AN ANALYSIS ON SENTENCE STRUCTURE IN PAULO COELHO'S NOVEL *THE ALCHEMIST*

Cici Arfiani, Sudarsono, Luwandi Suhartono
English Language Education Study Program of Teacher Training and Education Faculty of Tanjungpura University, Pontianak
Email: arfiani005.cici@gmail.com

Abstract

This research aims to have types of finite declarative sentences and their frequency encountered in The Alchemist in order to help students in English Language Education Study Program of Teacher Training Education Faculty improve their ability in understanding and using sentence structure in real life. This research was a descriptive study. The data were sorted out from the corpus. The declarative sentences covered simple sentences, complex sentences, compound sentences, and compound-complex sentences. Then, the frequency of occurrences of each type of sentences was computed. The findings of this research show that there are 1,330 finite declarative sentences. Most of them are complex sentences. The least frequency of occurrence is compound-complex sentence. These sentences include formal and informal English sentences.

Keywords: Frequency of Sentences, Syntax, Types of Sentences

INTRODUCTION

Learning a foreign language which is different to native language may be difficult for some students. The difficulties may vary but one of the most-faced difficulties is syntax. In order to solve the difficulties, students need to learn syntax.

Syntax is one of linguistic study fields taught in English Language Education Study Program. It deals with how a sentence is formed. It concerns the structure of a sentence and its order of constituents. It is also concerned with the ways in which words can be combined together to form phrases and sentences (Radford, 1998, p. 90). Students in English Language Education Study Program of Teacher Training Education Faculty, Tanjungpura University, may face difficulties in acquiring English. The difficulties can be in forms of phonology, vocabulary, and grammar. The difficulties may be the result of interference of L1 system into English. It also causes grammatical errors (Bhela, 1999). If the grammar of L1 and the target language (English) differs, the difference may be transferred negatively. This negative transfer may not occur if the students master the system or the rules in constructing English sentences. Moreover, acquiring the syntax of another language may be seen as an issue of new construction patterns (Troike, 2006, p. 145).

Ernawati in *An Analysis Types of Sentences used by The Students' Essay Writing at the third semester of IAIN Tulungagung in the 2013/2014 Academic Year* found out that most students wrote simple sentences in writing. Another researcher, Lenny (2005) showed most sentences in the novel are complex sentences.

As the second language learners, the students in English Language Education Study Program cannot be dependent on the lecturers all the time. They need to find their own ways to learn English independently. One of the ways to learn is through reading an English novel.

Novel is not only used for entertainment but also for education. In a study conducted by Sandell (2006) on the students of upper secondary school, the

students were very positive toward the use of novels for learning grammar. They enjoyed learning grammar which was integrated through reading and they found themselves motivated because they learnt from real text presented in an English novel. Hişmanoğlu (2015) also mentions that a novel offers some educational benefits to its readers This shows that teaching grammar indirectly can be a valuable option both for teachers and lecturers.

The use of corpus in English language teaching was pioneered by Sinclair in the 1980s as cited in (Römer, 2010). At that time, Sinclair's reason was to provide English language learners with materials which presented real English. It was designed to help the learners face actual communicative situations by presenting real English so that they could use English better. John states that a novel can be a medium of learning syntax students with (Römer, 2010). Hence, by reading the novel, it can sharpen students' comprehension of syntax because the students take an active role by acting as linguistic researchers to discover pattern in the novel.

Therefore, the use of novel to teach English language can be a great tool for L2 learners to learn English syntax as it represents real-life context by considering which novel is appropriate to the level of the students.

Of all English novels, "The Alchemist" was chosen because it was a best-selling novel. Besides, it offers interesting story and has lots of moral values. Therefore, the students will get motivated to read it. Reading it, the students will study the sentences used in the novel directly or indirectly. Students of English Language Education Study Program may understand the sentences well.

In this research the researcher analysed the sentences in novel. The purposes of this research are to find types of sentence encountered in The Alchemist and to find the frequency of usage of each type of sentence.

METHOD
Design of Research

Referring to the title of this research, a descriptive method was applied. It is considered to be a method which describes a situation, phenomenon, problem or event (Kumar, 2011). Based on the purposes, linguistics analysis was applied along with corpus-based analysis. Linguistic analysis focuses on language structure while corpus analysis focuses on frequencies of things and lists of all things in corpus (Baker, 2010). This present study was designed to describe the types of sentences and their frequency of occurrence in novel The Alchemist.

Corpus of Research

Corpus is defined as the store of data of a language and designed to identify the elements and structural pattern of a language. Corpus can be in form of spoken and written gained from one's work. In this case, it can be a novel (Kennedy, 1998). The corpus of this research is a novel entitled "The Alchemist", the bestselling novel. It has been sold for 65 copies. The novel consists of 177 pages presented in two parts. The researcher analysed the whole sentences presented in the novel as the corpus.

Procedure of Data Analysis

To have reliable data, the following steps were performed. There were two steps applied in analysing the data based on the grounding theory, they were as follows:
1. Open coding
   a. Sorting out the data from corpus
      In this first step, declarative sentences were sorted out from the corpus.
   b. Grouping each type of sentence
      After the declarative sentences were sorted out, they were the classified into simple sentences,

2

compound sentences, complex sentences, and compound-complex sentences.

c. Coding all sentences based on their own type.
The last step, each type of sentences which had been categorised was coded as 1, 2, 3, and 4 as shown in the table below.

Table 1. List of Declarative Sentences and Codes of Each Type of Sentences

Declarative Sentences	Type of Sentence	Code
	Simple sentence	1
	Compound sentence	2
	Complex sentence	3
	Compound-complex sentence	4

Then, each category was categorised again into smaller group. Each of its subcategory was coded and the code was put after the code of each type of sentence and the numbering of each sentence was put after the code of each subcategory of each type of sentence. Table 2 to Table 5 showed the list of sentences for each subcategory and its subcategory code.

Table 2. List of Simple Sentences and Its Subcategories

Simple Sentence	Type of Pattern	Code
	Intransitive	1-1
	Copulative	1-2
	Monotransitive	1-3
	Complex-transitive	1-4
	Ditransitive	1-5

Table 3: List of Compound Sentences and Its Subcategories

Compound Sentence	Conjunction	Code
	And	2-1
	But	2-2
	So	2-3
	Semicolon	2-4
	Colon	2-5
	Dash	2-6
	Ellipsis	2-7
	And & But	2-8
	Semicolon & And	2-9
	Semicolon & But	2-10
	And & So	2-11
	Colon & And	2-12
	Invisible Verbs	2-13

Table 4. List of Complex Sentence and Its Subcategories

Complex Sentence	Type of Clause	Code
	Noun Clause	3-1
	Adverbial Clause	3-2
	Relative Clause	3-3
	Comparative Clause	3-4
	Mixed Clause	3-5

Table 5. List of Compound-complex Sentences and Its Categories

Compound-complex Sentence	Type of Clause	Code
	Noun Clause	4-1
	Adverbial Clause	4-2
	Relative Clause	4-3
	Comparative Clause	4-4
	Mixed Clause	4-5

2. Focused Coding
   a. Computing the frequency of each type of sentence.
      To have reliable data, the frequency of occurrences of each type of sentences was computed as follows:

$$Types\ of\ sentence = \frac{FX}{N}\ x\ 100$$

FX   : Individual frequency (one type of sentence)

N   : Number occurrence (all types of sentence)

RESULT AND DISSCUSSION
Result

      Of those types of sentences, complex sentences are the sentences that are most frequently encountered in the novel of The Alchemist and the least frequently encountered ones are compound-complex sentences in the corpus. Researcher found out that there were 432 simple sentences with percentage 33.56%, , 149 compound sentences with percentage 11,57 % , 562 complex sentences with percentage 43,67%, and 144 compound complex sentences with percentage 11, 18 % out of 1287 declarative sentences. The following table shows the types of finite declarative sentences and their frequency encountered in the corpus.

Table 6. Types and Frequency of Sentences

NO	Types of Sentences	Number of sentences	Percentage of Occurrence
1.	Simple Sentences	432	33.56%
2.	Compound Sentences	149	11.57%
3.	Complex Sentences	562	43.67%
4.	Compound-complex Sentences	144	11.18%
	Total	1287	100%

      Based on the table, complex sentences were mostly used sentences in the novel. With this result, complex sentences need to be anticipated more than other types of sentences. The least occurred sentences were compound-complex sentences with percentage. This may happen because of the complexity of the structure of the sentences.

      In accordance with the findings above, the researcher also found specific findings of each category of type of sentences. The first is simple sentences. It was found out that there were five patterns used in simple sentences which included SP, SPPC^s, SPO^d, SPO^{d}PC^o, and SPO^{i}O^d where S refers to subject, P to predicate, PC^s to subjective predicative complement, PC^o to objective predicative complement, O^d to direct object, and O^i to indirect object. The number of occurrence of simple sentences with SP (intransitive) pattern were 102, SPPC^s (copulative) were 128, SPO^d (monotransitive) were 184, SPO^{d}PC^o (complex transitive) were 4 dan SPO^{i}O^d (ditransitive) were 14 out of 432 simple sentences as shown in the tbale below.

Table 7. Five Major Patterns of Complementation (Huddleston (1988, p. 59))

No	Structure	Name	Number of Occurrence in Simple Sentences
1	S P	Intransitive	102
2	S P PC^s	Copulative	128
3	S P O^d	Monotransitive	184
4	S P O^d PC^o	Complex-transitive	4
5	S P O^i O^d	Ditransitive	14

The second is compound sentences, there were various conjunctions used. However, the researcher only made specific occurrence of conjunctions in compound sentences with more than two independent clauses. Based on the research, there were four compound sentences with conjunction *and* and *but,* three with *semicolon* and *and*, one with *semicolon* and *but*, one *and* and *so,* and one with *colon* and *and* out of 10 occurrences. The use of punctuations in the corpus like *semicolon, colon, dash,* and *ellipsis* also existed. However, those punctuations function like connectors. Most of them were like connector *and* which gave additional comments and pause to readers. On the other hand, they may function to explain what has just been stated and are considered as informal conjunctions. In accordance with the finding of compound sentences in the corpus, there were also compound sentences which have implicit verbs because the subject preceding sentence refers to the following sentence. In the corpus, conjunction *and* is mostly used in coordinating independent clauses while conjunction *so, dash,* and, *ellipsis* took the least number. Based on the

finding, coordinator *and* and *but* occur the most in coordinating compound sentences with more than two conjunctions. The spread of use of conjunctions is listed in the table below.

Table 8. Conjunctions in Compound Sentences with more than Two Independent Clauses

No	Compound Sentences with more than two independent clauses Conjunction	Number of occurrence
1	*and* and *but*	4
2	*semicolon* and *and*	3
3	*semicolon* and *but*	1
4	*and* and *so*	1
6	*colon* and *and*	1
	Total of occurrence	10

The third is complex sentences. There were 198 noun clauses, 127 adverbial clauses, 109 relative clauses, 9 comparative clauses and 19 mixed clauses so that the total of all were 562 complex sentences. Amongst the four types of clauses, it was found out that, in the corpus, as seen in the previous sentence, noun clauses were mostly used in forming complex sentences while comparative clauses were used the least. Moreover, in the corpus, subordinate clauses took more occurrence than the main clauses. In addition, there were also sentences which used different types of clauses within one sentence as the subordinate clauses in complex sentences. It may occur because some of the clauses were parts of sentences constituents which may consist of NPs if they were separated from the main parts like relative clauses. The table of occurrence can be seen in Table 9.

Table 9. Types of Clauses in Complex Sentences and The Occurrences of Each Clause

No	Complex Sentences	
	Types of Clauses	Number of Occurrence
1	Noun Clauses	198
2	Adverbial Clauses	127
3	Relative Clauses	109
4	Comparative Clauses	9
5	Mixed Clauses	119
	Total	562

The last is compound-complex sentences which had 30 noun clauses, 40 adverbial clauses, 28 relative clauses, 7 comparative clauses, and 39 mixed clauses out of 144 occurrences of compound-complex sentences. In accordance with the previous result, main clauses occurred more often than subordinate clauses in the corpus. The following table shows the frequency of various clauses in compound-complex sentences.

Out of all sentences found in the novel with the focus on declarative sentences with finite clauses, it was found out that complex sentences dominated the occurrence. The reason why complex sentences took the most occurrences is because there was a lot of direct speech in the novel.

Table 10. Types of Clauses in Compound-complex Sentences and The Occurrence of Each Clause

No	Complex Sentences	
	Types of Clauses	Number of Occurrences
1	Noun Clauses	30
2	Adverbial Clauses	40
3	Relative Clauses	28
4	Comparative Clauses	7
5	Mixed Clauses	39
	Total	144

Discussion

This research analysed types of sentences encountered in a novel and the frequency of each type of sentence. There are four types of sentences found in the corpus. Amongst the four types of sentences, the sentences that are mostly used in the corpus are complex sentences with the total 562 sentences out of 1287 sentences.

In simple sentences, they are five major types of complementation used. The type that is mostly used monotransitive pattern which can be indicated that most of the sentences uttered/made require direct objects with ratio 1:3.

In compound sentences, the researcher found the use of conjunctions which include *and, but,* and so at which the use of *and* dominated the occurrence in the corpus. The use of punctuations in the corpus like *semicolon, colon, dash,* and *ellipsis* also exist. However, the punctuations function like connectors. Most of them are like connector *and*

which give additional comments and pause to the readers. In addition, there were also sentences which took compound verbs. In a compound sentence with compound verbs, the subject of the sentence is only one because it is performed by the same person in which it leads to the ellipsis of the subject. In conclusion, the ratio for compound sentences is 1:8.

In complex sentences, there five types of clauses used. There are also sentences which use different types of clauses within one sentence. It may occur because some of the clauses are parts of sentences constituent. The ratio for complex sentences and all sentences is 1:2

In compound-complex sentences, noun clauses dominate the occurrence as in complex sentences but main clauses occur more often than subordinate clauses which fit the definition of compound-complex sentences. The ratio for compound complex sentences is 1:9

Out of all sentences found in the novel with the focus on declarative sentences with finite clauses, it is found out that complex sentences dominate the occurrence. The reason why complex sentences take the most occurrences is because there is a lot of direct speech in the novel.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION
Conclusion

Based on the analysis, there are four types of sentences used in novel "The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho. To sum up, the data showed that there are 1,287 sentences in the corpus with 562 complex sentences dominate the occurrence. In simple sentences, monotransitive sentences take the most occurrences. Conjunction *and* is the most used conjunction in compound sentences while in compound sentences with more than two conjunctions, conjunction *and* and *but* occur the most. For complex sentences, noun clauses dominate the occurrence with 198 clauses since there are a lot of

direct sentences in the novel. In compound-complex sentences, main clauses take the number of occurrences in more often than subordinate clauses.

Suggestion

Considering the result of analysis, the researcher suggested that students need to master complex sentences before reading the novel in order to help them comprehend the content of the novel well. They may use novel ' The Alchemist' by Paulo Coelho as a tool which provided real English to improve their ability in understanding and using sentences based on actual communicative situations.

REFERENCES

Baker, P. (2010). Corpus Methods in Linguistics. In L. Litosseliti, *Research Methods in Linguistics* (p. 103). London: Continuum International Publishing Group.

Bhela, B. (1999). Exploratory Case Studies of Native Language Interference with Target Language Usage. *International Education Journal , 1*, 22.

Ernawati, A. (n.d.). An Analysis Types of Sentences used by The Students' Essay Writing at The Third Semester of Iain Tulungagung in The 2013/2014 Academic Years. Unpublished Undergraduate Thesis. Tulungagung: IAIN Tulungagung.

Hişmanoğlu, M. (2015). Teaching English Through Literature. *Journal of Language and Linguistic Studies ,* 64-65.

Kennedy, G. (1998). *An Introduction to Corpus Lingusitics* Edinburgh: Pearson Education Limited.

Kumar, R. (2011). *Research Methodology: A Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners.* London: SAGE Publications Ltd.

Lenny. (2005). *An Analysis on Sentential Constructions in Harry Potter Novel.* Unpublished

Undergraduate Thesis. Pontianak: Tanjungpura University.

Radford, A. (1998). *Syntax: A Minimalist Introduction.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Römer, U. (2010). Using General and Specialized Corpora. In M. C. Campoy-Cubillo, B. Bellés-Fortuño, & M. L. Gea-Valor (Eds.), *Corpus-Based Approaches to English Language Teaching* (p. 20). London, Great Britain, United Kingdom: Continuum International Publishing Group.

Sandell, L.-S. (2006). A Study of Opinions on Using Fiction in Grammar Teaching. 9.

Troike, M. S. (2006). *Introducing Second Language Acquisition.* New York: Cambridge University Press.