

## DEPENDENT CLAUSES USED IN JAKARTA POST NEWSPAPER ARTICLES (Revisited)

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### ABSTRACT

*This paper would like to describe various types of dependent clauses in English including among others relative/adjective clause, noun clause, conditional clause, and adverbial clause. The background of the study refers to the fact that English contains many complex sentences involving the use of such dependent clauses. Consequently learners of English have to learn those dependent clauses in order to have the competence to use English in daily life. The problem is it is not quite easy for the learners of English to learn all those dependent clauses. This paper aims at searching the use of dependent clauses in Jakarta Post articles: which types are used, how frequent they are used, which types are used the most and the least. This study is limited to any ten short articles contained in Jakarta Post. The study would be significant for teachers and learners of English that, in spite of the fact that dependent clauses are complicated, they are applied in newspaper articles. The literature would review theories/concepts of dependent clauses as the bases of the study: relative/adjective clause, noun clause, conditional clause, and adverbial clause as well as previous related studies about dependent clauses. The method of study would start with selecting ten short newspapers articles from Jakarta Post; identifying all the dependent clauses found in the articles, categorize the types of dependent clauses, and order the types of dependent clauses according to the frequencies found in the articles. The findings of this study would be used to suggest that learners of English need to study dependent clauses in order to comprehend, among others, newspaper articles.*

Keywords: *dependent clauses, newspaper articles, Jakarta Post*

### INTRODUCTION

This paper would like to describe various types of dependent clauses in English including among others relative/adjective clause, noun clause, conditional clause, and adverbial clause. The fact is that English contains many complex sentences involving the use of such dependent clauses. Consequently learners of English have to learn those dependent clauses in order to have the competence to use English in daily life. The problem is it is not quite easy for learners of English to learn all those dependent clauses. This paper aims at searching the use of dependent clauses in Jakarta Post articles: which types are used, how frequent they are used, which types are used the most and the least. This study is limited to ten short articles contained in Jakarta Post dated Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2017; Thursday, Nov. 30, 2017; and Saturday, Dec. 30, 2017. The study would be significant for teachers and learners of English that, in spite of the fact that dependent clauses are complicated, they are applied in newspaper articles.

In relation to this study, as the basis I would like to review dependent clauses, types of dependent clauses and their description of each, and the review of previous study.

### DEPENDENT CLAUSES

This section describes the definition, types, and samples of dependent clauses. Before coming to the definition of dependent clauses, I would like to define what a clause is. A clause is a key structural unit of grammar, normally consisting of a verb phrase plus other elements: subject, object, predicate, and adverb (Biber, D., Susan Conrad & Geoffrey Leech (2002). Cowan (2008) states that a clause is a unit that includes a subject and a verb, either an independent clause (main clause) or a sub-clause (dependent clause). A simple definition about a clause is stated by Aarts (2011) that is a clause is a grammatical structure in which ‘something is said about’ (‘predicated of’) a Subject.

A clause can be categorized as independent (main) and dependent (sub-ordinate) clause. Independent clause expresses a complete thought and can stand alone as a simple sentence. Dependent clause does not express a complete thought and cannot stand alone. It does have its own subject (sometimes a pronoun) and a verb, but is not a sentence because of one word, the subordinating conjunction.

## **TYPES OF DEPENDENT CLAUSE**

There are four types of dependent clauses: noun clause, adjective/relative clause, adverb clause, and conditional clause (Azar (2002)).

### **Noun Clause**

A noun clause is a dependent clause which functions as a noun in a sentence, so it can function as a subject or an object. A noun clause is often part of an independent clause, where it can be a subject or an object. There are four types of noun clause: that clause, subjunctive noun clause, question clause, and if/whether clause. Examples of each type are as follows: (1) that clause, e.g. "The Russian president and his wife told the press (that) they were enjoying their visit."; (2) subjunctive noun clause, e.g. "The president of the United States suggested that Russia open its doors to U.S. business."; (3) question clause e.g. "The reporter asked which companies planned to do business in Russia." and (4) if/whether clause e.g. "No one knows if the experiment will succeed."

### **Adjective/Relative Clause**

An adjective Clause is a dependent clause that functions as an adjective which modifies (gives more information about) a noun or pronoun. It is a special kind of subordinate clause whose primary function is as a post modifier to a noun. Examples of such dependent clauses are as follows: (1) The professor who teaches my biology class won a Nobel Prize two years ago. (2) Professor Jones, who teaches my biology class, won a Nobel Prize two years ago. (3) She loaned her car to someone whom she did not know. (4) Professor Jones, whom I have for biology, won a Nobel Prize two years ago. (5) I studied algebra with a professor whose name I have forgotten. (6) Apple computer, whose Macintosh computer changed computing, was started by two men working in a garage. (7) She teaches biology, which is my favorite subject. (8) The subject that I enjoy the least is algebra. (9) The subject I enjoy the least is algebra. (10) I work full time on days when I do not have classes. (11) I did not work last week, when I had my final exam. (12) She has never returned to the city where she was born. (13) First City Bank, where I have checked account, was robbed last week. (14) The person to whom I mailed the letter never received it. (15) The person whom I mailed the letter to never received it.

### **Adverb Clause**

An adverb clause is a dependent clause that functions as an adverb telling when, where, why, how, how long, how far, how often, and for what purpose something happened. An adverb clause always begins with a subordinating conjunction that expresses the relationship between the adverb clause and the independent clause. The adverb clause subordinators include adverb clause of **time** (when, whenever, while, as soon as, after, since, as, before, until), **place** (where, wherever, everywhere, anywhere), **distance** (as + adverb + as), **frequency** (as + adverb + as), **manner** (as, as + adverb + as, as if/ as though), **reason** (because, since, as), **purpose** (so that, in order that), **result** (so + adjective/adverb + that, such a(n) + noun + that, so much/little + noun + that, so many/few + noun + that), **unexpected result or concession** (although, even though, though), **direct opposition or contrast** (while, whereas), and **conditional** (if, unless).

### **Conditional Clause**

The word 'conditional' (Crystal, 1991) is described as "a term used in grammatical description referring to clauses whose semantic role is the expression of hypothesis or conditions". Further Richards, Platt, and Weber (1985) states that conditional clause is actually an adverbial clause which begins with if, unless, or other conjunctions having similar meanings the state or situation of which in one clause is dependent on something that may happen. A conditional clause is a dependent clause in conditional sentence which consists of If Clause + Main Clause, for example, "If it rains tomorrow, we will not come." There are four types of conditional clause: (1) zero conditional e.g. "Water boils if it reaches 100 degrees."; (2) First conditional e.g. "If I feel sick tomorrow, I will not go to school."; (3) Second conditional e.g. "If he were a bird, he would fly across the harbor."; (4) Third conditional e.g. "If I had had enough money, I would have bought the camera yesterday."

## **REVIEW OF PREVIOUS STUDY**

One related previous study was conducted by Rita Rafajlovicova (nd) entitled Dependent Clauses, Their Occurrence and Role in Different Text Types. The result of the research focused on the distribution and

analysis of subordinate clauses and their usage in four different text types (newspaper, academic prose, fiction, and interview) of spoken and written English. The results obtained from the analysis show the differences between the use of a particular type of subordinate clauses as well as their frequency of distribution within the analyzed media. Specific to the analysis of newspapers articles, this study found that Noun clauses were used the most frequently (471), followed by Relative clauses (451), and the least dependent clauses used were adverbial clauses (390) out of 43 texts under study.

## METHODOLOGY

The study started by selecting randomly ten short newspapers articles, the length of which is around 500 words, in Jakarta Post published on Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2017; Thursday, Nov. 30, 2017; and Saturday, Dec. 30, 2017.

## ANALYSIS

The analysis of the ten articles was done by reading through the whole ten articles and identified all the dependent clauses found in the articles, categorizing the types of dependent clauses, and order the types of dependent clauses according to the frequencies found in the articles.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the study are presented in Table 1.

<b>Table 1: Summary of the Dependent Clauses Used in the 10 Articles</b>				
	<b>Adjective Clause</b>	<b>Noun Clause</b>	<b>Adverbial Clause</b>	<b>Conditional Clause</b>
<b>Article 1</b>	6	2	5	0
<b>Article 2</b>	5	5	5	0
<b>Article 3</b>	9	6	3	1
<b>Article 4</b>	5	11	5	1
<b>Article 5</b>	7	11	2	1
<b>Article 6</b>	5	10	1	0
<b>Article 7</b>	5	13	2	0
<b>Article 8</b>	4	16	9	3
<b>Article 9</b>	3	2	4	0
<b>Article 10</b>	5	5	3	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>6</b>

Based on Table 1, the findings show that all the dependent clauses are used in the newspaper articles with the noun clauses are used the most frequently (81) followed by adjective clauses (54), adverbial clauses (39), and conditional clauses (6), the least used. Even if conditional clauses are included in the adverbial clauses, adverbial clauses are the least frequently used (45). This finding is in line with the previous study finding as can be read in Table 2.

<b>Table 2: Summary of Previous Study and This Study</b>				
	<b>Texts</b>	<b>Noun Clauses</b>	<b>Relative Clauses</b>	<b>Adverbial Clauses</b>
<b>Previous Study</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>390</b>
<b>This Study</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>45</b>

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

After conducting this study, it can be concluded that dependent clauses are used frequently in Jakarta Post newspaper articles. The fact that the finding of this study is similar to that of the previous study, it could be the indication that dependent clauses of all three types are implemented in newspaper articles with similar order of frequency from the most frequently used until the least: noun clauses, adjective clauses, and finally adverbial clauses. That is why I can suggest that teachers of English teach learners of English dependent clauses in their teaching to help them understand messages written in newspaper articles. For further researchers I suggest that they study the use of dependent clauses in different types of texts, for example, in academic writing texts: scientific papers, thesis, books, etc.

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