

SYNTACTIC STRUCTURE OF ENGLISH FOLKTALES

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Abstract

This research concentrates in the study of Linguistics especially linguistic branch of Syntax. The syntactic structure of English folktales is analyzed using descriptive qualitative method. The result finds that folktales frequently use adverbial phrase such as there, once there, one day in the beginning of the sentence. The sentences are syntactically structure of a single clause consists of NP + VP, a single clause with plural verb (S=NP + VPs), two clauses (S= Clause 1 + Clause 2), three clauses (S= Clause 1 + Clause 2 + Clause 3), four clauses (S= Clause 1 + Clause 2 + Clause 3 + Clause 4), and even five clauses (S= Clause 1 + Clause 2 + Clause 3 + Clause 4 + Clause 5). However, mostly identified that sentence syntactically structure of two and three clauses are written in the folktales. After that a sentence of a single clause and four clauses while a sentence structured of 5 clauses is seldom used in the folktale.

Kata kunci : *syntactic, structure, english, folktales*

1. INTRODUCTION

Language has a main function in humans' life so people can communicate, express their ideas, feeling and intention. So the interaction takes place because of the exchange of information via language.

The significance of language effects the development of science of language (linguistics). One of linguistic branches is syntax that studies how words or phrases arranged into clause and sentence. The study of syntax helps people to understand the structure of sentences in a language so people can arrange words and phrases correctly. Through the syntax research, people have better understand the syntactic structure of sentences where the word order can be analyzed and syntactic rules developed.

This research analyzes syntactic structure in English folktales. Folktales are reading materials that are very popular and familiar in society especially children are very interested in the story of folktales. Even parents like to read them for their children at night. Farida and Sofwan (2012) said folktales are interactive, good and excellent teaching materials to learn English. Folktales are practical and effective to improve students' oral

competition skill. Handayani (2013) said through folktales people can express their mindset they had during the period of tale. Krisnayanti (2019) said folktales are reading materials suitable to improve English learners' reading skill. So they can achieve the purpose of reading that is to get general and detailed information from the text.

The readers have to comprehend the text in order to understand the information effectively. Rahman (2017) said the use of folktales as a medium for basic literacy learning is an effort to preserve culture and identity of indigenous children. Folktales can be used not only to develop basic literacy but it is also an effort to preserve the practices and traditions of storytelling among indigenous people. Therefore, it is very important and interesting to analyze the syntactic structure of English folktales.

2. METHOD

This research uses descriptive qualitative method. The data in real and natural condition analyzed and described based on the theory of syntax especially syntactic structure.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Result

The result of research finds that first, English folktales are started by adverbial phrase *there, once there, one day* that expresses indefinite time and place long time ago. Secondly, the sentence is syntactically structure of a single clause NP + VP completed by adverbial phrase (AP) or prepositional phrase (PP). The single clauses use a verb (VP) and some other single clauses use plural verb (VP+VP) Then, there can also be found the sentences variously syntactically structured of two clauses, three clauses, four clauses and even five clauses. However most of them are written in sentences of two and three clauses.

Discussion

Most of folktales in the beginning of paragraphs are started to be written with adverbial phrase *there, once there, one day*, as seen in the table below:

<i>There was once</i>	<i>a hare who was friends with a tortoise.</i>
	<i>a shepherd boy who liked to play tricks.</i>
	<i>a slave who was treated cruelly by his master.</i>
	<i>a proud elephant who always bullied smaller animals.</i>

<i>Once there</i>	<i>was a dog who wandered the streets night and day in search of food.</i>
	<i>was a hungry fox who stumbled upon a vineyard.</i>

(Ponio:2021)

The use of adverb *there* in the beginning of clause effects the verbal phrase *was* placed before the subject or Noun Phrase *a hare, a shepherd, a slave and a proud elephant*.

<i>One day</i>	<i>he couldn't take it anymore</i>
	<i>he challenged the tortoise to a race.</i>
	<i>he found a big juicy bone</i>

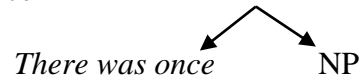
(Ponio:2021)

Besides Adverbial phrase of place 'there' indicates the place of the story, the adverbial phrase 'one day' is always used

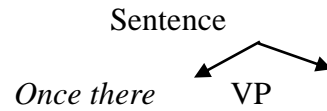
in the folktales telling the unspecific time of the story.

Based on the tables above the syntactic structure of the sentence are:

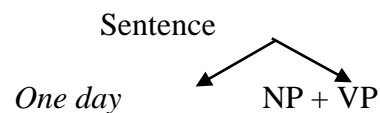
Sentence



2)



3)



The storytelling of folktales in English is written in single and multiple clauses. A single clause with the syntactic structure Noun Phrase + Verb Phrase:

<i>That night</i>	<i>he</i>	<i>had to sleep</i>	<i>on an empty stomach</i>
AP	NP	VP	PP

<i>Finally</i>	<i>he</i>	<i>saw</i>	<i>a pot half-filled with water.</i>
Sequence Marker	NP	VP	NP

<i>The elephant</i>	<i>could only howl</i>	<i>in pain.</i>
NP	VP	PP

In the syntactic structure of a single clause, the function of Noun Phrase (NP) and Verb Phrase (VP) as the main constituent of the clause are frequently preceded or followed by sequence marker, adverbial phrase (AP) or Prepositional Phrase (PP).

A single clause is also structured with plural verb such as *lay down and waited, saw and cried, couldn't take and ran, go and spray, do but cry, had and decided, went and started* as identified in the sentences below:

- a. *So he lay down underneath the tree and waited for the fruits to fall off.*
- b. *On the third day, the boy saw a wolf devouring one of his sheep and cried for help.*
- c. *One day, he couldn't take it anymore and ran away to the forest to escape.*

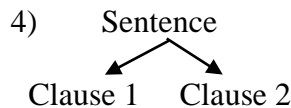
- d. *He would go to the anthill near his home and spray water at the ants.*
- e. *The ants, with their size, could do nothing but cry.*
- f. *One day, the ants had enough and decided to teach the elephant a lesson.*
- g. *They went straight into the elephant's trunk and started biting him.*

(Ponio:2021)

Besides structuring in a single clause, the story is written in a syntactic structure of two clauses using connectors *so, that, but, and* such as:

- a. *So he took a nap // while the tortoise kept on going.*
- b. *One day, he saw // that the apple tree in their yard was full of fruits.*
- c. *But no matter how high he jumped, // he couldn't reach for it.*
- d. *So he told himself// that it was probably sour and left.*
- e. *He asked the ant for food // and the ant gave him some.*

Then the sentences syntactically structured of two clauses can be drawn into:

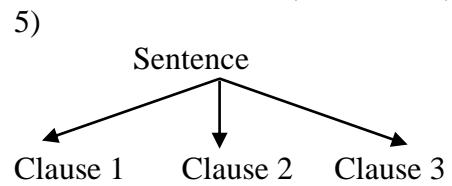


In the sentences below, three clauses are combined into a sentence:

- a. *When the hare woke up, // he saw // that the tortoise was already at the finish line.*
- b. *But as he opened his mouth, the bone (he was biting) fell into the river and sank*
- c. *There was a boy named John // who was so lazy, // he couldn't even bother to change his clothes.*
- d. *John waited and waited // until he was very hungry // but the apples never fell.*
- e. *When winter came, // the ant was lying cozily in his home surrounded by the food //he stored during the summer.*

- f. *When the slave saw the lion, //he recognized it //as the same lion he helped in the forest.*

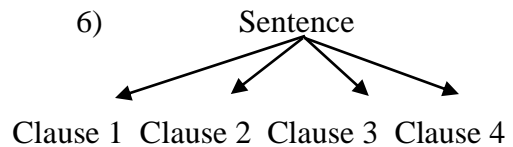
(Ponio:2021)



The sentences used in the folktale are structured four clauses using connectors *when, but, that, and, but, who*:

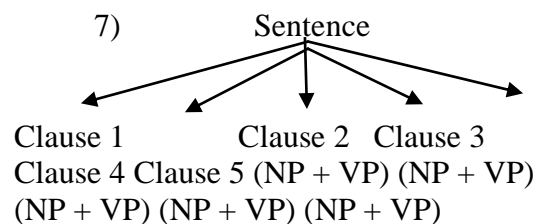
- a. *When he tried to ask the ant again, //the latter replied: //“I’m sorry my friend //but my food is just enough for my family to last until the end of winter.*
- b. *But they were disappointed //when they saw// that there was no wolf// and the boy was laughing at them.*
- c. *But the people (who heard him) thought// this is just another of the boy's pranks //so no one came to help him.*

(Ponio:20021)



More than syntactically structured of 4 clauses, there is a sentence structured of 5 clauses using connectors *and, but, because*, such as:

Months (NP1) passed (VP1) // and seasons (NP2) changed (VP2) //but everywhere he (NP3) went (VP3), //nobody (NP4) wanted (VP4) him //because he (NP5) was (VP5) such an ugly duck.



4. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the research of Syntactic Structure of English Folktales, the conclusions are:

- 1) In the beginning of paragraph, usually the sentences are started with adverbial phrases (AP) of *there, once there, one day* that become the main characteristics of English folktales.
- 2) The sentences are syntactically structured into single clause with one subject and one verb (NP + VP) and single clause with one subject and two verbs (NP + VPs)
- 3) The sentences are syntactically structured into two clauses (S = Clause 1 + clause 2). This type of sentences are often used in English folktales.
- 4) The sentences are syntactically structured into three clauses (S = Clause 1 + clause 2 + Clause 3)
- 5) The sentences are syntactically structured into four clauses (S = Clause 1 + clause 2 + Clause 3 + Clause 4)
- 6) The sentences are syntactically structured into five clauses (S = Clause 1 + clause 2 + Clause 3 + Clause 4 + Clause 5) but it is seldom used in the folktales.

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