

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Linguistics is the scientific study of language, focusing on its structure, use, and development. The field of linguistics is classified into six parts. One essential aspect of linguistic study is syntax, which emphasizes how words, phrases, and clauses are organized to create sentences that convey meaning. Syntax is concerned with the way that words are combined to form phrases, phrases to form clauses or larger phrases, and clauses to form sentences (Miller, 2002).

Sentence is defined as a sequence of words that conveys a full idea, and it is understood that such a sequence must include at least one subject and one verb. (Oshima & Hogue, 2007: 11). Sentences may consist of a single clause or multiple clauses. They are divided into four types, including simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences. A simple sentence has only one subject-verb pair and conveys a complete thought. Compound sentences are formed by combining two or more independent clauses. Complex sentences contain one independent clause plus one or more dependent clauses. Compound-complex sentences include at least two independent clauses along with one or more dependent clauses.

Sentences are built using two basic types of clauses there are main and subordinate clauses. According to Azzar (2002:239), a main clause is defined as an independent clause, which is a complete sentence containing both a subject and a verb. A subordinate, or dependent clause, does not constitute a complete meaning and must be attached to an independent clause (Azzar, 2002:239). A subordinate clause can appear at the beginning, middle, or end of a sentence. While not providing a comprehensive interpretation, they are crucial for effective writing since they serve to elaborate on ideas. Additionally, using subordinate clauses can make writing or speech more engaging, preventing the monotony of repetitive sentence structures.

In the context of magazine writing, subordinate clauses have been shown to enhance the readability of articles, promote more sophisticated expression, and sustain reader engagement by introducing variability in sentence structure and tone. Publications such as *Vogue* online magazine employ complex sentence structures to analyze cultural trends and maintain an elegant writing style. This phenomenon is indicative of a broader trend in which high-end magazines employ cosmopolitan language to engage readers while maintaining a refined tone. In contrast to the concise and direct style characteristic of digital media formats, *Vogue* stands out for its commitment to complex sentences, which facilitate in-depth analysis and the seamless integration of expert opinions, historical references, and narrative elements.

This study focused on *Vogue* online magazine as the primary data source due to its longstanding reputation in fashion journalism and its use of sophisticated

linguistic structures. *Vogue's* writing style performs as a valuable case study for understanding how sentence complexity contributes to engaging and informative content. The magazine's approach to sentence construction demonstrates how syntax plays a role in shaping the perception of luxury, authority, and storytelling in fashion writing.

Analyzing the use of complex sentences in *Vogue* is significant because it highlights the relationship between linguistic structure and effective communication in fashion journalism. The focus of this study was to enhance the comprehension of sentence complexity through a systematic analysis of subordinate clauses in complex sentences found in *Vogue* online magazine.

1.2 Problems of the Study

In relation to the background of the study, the problem was divided into two research questions as follows:

1. What are the functions of subordinate clauses in complex sentences found in *Vogue* Online Magazine?
2. How are the constituent structures of subordinate clauses constructed in the complex sentence of *Vogue* Online Magazine?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

In consideration of the problem of the study, this study had two objectives of the study as follows:

1. To find out the function of subordinate clauses in complex sentences found in *Vogue* Online Magazine.
2. To examine the constituent structure of subordinate clauses, construct in complex sentence found in *Vogue* Online Magazine.

1.5 Limitations of the Study

The objective of this study is to ascertain the function of subordinate clauses within complex sentences, in accordance with the theory of Aarts (2001), and to examine the constituent structure of subordinate clauses that are incorporated within complex sentences from *Vogue* Online Magazine. The analysis will be facilitated by a hierarchical tree diagram, which will be based on the theory of Brown & Miller (1991). The objective of this study is to provide support for the sentence types proposed by Quirk et al. (1985).

1.6 Significances of the Study

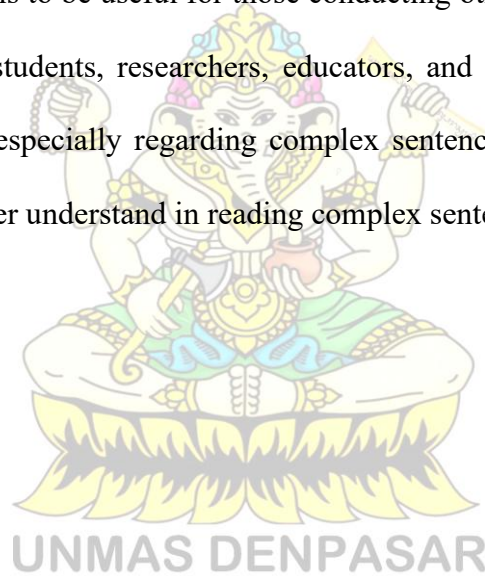
This study holds two kinds of importance, which are theoretical significance and practical significance.

1.6.1 Theoretical Significance

This study hopes to contribute to the development of syntactic analysis, particularly in understanding the functions of subordinate clauses in complex sentences. In addition, this study will focus on the sentence structure of complex sentences. The data could be used as a reference to increase the research in linguistic studies.

1.6.2 Practical Significance

This study aims to be useful for those conducting other research studies on language, including students, researchers, educators, and writers of syntax as a reference or source, especially regarding complex sentences. In addition, it will make the readers better understand in reading complex sentences in a magazine.



CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPTS, THEORIES

This chapter presented a discussion of several studies that had examined complex sentences as their primary subject. The study was organized into several sections, including a review of relevant literature, concepts, and theories. Five undergraduate papers were chosen for the literature review. The following subchapters discussed the types of sentences, clauses, and the online magazine related to this study. The final section of this study involved the implementation of theoretical frameworks that were utilized to examine the gathered data.

2.1 Review of Related Literature

Several studies had examined subordinate clauses and complex sentences in different types of written texts, using a variety of linguistic frameworks and methodological approaches. These previous studies had contributed valuable insights into the syntactic characteristics of English sentences. There were two different undergraduate theses and three articles to be reviewed in the recent study.

The first thesis was written by Permana (2024) entitled “The Analysis of Subordinate Clause in Complex Sentence Found in BBC News”. The study focused on analyzing both the functions and the constituent structures of subordinate clauses in BBC News articles. The study employed Aarts (2001) to identify the grammatical functions of subordinate clauses and Brown and Miller (1991) to analyze their

hierarchical structures through tree diagrams. Like the current study, Permana's study also utilized Quirk et al. (1985) as a supporting theory to identify sentence types and applied a descriptive qualitative method. There were three news found in BBC website that were taken as data collection. The results of this study indicated that there were 24 complex sentences. The most common data showed that the subordinate clause functioning as an adjunct occupies the first position, which accounted for 16 data points. It was followed by the subordinate clause functioning as a direct object, which was 5 data points. The subordinate clause functioning as a complement within a sentence was the least used type, with a total of 3 data points. This study contributed to the present study by demonstrating how Aarts's (2001) and Brown and Miller's (1991) theories could be effectively used in syntactic analysis. The main difference, however, was in the data source. While Permana's focused on factual and formal journalistic writing in BBC News, the current study analyzed *Vogue* magazine articles that featured lifestyle topics. This contrast allowed the present study to explore subordinate clauses not only as grammatical devices but also as stylistic tools used to enhance persuasive and aesthetic effects in modern journalism.

The second thesis by Candrasius, (2024) entitled "An Analysis of Subordinate Clauses in Complex Sentences Found in the Online CNN Newspaper". This study identified the types of subordinate clauses in CNN's online news articles. This study applied Miller's (2002) theory to categorize the subordinate clause types and Kroeger's (2005) framework to analyze their constituent structures through tree diagrams. Methodologically, this study contributed to syntactic studies by

combining qualitative interpretation with quantitative tabulation, demonstrating how subordinate clauses function structurally within formal journalistic discourse. In addition, the findings showed that there were three types of subordinate clauses, namely complement clauses with a percentage of 23.4%, relative clauses with 20%, and adverbial clauses with 56.5% as the most frequently used. The current study and the previous study by Candrasius (2024) had several differences. This current study analyzed *Vogue* magazine articles that featured lifestyle and fashion journalism with a more expressive and persuasive writing style. The theoretical foundation of this study also differed, as it applies Aarts (2001) to classify the functions of subordinate clauses, Brown and Miller (1991) to construct tree diagrams, and Quirk et al. (1985) to describe the sentence types. Despite these differences, both studies contributed to the field of syntax by highlighting the role of subordinate clauses in shaping sentence meaning.

The third was an article by Wiryastuti & Maharani (2022) entitled “Subordinate Clause Functioning as Direct Object in Complex Sentences Found in BBC News Instagram Caption”. This study provided valuable insight into the manner in which grammar shapes meaning in short and factual writing. It examined 49 captions from BBC News on Instagram and identified 36 complex sentences that contained subordinate clauses functioning as direct objects. Among these, six employed complementizers in their writing, while the others were omitted. The study applied the theories of Aarts (2001) and Brown and Miller (1991) to demonstrate the role of subordinate clauses in enhancing coherence and grammatical efficiency in concise media language. This study underscored the

significance of subordination in ensuring the clarity and coherence of information conveyed through brief online captions. The present study built upon this line of investigation by exploring subordinate clauses in a different kind of writing, namely *Vogue* Magazine. In contrast, the current study was supported by Quirk et al (1985) theory of sentence types and the concise nature of news captions, *Vogue* articles featured extended and stylistically complex sentences. Thus, the present study contributed to the field by examining the role of subordinate clauses in lifestyle journalism.

The fourth study was the one conducted by Indriyani & Said (2022), entitled “Exploring Complex Sentences and Metaphors in Online News Articles About COVID-19 in Asia Times”. This study used Verspoor and Sauter (2000) theory to analyze the complex sentences and Lakoff and Johnson (2003) to determine the metaphors. Consequently, the study incorporated a total of five news articles. 115 sentences were found as complex sentences, 40 sentences were modified by noun clauses, 36 sentences were modified by adverbial clauses, and 7 sentences were modified by multiple subordinate clauses. Furthermore, the findings indicated that within seven news articles, the study employed a total of 95 metaphors, which could be classified into three distinct categories they were 64 ontological metaphors, 16 orientational metaphors, and 15 structural metaphors. The current study and the study done by Indriyani and Said (2022) were different, particularly the current study focused specifically on the functions of subordinate clauses in complex sentences using theories from Aarts (2001), Brown and Miller (1991), and Quirk et al. (1985). Furthermore, Indriyani and Said (2022) used articles from online news

in Asia Time as the data source, while the current study used *Vogue* online magazine. This study contributed to stylistic linguistics by showing how syntax and metaphor interact in news writing. Inspired by this, the present study narrowed the focus to syntax alone, concentrating on subordinate clauses in *Vogue* articles. By focusing on their structure and function, the current study contributed to understanding how grammar itself can express elegance and persuasion in lifestyle writing.

The fifth was an article by Nazara (2024) entitled “Exploring Subordinate Clauses in The Story of an Hour,” which aimed to analyze subordinate clauses found in the classic short story *The Story of an Hour* by Kate Chopin. The main focus of this study was to identify and describe three types of subordinate clauses based on their functions, such as complement clauses, relative clauses, and adverbial clauses, as well as their structural types, namely finite and non-finite clauses. The study used the theories of Trask (1993), Greenbaum & Nelson (2002), and Cruz-Ferreira & Abraham (2011). The study was conducted using a qualitative method. The data were collected through close reading and analyzed using techniques such as substitution, transposition, extension, and deletion. The results showed that all three functional types of subordinate clauses were present in the story. Complement clauses were used to modify verbs or nouns, relative clauses functioned as noun modifiers, and adverbial clauses provided information about time or reason. Structurally, both finite and non-finite clauses appeared, while verbless clauses were not found. The differences were that the current study analyzed the functions of subordinate clauses in *Vogue* online magazine and used

three theories from Aarts (2001) to classify the functions, Brown and Miller (1991) to examine the constituent structure, and Quirk et al. (1985) to support the sentence types. Additionally, the current study limited its scope to finite subordinate clauses only, while Nazara's includes both finite and non-finite structures.

2.2 Concepts

The present study is supported by data analysis concepts derived from various relevant sources. The following three concepts were applied to strengthen the analysis, which include Subordinate Clauses, Complex Sentences, and Online Magazine. These concepts were selected from a variety of sources that were directly related to the subject matter of this study.

2.2.1 Complex Sentence

A complex sentence is a sentence that consists of a main clause and a subordinate clause supported by a subordinating conjunction. According to Miller (2002: 63), a complex sentence contains a main clause and at least one subordinate clause. In these sentences, the main clause is the most important part, and the subordinate clauses play a supporting role. The subordinate clauses have certain limitations and are used to add additional information to the main idea.

2.2.2 Subordinate Clause

A subordinate clause, which is also referred to as a dependent clause, is a clause that is unable to stand alone as a complete sentence. This is because it is dependent on the main clause to express a complete thought. According to Kreoger

(2005: 219), a subordinate clause performs as a dependent, rather than a co-head. It has three different basic types, which are complement clauses, adjunct (or adverbial) clauses, and relative clauses. Here is an example of a subordinate clause:

“Elizabeth regretted that she had met Wickham.” (Miller, 2002: 63)

This sentence is made up of two clauses, namely a main clause and a subordinate clause. The main clause is “Elizabeth regretted,” while the subordinate clause is “that she had met Wickham.” It is a complex sentence because it includes both types of clauses. The subordinate clause begins with the word “that,” which performs as a subordinating conjunction connecting the two ideas.

2.2.3 Online Magazine

An online magazine, also known as a digital or electronic magazine, is a kind of periodical that is released on a weekly, monthly, or occasional basis (McLoughlin, 2000). It has a variety of information, including tales, articles, and images. Unlike traditional print magazines, online magazines can be updated frequently and accessed globally through various digital devices like computers, tablets, or smartphones. Online magazines are increasingly adopted due to their cost efficiency, broader reach, and ability to deliver contemporary content without the limitations of print production.

One significant example of an online magazine is *Vogue* Online Magazine, which operates as the object of this study. *Vogue* was first published in 1892 in the United States as a weekly fashion and society magazine before evolving into a globally influential publication under *Condé Montrose Nast*. Over time, *Vogue*

expanded into digital platforms, allowing its content to reach a wider international audience. *Vogue* offers expressive and descriptive texts that not only convey information but also shape lifestyle, fashion trends, and cultural identity. Its writing style frequently employs complex sentences with subordinate clauses functioning as adjuncts or complements, enhancing narrative and persuasive effects.

2.3 Theories

In this study, there are two problems of the study discussed. To strengthen the accuracy and analysis of these issues, this study used three different theories. The first theory, conducted by Quirk et al. (1985), examines the sentence types. The second theory was to describe the types of subordinate clause functions found in complex sentences, is proposed by Aarts (2001). The Last theory proposed by Brown and Miller (1991) aims to identify the constituent structure of complex sentences.

2.3.1 Sentence

Quirk et al. (1985) proposed a definition of the term “Sentence” as the primary idea contained within a grammatical unit, which is defined as a collection of words with a full meaning. The process of combining words into phrases, phrases into clauses, and clauses into sentences constitutes the formation of sentences. Each sentence must include a capital letter at the beginning, a full stop at the end, and a subject and a predicate. Additionally, sentences can be divided into four varieties

based on their structure, which include simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences.

1) Simple Sentence

Simple sentence made up of a single independent clause (Quirk et al. 1985: 719). It includes a subject and a predicate to express a complete thought. It also only contains independent clauses, making it the most basic form of sentence structure. Quirk et al. (1985: 803) defined the declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamative sentences are the four main categories of simple sentences. The following sentence demonstrated the use of a simple sentence:

1. "They're eating." (Quirk et al. 1985: 722)
2. "He teaches." (Quirk et al. 1985: 723)

2) Compound Sentence

As defined by Quirk et al. (1985: 719), A compound sentence consists of two or more main clauses. These clauses are syntactically equal and are typically joined by coordinating conjunctions or by punctuation such as a semicolon. In certain circumstances, clauses within a compound sentence may be linked without the use of a conjunction. Quirk et al. (1985) stated that a compound sentence can include several examples:

1. "She might sing tonight, but I don't think she will." (Quirk et al. 1985: 860)
2. "Mary studies at University and John works at a factory." (Quirk et al. 1985: 920)

3) Complex Sentence

A complex sentence has a main clause and at least one subordinate clause. The subordinate clause can act as a part of the sentence, like a direct object, subject, or adverb (Quirk et al. 1985: 719). Within a complex sentence, it is possible to identify the main message in the independent clause. The additional or supporting information is found in the subordinate clause. These subordinate clauses are often introduced by subordinating conjunctions such as “because,” “since,” “when,” “after,” “before,” “how,” and “that.” These words help show the connection between the main idea and the additional details, such as reasons, time, or purpose. Several examples of complex sentences by Quirk et al. (1985) are shown below:

1. “You can borrow my car if you need it.” (Quirk et al. 1985: 719)
2. “The girls swam faster than it was expected that the girl would swim.” (Quirk et al. 1985: 859)

4) Compound-Complex Sentence

According to Quirk et al. (1985), a compound-complex sentence has at least two independent clauses and one or more subordinate clauses. This sentence type has the capacity to convey multiple ideas due to its inclusion of multiple main clauses. The main clauses are joined using coordinating conjunctions such as “and,” “but,” “or,” and “while.” In contrast, the subordinate clauses are added with subordinating conjunctions such as “because,” “when,” “although,” and others. Quirk et al. (1985) illustrated compound sentences in several ways:

1. “George was the best runner in our school, and so everyone expected that he would win the prize.” (Quirk et al. 1985: 864)
2. “I’ve been working on this problem all year, and I must find a solution before January, when I’m due to go abroad for a month or so.” (Quirk et al. 1985: 1451)

2.3.2 Subordinate Clause Functions

Aarts (2001) proposed a framework for the systematic classification of subordinate clauses, based on their grammatical function. This framework identifies four categories. The functions of subordinate clauses include serving as the subject, direct object, adjunct, and complement within a phrase.

1) Subordinate Clauses as Subject

The crucial part of a sentence is the subject, as it typically indicates who or what is performing the action. It usually takes the form of a noun phrase or a clause and generally appears before the verb in declarative sentences. In an interrogative sentence, it tends to follow the auxiliary or operator. A subordinate clause can act as the subject of a sentence. According to Aarts (2001), subordinate clauses function as a subject can be presented as below:

“[That Ken adores Nadia] annoys Jenny.” (Aarts, 2001: 136)

In this complex sentence, the bracketed subordinate clause acts as the subject of the verb “annoys”. The clause starts with the subordinating conjunction “that”.

2) Subordinate Clauses as Direct Object

A subordinate clause can also function as the direct object of the verb. The direct object refers to the person or thing affected by a transitive verb and is generally placed after the verb. Furthermore, it can articulate the thoughts, desires, utterances, or feelings of the primary subject. In passive voice, a direct object can be placed at the beginning in the subject position. Aarts (2001) stated that depending on the type of verb and sentence structure, they can be complete (finite) or incomplete (nonfinite) clauses. Aarts (2001) provided this is an example of a subordinate clause that functions as a direct object:

“Tim thought [that Kate believed the story].” (Aarts, 2001: 135)

It is posited here that the clause contained within the bracketed text is to be considered a subordinate clause, furthermore, it functions as a direct object of the verb “thought”. The subordinate clause is categorized as finite because it is a complete clause, containing a subject “Kate” and verb “believed”. It is introduced by the complementizer “that”, as is commonly observed in such structures.

3) Subordinate Clauses as Adjunct

Subordinate clauses may also serve as adjuncts, functioning like adverbials to modify a clause and to provide a detailed explanation of time, place, reason, or manner. These clauses often begin with subordinating conjunctions like “when,” “where,” “if,” or “since.” Here is an example of a subordinate clause functioning as an adjunct (Aarts, 2001):

“I will repair it [when I return].” (Aarts, 2001: 136)

It is considered an adjunct because the subordinate clause of this sentence is placed after a direct object “it” and cannot be analyzed as a complement of the verb “repair”. That clause provides additional information about the verb “repair” by adding the time, which modifies the verb “repair”.

4) Subordinate Clauses as Complement Within Phrases

A complement is a clause that provides additional meaning to certain elements in a sentence, such as verbs, nouns, or adjectives. In some cases, a subordinate clause can act as a complement within a noun phrase, an adjective phrase, and a prepositional phrase. This instance provides a clear example of a subordinate clause functioning as a complement within phrases:

“The article was about [NP their realisation **that all is lost**]” (Aarts, 2001: 137)

The bracketed clause above is considered a subordinate clause that functions as a complement within a noun phrase. This clause serves as a complement within a noun phrase because it is adding descriptive information about the subject, and the head is a noun “their”.

“I am [AP so eager **to work with you**]” (Aarts, 2001: 137)

The bracketed clause above is considered a subordinate clause syntactically realized as a complement within an adjective phrase. It is regarded as a complement within an adjective phrase because the clause gave details information about the subject and the head of the phrase is an adjective “eager”.

“He is uncertain [PP about what you said to me]” (Aarts, 2001: 137)

The bracketed clause above is considered a subordinate clause that operates as a complement within a prepositional phrase. It acts as a complement within a prepositional phrase because the clause gives details information about the subject, and the head of the phrase is a preposition “about”.

2.3.3 Constituent Structures

According to Brown & Miller (1991), constituent structure analysis is often referred to as “pairing”, which means a method used to break down and understand the sentence structure. As defined by the Oxford Dictionary, to “parse” a sentence means to divide it into its grammatical components and identify the roles played by each part. In linguistics, this process is commonly known as constituent structure analysis. The term “constituent” refers to a single unit within a sentence, which can be as simple as a single word like “dog”, or a longer phrase such as “the dog” or “the big dog”, all of them are noun phrases (NP). Each constituent has its own structural characteristics, as (Brown & Miller, 1991) represent sentence structure into different methods. These include bracketing, labeling, tree diagrams, and vine diagrams.

Bracketing is a way of representing sentence structure by using bracket each word to show how words are group into phrases. Labelling is the process of giving a phrase category, like NP, VP, etc., to the constituents of a sentence. A tree diagram is a graphical representation of constituent structure with labeled each word is labeled with a category of S, NP, VP, etc., and branches show how constituents are

built. While vine diagram is a visual representation of sentence structure, particularly used to show how clauses are related in complex or compound-complex sentences.

(Brown & Miller, 1991) highlight the tree diagram as one of the most effective ways to visually analyze and understand the constituent structure of a sentence. Below is an example of a tree diagram based on their approach, along with the grammatical rules it follows.

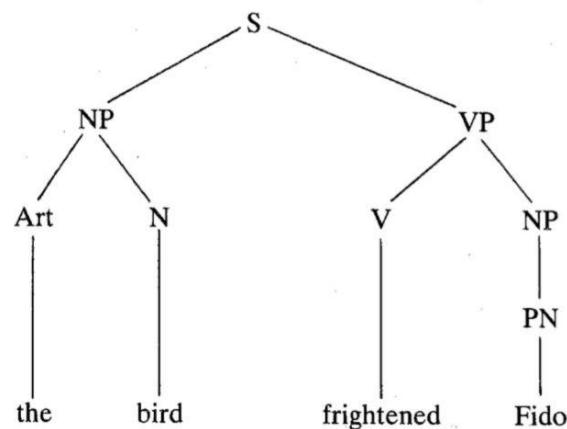


Figure 2. 1 Tree Diagram of a Simple Sentence
Source: Brown & Miller (1991: 44)

Referring to the constituent above, the sentence “The bird frightened Fido” is classified as a simple sentence, it contains only one independent clause without any subordinate or embedded clause. In this structural representation, the sentence (S) operated as the main node consisting of essential components, namely a Noun Phrase (NP) and a Verb Phrase (VP).

The Noun Phrase (NP) functions as the subject and is divided into two parts, the Article (Art) “the”, and the Noun (N) “bird”. The Verb Phrase (VP) functions as

the predicate and comprises the Verb (V) “frightened”, and another Noun Phrase (NP) “Fido”, which acts as the object of the verb. Within this object NP, there is only one constituent, a Pronoun (PN) “Fido”.

According to Brown & Miller (1991: 44), this structure illustrates a simple sentence because it consists of a single clause (S) that can stand alone and express a complete idea on its own. They also provide another example of sentence structure, specifically a complex sentence that contains a subordinate clause. The sentence is “I think that this is very interesting.” (Brown & Miller, 1991: 37).

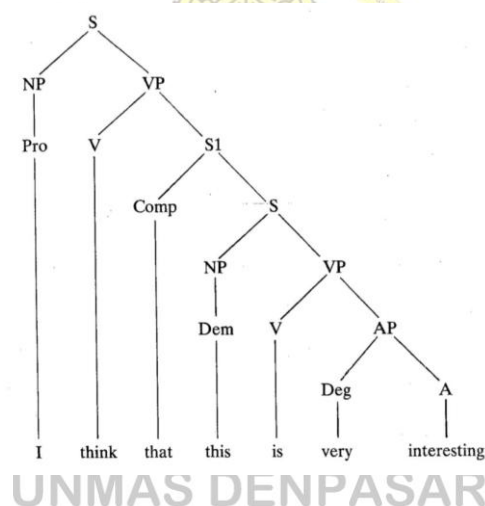


Figure 2. 2 Tree Diagram of Complex Sentence

Source: Brown & Miller (1991: 37)

From the constituent structure above, the sentence “I think that this is very interesting” is categorized as a complex sentence because it includes both a main clause and a subordinate clause. The subordinate clause is introduced by the word “that”, which serves as a complementizer linking the two clauses. Structurally, the Sentence (S) is composed of a Noun Phrase (NP) and a Verb Phrase (VP). The NP

is broken down into (Pro) “I”. While the VP has a branch which is two branches, the Verb (V) “think” and the subordinate clause (S1) “that this is very interesting”.

According to Brown & Miller (1991: 21), S1 stands for an embedded subordinate clause. In this example, the embedded clause itself is formed by the Complementizer (Comp) “that”, which introduces the subordinate clause “that this is very interesting”, which acts as a complement modifying “think”. This structure shows how a complement clause can extend the meaning of the main clause and form a complex sentence.

