

Subordinate Clause Functioning as Direct Object in Complex Sentences Found in *BBC News* Instagram Caption

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ABSTRAK

Klausa bawahan merupakan bagian dari kalimat kompleks biasa digunakan dalam komunikasi. Ini membantu orang untuk memberikan informasi yang lebih jelas dalam sebuah kalimat dan menghindari gaya monoton dalam menulis atau berbicara. Klausa bawahan memiliki 4 fungsi gramatikal dalam sebuah kalimat, salah satunya berfungsi sebagai objek langsung, yang digunakan dalam artikel berita. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis fungsi klausa bawahan sebagai objek langsung dalam kalimat kompleks yang terdapat pada caption Instagram *BBC News*. Metode pengumpulan data serta analisis data yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode observasi serta analisis deskriptif kualitatif yang berlandaskan Teori klausa bawahan oleh Aarts (2001) guna melakukan analisis klausa bawahan sebagai objek langsung dalam kalimat kompleks. Analisis data juga didukung dengan diagram pohon untuk menganalisis struktur penyusun kalimat. Teori diagram pohon yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini dikemukakan oleh Brown dan Miller (1991). Terdapat 36 kalimat kompleks dengan klausa bawahan sebagai objek langsung yang terdapat dalam 49 caption akun Instagram *BBC News*. Dari 36 kalimat kompleks yang klausa bawahan berfungsi sebagai objek langsung, 5 analisis kalimat disajikan dalam penelitian ini untuk memberikan pemahaman yang lebih dalam tentang fungsi klausa bawahan sebagai objek langsung. Dari data yang disajikan dalam penelitian ini terdapat perbedaan antara penggunaan komplementer untuk menghubungkan klausa dalam setiap kalimat. Dari 36 kalimat kompleks, 6 kalimat dihubungkan dengan pelengkap, dan 30 kalimat dihubungkan tanpa pelengkap atau pelengkap dihilangkan.

Kata kunci : anak kalimat, *BBC News*, caption Instagram, kalimat majemuk bertingkat, objek langsung

ABSTRACT

Subordinate clauses are part of complex sentences commonly used in communication. It helps people to give clearer information in a sentence and avoid a monotonous style in writing or speaking. The subordinate clause has 4 grammatical functions in a sentence, one of which functions as a direct object, which is used in news articles. This study aims to analyze the function of the subordinate clause as a direct object in complex sentences contained in the *BBC News* Instagram caption. The method of data collection and data analysis used in this study was the method of observation and qualitative descriptive analysis based on the theory of subordinate clauses by Aarts (2001) in order to analyze subordinate clauses as direct objects in complex sentences. Data analysis was also supported by tree diagrams to analyze sentence structure. The tree diagram theory used in this study was proposed by Brown and Miller (1991). There were 36 complex sentences with the subordinate clause as the direct object contained in 49 captions of the *BBC News* Instagram account. Of the 36 complex sentences in which the subordinate clause functions as a direct object, 5 sentence analysis was presented in this study to provide a deeper understanding of the function of the subordinate clause as a direct object. From the data presented in this study, there were differences in the use of complementary to connect clauses in each sentence. Out of 36 complex sentences, 6 sentences were connected with complements, and 30 sentences were connected without complements or complements were omitted.

Keywords: subordinate clause, *BBC News*, Instagram caption, complex sentence, direct object

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INTRODUCTION

Language has important role in society. One of the roles of language is to communicate with each other. People

communicate with each other in order to express their feelings, opinions, comments, and arguments. People also communicate to exchange information and news with each other. In communicating with each other, language can be used in spoken and written forms. Spoken language is a form of language which is created by articulate sounds. It is usually used orally by people while communicating. Written language is a representation of spoken or sign language by means of a writing system. In this modern era, people commonly communicate on the internet or social media. In social media, people freely share and get information, thoughts, opinion, and news. They can share it in written language or spoken language. The most common social media used in this era is Instagram. On Instagram, we can exchange many kinds of information includes with videos, pictures, and captions in it. The caption in Instagram posts is an example of written language used to exchange information. It helps the reader to get clearer information about the pictures or videos in posts. In making a caption for an Instagram post, the use of language should be arranged systematically. So, the information can be easily understood and received. A study that specifically discusses and analyzes sentence structure is called syntax.

According to Chomsky (2002:1), syntax is a study of the principles and processes of sentence construction in a particular language. The syntax is included in the theory of how words are put together to build phrases, how phrases are put together to build bigger phrases or clauses, and how clauses are put together to build sentences (Miller, 2002: xii). According to the definitions above, it can be concluded that syntax is the arrangement and relationship among words, phrases, and clauses to form sentences or larger construction based on grammatical rules. Words, phrases, clauses, and sentences are important parts of language, but the sentence is considered the most complex media which is mostly used by people to communicate with each other. According to Langan (2003: 100), the sentence is a group of words that are put together, consist of a subject and verb, and

express a complete thought. A sentence can consist of one clause or more than one clause. Based on the clauses that compose it, sentences can be divided into four types, namely simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex. A simple sentence has only one subject-verb combination and expresses a complete meaning. A compound sentence is made of at least two independent clauses. A complex sentence is made of an independent clause and at least one dependent clause. A compound complex sentence is made of at least two independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

Based on the definition of each type of sentence above, there are basically two kinds of clause which is used to compose a sentence namely independent clause (main clause) and dependent clause (subordinate clause). The main clause is a group of words that can stand alone because it contains a complete thought and meaning. A subordinate clause is a group of words that contains a subject and predicate but cannot stand alone because it does not provide a complete meaning and thought. A subordinate clause can be placed at the beginning, in the middle, or the end of the sentence. Although it does not provide a complete meaning, the use of subordinate clauses in sentences is important for effective writing, because it helps the ideas of a sentence become clearer. Besides, the use of subordinate clauses can make our writing or speaking more interesting, remembering that using the same kinds of sentences over and over again makes our writing or speaking boring. A subordinate clause is also beneficial in making a news article or caption because it will help the writer to avoid a monotone style of writing and give clearer information to the reader. According to Aarts (2001:134), subordinate clauses based on its function can be divided into four types. They are clauses functioning as subject, clauses functioning as direct objects, clauses functioning as an adjunct, and clauses functioning as complements within phrases.

In the written or spoken form of language which provides news or any other information, the use of subordinate clause

functioning as direct object is really important, especially to form indirect speech. Indirect speech is commonly used in news articles to paraphrase what someone said or wrote. According to Aarts (2001:20), the subordinate clause function as a direct object modifies the verb of the main clause. It can provide more information about the object of the sentence. Therefore, knowing how the subordinate clause functioning as the direct object in a sentence is considerably important. It is also important for people to know how to use the subordinate clause in a sentence in order to make more creative writing or speaking. In order to describe and analyze one of the functions of the subordinate clause, this study focused on identifying the function of the subordinate clause as a direct object in a complex sentence. The captions in Instagram posts were chosen as the object of the study because it contains a lot of complex sentences. The captions are taken from the *BBC News* Instagram account. There are a lot of complex sentences found in the *BBC News* Instagram captions. So, it was easier to find the data to analyze.

There are several studies that are related to the topic of this study. Firstly, Indriyani, Putra, & Aryaningsih (2021) in their study entitled "Subordinate Clause in The Boscombe Valley Short Story". Their study aimed to analyze the types and the constituent structure of subordinate clauses found in *Boscombe Valley Short Story*. Secondly, a research by Putra, Sulatra, & Purwati (2020) entitled "Subordinate Clauses in Adultery Novel". There were two problems which were analyzed in their study. Their study aimed to analyze the types and functions of subordinate clauses in a novel entitled *Adultery*. The third study is from Prabawati, Putra, Karya (2020) entitled "The Study of Subordinate Clauses Found in China Daily Newspaper". The study focused on analyzing the types of the subordinate clauses found in *China Daily Newspaper*. Fourth, a study by Bestari (2021) entitled "Subordinate Clause Analysis Found in Part III and IV "Gulliver's Travels" Novel". There were two problems which were analyzed in her study. The first problem was to analyze the types of the

subordinate clauses found in the novel. The second problem was to analyze the most occurring type of subordinate clause found in *Gulliver's Travels* novel.

There are several unanswered questions in the above studies which then become the topics to be discussed in this study, such as first, this study specifically analyzes the subordinate clause which functions as a direct object in complex sentences. Second, the source of this research data is taken from the *BBC News* Instagram caption. Third, this study uses the theory of Aarts (2001) to analyze the function of the subordinate clause. This study also analyzes the structure of the data compiler with the tree diagram theory proposed by Brown and Miller (1991). And this research aims to focus on identifying subordinate clauses that function as direct objects in complex sentences found on *BBC News* Instagram captions. Syntax studies, especially in subordinate clauses, are very important to enrich knowledge in systematically compiling language. The study of subordinate clauses in complex sentences is also expected to be useful for readers, teachers, lecturers, and other researchers who are studying syntax because this research provides an analysis of the types of subordinate clauses and tree diagram analysis.

METHOD

BBC News Instagram captions are chosen as the data source of this study. The reason to choose *BBC News* Instagram captions as the data source of this study is because it contains many complex sentences. *BBC News* Instagram account also provides international news and has more than 22 million followers around the world. Each post also reaches more than a thousand likes on average. So, it means there are a lot of people around the world who reach the *BBC News* Instagram account to read the news. The posts for the data source in this study are taken from the posts which are posted on 1 February 2022 to 31 March 2022. The posts which specifically talk about the Russian and Ukrainian wars are chosen as

the data of this study. There are in total 49 captions chosen as the data of this study.

This study uses a qualitative approach where the process of collecting and processing data is carried out based on the results of literature studies and qualitative data analysis. There are several steps taken in collecting data including, first identifying captions. Second, take screenshots of captions that contain complex sentences. Third, take notes and underline the subordinate clauses in complex sentences found in the description. Fourth, perform data classification based on the function of the subordinate clause. The scope of this research is carried out using Aarts (2001) theory with the aim of analyzing the function of the subordinate clause as a direct object. As well as limitation of the methodology used is the tree diagram theory from Brown and Miller (1991) which aims to analyze the constituent structure of the subordinate clauses found in complex sentences in the *BBC News* Instagram caption. The data in this study will be presented in formal and informal methods.

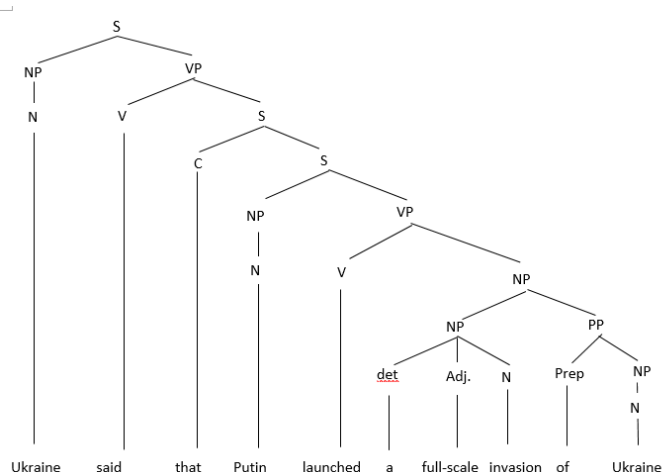
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After analyzing the data using the theory about subordinate clauses from Aarts (2001), the results of this study implied that 36 complex sentences contain subordinate clauses functioning as a direct object found in 49 captions from *BBC News* Instagram account. From 36 subordinate clauses functioning as direct objects found in the data sources, there are 6 clauses linked with a complementizer *that*, and there are 30 subordinate clauses linked without complementizer. According to the findings of the study above, there are some discussions have been done by the researcher by drawing the tree diagram for each sample and analyzing the subordinate clause functioning as a direct object in the complex sentences. There are 5 analyses are chosen as samples to be analyzed more deeply by using a tree diagram in this study.

- (01) *Ukraine said that Putin launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.*
(*BBC News* Instagram post, 24 Feb 2022)

The sentence above is taken from the *BBC News* Instagram post on 24th February 2022. It is considered a complex sentence because it consists of two clauses which are *Ukraine said* and *that Putin launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine*. Those two clauses are combined with subordinating conjunction *that*. *Ukraine said* is considered as the main clause and *that Putin launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine* is categorized as a subordinate clause which has function as a direct object of the sentence because it is the direct object of the verb *said*. The constituent structure of the data above can be seen through the tree diagram below.

Figure 1. Tree diagram of data (01)

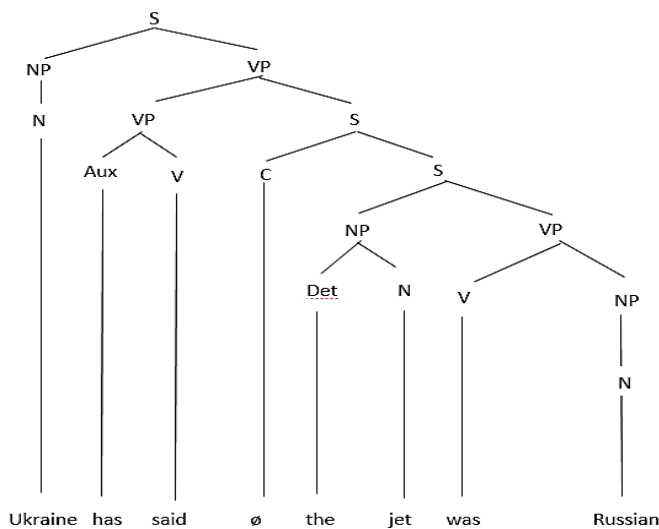


From the diagram above, (S) is the mother of (NP) and (VP). *Ukraine* is (N) which is a constituent of (NP). The (VP) is demoted into two branches those are (V) *said* and the second (S). The second (S) is demoted into two branches. They are (C) *that* and the third (S). The third (S) is *Putin launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine*. *Putin* is (N) which is the constituent of (NP), and the (VP) of the third (S) is demoted into two branches those are (V) *launched* and (NP). (NP) is demoted into two branches. The first branch is (NP) which has three branches those are (Det) *a*, (Adj) *Full-scale*, and (N) *invasion*. The second branch is (PP) which is demoted into two branches those are (Prep) *of* and (NP) which has one branch (N) *Ukraine*.

(02) *Ukraine has said the jet was Russian* (BBC News Instagram post, 25 Feb 2022)

Data number (02) above is considered a complex sentence because it contains a main clause and a subordinate clause. The main clause of the sentence above is *Ukraine has said* and the subordinate clause of the sentence above is *the jet was Russian*. The subordinate clause above is not begun with the complement *that*. The complement *that* in the sentence above is omitted. The subordinate clause in the sentence above has a function as a direct object in the sentence because it is the direct object of the transitive verb *said*. To clearly see the grammatical function of the subordinate clause as the direct object, the constituent structure of the sentence above will be analyzed through a tree diagram below.

Figure 2. Tree diagram of data (02)



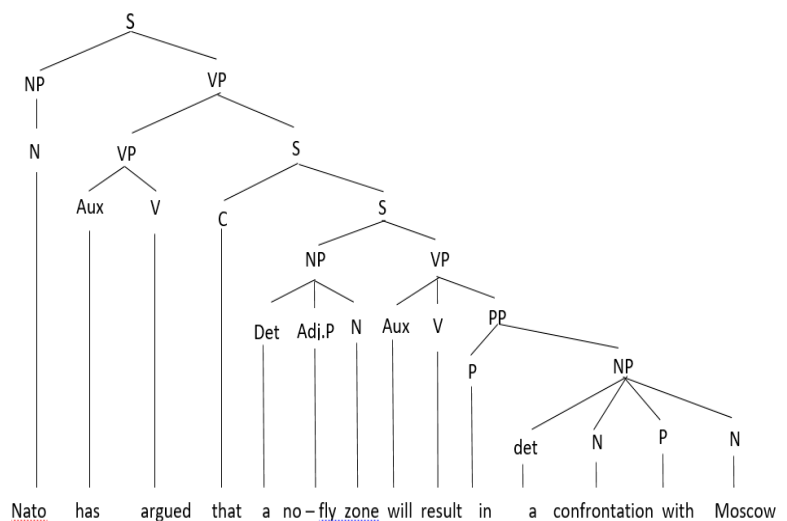
According to the tree diagram above, (S) is the mother of (NP) and (VP). (NP) has one branch that is (N) *Ukraine*, and (VP) is demoted into two branches those are (VP) and the second (S). (VP) is demoted into two branches those are (Aux) *has* and (V) *said*. While the second (S) is demoted into two branches those are (C) which is omitted and the third (S) which has two branches. The first branch is (NP) which has two branches (Det) *the* and (N) *jet*. The second branch is (VP) which has two branches

those are (V) *was* and (Adj. P) which has a branch (Adj.) *Russian*.

(03) *Nato has argued that a no-fly zone will result in a confrontation with Moscow*. (BBC News Instagram post, 5 Mar 2022)

The sentence above is taken from *BBC News Instagram* caption that is posted on 5 March 2022. The sentence above is considered a complex sentence because it is arranged by the main clause and a subordinate clause. *Nato has argued* is the main clause of the sentence above, while *that a no-fly zone will result in a confrontation with Moscow* is a subordinate clause which has a grammatical function as a direct object of the verb *argued*. Two clauses in the sentence above are joined by a complement *that*. The constituent structure of the sentence above can be figured through the tree diagram below.

Figure 3. Tree diagram of data (03)



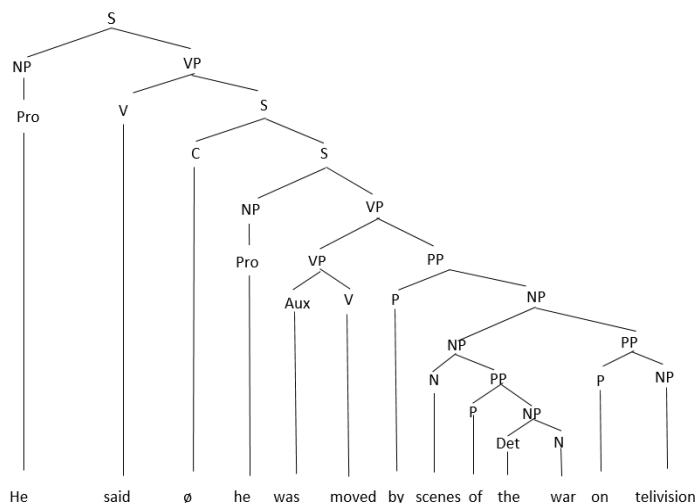
From the tree diagram above, (S) becomes the mother of (NP) and (VP). (NP) has a branch that is (N) *Nato*, (VP) is demoted into two branches those are (VP) and the second (S). (VP) is demoted into two branches those are (Aux) *has* and (V) *argued*. The second (S) is demoted into two branches those are (C) *that* and the third (S). The third (S) is demoted into two branches those are (NP) and (VP). (NP) has three branches those are (Det) *a*, (Adj) *no-fly*, and (N) *zone*. While the (VP) is demoted into

three branches those are (Aux) *will*, (V) *result*, and (PP). (PP) is demoted into two branches those are (P) *in* and (NP) which is demoted into four branches those are (Det) *a*, and (N) *confrontation*. (P) *with* and (N) *Moscow*.

(04) He said *he was moved by scenes of the war on television*. (BBC News Instagram Post, 2 Mar 2022)

The sentence above is taken from *BBC News* Instagram caption in a post that was posted on 2 March 2022. The sentence above has one main clause which is *He said*, and one subordinate clause which is *he was moved by scenes of the war*. Therefore, the sentence above is considered a complex sentence. The subordinate clause of the sentence above has a grammatical function as a direct object because it is the object of the verb *said*. Those two clauses should be joined by a complement *that*, but in this sentence it is omitted. The constituent structure of the sentence above is drawn in the tree diagram below.

Figure 4. Tree diagram of data (4)



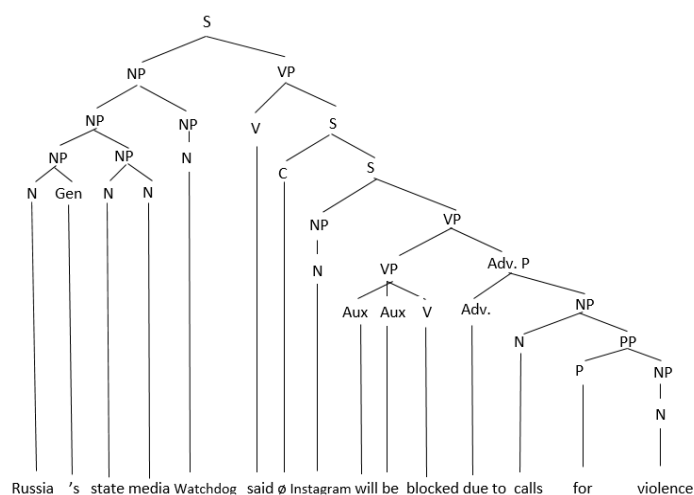
In the tree diagram above, (S) is the mother of (NP) and (VP). (NP) is demoted into a branch that is (Pro) *He*. While (VP) is demoted into two branches those are (V) *said* and the second (S). The second (S) is demoted again into two branches, those are (C) which is omitted, and the third (S). The third (S) is demoted to (NP) and (VP). (NP) has a branch (Pro) *he*, and (VP) is demoted into two branches. The first branch of (VP)

is (VP) which is demoted into two branches those are (Aux) *was* and (V) *moved*. The second branch of (VP) is (PP) which has two branches, those are (P) *by* and (NP). (NP) is demoted into (NP) and (PP). (NP) has two branches (N) *scenes* and (PP) have two branches those are (Prep) *of* and (NP) which have two branches (Det) *a* and (N) *war*. The (PP) is demoted into two branches those are (P) *on* and (NP) which has a branch (N) *television*.

(05) *Russia's state media Watchdog said Instagram will be blocked due to calls for violence*. (BBC News Instagram post, 31 March 2022)

The data (05) above is taken from a caption in a post by *BBC News* Instagram account on 31 March 2022 which talks about the war between Russia and Ukraine. The sentence above is considered a complex sentence because it is arranged by the main clause which is *Russia's state media Watchdog said* and a subordinate clause which is *Instagram will be blocked due to calls for violence*. The subordinate clause in the sentence above functioned as a direct object of the verb *said*. The two clauses above should be joined by a complement *that*, but it is omitted in this sentence. The analysis of the function of a subordinate clause as a direct object can be seen through the tree diagram below.

Figure 5. Tree diagram of data (05)



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According to the tree diagram above, (S) is the mother of (NP) and (VP). (NP) is demoted into two branches those are (NP) and (NP). The first (NP) is demoted into two branches those are (NP) which has two branches those are (N) *Russia* and (Gen) 's, and the other (NP) is demoted into two branches those are (N) *state* and (N) *media*. While the second (NP) has a branch which is (N) *Watchdog*. The (VP) is demoted into two branches those are (V) *said* and the second (S). The second (S) is demoted into two branches those are (C) which is omitted, and the third (S). The third (S) is *Instagram will be blocked due to calls for violence*. It is demoted into two branches those are (NP) which has a branch (N) *Instagram* and (VP) which is demoted into (VP) and (Adv.P). (VP) is demoted into three branches those are (Aux) *will*, (Aux) *be*, and (V) *blocked*. (Adv.P) is demoted into two branches those are (Adv) *due to*, and (NP) which has two branches those are (N) *calls* and (PP). (PP) is demoted into (P) *for* and (NP) which has a branch (N) *violence*.

CONCLUSION

Based on the result of the study which is presented in the previous section, we can conclude that there are 36 complex sentences with subordinate clauses functioning as direct objects found in 49 captions of the *BBC News* Instagram account. From 36 complex sentences in which subordinate clause function as direct objects, 5 sentence analyses are presented in this study in order to provide a deeper understanding of the function of the subordinate clause as a direct object. From the data presented in this study, there are differences between the uses of complementizer to link the clauses in each sentence. From 36 complex sentences, 6 sentences are linked with a complementizer, and 30 sentences are linked without a complementizer or the complementizer is omitted. This research still has limitations, where the research is only focused on observing the written clause in the *BBC News* Instagram caption. It is recommended for further research in order to add research on the oral clause in different case studies.

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