A SYNTACTIC ANALYSIS OF RELATER-AXIS PHRASES
IN CHARLES DICKENS' *HARD TIME*

RESEARCH PAPER

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education
in English Department

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2009

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. **Background of the Study**

Language is a systematic means of communicating ideas or feeling that has grammatical structure, which is related to the grammatical level, such as; sentence, clause, phrase, and word level. One of the forms in using language can be found in the written language such as novel.

Novel is also built up of those grammatical levels. The authors share their experience and language competence to another in form of written language. They will communicate anything around their background of knowledge, ideology, religion, and social trough the story as clearly as possible in order that the readers can understand and catch the massage easily. The authors usually also write the story by using complex sentences to describe and give detail information about the character and setting of the story. For example, Charles Dickens, in delivering the story, he also uses more complex sentences that consist of relater-axis (prepositional phases) attached on dependent clause. These phrases are used to describe and give detail information about character and setting of the story.

Base on the novel *Hard Time*, it can be found complex sentence such as; the first, in the sentence, "The emphasis was helped by the speaker's square wall of a forehead *which had his eyebrows for its base*."

The complex sentence above has dependent clause *"which had his eyebrows for its base"* as the adjectival clause. There is a manner Relater-axis phrase *"for its base"* that functions as modifier of noun *"eyebrows"* and act as an adjective that fills in manner slot. It can be formulated as follow:

"*Which   had   his   eyebrows   for its base*"

AdjCL: +S: rp + P: av + O: N ± M: RA (RA: +R: rel + Axis: N)

The formula can be read as follow: the adjectival clause consists of an obligatory subject filled by relative pronoun, followed by an obligatory predicate slot filled by auxiliary verb and followed by an optional manner slot filled by relater-axis phrase. The relater-axis phrase consists of relater slot filled by relater and axis slot filled by noun phrase.

The second is in the sentence "*When Tom appeared <u>before dinner</u>*, he spoke to his sister."

There is a dependent clause *"When Tom appeared before dinner"* in the complex sentence above, which is an adverbial clause. A temporal relater-axis phrase that attached in the dependent clause *"before dinner"* functions as adverbial and fills in temporal slot. It can be formulated as follow:

"*When   Tom   appeared   before dinner*"

AdvCL: +O of V: rp +S: n +P: iV ±Tem: RA (RA: +R: rel + Axis: n)

The formula can be read as follow: the adverbial clause consists of an object of verb, followed by an obligatory subject filled by noun, followed

by an obligatory predicate slot filled by intransitive verb, followed by an optional temporal slot filled by relater-axis phrase. The relater-axis phrase consists of relater slot filled by relater and axis slot filled by noun phrase.

Base on the description above, there are differences between relater-axis phrases in the construction of adjectival clause and adverbial clause above in the function and the form of slot in the clause construction. In the adjectival clause above, the relater-axis phrase functions as modifier of noun that fill in the manner slot. Meanwhile, in the adverbial clause above, the Relater-axis phrase functions as adverbial that fill in temporal slot.

A sentence is a grammatical unit comprising a group of words that separates from other grammatical construction. In other hand, a clause is a group of words containing a subject and a predicate. Srijono (2004: 64) states that construction is any significant group of words (or morpheme) that can be phrase, clause or sentence. Phrase is two or more words in sequence intended to have meaning, less completely predicate than a sentence because it has no subject and verb (Burton & Sihombing, 2007: 59). Relater-axis phrase is a structured word group with two immediate constituents, one of which is a phrase relater, and the other a word or word group governed by the relater and called the axis. This construction type is exocentric because neither the relater alone may fill the same clause level slots as the relater-axis group (Cook, 1969: 93). Therefore, the writer takes the Relater-axis phrases to describe the function and pattern of the relater-axis phrases based on syntactic view. Occasionally, In the novel, sentences are written in

various type, so it is interesting to analyze the part of the clause in complex sentence that are relater-axis phrases occur, in order to know whether the phrases are simple in pattern or not, especially when they attached in dependent clause.

The writer takes structural grammar and tagmemic grammar because Structural grammar approach focus on physical arrangement of element within a sentence, as well as, it focus on the function syntactical component in the sentence, meanwhile, tagmemic grammar approach is a descriptive and explanatory theory, the function is to describe and explain the pattern of the construction without any rules or principles preceded. The tagmemic model consists of a series of syntactic statements at the sentence, clause, phrase, and word levels. At the phrase level, the two groups that fill the slot are analyzed into constituent words (Cook, 1969: 35).

Based on the description above, the writer is interested in conducting a research entitled: A Syntactic Analysis of Relater-axis Phrases in Charles Dickens' *Hard Time.*

B. Previous Study

The study related to this study is conducted by Chandra (2007) in her research paper entitled *"A Syntactic Analysis of Lyrics in the English Children Song" using Tagmemic approach*. The objective of the study is identifying the linguistic forms used in lyrics of the English children song and analyzing the syntactical construction of sentence used in lyrics of that

song. The results of her study are there are three types of linguistic form of that song; those are sentence, clause and phrase, and there are five types of sentence that analyzed to get the syntactical construction.

The second is Muntamah (2008) in her research paper entitled *"A Syntactic Study of Adjectival Clauses in Hans Cristian Andersen's Fairy Tales"*. The objective of her study is to describe the structures of the adjectival clause construction viewed from Tagmemic grammar and to reveal the meaning of the adjectival clause construction viewed semantically. The result of her study is that there are 19 types of forms of the adjectival clause constructions and there are 19 types of meaning, which consist of roles and features of the adjectival clause construction.

The difference of this study and the previous study lies in the object of the research. In this research, the writer takes the scope of Relater-axis Phrases in the clause constructions used in novel entitles *Hard time* by Charles Dickens as the object of the research.

C. Limitation of the Study

The writer limits the study in the case of Relater-Axis that becomes a part of a dependent clause, including adverbial clause, adjectival clause, and nominal clause at the phrase level in novel *Hard time* by Charles Dickens.

The writer determine this limitation because in an independent clause, the constructions of the clause which consists of many slots involving relater-axis phrases may placed before subject slot or after object

slot. However, a dependent clause sometimes can be in the form of the relater-axis phrase, for example; "the day *on which the procession was to take place"*. Therefore, the writer would likes to focus on the relater-axis phrase which is occurs after a nucleus.

D.   Problem Statements

Base on the background of the study above, the problem statements of this study are:

1. What are the functions of relater-axis phrase constructions in clause levels used in Charles Dickens' *Hard Time*?

2. What are the structures of relater-axis phrase construction in clause levels used in Charles Dickens' *Hard Time*?

E.   Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To describe the functions of relater-axis phrase constructions in clause levels used in Charles Dickens' *Hard Time*.

2. To describe the structures of relater-axis phrase constructions in clause levels used in Charles Dickens' *Hard Time*.

F.   Benefit of the Study

1. Practically, the writer hopes that the result of the study can be used as a reference or additional information for those who are interested in syntax for their research especially relater-axis phrases.

2. Theoretically, the writer hopes that the result of the research will enrich the study on the relater-axis phrases by using structural grammar and tagmemic approach as the linguistic studies.

G.   Clarification of Terms

- Relater-Axis Phrase   (RA)   : Prepositional Phrase (PP)

H.   Research Paper Organization

Chapter I is introduction, which consists of the background of the study, previous study, limitation of the study, problem statements, benefit of the study, and research paper organization.

Chapter II is underlying theory, which related to the notion of syntax, the notion of relater-axis phrase, structural grammar, tagmemic grammar, tagmemic formulas, Charles Dickens, and *Hard Time* novel.

Chapter III is research method that presents the type of the research, the object of the research, data and data source, technique of data collection and technique of data analysis.

Chapter IV is research result and discussion. The research result is divided into two; the function of relater axis-phrases, and the structure of relater-axis phrase constructions.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.