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SYNTACTIC FUNCTION OF THAT-CLAUSE AS NOUN CLAUSE IN "STORIES FOR RAINY DAYS" NOVEL

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Abstract: This research is concerned about the identification of that-clause as a noun clause in a novel entitled "*Stories for Rainy Days*". This research aims to identify the syntactic function of that-clause and to identify the syntactic category of words or phrases that consisted in that-clause form. In regards to identifying the syntactic function of that-clause, the research utilizes the theory from Quirk (2010) and Klammer (2000). To analyze the syntactic category of words or phrases consist of that-clause form, this research implements theory from Alwasilah (1993). For the method of the research, this research applies a qualitative descriptive method. Additionally, the finding of this research shows that that-clause can act as a subject, direct object, subject complement, adjective complement, and appositive. In conclusion, the finding of this research shows that a clause including that-clause must a minimum a subject, it can be a noun or pronoun, and a verb.

Keywords: Novel, *Stories for Rainy Days*, syntactic function, syntactic category, that-clause

INTRODUCTION

Almost in every language, grammar plays an important role in constructing the system of the language itself. The importance of grammar of the language makes it possible for us to talk about language (Wang, 2010). Besides, it specifies the types of words and word groups that make up sentences in any language. It could be argued that every language has its own rules in establishing the structure of phrases, clauses, and sentences which are consisted of various words. One of the languages known for its grammatical rules is English. Currently, English is considered as an essential language as it is claimed that English has been selected as the international language used by people around the world.

To be accustomed to English grammatical rules, reading English materials can be one of the ways of studying. However, for a non-native speaker, understanding English reading materials can be difficult especially when encountering compound or complex sentence which possibly contains a lot of noun clauses. Therefore, this research tries to fill that gap by providing results of an analysis that help readers to get accustomed to

English grammatical rules as analysing written English literature can be effective to improve the understanding of English grammar.

One of the most popular forms of literature is novel. Novel is associated with written English literature which can attract readers more than any forms of written literature. Based on the survey that was conducted by *awriterhistory.com*, 2418 readers that was involved as participants stated that they feel immersed when reading a novel. Beyes et al. (2019) noted that the novel has the power to affect the way we sense and alter the very ways in which we perceive, study, and write. Consequently, this research takes novel as research object to make readers more attracted to the analysis and the findings in this research.

The novel entitled *Stories for Rainy Days* is selected as the object of this research. *Stories for Rainy Days* is written by Naela Ali, an illustrator and graphic designer that also writes on her spare time. It is a compilation of personal short stories and poetries that are accompanied by her artworks. This novel was originally self-published, then republished by a big publisher (Kepustakaan Populer Indonesia). The stories written down in a diary kind of technique makes the novel a light reading novel.

For her writing technique, Naela Ali often uses noun clauses in sentences that she wrote. One of the forms of noun clauses identified in the novel is a "that-clause". This captivated the researcher's interest since sometimes the use of that-clause could create confusion to non-native speaker readers. A previous research about noun clause was conducted by Hanik (2012) with a title "*A Syntactical Analysis of Noun Clauses in the Script of The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo Film*". The research was aimed at knowing the classifications of noun clauses and syntactical rules of noun clauses used in the script. The findings showed that in the script, there are that-clauses, if-clauses, and question clauses, with that-clauses as noun clause classification that most frequently occurred. To comprehend the use of that-clause which could create confusion to non-native speaker readers, this research aims to identify a syntactic category of that-clause and the syntactic function of words or phrases consisted in the that-clause form to help readers understand more about that-clause.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In furtherance of acquiring the result of analysis in this research, first, comprehending syntax is essential. One of the most influential linguists, Chomsky (2002) defined syntax as the study of principles and processes by which sentences are constructed in particular languages. He once created the sentence "Colorless green ideas sleep furiously", which is syntactically and grammatically, but nonsense. By the sentence, Chomsky showed that rules controlling syntax are distinct from meaning that words convey. Thus, the conceptual framework of Chomsky's early work on syntax has been extremely influential among philosophers. His distinction between deep and surface structure seemed to sit well with the tradition within analytic philosophy (Barman, 2014). Thereafter, Miller (2002) stated that syntax is beneficial for helping people to construct complex message conveying information about situation, proposals, and ideas. In other words, syntax helps people to constructs words into higher-level such as phrase, clauses, and sentences so that messages can be conveyed.

According to Nordquist (2019), a phrase is a group of two or more words functioning as a meaningful unit within a sentence or clauses. It could be said that

phrase is at a level between a word and a clause. Generally, the phrase has five different type which are, noun phrase, adjective phrase, adverbial phrase, prepositional phrase, and conjunctive phrase. Furthermore, a phrase does not require a subject or a predicate within its structure as it only consists of words from various parts of speech and each of the word is combined to form a meaningful unit. However, a phrase has a function as a modifier, a subject, an object, a verb, and also a compliment in a sentence.

Regarding to clause, Nordquist (2019) described that a clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a predicate or in other words, it must contain a noun and a verb. The form of clause can be formed in a complete sentence or also known as an independent clause or a sentence-like construction within another sentence or also known as a dependent clause. An independent clause is a clause where a sentence could create a complete meaning which makes sense to anyone who reads it. In contrast, a dependant clause does not have a complete meaning as it requires another clause to form a complete thought. Moreover, a clause can be formed if there is a subject and a predicate. In results, identifying a subject and a predicate is essential. By understanding the definition of a clause, it is easier to identify and analyze the subject in this research which is that-clause.

Regarding to the sentence structure, the structure is divided into 5 functions which are subject, predicate, object, complement, and adverbial. Quirk (2010) explained the detailed description of each of the function. The first function which is subject is a principal part of a sentence. Subject is normally a noun, noun phrase or nominal clause that acts as a do-er or be-er of an action. Commonly, a subject in a sentence mostly comes as a form of a word or a phrase that has a meaningful unit as a person, place, thing, idea that is doing, and being something.

Meanwhile, the next function which is the predicate is the other main parts of the sentence beside a subject. Predicate mostly consist of predicator or verbal group or in other words, the predicate must be in the form of a verb. Concerning the connection between subject and predicate, a subject can be identified in a sentence by looking words that act as the predicate which for sure a verb in a sentence. Continuously, a subject tells about what the sentence is about while the predicate tells something about the subject. In syntax point of view, a verb conveys the subject's action, occurrence, and state of being. Sometimes it is hard to differentiate between the subject and the predicate. Shevchenko (2019) added:

“Traditionally, parts of the sentence are divided into principal and secondary. The basic difference between them is the predicative relation which is created between the subject and the predicate so the latter make the backbone of the sentence. The agreement between the subject and the predicate in English are rather semantic, and it is especially evident in examples where the form of the predicate seems to be determined by the choice of the author alone.”

Moreover, the next function which is an object can be defined as a noun group which refers to a person or thing that become the subject. An object can be identified mostly at the end of the sentence or after the predicate shows up. An object has three

different classifications which are direct object, indirect object, and object of preposition. Firstly, the direct object is a noun, pronoun, or a noun phrase that receives the action of a verb in a sentence. Secondly, an indirect object is a noun, pronoun, or a phrase that acts as a recipient of the direct object. In other words, the direct object is the thing given or received, meanwhile, the indirect object is the thing that the direct object is given to or received by (Wallwork, 2013). Thirdly, object of a preposition is a noun, pronoun, or a noun phrase that comes to the surface after a preposition is being used in a sentence and the object completes the meaning from the preposition.

Continuously, complement is the next function. Complement is an explanatory or additional information in the form of words or phrases that are related to the subject or object in a sentence. It is additional as a sentence still can be formed without the existence of a complement, thus the detail about the subject will not be clear but still comprehensive. Lastly, the adverbial function may be classified according to their function (e.g. as modifying verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs; or expressing manner, time, place, direction, degree, frequency) and according to their position.

Concerning the syntactic category of words or phrases consist in that-clause form, the function is divided into 9 which are noun, pronoun, verb, adjective, adverb, preposition, conjunction, interjection, and determiner. Alwasilah (1993) stated that a noun is a word used for naming some person or thing and a pronoun a word used instead of a noun or noun equivalent. Meanwhile, a verb is a word for saying something about some person or thing and an adjective is a word used instead of a noun or noun equivalent. Moreover, an adverb is a word that is used to change, modify or qualify several types of words and a preposition is a word used to link nouns, pronouns, or phrases to other words. Besides, a conjunction is used to connect words, phrases, clauses, or sentences and an interjection is a word added to a sentence to convey an emotion or a sentiment. Lastly, a determiner is structure words that precedes and modifies a noun.

In regards to the grammatical function of the conjunction "that" in that-clause, the function is divided into five types. The first is that-clause as a subject. Quirk (2010) stated that in a subject clause, that cannot be omitted as it can be misinterpreted as a main clause if the clause does not consist of subordinative marker. The examples of that-clause as a subject is displayed below.

(1) *"That her scholarship was cancelled displeased her."*

From the example above, "that" word is positioned at the beginning of the sentence. If "that" word is omitted, the expression of "her scholarship was cancelled" may create misinterpretation if it joined with the expression of "displeased her". Without the existence of "that" in the above clause, the word "was" can be interpreted as a linking verb. In results, the verb of "displeased" has no use to be in the last part of the clause above. That clause in above example determine the subject of the sentence because, without its representation, the expression of "her scholarship was cancelled" can act as an independent clause and does not need any further clause to make it meaningful.

Secondly, the next function is that-clause as a direct object, "When the that-clause is direct object or complement, the conjunction that is frequently omitted except in formal use, leaving a zero that-clause." (Quirk, 2010). Here is an example of this function.

(2) *"I hear that the concert was terrible."*

The example above shows that if we omit the word "that", the structure of the sentence is grammatically correct and does not create misinterpretation. Consequently, it is called as a zero that-clause. Usually, this function is used or placed after certain verbs.

Thirdly, the next function is that-clause as a subject complement. Quirk (2010) described that the subordinator of "that" may be optionally retained, the presence of "that" after the main subject is to give additional information about the main subject. The example of this function is shown below.

(3) *"Their plan is that playing defence can secure their victory"*

The example above shows that after *to be* that-clause is used to describe more about the noun phrase of "their plan". In other words, the noun phrase is described by that-clause. The use of "that" emphasizes the expression of "their plan" is still in the form of an idea, not an action. If "that" is omitted then the expression of "can secure their victory" become dependent but does not have the connectivity with the previous clause.

Fourth, the next function is that-clause as an adjective complement. Klammer (2000) explained that some adjectives, such as happy, glad, sad, angry, and others of similar meaning and past participles functioning adjectivally such as disappointed, distressed, and pleased, can take a nominal that-clause as a complement. The example can be seen below.

(4) *"I'm sad that she didn't come"*

From the example above, that-clause is presented as the reason of why the speaker feels sad. In other words, it gives additional information about the adjective.

Fifth, the next function is that-clause as an appositive. Klammer (2000) stated that this function is traditionally defined as a noun phrase that renames another noun phrase, one that it usually follows immediately. In this function, that-clause is often used after an object in a sentence or after a subject which is not followed by verb *to be*. Here is the example of that-clause as an appositive.

(5) *"She is the person that I care so much."*

The example above shows that-clause is used after the object of the sentence and it can be used as a description of the noun phrase "the person".

METHOD

This research applies qualitative descriptive method. This research is called qualitative since it is concerned with non-numerical data and it is descriptive since it aims at describing the facts of the analysis systematically based on actually they are. Bogdan & Taylor (1975) stated that in qualitative descriptive research, the data investigated by the researcher are in the form of oral or written words. Besides, data collection of qualitative descriptive research focuses on discovering the nature of the specific events under study (Lambert et al., 2012).

In this research, the source of data is taken from a novel entitled "*Stories for Rainy Days*" by Naela Ali published by Kepustakaan Populer Indonesia publisher in 2016. This research focuses on finding data that consist of that-clause from the novel, used observation as data collecting instrument. Several steps are performed to collect the data. First is reading the whole content of the novel. Second is identifying that-clauses and underlining them. Third is categorizing each of that-clause. In analysing the data, this research analyses the syntactical function of that-clause and then the syntactic category of words and phrases consist in that-clause is also analysed.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

After classifying the data, all of the syntactic function of "that" in that clause can be identified. The analysis of each of the function followed by the classification of the syntactic category of words or phrases consist in that-clause are explained below.

a. That Clause as a Subject.

Data 1: "*That his scent smelled familiar reminds me of home*"

Data 1 is considered as that-clause as a subject. First, it can be seen from where the word "that" is positioned. "*That*" word is placed at the beginning of the sentence. From the sentence above, the main verb is represented by the word "*reminds*". The main verb or main predicate needs a subject before it. It can be said that the expression of "*That his scent smelled familiar*" represents the subject of the sentence below. Furthermore, Quirk (2010) stated that subject is normally a noun phrase or nominal clause, while the noun phrase in data 1 appears in the phrase "*his scent*". If we omit "*that*" word, it may create misinterpretation if it is joined with the expression of "*reminds me of home*". Consequently, "*that*" word cannot be omitted. To make it clear, the detail of the sentence structure is shown below.

| | | | |
|--|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| <i>That his scent smelled familiar</i> | <i>reminds</i> | <i>me</i> | <i>of home</i> |
| <hr/> | | | |
| S | P | O | A |

In regards to the syntactic category of words and phrases consist of that-clause in data 1, here is the classification.

| | | | |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <i>That</i> | <i>his</i> | <i>smelled</i> | <i>familiar</i> |
| | <i>scent</i> | | |
| | | | |
| Conjunction | Noun Phrase | Verb | Adjective |

From the classification above, the word “*that*” is categorized as a conjunction and the phrase of “*his scent*” is categorized as a noun. Moreover, the word of “*smelled*” is categorized as a verb. Lastly, the word “*familiar*” is categorized as an adjective. Based on this explanation, the data 1 is considered as a clause as it contains a minimum of a noun as a subject and a verb.

b. That Clause as a Direct Object.

Data 2: *I've been told that I have never been in the present.*

Data 2 is considered that-clause as a direct object. If the word “*that*” is omitted, it will not make any misinterpretation to understand the sentence. In other words, data 2 is considered as zero that-clause. Furthermore, the word “*that*” is positioned after the verb of “*have been told*”. Consequently, that-clause in data 2 has its function as a direct object of the verb “*have been told*”. As stated by Sinclair in Baker (2018) that object is a noun group which refers to a person or thing. In addition, the detail of the sentence structure is displayed below.

| | | |
|----------|-----------------------|--|
| <i>I</i> | <i>Have been told</i> | <i>that I have never been in the present</i> |
| | | <i>present</i> |
| | | |
| S | P | O |

Concerning the syntactic category of words and phrases consist in that-clause in data 2, here is the classification.

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>that</i> | <i>I</i> | <i>have never been</i> | <i>in the present</i> |
| | | | |
| Conjunction | Pronoun | Verb Phrase | Prepositional Phrase |

From the categorization above, the word “*that*” is categorized as a conjunction and the word “*I*” is categorized as a pronoun. Furthermore, the phrase of “*have never been*” is categorized as a verb. Lastly, the phrase of “*in the present*” is categorized as a preposition. Based on this explanation, the data 2 is considered as a clause as it contains a minimum of the pronoun as a subject and a verb phrase.

c. That Clause as a Subject Complement

Data 3: *The thing I like about him is that he has a good manner.*

Data 3 is considered as that-clause as a subject complement, it refers to the subject and either describes or represents a subject (Narayanaswamy, 2004). From the data above, that-clause has a function as additional information that supports the main subject in the sentence. The complement in the above data gives more information about the subject of “*the thing I like about him*”. In addition, the expression of “*that he makes me laugh*” is included as a complement that support the main subject. To make it clear, the detail of the sentence structure is shown below.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----------------------------------|
| <i>The thing I like about him</i> | is | <i>that he has a good manner</i> |
| S | P | C |

Concerning the syntactic category of words and phrases consist in that-clause in data 3, here is the classification.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------|----------------------|
| <i>That</i> | <i>he</i> | <i>has</i> | <i>a good manner</i> |
| Conjunction | Pronoun | Verb | Noun phrase |

From the categorization above, the word “*that*” is categorized as a conjunction and the word “*he*” is categorized as a pronoun. Furthermore, the word “*has*” is categorized as a verb. Lastly, the phrase of “*a good manner*” is categorized as a noun phrase. Based on this explanation, the data 3 is considered as a clause as it contains a minimum of the pronoun as a subject and a verb.

d. That Clause as an Adjective Complement

Data 4: *I wake up feeling so happy that I start dancing.*

Data 4 is considered as that-clause as an adjective complement. The position of that-clause in the sentence is after the adjective of “*happy*”. It can be said that the clause gives more information or description of the word “*happy*” as according to Roy (2019), an adjective complement provides information necessary to complete an adjective phrase’s meaning. It is also the result or effect that happens after the subject of “*I*” feel happy. The clause gives more information about further action done by the subject of “*I*” In addition, the detail of the sentence structure is displayed below.

| | | | |
|----------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>I</i> | <i>wake up feeling</i> | <i>so happy</i> | <i>that I start dancing</i> |
| S | V | adj | C |

Concerning the syntactic category of words and phrases consist in that-clause in data 4, here is the classification.

| | | |
|-------------|----------|----------------------|
| <i>that</i> | <i>I</i> | <i>start dancing</i> |
|-------------|----------|----------------------|

Conjunction Pronoun Verb followed by Gerund

From the categorization above, the word “*that*” is categorized as a conjunction and the word “*I*” is categorized as a pronoun. Furthermore, the phrase of “*start dancing*” is categorized as a verb. Based on this explanation, the data 4 is considered as a clause as it contains a minimum of the pronoun as a subject and a verb.

e. That Clause as an Appositive

Data 5: *It was the first song that I played on my car.*

Data 5 is considered as that-clause as an appositive. The clause above is the clause that supports information about the object in the sentence. The clause of “*that I played on my car*” give details about the object of “*the first song*”. Also, if that-clause is omitted, the sentence will not be meaningful but if it is joined together the complete sentence becomes meaningful. To make it clear, the detail of the sentence structure is shown below.

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>It</i> | <i>was</i> | <i>the first song</i> | <i>that I played on my car</i> |
| S | V | O | C |

Concerning the syntactic category of words and phrases consist in that-clause in data 5, here is the classification.

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|---------------|----------------------|
| <i>that</i> | <i>I</i> | <i>played</i> | <i>on my car</i> |
| Conjunction | Pronoun | Verb | Prepositional Phrase |

From the categorization above, the word “*that*” is categorized as a conjunction and the word “*I*” is categorized as a pronoun. Furthermore, the word “*played*” is categorized as a verb. Lastly, the phrase “*on my car*” is categorized as a preposition. Based on this explanation, data 5 is considered as a clause as it contains a minimum of pronoun as a subject and a verb.

Each syntactic function and category that explained above is an illustration of how Naela Ali help the readers to enjoy her writing by mostly using that-clause in her sentences. The use of that-clause itself could function be it as a subject, object, or even complement that gives more information of words or phrases that consist in that-clause form.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and discussion, it is concluded that from the novel entitled “*Stories for Rainy Days*” written by Naela Ali, the five grammatical function of “*that*” in that-clause can be identified. “*That*” can be functioned as a subject where it is used at the beginning of the sentence and it also can be functioned as a direct object where that-clause acts as an object in the sentence. Moreover, “*that*” can be functioned as a subject

complement where the clause provides further detail about a subject in a sentence. Another function of “that” conjunction in that-clause is that it can be functioned as an adjective complement where the clause supports the adjective consisted in a sentence. Lastly, that-clause can function an appositive where the clause gives more information about object consisted in a sentence. Regarding the syntactic function of words and phrases consist in that-clause, the finding of this research shows that a clause including that-clause must a minimum a subject, it can be noun or pronoun, and a verb. In the final analysis, the findings of this research could help EFL instructors and learners to have a sense of clausal structures. Specifically that-clause as a noun clause to be applied in their reading and writing.

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