

A SYNTACTIC ANALYSIS OF IMPERATIVE SENTENCE USED
IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF AL QUR'AN
(TRANSFORMATIONAL GRAMMAR APPROACH)



Research Paper

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by

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

As the progress of grammar started from early Greek grammarians to the latest American linguists, language analysis had changed over the period of time through several grammatical theories starting from Traditional Grammar up to Taxonomic Grammar. From these School of Grammar developments, Traditional, Structural and Transformational Grammar are the most common among the others.

Traditional Grammar was firstly published by one of Greek Grammarians Dionysius Thrax in eighteenth century. He divided parts of speech into eight categories: 1. noun, 2. pronoun, 3. article, 4. verb, 5. adverb, 6. preposition, 7. particle, 8. conjunction. Historically, he was followed by other grammarians with the various statements toward language. In Latin, precisely in the middle of age, many grammarians assumed that the process of thinking can influence the grammar. They also divided language into writing, speaking, and thinking. At this stage, Latin Grammar was the most having effect on the common language especially English. By the eighteenth to nineteenth century, some modifications had been applied on this grammar. One of the characteristics is expressing thoughts by words. Joseph Priestly in his book "The Rudiments of English Grammar" stated that language is a method of conveying our ideas to the minds of other persons. While the grammar itself is a collection of observations on the structure of it, and a system of rules

for the proper use of it. In the late eighteenth century, a well known Indian linguist, Panini gave the specific characteristics in his work that had not been applied before. The major intention in his work is combining structural description and formal analysis of words. By doing this, he can maximally make a description using phonetic form and formal analysis. By those developments, it can be inferred that Traditional Grammar is often notional and prescriptive in that approach. It is notional because a grammar is based only on the meanings or concepts in human thoughts. And it is prescriptive because they determine that their grammar is the best and the most appropriate among others. As stated Alwasilah in Djoko Srijono, (113:2001) that Traditional Grammar has some characteristics: a.) There is no difference between spoken and written language, b.) It neglects the varieties of language, c.) it is based on Latin and ignoring the characteristics differences between languages, d.) it uses logic and philosophy in solving the language problems, e.) it is based on prescriptive approach, and f.) it is based on standard written language

By those characteristics, the Structural Grammarians posed ideas to make a new development toward linguistics. Since 1930's to the late 1950's, there were several structural grammarians on that decade (Leonard Bloomfield, Franz Boaz and Edward Sapir). Among those grammarians, a well known American structuralist Leonard Bloomfield proposed Structuralism theories. He stated that language is a structure with steps which each other is interconnected (analyzable sequences). Because Bloomfield

tends to be Behaviorists, he used a stimulus-response model to describe the communication process and wished to confine linguistics description to the observable phenomena (Bornstein, 16:1977). At this stage, he admitted that meaning is important in analyzing sentence to determine the distinctive features of a language. Generally structural grammarians based their ideas as follows: 1.) utterance can be said to have structure 2.) a language can be said to have structure or structural pattern, and 3.) language in general can be said to have certain structural characteristics or general properties.

Because Structural Grammarians based their ideas on descriptive features and often dealing with language data, they were criticized by a Transformational Grammarian called Noam Chomsky. He stated that Structuralists often analyze sentences based on descriptive structures and avoiding the problem of semantics (Kess, 104:1993). In his *Syntactic Structures* (1957) Chomsky criticized the structural grammarians that grammatical sentences should be explained by the rules that native speaker possess. He generated sentences by using grammatical rules in order to make those to be understandable sentences. Through this process, the sentences will be analyzed from deep structure to surface structure by using transformational process. This theory enables the writer to analyze more deeply and accurate without neglecting the semantic aspects.

In applying this theory, the writer has a great interest to take an observable data which have some benefits for common people especially Moslems. Since the Holy Al-Qur'an is the guide of the largest Moslem

people, the writer encourages himself to make a masterpiece in analyzing the written data in the form of Holy Al-Qur'an. As in Nunan (1993:8), he stated that written language can be used to get things done, to provide information and to entertain us.

Holy Al-Qur'an consists of 30 sections and every section contains several surahs. A surah is constructed by verses. The length of surahs is vary. The total amount of surahs in Holy Al-Qur'an is 141. By this description, the writer takes some surahs in the last section especially in section 30 or Juz 'Amma. The last section of Holy Al-Qur'an or Juz 'Amma contains short surahs and there are 37 surahs in it.

There are many types of sentence in every verse. It can be imperative, interrogative or even negative. The writer takes attention to the imperative sentence because of its unique utterances in every parts and containing great explanation regarding to the guidelines of Islam.

It is unique because in Al-Qur'an, the imperative sentences are used to ask human being to obey His rules and keeping away from His prohibition. Beside the unique utterances, Al-Qur'an has also great explanation regarding to the guidelines of Islam.

In analyzing imperative sentences in Holy Al-Qur'an, the writer uses Transformational Grammar as a basic method. From this perspective, those sentences will be clearly understood especially in deep structure and using transformational processed, sentences are known their change from the kernel into explicit written forms.

Based on the above explanation and phenomena, the writer encourages himself in doing research dealing with identification of the syntactical form and meaning of the imperative sentences in **English Translation of Al-Qur'an by Yusuf Ali**.

B. Previous Research

As a reference to prove the originality of this research, the writer comments the previous research dealing with the English sentences analyzed by using Transformational Grammar.

The writer takes the previous research analyzing the transformational process in Al-Qur'an. As in Dayanti (2005), she analyzed the transformational process of interrogative sentences in Holy Al-Qur'an by using transformational approach of generative grammar. In her study, she found the types of interrogative sentences and the process of transformation in interrogative sentences. She also broke down the interrogative sentences used in Juz 'Amma into three categories; 1. positive yes-no question, 2. negative yes-no question, 3. negative word question.

In positive yes-no question, she found two process of transformation. First, giving question mark in deep structure to perform the interrogative transformation. Second, replacing tense with the first auxiliary verb or main verb to the front of the subject NP.

However in negative yes-no question, she discussed three processes of transformation. First, giving negative constituent in deep structure that places the word "not" after tense and the auxiliary verb. Second, giving

question mark in negative sentence of deep structure to perform the interrogative transformation. Third, replacing tense and auxiliary verb to the front of the subject NP.

Finally in interrogative, she discussed three processes of transformation. First, giving question mark in deep structure to perform the interrogative transformation. Second, replacing tense and auxiliary-verb to the form of the subject NP. Third, replacing the wh-word to the front of the entire sentence.

By those analyses, she concluded that the status in interrogative sentences is optional transformation but in negative question it is obligatory transformation.

Beside the research above, the writer also takes the book by Bornstein (1977) "An Introduction to Transformational Grammar". In this book, the writer attempts to comprehend historical perspective of Transformational Grammar and the analysis of sentences using this approach especially in imperative sentence.

By those researches, the writer should have a great motivation in doing this research to complete and equip the previous research by focusing on the imperative sentence with the transformational process.

The writer focuses on the transformational process and the rules which have been commented in this book. It also contains the phrase structure and transformational component. In structure component of phrase, this book serves the description of new rules which had been developed by Chomsky.

And in transformational component, it represents the transformational process by using tree diagram.

Finally, the writer wants to develop the previous research with the title of “Syntactic Analysis of Imperative Sentence Used in English Translation of Al-Qur’an (Transformational Grammar Approach)”.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the research background, the writer formulates the problems of the study as follows:

1. What are the types of imperative sentences in English translation of Al-Qur’an?
2. How many processes of transformation in imperative sentences used in English translation of Al-Qur’an have?

D. Objective of the Study

In carrying out this research, the writer formulates the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To know the types of imperative sentences in English translation of Al-Qur’an.
2. To know the processes of transformation used in imperative sentences in English translation of Al-Qur’an.

E. Benefit of the Study

The research is able to give the following benefits:

1. Theoretically

- a. To show the clear descriptions about the linguistic forms of imperative sentences in English translation of Al-Qur'an.
 - b. To give the information about the grammar analysis of the English sentences especially imperative sentences used in English translation of Al-Qur'an by using Transformational Grammar.
2. Practically
- a. To add knowledge about the linguistic forms of the language used in English translation of Al-Qur'an especially for English Students and Lectures.
 - b. To add knowledge in comprehending the language especially in English translation of Al-Qur'an.

F. Research Paper Organization

The research on this paper can be organized based on the following arrangement. **Chapter I is Introduction.** This chapter consists of background of the study, previous research, problem statement, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study and thesis organization.

Chapter II is Underlying Theory. This chapter consists of notion and process of transformational grammar, deep structure, surface structure, kernel sentence, phrase structure rules, lexical rewrite rules, imperative sentence, tree diagram.

Chapter III is Research Method. This chapter consists of type of the research, object of the research, data and source of the data, technique and collecting the data, technique of data analysis.

Chapter IV is Data Analysis. This chapter consists of types of imperative sentences, transformational process of the imperative sentences, status of transformational process in imperative sentences, discussion and findings.

Chapter V is Conclusion and Suggestion. This chapter consists of the conclusion about the transformational process in imperative sentences and the conclusion of the analyzed data.