Subordinate Clause Functioning as an Adjunct in Complex Sentences Found in Online Newspaper

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Abstract

The aim of this research is to analyze the subordinate clause functioning as an adjunct in complex sentences found in online CNN newspapers. This research method is qualitative. The data for this study were collected using the observation method. To analyze the data found, the descriptive qualitative method was used. This study used the theory proposed by Aarts (2001) to analyze the subordinate clause functioning as an adjunct in a complex sentence. Meanwhile, the constituent structure of the three diagrams is analyzed using the theory proposed by Kroeger (2005). The data analysis in this study was delivered through formal and informal methods. The results of this research are 18 data functioning as adjuncts from 16 Articles posted on 10&11 August 2023. Among these 18 subordinate clauses functioning as an adjunct, 10 were linked with adverbial time or 55.55%, 4 were linked with adverbial reason or 22.22% 3 were linked with the adverbial condition or 16.66%, and 1 was linked with adverbial concession or 5.55%. The implication of this study is the students learn subordinate clause functioning as an adjunct in complex sentences through online media.

Keywords: adjunct, complex sentence, newspaper, subordinate clause

1. INTRODUCTION

Paying careful attention to the sentences we employ in communication is crucial. It is vital to vary the structure of our sentences to avoid monotony in our communication. Additionally, we should select and blend different sentence patterns strategically to achieve specific effects. Therefore, the use of language in everyday life must be structured so that people can understand clearly what the opposite means. In today's digital age, people easily share information, thoughts, news, and ideas to communicate through any platform, including online newspapers that provide a structured sentence. The online CNN Newspaper is the most used online newspaper in today's digital age. Online CNN newspaper provides the world access to news from around the world happening daily. The examination of sentence construction is

connected to the field of syntax, which is the study of syntax. The syntax is concerned with how sentences are created, and users of human languages employ a striking variety of possible sentence element combinations. The term 'syntax' is derived from the Ancient Greek syntaxis, a verbal noun that literally means 'arrangement' or' setting out together.' Traditionally, it refers to the branch of grammar concerned with the ways in which words are ordered to illustrate links of meaning inside the sentence, with or without proper inflections (Van Valin, 2001).

According to G. Yule (2012), syntax attempts to describe the sequence accurately or ordering "arrangement" of elements in the linear structure of the sentence. According to Chomsky (2002, p. 1), syntax studies 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, 2008). Carnie (2013, p. 4) stated that syntax studies the level of language between words and the meaning of utterances: sentences. It is the level that mediates between sounds that someone produces (organized into words) and what they intend to say. From the definition above, it can be interpreted that syntax deals with the rules and principles of how sentences are constructed in a specific language. Syntax focuses on understanding the systematic arrangement of words, phrases, and clauses in order to provide meaningful and grammatically correct sentences. This study intended to find out how the subordinate clause functions as an adjunct in complex sentences found in online CNN newspapers. This study is expected to give a deep understanding of sentence structure by using a tree diagram.

Oshima and Hogue (1991, p. 121) stated that there are four kinds of English sentences: simple, compound, complex, and compound–complex. The type of sentence is determined by the type of clauses used to create it. A simple sentence combines a single subject-verb and conveys a complete idea. On the other hand, a compound sentence is formed by joining two or more complete ideas of equal significance through conjunctions known as coordinators. These coordinators include for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so. A complex sentence consists of an independent clause and one or more dependent clauses. Lastly, a compound-complex sentence is formed by combining two or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses. In this article, the author focuses on understanding deeply complex sentences. A complex sentence can be combined with one main clause and two or more subordinate clauses. Oshima and Hogue (1991, p. 121) state that an independent clause is a group of words in a sentence that can stand alone and express a complete thought. On the other hand, a subordinate clause is a group of words in a sentence that has a subject and predicate but cannot function independently because it does not provide a complete thought. Dependent clauses typically begin with subordinating conjunctions such as after,

because, by the time, even though, if, just in case, now that, once, only if, since, though, unless, until, when, whether, while, or with relative pronouns like what, whatever, which, whichever, who, whoever, whom, whomever, or whose.

Using the subordinate clause in a sentence is crucial, even though a subordinate clause cannot provide the complete meaning of a sentence. Hence, a subordinate clause can help the writer provide detailed information that makes the reader understand the information given. Subordinating conjunctions or relative pronouns usually introduce subordinate clauses. Subordinate clauses can be put in the sentence's beginning, middle, and last parts. According to Aarts (2001, p. 134), subordinate clauses, based on their function, can be divided into four types. They are clauses functioning as subjects, clauses functioning as direct objects, clauses functioning as adjuncts, and clauses functioning as complements within phrases.

There are two important things about using the subordinate clause functioning as an adjunct in a written or oral language, such as providing additional information in subordinate clauses, as adjuncts provide extraordinary detail of the main action or verb in a sentence. It can answer questions like when, where, why, how, or other conditions occurred in a sentence. In addition, subordinate clauses functioning as adjuncts also show a relationship between ideas. It can demonstrate such logical relationships between ideas—for instance, cause and effect, contrast, condition, and concession. Overall, understanding the function of subordinate clauses as an adjunct will also help the reader or listener understand deeply about subordinate clauses in general. In this article, the authors focus on analyzing one of the functions of the subordinate clause as an adjunct (adverbial). The data source was chosen from online CNN Newspaper, especially about U.S. politics, published on 10&11 August 2023. So many complex sentences use the subordinate clause function as an adjunct in online CNN Newspaper.

The authors found several similar and related studies to this current topic. Firstly, (Wiryastuti & Maharani, 2023) the purpose of their study is to analyze the subordinate clause functioning as a direct object in a complex sentence found in the BBC News Instagram caption. Secondly, Indriyani and Aryaningsih (2021) under the title "Subordinate Clauses in the *Boscombe Valley* Short Story." The study aimed to analyze the type of subordinate clause in complex sentences found in *The Boscombe Valley Short Story"* and the constituent structure of the subordinate clause. Thirdly, (Prabawati et al., 2020) entitled "The Study of Subordinate Clauses in China Daily Newspaper." Their study aims to find out the types of subordinate clauses in complex sentences found in the China Daily Newspaper. Fourth, Nugraha & Sulatra (Nugraha et al., 2020) entitled "Subordinate Clause in Adultery Novel." The purpose of their study is to find out the types and functions of subordinate clauses found in the Adultery Novel. The fifth

is from (Suhendra et al., 2022) titled "Analyzing Sentence Structure in 'The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey' Using Syntax." Their study aims to identify the sentence structures employed at different plot stages in "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" films and to depict them using tree diagrams.

There are gaps that have not been resolved by previous research, namely the examination of subordinate clauses that function as adjuncts in complex sentences extracted from online CNN Newspaper, following the knowledge of the earlier research mentioned. The difference between this research and the previous on is this research exclusively centers on the analysis of subordinate clauses acting as adjuncts in complex sentences. Secondly, the data for this study are sourced specifically from online CNN Newspaper. The constituent structure of this study is analyzed using the diagram theory proposed by Kroeger (2005). The contribution of this research is understanding the subordinate clause that can help the writer enrich their knowledge by providing detailed information about something. Learning subordinate clauses is also assumed to be more beneficial to the readers or listeners, teachers, students, and other authors who are interested in this subject.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

Online CNN Newspaper is one of the world's newspapers in today's digital age. There are two important reasons why online CNN Newspaper was chosen as the data source. First and foremost, because there are variations of complex sentences, it is helpful for the authors to identify the subordinate clause found in the online CNN Newspaper. Second, CNN Newspaper mostly uses the native English, which can help the authors easily understand the sentence structure in complex sentences. By anticipating the several themes in online CNN Newspaper platforms, the data in this study was taken from the post on 10 & 11 August 2023, especially from the politics of the United States of America. The data was collected from 16 articles on U.S. politics. The writer follows the steps below to collect the data in this current study. First and foremost, download the online CNN application through the app store. Second, choose the articles related to U.S. politics, then save them in the application. Then, read the articles one-on-one. Third, take notes on complex sentences using Microsoft Word. Fourth, classify the data found based on its subordinate clause function. Fifth, describe the sentence by using three diagrams.

This current study uses the descriptive qualitative method to analyze the data found. To start with, data obtained from CNN is gathered and sorted according to the categories of adjuncts, and there is an adjunct of time, an adjunct of reason, an adjunct of condition, and an adjunct of concession found in the data source. Then, the data is described by using a tree-diagram theory of syntax. This study aims to analyze the subordinate clause's functioning as an adjunct to the theory proposed by Aarts (2001).

Meanwhile, the theory of tree diagrams and constituent structure used the theory proposed by Kroeger (2005). The data found in this current study use both formal and informal methods.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This part focuses on explaining the data found in the online CNN Newspaper by using the theory proposed by Aarts (2020). The findings of this research are that within 16 Articles chosen from the online CNN Newspaper, there were 36 complex sentences. From those data found, there were 18 data actions as adjuncts in complex sentences, namely adjunct of Time, adjunct of reason, adjunct of condition, and adjunct of concession. The types of adjuncts can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Total data of types of adjuncts

No	Types of Adjunct (Adverbial Clause)	Total	Percentage	Examples
1	Adjunct of time	10	55.55 %	She really summed it up best *when she said this is the attitude of a monarch.*
2	Adjunct of reason	4	22.22 %	Let's unpack that, *because that is a cute they say a lot*.
3	Adjunct of condition	3	16.66 %	*If you go after me,* I'm going after you.
4	Adjunct of concession	1	5.55 %	The debate is growing hotter this summer *as the conflict stretches into its 18th month with no sign of a major breakthrough.*
	Total	**18**		

Table 1 shows that the adjunct of time dominated the online CNN post on 10 & 11 of August 2023 in a total of 55.55%. Followed by the adjunct of reason 22.22%, an adjunct of condition 16.66%, and the last followed by the adjunct of concession 5.55. The study's findings led to several discussions conducted by researchers, involving the creation of tree diagrams for some samples and analyzing subordinate clauses functioning as an adjunct in the complex sentences found in online CNN Newspaper. Furthermore, in order to get a deeper analysis and understanding of these subordinate clauses in this current study, four (4) data were selected to be analyzed using tree diagrams.

1. ***When Alaya announced***, *she would not pursue capital punishment in any cases*. (CNN Newspaper, 11 August 2023)

The above sentence is one of the subordinate clauses functioning as an adjunct. The sentence above is linked with the adverbial of time. It was taken from the online CNN Newspaper, 11 August 2023. The sentence above can be considered as one of the complex sentences; hence, it has a clauses combination, which is When Alaya announced that *she would not pursue capital punishment in any case*. The two clauses in the sentence above are linked by subordinating conjunction *when. **When Alaya announced*** can

be assessed as the subordinate clause functioning as an adjunct or adverbial; hence, there is a word **when** which refers to giving detailed information of the whole main clause. Meanwhile, *she would not pursue capital punishment in any case, which* can be assessed as the sentence's main clause. The data above can be seen deeply using the following constituent structure in Figure 1.
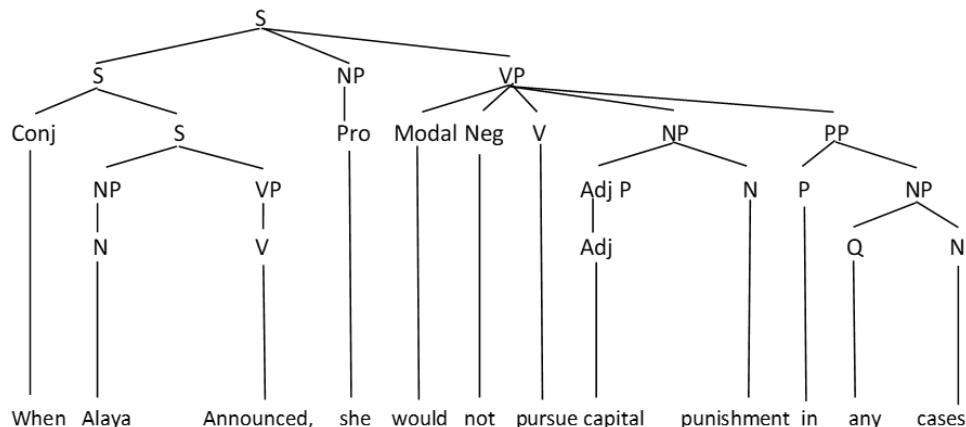

Figure 1. Tree diagram of data adverbial of Time (01)

After seeing the tree diagram in figure 1, it can be interpreted that two clause combinations in the sentence above depend on **When Alaya announced** which is linked by noded (S). Then, the independent clause states that *she would not pursue capital punishment in any cases* linked by (NP) and (VP). The subordinate clause in the sentence above can be seen in the first clause, which is linked by the word *when*. In the diagram above, (S) functions as the mother of the (S) for the dependent and for two daughters (NP) and (VP) as the independent clause. The constituent of (S) is demoted into two branches (Conj*) when* and (S). Then, (S) was demoted into two branches (NP) *Alaya* and (VP) *announced*. Then, the constituent of (NP) is labeled as (Pro) *She*. Furthermore, the constituent of the (VP) was demoted into five branches. First (Modal) *would,* and second (Neg) *not.* third (V) *pursue*, fourth (NP), which demoted into (Adj p) *capital*, and (N) *Punishment.* Fifth (PP), which is divided into two branches (P) and (NP). (NP) demoted into two branches: first is (Q) *any*, and second (N) *cases.*

2. *They asked Chutkan to discuss the matter on August 28*, **when a hearing in the case was already scheduled** (CNN Newspaper, 11 August 2023).

The data mentioned can be viewed as a compound sentence, as it comprises both an independent clause and a subordinate clause. *They asked Chutkan to discuss the matter on August 28, which* refers to a main clause of the sentence. Meanwhile, **when a hearing in the case is already scheduled, it** refers to a subordinate clause functioning as an adjunct (adverbial) of time. The word *when* in the sentence above

shows the time occur of something. Furthermore, in order to understand deeply about the data (03) above, it can be seen in the draw of tree diagrams in Figure 2.
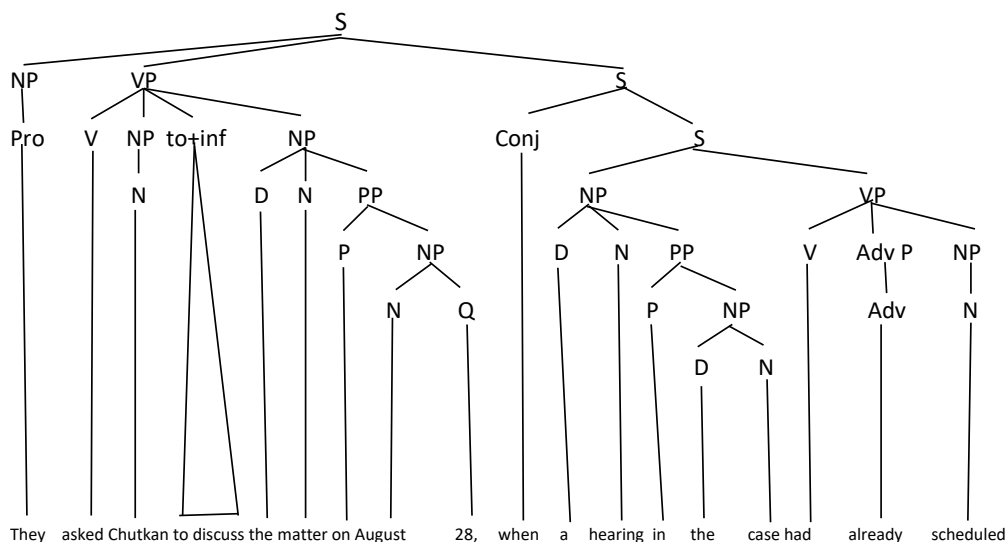

Figure 2. Tree - diagrams of data (02) adverbial of time

Based on the tree diagram in Figure 2, the node of (S) is the mother of the two daughters of (NP) and (VP) as the main clause and one sister (S) as the subordinate clause. The constituent of (NP) linked by (Pro) *they*, and the constituent of (VP) is demoted into four branches such as (V) *asked*, (NP) *Chutkan*, (to+inf) *to discuss*, and (NP). The constituent of (NP) is demoted into three branches first (D) the second, (N) *matter*, and (PP). Then, the constituent of (PP) is downgraded into two branches such as (P) on and (NP). (NP) is demoted into (N) August and (Q) *28*.

And then, the sister (S) for the dependent clause is demoted into two branches, such as (Conj) when and (S). The constituent of (S) is demoted to (NP) and (VP). (NP) demoted into three branches: first (D) *a,* second (N) *hearing,* and third (PP). The constituent of (PP) is demoted into (P) and (NP). Furthermore, the constituent of (NP) is demoted into (D) and (N) *cases*. Meanwhile, the constituent of (VP) is demoted into three branches: first (V) *is*, second (Adv p) *already*, and third (NP) *scheduled*.

3. ***If you want a 15–minute meeting,*** you will have to pay me $1.000. (CNN Newspaper 11 August 2023).

The data provided contains two clauses: a main clause and a subordinate clause, classifying it as a complex sentence. If you want a 15–minute meeting, the clause refers to the subordinate clause. Meanwhile, the clause *you will have to pay me $1.000* refers to the sentence's main clause. Both the

clauses above contain verbs such as *want* in the subordinate clause and *have* in the main clause. The subordinate clause above refers to the adverbial of condition. In addition, in order to get a deep understanding of the data above can be seen in the constituent structure in Figure 3.
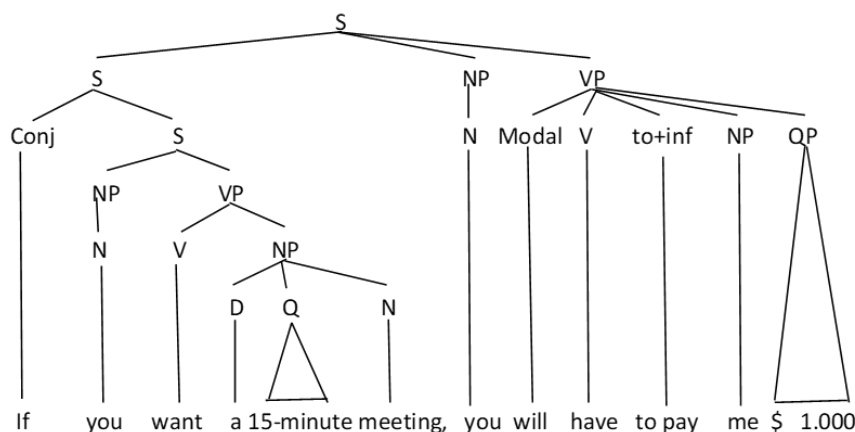

Figure 3. Tree Diagram of data (04) adverbial of condition

From the tree diagrams in Figure 3, the node of (S) is the mother of the dependent and independent clauses. The node (S) of the subordinate clause is demoted into (Conj) *if* and (S). The constituent of (S) is demoted into (NP) and (VP). (NP) *you*, and (VP) demoted into (V) *want*, and (NP). The constituent of (NP) is divided into three branches: (D) *a*, (Q) *15-minute*, and (N) *meeting*. The independent clause of the sentence is the second clause, which is linked by (NP) and (VP). The constituent of (NP) is linked by a (Pro) *you*. Meanwhile, the constituent of (VP) is demoted into five branches such as (Modal) *will*, (V) *have*, (to+inf) *to pay*, (NP) *me*, and (QP) *$1.000*.

4.   ***If you go after me,*** *I'm going after you*. (CNN Newspaper 11 August (2023).

The data presented above qualifies as a complex sentence because it includes both a subordinate clause and a main clause. The clause ***If you go after me*** refers to the subordinate clause. Meanwhile, the clause *I'm going after you* refers to the sentence's main clause. Each of the clauses above contains its verb, such as go for the subordinate clause and ***am*** for the main clause. The subordinate clause in the sentence above is a type of adverbial clause of condition because it gives detailed information about the situation that is happening in the future. The sentence above is also provided in the three diagrams below to get a deep understanding of the complex sentence in Figure 4.
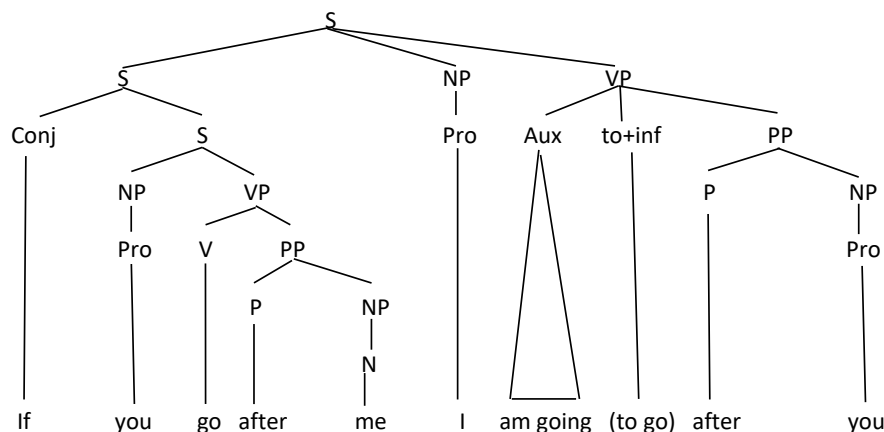
Figure 4. Tree Diagram data (05) adverbial of condition

From the tree diagrams in Figure 4, node (S) is the mother of one sister as the dependent clause and two daughters (NP) and (VP) as the main clause. The dependent clause node by (S) is demoted into two branches, (Conj) *if* and the node (S). The constituent of (S) is demoted into two daughters such as (NP) *you* and (VP). The constituent of (VP) is demoted into (V) go and (PP), and the constituent of (PP) is demoted into (P) *after*, and (NP) *me.* Meanwhile, the main clause is linked by (NP) and (VP). The constituent of (NP) is linked by (Pro) *I*. Meanwhile, the constituent of (VP) is demoted into three branches: (Aux) *am going*, (to+inf), and (PP). The constituent of (PP) is demoted into (P) *after* and (NP) *you.*

4. CONCLUSION

To summarize the entire study, sixteen (16) articles were chosen as the data source, and 18 complex sentences with subordinate functioning as an adjunct (Adverbial). There are 4 data analyses presented to entice the readers or listeners into a thorough comprehension of the subordinate clause functioning as an adjunct among these 18 complex sentences. Subordinate clauses work as an adjunct by employing three graphics. Ten (10) subordinate clauses were related with adverbial time, four (4) were linked with adverbial reason, three (3) were linked with adverbial condition, and one (1) was linked with adverbial concession. Furthermore, the adverbial of time often indicates when an action or occurrence occurs. It might occur at the beginning or in the middle of a complex sentence. Adverbial reason explains why an action or event occurs and provides information about why it occurs. The adverbial of condition, also known as the conditional adverbial, describes the circumstances or situation under which an action or event occurs. The adverbial concession then contrasts or contradicts the sentence's main clause.

Practically, the expectation of this research is that it can help the next researcher for both school and university students interested in analyzing the subordinate clause. In addition, this current study may spark readers' interest in learning about grammatical structures, particularly in subordinate clauses, increasing their knowledge of grammar.

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