

SENTENCE TYPES ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE PAPER

Kisno

Del Institute of Technology
kisno@del.ac.id

Abstract

This paper is a research about the sentence types used in an Information and Technology Conference Paper for teaching English for a Specific Purpose in university level. The aim of this research was to find out the most dominant sentence type written by the author majoring in Information and Technology and to investigate why the author frequently used the sentence in the conference paper. The data were taken from a conference paper and were analyzed using the theory of sentence types by Delahunty and Garvey (2010). The researcher classified and calculated the number of the sentences in the paper based on their types. It was found that four types of sentences were used in writing an IT text. In details, Complex Sentence dominated the text with the number of 43 sentences or 46% of the sentence in the text. Almost 25% of the sentences in the text were in the form of Simple Sentence, and Compound Complex Sentence ranked the third position with 17 sentences and the fewest sentences in the paper was Compound Sentence which was only 10 sentences or nearly 11% of the number of sentence in the IT text. To conclude, the author frequently used Complex Sentence in order to give more description about the items the author wrote in the paper.

Keywords: IT text, dominating sentence types, ESP.

A. Introduction

A text is a meaningful linguistic unit in context and it is both spoken and written (Siahaan and Shinoda, 2008:1). It can be in a variety of forms. There are various texts that have a particular communicative function or purpose. One of them is science and technology text or information and technology text. In the point of view of English for Specific Purpose (ESP), this kind of text has a special feature through its form and vocabularies (Parkinson, 2013:155-156). Some technical terms, the use of imperatives, the use of pronominal reference, and the use of temporal conjunction color the grammars used in this kind of text. In this paper, the researcher tries to investigate the sentence types that construct an information and technology text since this study is strongly related to the passages or texts read by the university level students studying information and technology field. The researcher initiates this study by formulating some research questions:

1. What are the sentences types existing in an information and technology text?
2. Which sentence type is more dominant in an information and technology text?

The purpose of this research is to find out the sentences types used in an information and technology text and to find out the kind of sentences dominating an information and technology text. This research is expected to give a contribution to the ESP subject and to describe the sentence types written by the author of an information and technology text.

B. Brief Review and Related Theories

Text

Richards and Schmidt (2002:549) defines text as a segment of spoken or written language that has the following characteristics:

1. It is normally made up of several sentences that together create a structure or unit, such as a letter, a report, or an essay (however one word texts also occur, such as *DANGER* on a warning sign).
2. It has distinctive structural and discourse characteristics.
3. It has a particular communicative function or purpose.
4. It can often only be fully understood in relation to the context in which it occurs.

While Delahunty and Garvey (2010:6) states that when people communicate, they produce texts. Texts always occur in some medium, which may be auditory, visual, tactile, or some combination of these. Texts also always occur in some channel, that is, the environment through which the medium travels from the text's producer(s) to its receiver(s). For ordinary face-to-face conversation, the medium is the air, which is set in motion by the producer and whose motions affect the ears of the receiver(s). Communication by telephone involves at least two channels - the air between the speaker's mouth and the phone, the mechanical and

electronic devices that connect the speaker's and receiver's phones, and the air between the receiver's phone and his/her ear. Texts may incorporate non-linguistic elements such as pictures, diagrams, music, and the like.

By using the characteristics of a text given by Richards and Schmidt above, the researcher decides to take a text entitled "Dashboard for Monitoring Network Operations" as his data.

Areas of Esp: English For Science And Technology

What does English for science and technology encompass? Halliday (1993) comments that a text is recognized as scientific English because of the combined effect of clusters of features and, importantly, the relations of these features throughout a text. Yet characteristic forms and vocabulary of science or technology should not be considered as separate from the genres in which they occur, because linguistic differences are part of what constitutes genre.

Similarly the genres of science and technology partially constitute the various disciplines, and cannot be separated from them. Being a member of a discourse community involves using its characteristic language and genres, and also sharing its values (which are reflected in its language and genres), and taking on a role recognized by other members of the discourse community (Paltridge, 2012).

Sentence Types

In written English and other familiar languages, sentences are quite easy to recognize: they typically begin with a capital letter and end with a period or its equivalent. From a linguistic point of view, sentences are the largest grammatical units (Delahunty and Garvey, 2010:68).

Greenbaum (1996:306) classifies sentence types into three, they are simple (consisting of one main clause without subordination), compound (consisting of two or more main clauses that are co-ordinated), and complex (consisting of a main clause with one or more subordinate clauses).

Simple Sentence

Sentences come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Some consist of only a single clause. That is, they are simple sentences and have only one main verb, one subject, and one predicate, though they may include modifiers of various sorts (Delahunty and Garvey, 2010:69). A useful way to begin identifying clauses in sentences is to count main verbs. For each main verb there will be a clause, example:

1. Linguists write slowly.
2. Dogs chase cats.
3. Peter O'Neill is missing.
4. Cyclists should always wear bike helmets.

Compound Sentence

Delahunty and Garvey (2010:70) states that other sentences are coordinate or compound because they combine two or more clauses or smaller sentences within them by connecting them with *and*, *but*, or *or* such as:

1. [Dogs chase cats] *but* [cats chase mice].
2. [Elizabeth Bowen lived between England and Ireland all her life] *and* [her death marked the end of the Anglo-Irish literary tradition].

Complex Sentence

Complex sentences also contain two or more clauses, but at least one of them is subordinate to another in the sense that it plays a grammatical role such as subject, object, or modifier in the larger sentence (Delahunty and Garvey, 2010:70). Clauses that function as objects are often referred to as complement clauses. In the following examples the subordinate sentence is italicized and its role is given in parentheses:

1. *That this is a witty and entertaining book* does not justify its high price. (Subject)
2. Oscar thinks *that Lady Bracknell is a fine creation*. (Object/Complement)
3. *To improve your stamina*, jog five miles every day. (Modifier)
4. I read your short story, *although you asked me not to*. (Modifier)
5. *While researching the history of the castle*, Robertson unearthed one of the great scandals of twentieth century Scotland. (Modifier)
6. *If you think carefully about it*, language is extraordinarily complex. (Modifier)
7. *When you leave*, shut the door behind you. (Modifier)

Compound Complex Sentence

It is a sentence with two or more independent clauses and at least one dependent clause. Example:

1. The package arrived in the morning, *but* the courier left *before* I could check the contents.
2. We operate under a jury system in this country, *and* as much as we complain about it, we have to admit *that* we know of no better system, except possibly flipping a coin.
3. She gave me another of those long keen looks, *and* I could see that she was again asking herself *if* her favorite nephew wasn't steeped to the tonsils in the juice of the grape.

C. Data Analysis and Discussion

Method

The data were taken from an IT conference paper/text entitled "Dashboard for Monitoring Network Operations" written by an author teaching assistant in Del Institute of Technology used with permission. The researcher analyzed the data by breaking down the sentences and classifies them based on the theory of sentence types given by Greenbaum and Delahunty and Carvey. Here are the abbreviations of sentence types that the researcher uses as index in classifying the sentence as displayed in Table 1.

Table 3 Index Table

No	Sentence Types	Abbreviation
1	Simple Sentence	SS
2	Compound Sentence	CS
3	Complex Sentence	COS
4	Compound Complex Sentence	CCS

After classifying the sentences into their types, the researcher will calculate the number of each sentence type and then draws a conclusion based on the quantitative calculation to answer the research questions.

Discussion

Quantitative Summary of Sentence Types based on the Text Part

Table 4 Quantitative Summary based on the Text Part

No	Text Part	Sentence Types				Total
		SS	CS	COS	CCS	
1	Abstract	1	2	6	0	9
2	Introduction	2	2	4	3	11
3	Research Method	11	4	17	11	43
4	Result and Analysis	7	1	12	1	21
5	Conclusion	2	1	4	1	8
6	Acknowledgment	0	0	0	1	1
	Total	23	10	43	17	93

From Table 2, it can clearly be seen that in Abstract part, Compound Complex Sentence (COS) is the most dominant sentence compared to Simple Sentence (SS), Compound Sentence (CS), and Compound Complex Sentence (CCS). In Introduction part, COS and CCS are different in one number of sentence while SS and CS share the similar number of sentences. Research Method is the part of this text which has the big number of sentence. It has 17 numbers of COS whereas SS and CCS divide the same number respectively. Result and Analysis ranks as the second largest number of sentence existing in the text. This part is dominated by COS with the number of 12 sentences. Conclusion has 8 sentences and it is still dominated by COS with 4 sentences while CS and CCS share the same number of sentence. And the last part, Acknowledgment consists of only one sentence and CCS is the type of sentence in it. This summary is illustrated in Fig. 1 below.

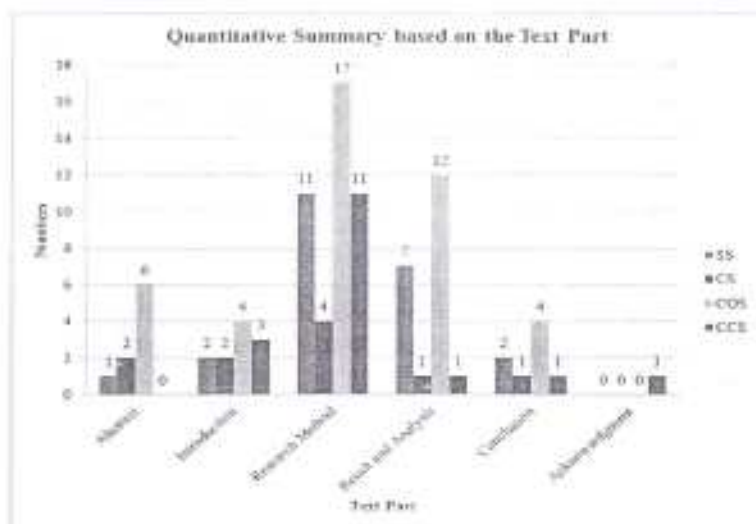


Figure 1 Quantitative Summary based on the Text Part

Quantitative Summary of Sentence Types

Table 5 Quantitative Summary of Sentence Types in IT Text

No	Types of Sentence	Total Number	Percentage (%)
1	Simple Sentence	23	24.73
2	Compound Sentence	10	10.75
3	Complex Sentence	43	46.24
4	Compound Complex Sentence	17	18.28
	Total	93	100

Table 3 provides the information about the quantitative summary of sentence types in an information and technology text. Complex Sentence has an extreme number of sentences dominating the text with the number of 43 sentences or it dominates 46 percent of the sentence in the text. This domination is then followed by the number of Simple Sentence which has 23 sentences or almost 25 percent of sentence in the text. Compound Complex Sentence ranks the third position with 17 sentences and the least sentence domination in the text is Compound Sentence which has only 10 sentences or it dominates nearly 11 percent of the number of sentence in the IT text. This quantitative summary can be illustrated in Fig. 2 below.

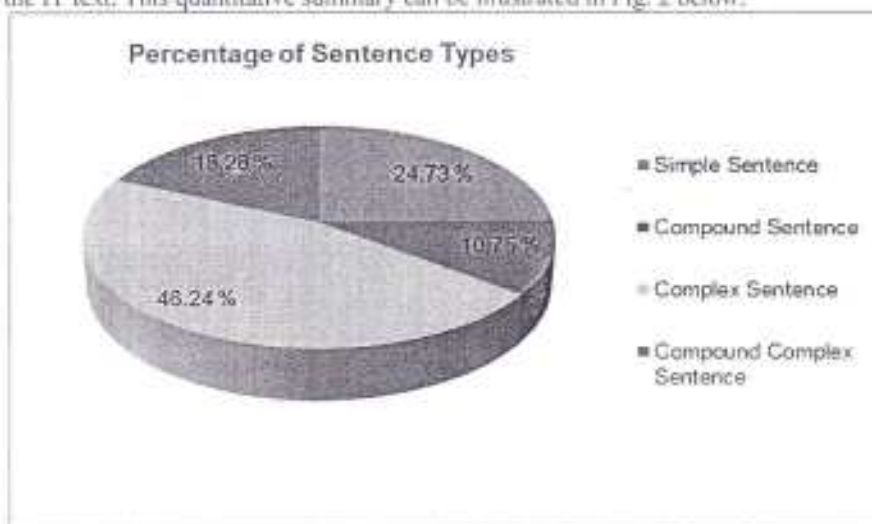


Figure 2 Quantitative Summary of Sentence Types

D. Conclusion and suggestion

Having analyzed the text, the researcher draws some conclusion as follows:

1. There are four types of sentence in the IT text, i.e. Simple Sentence, Compound Sentence, Complex Sentence, and Compound Complex Sentence.
2. Complex sentence is the most dominating sentence in the text. It dominates 46% of the text. Nearly 50% of the text is written in this type of sentence in which a main clause is combined with a subordinate clause.
3. Simple Sentence is the second type of sentence dominating the text. 23% of the text is written by this type of sentence. This type of sentence is usually used in giving instruction or step by step.
4. Compound Sentence and Compound Complex Sentence less dominate the text. Compound Complex Sentence has 17% of the total sentence while Compound Sentence only has a portion of 10% in the text.

In short, the complex sentence was frequently used by the author of the information and technology text so as to give more description about the items and the features of the items the author described in the paper. Based on these findings, in English language teaching, especially in writing subject, the students are suggested to write down their paper or writing assignments using more complex sentence since many features of information and technology should be described in details.

References

- Gerald P. Delahunty and James Garvey. (2010). *The English Language: from Sound to Sense*. Indiana: Parlor Press.
- Greenbaum, Sidney. (1996). *The Oxford English Grammar*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Halliday, M.A.K. (1993a). *On the Language of Physical Science*. In M.A.K. Halliday and J. R. Martin (eds.), *Writing Science*, 54-68. London: The Falmer Press.
- Paltridge, B. (2012). *Discourse Analysis*. 2nd ed. London: Continuum.
- Parkinson, Jean. (2013). *English for Science and Technology in Handbook of English for Specific Purpose*. West Sussex: John and Wiley Sons, Inc.
- Richards, Jack C. and Richard Schmidt. (2002). *Longman Dictionary of Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics*. London: Routledge.
- Siahaan, Sanggam and Kisno Shinoda. (2008). *Generic Text Structure*. Jogjakarta: Graha Ilmu.