

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Linguistics is the systematic examination of language, focusing on its characteristics and the ways in which communication occurs. This field encompasses various branches, such as phonetics, phonology, morphology, semantics, sociolinguistics, pragmatics, and syntax. Among these, syntax specifically examines the functioning and structure of language. As defined by Chomsky (2002:1), syntax involves the processes and techniques employed to form sentences in a particular language. It explores how words are organized into phrases, which then combine to form clauses, ultimately leading to the construction of complete sentences.

According to Hornby (2000), a sentence is essentially a collection of words that can express a statement, pose a question, or give an order. Typically, sentences contain at least a subject and a verb, and they may also include additional elements like objects, complements, or adverbials.

Davidson (2002:4) further elaborates that a sentence consists of phrases used to convey information, ask questions, or issue commands. A well-constructed sentence should provide enough context for the reader or listener to get the intended message fully. This highlights how the structure of a sentence can influence the clarity and effectiveness of communication.

Frank (1972:220) categorizes sentences based on their structure and function. Murphy (2003:224) identifies four structural types of sentences, they are

simple sentences, compound sentences, complex sentences, and compound-complex sentences. Functionally, sentences can be classified into four categories, they are declarative, imperative, interrogative, and exclamatory. Each type serves a distinct purpose, with declarative sentences specifically designed to inform the audience about facts without requiring a response. They present information straightforwardly and objectively.

Declarative sentences are the sincerest form of expression (Aarts, 2001:58). These statements aim to relay information rather than persuade or compel action from the listener. This is reflected in their flat intonation when spoken and their punctuation with a period when written. Declarative sentences are commonly found in everyday communication, particularly in news articles.

News articles are a key medium for disseminating information to the public. According to Goatly (2000:247), mass media serves as an effective discourse resource because it conveys statements and information related to current events, public concerns, and social opinions. News keeps readers updated about significant occurrences across various fields such as health, sports, politics, and global affairs.

In presenting these topics, journalists frequently employ compound sentences to connect ideas of equal grammatical status through coordinating clauses. The use of coordinating conjunctions enables writers to add supporting information, present contrasts, or emphasize important points in a concise manner. This is particularly interesting because compound sentences contribute to clarity, coherence, and logical flow while maintaining the fast-paced style of news writing. Examining the constituent structure of compound sentences in news texts can

therefore reveal how information is organized, how semantic relationships are constructed, and how journalists guide readers toward specific interpretations.

Today, news is delivered through multiple channels, both orally on platforms like television and YouTube, and in writing through newspapers and online publications. With the rise of digital formats, accessing news articles has become easier than ever; people can simply search online for the latest updates. This accessibility has prompted many news organizations to enhance their online presence by offering articles on their websites.

In this study, compound declarative sentences found in BBC News articles are analysed. The BBC site offers a wealth of engaging content across various categories and presents news from around the globe. This makes it an excellent resource for readers of all ages, children, teenagers, adults, and seniors alike, who seek current information on world events.

The aim of this study is not only to analyse these syntactic structures but also to inspire and educate readers, especially college students working on their theses in linguistics, about syntax and compound sentences based on structural and functional classifications. By examining compound declarative sentences within BBC News articles, this research hopes to enhance understanding of how syntax operates in real-world contexts.

1.2 Problems of the Study

This research focused on the syntactic analysis of compound declarative sentences in BBC News. Based on the background of the study, the problems distinguished and formulated into two problems as follows:

1. What types of coordinate clauses are present in compound declarative sentences featured in BBC News?
2. How are the constituent structures of compound declarative sentences constructed in BBC News?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This section serves to help readers understand the aim of this study in relation to the problem addressed. Based on the problems of the study, the objectives of this study are:

1. To find out the kinds of coordinate clause of compound declarative sentence found in BBC News.
2. To analyse the constituent structure of compound declarative sentence found in BBC News.

1.4 Limitation of the Study

Based on the background and problem of the study, the researcher has established the limit of the study. This study focused on identifying the types of

coordinate clauses in compound declarative sentences found in BBC News, guided by Davidson (2002) theory. It examined the constituent structure of those sentences using the tree diagram framework proposed by Brown and Miller (1991). To strengthen the interpretation of conjunction usage and the semantic relations they express, the analysis is also supported by Quirk et al.'s (1985)

1.5 Significance of the Study

The researcher hopes that this study offers valuable insights for college students and fellow researchers. The study highlights both its theoretical and practical significance, which are outlined as follows:

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

This study explores the syntax of compound declarative sentences in BBC News, offering insights into how complex ideas are structured in journalism. It builds on established syntactic theories and provides practical benefits for language education and natural language processing, contributing to both academic and applied linguistic fields.

1.5.2 Practical Significance

This study holds practical significance as it provides valuable insights into the use of compound declarative sentences in BBC News, which can be applied in various fields. For educators and students, the findings can serve as a resource for understanding complex sentence structures, improving writing and analytical skills in academic and professional contexts. Journalists and media professionals may benefit from this research by gaining a deeper understanding of syntactic choices

that enhance clarity and coherence in news writing. Overall, this research bridges theoretical knowledge with practical applications, making it relevant for both linguistic studies and real-world communication practices.



CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter presents a review of related literature, which includes a comparison of prior theses to the current analysis to assist the writer in presenting their research effectively. It also introduces key concepts and theories. The section on concepts defines specific terms utilized in the study, while the discussion on theories elaborates on the theoretical frameworks applied in the analysis.

2.1 Review of Related Literature

The study entitled “A Syntactic Analysis of Compound Declarative Sentence Found in CBS News” by Budiarta (2022) aims to analyse the types of coordinate clauses and the constituent structure of compound declarative sentences found in CBS News articles. The research employed observation and documentation methods, with both formal and informal data presentation. It was based on two main theoretical frameworks, such as Davidson (2002), in his book *Phrases, Clauses, and Sentences*, which was used to identify types of coordinate clauses, and Brown and Miller (1991), in their book *Syntax: A Linguistic Introduction to Sentence Structure*, which was used to analyse constituent structure through tree diagrams. The findings revealed two types of coordinate clauses, those with conjunctions and those without. From a total of 38 data entries collected, 12 were selected as representative samples for detailed analysis. Budiarta’s research has similar field with this study, but there are some differences. Budiarta’s research used the CBS News as the data source, while this study used BBC News. The

similarities between this study with Budiarta's research are both of the studies use theory proposed by Davidson (2002) and Brown and Miller (1991) in analysing coordinate clause and constituent structure of compound declarative sentence. The Budiarta's thesis contributes the use of theories by Davidson (2002) and Brown and Miller (1991) to analyse the social factor that influencing the use of compound declarative sentence which also analysed in this research.

The second review is taken from "The Syntactic Analysis of English Compound Sentences Found in the Novel *It Ends with Us* by Colleen Hoover" by Sugiantara (2022) aims to identify the types of coordination used in compound sentences and analyse the syntactic structures of those compound sentences found in the novel. This research applies a descriptive qualitative method to explore how compound sentences are constructed and coordinated in the text. The analysis is based on two linguistic theories, they are the theory of coordination proposed by Quirk and Greenbaum (1973), which classifies coordination into syndetic (using conjunctions such as and, but, so) and asyndetic (using punctuation like commas and semicolons), and the theory of syntactic structure from Brown and Miller (1991), which employs tree diagrams to visually illustrate sentence structure. The study analysed a total of 160 compound sentences. The findings show that syndetic coordination was the most dominant, appearing in 134 sentences (82%). Among these, the most frequent coordinator was and (44%), followed by but (21%), so (9%), and combinations of two coordinators (8%). Meanwhile, asyndetic coordination appeared in 24 sentences (16%), with commas used in 15% and a semicolon used in 1%. Additionally, 2 compound sentences (2%) combined both

syndetic and asyndetic coordination. These results highlight the prevalence and variety of coordination types used in the novel, as well as the complexity of their syntactic structures. The differences of this study between Sugiantara's research are, the previous study analysed compound sentences found in the novel "It Ends with Us" by Colleen Hoover, whereas this study examined compound declarative sentences in BBC News articles. The theory used to classify coordination types also differs; the novel-based study applies Quirk and Greenbaum's (1973) classification of syndetic and asyndetic coordination, while the news-based study relies on Davidson's (2002) framework for identifying coordinate clauses. The similarities are, both centred on the syntactic analysis of compound sentences and aim to examine the types of coordination or coordinate clauses as well as the constituent or syntactic structures of these sentences. They both apply a descriptive qualitative method and utilize Brown and Miller's (1991) theory to analyse sentence structures using tree diagrams.

The third review is taken from thesis entitled "A Syntactical Analysis of Compound Sentence Found in The Bucket List Story on Wattpad" by Krismayanti (2022) aims to identify the types of coordination used in compound sentences and analyse the constituent structures of compound sentences found in The Bucket List story by Neve Adams on Wattpad. This research employed a qualitative method and applied Quirk and Greenbaum's (1973) theory to classify coordination types, syndetic and asyndetic, and Brown and Miller's (1991) theory to analyse constituent structures using tree diagrams. The analysis was presented both formally, through tables and diagrams, and informally, through descriptive explanations. The results

of the study revealed 110 compound sentences: 78 used syndetic coordination (with connectors like and, but, or, and so), 24 used asyndetic coordination (with commas and semicolons), and 9 combined both types. The constituent structure typically followed the pattern of S = Leftmost S + Coordinator + Rightmost S, with several cases showing ellipsis in elements such as nouns, verbs, and auxiliaries. The similarities lied in the fact that both studies aimed to analyse compound sentences, with a particular focus on coordination types and constituent structures, and both utilized Brown and Miller's (1991) theory to analyse sentence structure using tree diagrams. However, the differences lie primarily in the data sources and theoretical frameworks for identifying coordination. Krismayanti's study used a fictional narrative text (The Bucket List on Wattpad) and applies Quirk and Greenbaum's (1973) theory to classify coordination types (syndetic, asyndetic, or both). In contrast, this study is based on BBC News and uses Davidson's (2002) theory to identify coordinate clauses. Furthermore, the BBC News study specifically focused on compound declarative sentences, while Krismayanti's study considers all compound sentence forms.

The fourth previous research entitled "A Syntactic Analysis of Compound Sentences in a Wattpad Story Entitled the Ephemeral: Breeder" by Safitri (2023) aims to analyse the base structure of compound sentences found in the selected Wattpad story. This research used the observation method in collecting the compound sentence data from thirteen selected chapters. In analysing the data, the writer applied a qualitative method to describe the base sentences contained within compound constructions. The theory proposed by Moeller (2021) was used to

identify sentence structure, while the theory proposed by Brown and Miller (1991) was used to classify smaller syntactic units through tree diagram analysis. The findings showed that a total of 88 data entries were identified in the form of compound sentences, with the coordinating conjunction and becoming the most frequently found conjunction throughout the story. This previous research has relevance to the present study because both studies analyse compound sentence structures using syntactic theory, and both of them apply tree diagram analysis to represent constituent structure visually. However, there are differences between the two studies. The previous research used a Wattpad fictional narrative as the data source, while the present study used BBC News articles. Furthermore, the previous study focused on the base structure of compound sentences in literary writing, whereas the present research analysed the coordinate clause types and constituent structures of compound declarative sentences in journalistic texts. The similarity between this study and the previous research is the use of Brown and Miller's (1991) theory in constructing tree diagrams to classify syntactic units. However, the present study additionally applied Davidson's (2002) theory to identify the types of coordinate clauses, which was not used in the Wattpad-based research. Therefore, this study is expected to provide more comprehensive syntactic insights by combining structural classification and clause-type identification in authentic news writing contexts.

The last study entitled "A Syntactic Analysis of Compound Declarative Sentence Found in CBS News" by Budiarta (2022) focuses on analysing and determining the kinds of coordinate clauses of compound declarative sentences in

CBS News articles related to education within the past six months. Observation and documentation methods were applied to collect the data. Furthermore, two methods were used to analyse and determine the data: a formal method to present the results, and an informal method to interpret the findings. This study used the theory proposed by Davidson (2002) to identify the types of coordinate clauses. The findings revealed a total of 38 sentences containing coordinate clauses of compound declarative sentences. The study identified two kinds of coordinate clauses: those without conjunctions or punctuation (comma) (4), and those with conjunctions such as “and” (20), “but” (6), “or” (4), “so” (3), and “nor” (1). This study has relevance to the present research because both studies analyse compound declarative sentences found in online news articles. However, there are some differences between the two. The previous study used CBS News as its data source, while the present study used BBC News articles. The previous research focused only on identifying and classifying types of coordinate clauses using Davidson’s (2002) theory, whereas the present study applied both Davidson (2002) to identify coordinate clause types and Brown and Miller (1991) to analyse constituent structures through tree diagrams. The similarity between the previous study and this research is that both investigate coordinate clauses within compound declarative sentences in journalistic texts. However, the present study provided a deeper syntactic analysis by examining not only coordination types but also constituent structure. Therefore, this research is expected to offer more detailed insights into the syntactic patterns of compound declarative sentences used in authentic English news writing.

2.2 Concepts

This sub-chapter presenting concepts, an abstract ideas or general ideas or meaning in one of the studies which are related to the topic of the study. The concepts include syntactic, compound declarative sentence, coordinate clause, and BBC News.

2.2.1 Syntactic

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, syntactic refers to the grammatical arrangement of words within a sentence. It focuses on how words are structured and organized to form meaningful and coherent expressions. Syntactic rules govern sentence construction, ensuring that elements such as phrases, clauses, and word order adhere to the conventions of a language. This concept plays a crucial role in linguistic analysis, as it helps identify patterns and relationships between components of language, enabling effective communication and understanding

2.2.2 Compound Declarative Sentence

According to Brown (2002), a compound sentence is made up of two or more independent clauses joined by a conjunction, where each clause can stand alone as a complete sentence, expressing a complete thought. This structure allows multiple ideas to be conveyed within a single sentence while maintaining equal importance between the clauses. Meanwhile, Aarts (2001) explains that a declarative sentence is a type of sentence used to make statements or express opinions. It is typically structured in a subject-verb-object order and is intended to provide information clearly and assertively. Declarative sentences play an essential

role in communication by allowing speakers or writers to present facts, ideas, or beliefs in a straightforward manner. As explained, an exposed compound declarative sentence refers to a compound sentence presented in a declarative form, which is used as the title of this study.

2.2.3 Coordinate Clause

According to Davidson (2002: 125), a coordinate clause is a clause that is linked to another independent clause within a compound sentence. Each coordinate clause can function independently as a complete sentence, expressing its own distinct thought. These clauses are typically connected by coordinating conjunctions such as "and," "but," or "or," which highlight the relationship between the ideas being presented. Additionally, coordinate clauses can be separated by punctuation, like a comma, when no conjunction is used. This structure allows for greater complexity in sentence formation, enabling writers and speakers to convey multiple related ideas effectively while ensuring clarity and coherence in their communication.

2.2.4 Online Newspaper

An online newspaper, also referred to as digital information or electronic news publication, is the internet version of a newspaper, available either as a standalone entity or as the online counterpart to a printed periodical (Wikipedia, 2025). This study uses online news sourced from the BBC website, where all relevant information can be accessed.

2.3 Theories

There are some theories will be used in this study, theory by Quirk (1972) is used to identify types of sentences, Davidson's (2002) is used to identify the types of coordinate clauses within compound declarative sentences. Additionally, the theory by Brown and Miller (1991) is used to examine sentence structures, the constituent structure of compound declarative sentences found in BBC News.

2.3.1 Sentence Structures

According to Brown and Miller (1991), a sentence is the largest syntactic unit that expresses a complete thought and can stand independently as a grammatical construction. It typically consists of at least one clause, which contains a subject and a predicate, and may appear in various forms such as simple, compound, complex, or compound-complex.

A simple sentence contains a single independent clause, while a compound sentence is formed by coordinating two or more independent clauses. In contrast, a complex sentence includes one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses, and a compound-complex sentence combines features of both.

2.3.2 Sentence Types

Sentences can be classified not only by their structure but also by their communicative function (Quirk, 1972). This functional classification includes four main types: declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences. A declarative sentence is used to make a statement or express an opinion, such as "She is reading a book." An interrogative sentence is used to ask a question, for example,

"Is she reading a book?" An imperative sentence gives a command or request, as in "Read the book." Lastly, an exclamatory sentence expresses strong emotion or surprise, such as "What a great book that is!" These sentence types play a crucial role in conveying the speaker's intention in both spoken and written communication. Quirk's functional classification complements structural approaches by highlighting how syntax interacts with communicative purpose in discourse.

2.3.3 Coordinate Clause of Compound Declarative Sentence

Coordinate clauses are connected in a sentence in a sequential manner. A sentence made up of two or more coordinate clauses is referred to as a compound sentence (Davidson, 2002: 125). These coordinate clauses are linked primarily through the use of coordinating conjunctions. Davidson also mentioned in his book that coordinate clauses can sometimes appear side by side without being joined by a conjunction, though they may occasionally be connected through the use of conjunctions.

2.3.3.1 Coordinate Clause without Conjunction

Coordinate clauses without conjunctions typically use punctuation, such as a comma (,), to link them. In some cases, coordinate sentences are not joined by conjunctions but are simply positioned next to each other. These sentences are usually capable of standing alone and are referred to as independent clauses. A clause is a group of words that share a similar structure to a sentence but function as part of a larger sentence. Essentially, a clause can be described as "a sentence within a sentence." It consists of a subject and a verb.

For example:

- 1) I came, I saw, I conquered. (Davidson, 2002: 126)
- 2) Cats chase mice, dogs chase cats, I chase dogs. (Davidson, 2002: 126)
- 3) We laughed at his jokes, we wept for his pain, we cheered his courage.
(Davidson, 2002: 126)

2.3.3.2 Coordinate Clause with Conjunction

Coordinate clauses with conjunctions typically use coordinating conjunctions such as "and," "or," and "but." These conjunctions serve as the primary connectors between the clauses. Additionally, coordinate sentences can be formed using conjunctions like "though," "yet," "so," "for," and "nor." Coordinating conjunctions are used in compound sentences to join two independent clauses, ensuring both clauses are equally significant within the sentence, with none being more important than the other.

For example:

- 1) Mary was reading and so was John. (Davidson, 2002: 126)
- 2) She wanted to tell me what was wrong, yet for some reason she wouldn't tell me. (Davidson, 2002: 126)
- 3) Sue left early, but her sister didn't. (Davidson, 2002:126)

2.3.4 Constituent Structure

In linguistic studies, each "component part" of a sentence can be considered a "constituent," and the overall process is referred to as "constituent structure analysis" (Brown & Miller, 1991: 11). According to Brown and Miller (1991), there

are several ways to represent constituent structure, including bracketing, labelled bracketing, and tree diagrams. An alternative term frequently used for this analysis is "tree diagram," which borrows from family tree terminology to visually represent syntactic relationships. This method illustrates dominance, composition, and linear order among constituents, providing a clear depiction of their hierarchical structure.

Bracketing, on the other hand, shows the grouping of words into constituents using nested brackets, while labelled bracketing adds grammatical category labels (such as NP for noun phrase or VP for verb phrase) to clarify the function of each group. These tools are fundamental in syntactic analysis, as they help linguists identify and explain the underlying structure of sentences with precision.

2.3.5 Tree Diagram

The syntactic categories of a sentence can be identified through the use of a tree diagram. In examining the categories of compound sentences, the researcher applied the theory put forth by Brown and Miller (1991) regarding constituent structure and the method for constructing this structure with a tree diagram. In this framework, a sentence is broken down into its immediate constituents, the components that directly combine to form a larger unit, such as a noun phrase (NP) and a verb phrase (VP). These constituents are further analysed into their own immediate parts, and this process continues recursively. This form of analysis reflects a hierarchical structure, in which smaller units are nested within larger ones, creating layers of syntactic organization. According to Brown and Miller (1991:19), this hierarchical approach is a universal principle in the organization of human

language, suggesting that all natural languages exhibit structures where constituents dominate or are dominated by other constituents.

Furthermore, Brown and Miller also introduce the concept of the X-bar schema, a general template for phrase structure that accounts for intermediate projections between lexical categories and full phrases. In this model, every phrase (XP) consists of a head (X), an optional complement, and an optional specifier, with an intermediate level (X' or X-bar) that mediates between them. The use of tree diagrams, particularly those incorporating this X-bar framework, allows for a more nuanced understanding of syntactic relationships and the internal structure of complex sentences, including compound forms. Here is an example of constructing a compound sentence using a tree diagram to identify its constituent structure or syntactic structure.

For example:

- 1) Mary came into the room and John stood up. (Brown & Miller, 1991: 149)

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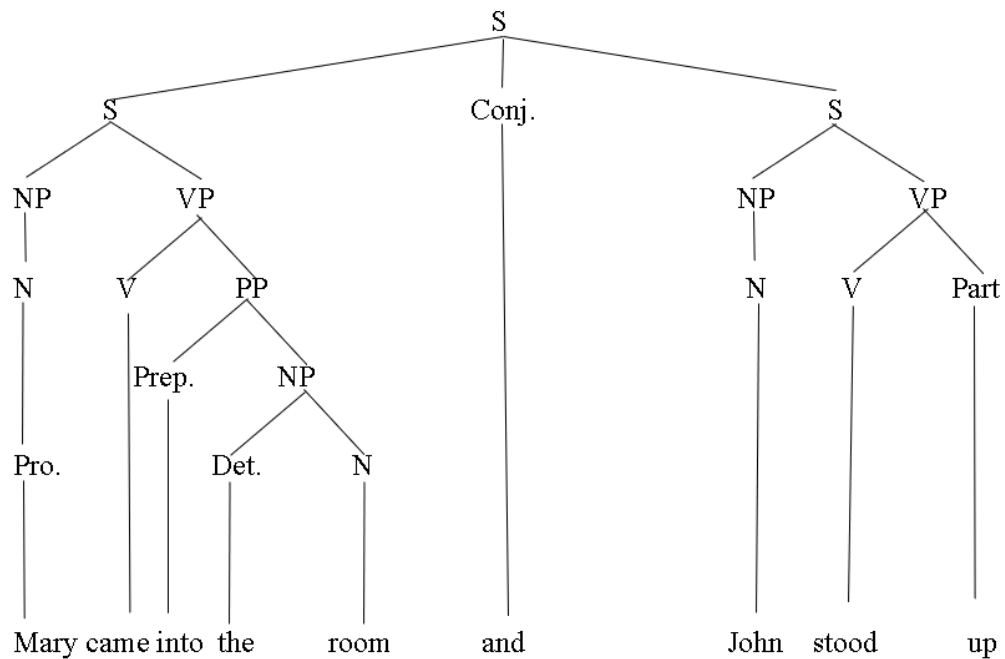


Figure 2. 1 Tree Diagram of Compound Sentence

Source: Brown & Miller (1991: 149)

The tree diagram above illustrates the constituent structure of a compound sentence: "Mary came into the room and John stood up" (Brown & Miller, 1991:149). This sentence consists of two independent clauses connected by the coordinating conjunction and. In the diagram, the highest node is labelled S (Sentence), which branches into three parts: the first clause (S), the conjunction (Conj.), and the second clause (S). Each clause is then broken down into a noun phrase (NP) and a verb phrase (VP). In the first clause, Mary came into the room, the NP contains the noun Mary, and the VP contains the verb came followed by a prepositional phrase (PP). The PP into the room is further broken down into a preposition (Prep.) into and another NP consisting of a determiner (Det.) the and the noun (N) room. In the second clause, John stood up, the NP consists of the noun

John, and the VP includes the verb stood and a particle (Part) up, representing a phrasal verb.

