (2) WH-Question words (3) Whether/ if.

Andrea DeCapua, Ed.D, (2008) states the definition that relative clause is one kind of dependent clause that cannot stand alone. relative clauses must be accompanied by a main clause. Relative clauses are generally introduced by relative pronouns: who, whom, that, which, and whose or relative adverb (when, where, why). A relative clause is a dependent clause functioning as an adjective and modifies a noun or a pronoun. For this reason, relative clause is also called adjective clause. Relative clause has the same function of adjective. The function of adjective is describing, modifying or quantifying a noun or a pronoun. A clause

is a group of word that has a subject and a verb. So relative clause or adjective clause, similar to adjective, is a group of words that describes or modifies a noun or pronoun. Relative pronouns are the words that introduce relative clauses by acting as the subject or the object of the relative clause. Relative pronouns are placed directly after the noun or pronoun they modify. Oshima, A and Hogue, (1999).

Adverb clause, also known as adverbial clauses, is one kind of dependent clauses that contain a subject and a verb. Because adverb clauses are dependent clauses, they cannot stand by alone as a sentence in written English and must be joined to an independent clause. Azar, B. S. (2002) gives the definition of adverb clause, like adverb, modify verbs, adverbs, and adjectives by expressing when, where, why, how, and under what condition. Adverb clauses are usually introduced by subordinating conjunctions such as before, when, because, since, as, then, if, though, until, so that, as, as if, where, wherever. Adverb clauses modifying verbs can move around the sentence, in front of position or end position and sometime, it is possible to place in mid position, but this is less usual. When an adverb clause is at the beginning of the sentence, it is an introductory clause and needs a comma separating it from the independent clause. If the adverb clause comes after the independent clause, the conjunction without comma is enough to hold the two clauses together as follows in definition given by John Eastwood, (2005).

Objectives of Research

1. To study the usage of complex sentence structures from the book on the life of the Buddha written by Rev. Siridhamma.
2. To analyze the usage of complex sentence structures from the book on the life of the Buddha written by Rev. Siridhamma.
3. To show the frequency of the usage of complex sentence structures from the book on the life of the Buddha written by Rev. Siridhamma.

Research Methodology

Research design

This research is a qualitative research focusing on a documentary method by reading and studying concerning the topic of the problem. Then researcher collects the data from the book named the life of the Buddha written by Rev. Siridhamma. In analyzing the complex sentence structure, the researcher read the whole book called the life of the Buddha and pick out some example of clauses from this book and then analyses the clauses. To show the frequency of complex sentence, each of clauses based on their functions in complex sentence will be described according to their frequency and percentage.

Source of data

As the source of the data of complex sentence structure's analysis, the researcher uses a book that is entitled "*The Life of the Buddha by Rev. Siridhamma*" as a subject of his study. The life of the Buddha, by Rev. Siridhamma was originally written in English. However, this book has already translated into more different languages and the book have republished for several time and his is available both in printed format and electronic format. For this research, the researcher chose printed book republished in 2009. Besides, the writer uses a lot of book, as the sources of theories of complex sentence, such as *Understanding and Using English Grammar* by Betty Schramper Azar, *Grammar for Teachers* by Andrea DeCapua, Ed. D , *Oxford English Grammar Course* by Michael Swan and Catherine Walter (Advanced Level), etc.

Data Collection

This research is a documentary method and analytical study of the usage of complexes sentence structures used the book on the Life of the Buddha and the collection of data will be based on the book about the brief history of the Buddha. There are two part in the book and the data collected from both of this

two part. To find out the data, the researcher looked for the complex sentence structures that are used in the book. The steps that the researcher took are:

1. Reading the whole content of the book.
2. Looking for the complex sentence structure from the four main type of sentences that are used in the book.
3. Underlining the complex sentences on the book.
4. Categorizing each clause in complex sentence into their types and their syntactic functions in the sentences.

Results of Research

Finding one

1. Noun clause as the subject of a verb in complex sentence

Data: Who lives out diligently this law and discipline will leave the round of rebirth. (part 2. p.76)

Analysis: “*Who lives out diligently this law and discipline*” is noun clause and “*will leave the round of rebirth*” is independent clause in complex sentence. this noun clause uses *who* to introduce noun clause. The noun clause introduced by “*who*” functions as a subject of the verb ‘leave’ in the complex sentence.

2. Noun clause as the object of a verb in complex sentence

Data: The people told her that she must go to a Banyan tree near Neranjana river. (part.1. p.36)

Analysis: “*that she must go to a Banyan tree near Neranjana river*” is noun clause and “*the people told her*” is independent clause in complex sentence. this noun clause uses *that* to introduce the noun clause. The noun clause introduced by ‘that’ functions as an object of the verb ‘told’ in the complex sentence.

Finding two

1. Relative pronoun as subject in complex sentence

Data: At last they heard of great teacher who was famous for his cleverness. (part 2. p.32)

Analysis: “*At last they heard of great teacher*” is independent clause and “*who was famous for his cleverness*” is relative clause in complex sentence. *who* is the subject of relative clause. This relative clause uses the relative pronoun *who*. The relative pronoun *who* refer to human, because it describes personal antecedent *great teacher*. The relative clause is defining clause that do not uses commas because it simply gives additional information and is not necessary to identify the noun it modifies.

2. Relative pronoun as object in complex sentence

Data: Assaji was the name of this ascetic whom Upatissa met and spoke to. (part 2. p.70)

Analysis: “*Assaji was the name of this ascetic*” is independent clause and “*whom Upatissa met and spoke to*” is relative clause in complex sentence. *Whom* is the object of verb of relative clause. This relative clause uses the relative pronoun *whom*. The relative pronoun *whom* refer to human because it describes personal antecedent *ascetic* and functions at the verb of *meet and spoke*. The relative clause is defining clause that do not uses commas because it simply gives additional information and is not necessary to identify the noun it modifies.

3. Adverbial Relative Clause in complex sentence

Data: He came near the grove where those five ascetics were staying. (part 1. p.47)

Analysis: “*He came near the grove*” is independent clause and “*where those five ascetics were staying*” is relative clause in complex sentence. **Where** is the relative adverb. This clause uses the relative pronoun *where*. The relative pronoun *where* functions to describe *the grove*. The relative clause is defining clause that do not use commas because it simply gives additional information and it is not necessary to identify the noun it modifies.

Findings three

1. Adverb clause of time in complex sentence

Data: The king and the queen were very happy when they heard this.
(part 1. p.4)

Analysis: “The king and the queen were very happy” is independent clause and “when they heard this” is adverb clause of time in complex sentence. When is conjunction of adverb clause of time. This adverb clause uses the subordinating conjunction *when*. The subordinating conjunction *when* functions as the adverb clause of time. The adverb clause does not use comma because it come after the independent clause.

2. Adverb clause of result in complex sentence

Data: His mind and body were **so** purified that six colored rays came out of his body. (part 1. p.43)

Analysis: “His mind and body were *so* purified” is independent clause and “that six colored rays came out of his body” is adverb clause of result in complex sentence. that is conjunction of adverb clause of result. This clause uses the subordinating conjunction (*so--*) *that*. The subordinating conjunction (*so--*) *that* functions as the adverb clause of result. The adverb clause does not use comma because it come after the independent clause.

3. Adverb clause of purpose in complex sentence

Data: The Buddha preached to those five friends so that they may attain everlasting happiness. (part 1. p.51)

Analysis: “The Buddha preached to those five friends” is independent clause and “so that they may attain everlasting happiness” is adverb clause of purpose in complex sentence. *So that* is conjunction of adverb clause of purpose. This clause uses the subordinating conjunction *so that*. The subordinating conjunction *so that* functions as the adverb clause of purpose. The adverb clause does not use comma because it come after the independent clause.

Table 1: The frequency and percentage of the complex sentences based on its type in the book

No	Complex sentence	Frequency	Percentage
1	Noun clause	121	11.79%
2	Relative clause	148	21.76%
3	Adverb clause	411	60.44%

Conclusion and Discussion

Based on all the descriptions of topic and the analysis of the data, I want to conclude the essential points as the result of this research. The points are: complex sentence has variety of clauses which give many possibilities to analyze and to classify; they are in term of dependent and independent clauses. The kinds of dependent clauses viewed from its grammatical functions are noun clause, relative clause and adverb clause.

There are 3 types of independent clauses based on modification in complex sentence. In the book called the life of the Buddha, they consist of;

- a. Noun clauses
- b. Relative clauses
- c. Adverb clauses

1. There are 5 classifications of noun clauses based on the types and functions in the book called the life of the Buddha. They consist of (1) 5 the subject of a verb (2) 91 the object of a verb (3) 7 the Object of proposition (4) 11 In apposition to noun or pronoun and (5) 7 Noun clause as the complement.

2. There are 5 classifications of relative clause based on the types and functions in the book called the life of the Buddha. They consist of (1) 97 relative pronouns as subject, (2) 22 relative pronouns as object, (3) 6 possessive relative clauses, (4) 4 relative pronouns as object of preposition and (5) 19 adverbial relative clauses

3. There are 5 classifications of relative clause based on the types and functions in the book called the life of the Buddha. They consist of (1) 240 adverb clauses of time, (2) 1 adverb clauses of place, (3) 49 adverb clauses of cause, (4) 13 adverb clause of result, (5) 16 adverb clauses of purpose, (6) 38 adverb clauses of condition, (7) (33) adverb clauses of comparison (8) 21 adverb clauses of concession

4. From the data, the percentages of complex sentence based on the types and functions in the book called the life of the Buddha are 17.79% for noun clause, 21.76% for relative clause, 60.44% for adverb clauses

5. From the analysis, the researcher concluded that the dominant clause of complex sentence in the book called the life of the Buddha is adverb clause.

The booked named “the Life of the Buddha” was one of the good book about the history of the Buddha. Although the account of the life about the Buddha in the book was set down very briefly, this presentation offers a good deal of material for the study of the lord Buddha’s life. Sentence structure was the important part of languages because without knowing sentence structure, we could not read any books based on sentence structure and cannot write. In English language there are four main types of sentences namely, simple sentence, compound sentence, complex sentence and compound-complex sentence. In complex sentence, there are also three types of clauses: noun clause, relative clause and adverb clause. Among these clauses, adverb clause is the dominant clause of complex sentence in the book called the life of the Buddha.

Suggestions for Research

This research might be a good reference for students to study or research about the analysis of complex sentence structure. It is acceptable for the learners to comprehend the types and functions of clauses in complex sentence in order to analysis sentences, especially for comprehending about complex sentences and clauses in complex sentence. the researcher suggests the English learner who

are learning to reach advanced level, especially for advanced writing or advanced Grammar should learn complex sentence structures because if they have enough idea for writing complex sentence, they can create higher sentences in a long sentence. Another suggestion also is that the high school teacher should teach their students about complex sentence because when they become university student they have to read and learn a lot of book written in complex sentence and have to write essays, assignment and research paper as university students. So, the study of complex sentence will be useful for the students too. Further research concerning types and function of a clauses in complex sentence is very expected and more relevant data will be very useful for the analysis process. I realize that the analysis about the complex sentence structure in the book called the life of the Buddha is probably far from the perfect analysis. Therefore, it still needs further study for completing the analysis. In this opportunity, I welcome some suggestions and constructive critics form the readers.

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