The Analysis of Prepositional Phrases in Analytical Exposition Texts “Why is Social Distancing Important during Corona Pandemic?” and “The Importance of Wearing Mask during COVID-19 Pandemic Era”

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ABSTRACT

Language is a communication tool to express human feelings and thoughts. Learning one of texts that is Analytical Exposition Texts in important in English Lesson. Analytical Exposition text is basically an opinion writing about a phenomenon or event. This paper is one type of Argumentation Text which explains the thoughts of the author. The researcher analysed one of parts of speech that was in the Analytical Exposition, was preposition, and the analysis of preposition is using syntactic form in where preposition had to related to other words and it called Prepositional Phrases. The researcher chosen two texts of Analytical Exposition Text “Why is Social Distancing Important during Corona Pandemic?” and “The Importance of Wearing Mask during COVID-19 Pandemic Era” as the data analysis. This research was using descriptive qualitative research method. In the two analytical Exposition Texts, PP was found in almost sentences in the two texts. The domination of using PP was seen in the syntactic forms, they were PP = P + NP (det + N) and PP = P + NP (N). The rest was PP = P + NP (N-num + N), PP = P + NP (det + A + N), PP = P + NP (N + N) and PP = P + NP (A + N). It could be concluded that the using of NP (det + N) in PP was dominated in all sentences in the two texts of Analytical Exposition Text.

Keywords : Prepositional Phrase, Analytical Exposition, Syntactic Form

1. INTRODUCTION

As a study of language, linguistics studies specifically language forms, meanings, and contexts. Linguistics analyses human language as system to relate sounds and meaning. Moreover, there are many subjects in linguistics such as semantics that studies a meaning in a language, phonetics that examines acoustics and articular properties, pragmatics that focuses on how context influences meaning, and syntax which is about the structure of a sentence. Syntax is a subject which is analyzing structure of sentences. As long as the sentence is in the right order, there is no need to look at the meaning of the sentence. Parts of a sentence are called constituents. In addition, syntax is part of grammar that represents the speaker knowledge of these structures and their formation. In other word, syntax plays role in analyzing structure to remove any ambiguity by bringing into the play the factor of word position and the resulting of meaning. After all, syntax plays a role to analyze sentence.

Preposition is a part of Grammatical Sentences. Preposition is a word or group of words that is placed before a noun or a pronoun to show a relationship in a sentence (Stobbe, 2008, p.108). Preposition is a word that shows relation between noun or pronoun and the other words in sentence. e.g. in, on, at, to, with, under, above, into, by, of etc. The use of prepositions is very high either in spoken and written to make the sentence complete. Preposition has very crucial and distinct rule in English grammar. People cannot speak or write in English properly without prepositions which make sentences related to each other and more understandable.

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There are some lexical items that can be classified based on some categories in English, such as noun, verb, adjective, preposition, etc. A preposition is one of the sentence elements which functions to indicate certain relation among other words in one sentence and makes the sentence complete and understandable. The prepositional phrase consists of a preposition followed by a prepositional complement which functions to indicate time, position, space, location, etc. There are simple and complex prepositions. Simple prepositions only consist of one word. The prepositional phrase is referred to as preposition followed by a prepositional complement.

According to Quirk, et al (1985, p.673), a preposition emphasizes the relation between two entities, one being represented by the prepositional complement. In this case, time and place are easier to be identified, however in terms of labels; preposition in systematic meaning is difficult to be described. Quirk, et al (1985, p.659) state that there are several points of similarity between prepositions and other word classes and constructions in English grammar, in particular conjunctions and adverbs, as well as participles and adjectives.

Analytical exposition text is basically an opinion writing about a phenomenon or event. This paper is one type of Argumentation Text which explains the thoughts of the author. This means that analytical exposition text is writing that pours out the contents of an author's thoughts about an event, object, or even place. This analytical exposition text wants to invite the readers together with the writer to think about the events written in the text.

According to the previous description, for the author, the purpose of this analytical exposition text is to express the anxiety that is in his mind about the events around her/him. While the main purpose of Analytical exposition text is to give confidence to the readers that the topic of the opinion that they write is indeed important to discuss. In addition, analytical exposition can also be used to promote ourselves in finding a job in a job application or cover letter, because basically this article is to convince the reader, in this context it means a recruiter or job provider.

Exposition text is the passage that aims to explain, convey information about a topic. Topics in exposition texts can be in the form of various problems. Starting from the current issues that are being discussed, or issues that the author thinks are important to discuss. One of the issues currently being discussed is the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Syntax

Syntax in English is the arrangement of words and phrases in a specific order. If you change the position of even one word, it’s possible to change the meaning of the entire sentence. All languages have specific rules about which words go where, and skilled writers can manipulate these rules to make sentences sound more poignant or poetic.

The term ‘syntax’ is from the Ancient Greek syntaxis, a verbal noun which literally means ‘arrangement’ or ‘setting out together’. Traditionally, it refers to the branch of grammar dealing with the ways in which words, with or without appropriate inflections, are arranged to show connections of meaning within the sentence. Syntax is essential to understanding constituency, the term for multiple words acting as a single unit. In long and complex sentences, constituency is necessary to determine the hierarchy within the sentence, particularly with sentence diagramming.

Yule (2010) explained, “Syntax is an analysis when a sentence must account for all the grammatically correct phrases, sentences, only those grammatically correct phrases, and sentence in whatever language analyzed” (p. 97). It is called ill-formed sentence if a sentence has odd form, for example, Broke Charlie the window. As Yule said, no matter what language which is spoken, it must be well-formed sentence.
Syntax helps us to make clear sentences that “sound right,” where words, phrases, and clauses each serve their function and are correctly ordered to form and communicate a complete sentence with meaning. Thus, syntax is the study rules for combining words into sentences, into phrases and clauses (Bollinger… et al, 1972: 10).

How important is syntax is in English? Changing the placement of a word often changes the meaning of the sentence. Sometimes the change is minor, useful for writers who like nuance and subtext, but sometimes the change is more significant, giving the entire sentence a whole new interpretation.

There are dozens of rules about syntax you can study. However, these can get confusing, and some require an expert understanding of English, so the list is only the five basic rules of syntax in English, which are enough for constructing simple sentences correctly.
1. All sentences require a subject and a verb. However, imperative sentences (commands) do not need to include their subject because it’s assumed to be the person the sentence is directed at.
2. A single sentence should include one main idea.
3. The subject comes first, and the verb comes second.
4. Subordinate clauses (dependent clauses) also require a subject and verb.
5. Adjectives and adverbs go in front of the words they describe.

First and foremost, syntax deals with how sentences are formed, and users of human languages employ a striking variety of possible arrangements of the elements in sentences. One of the most obvious yet important ways in which languages differ is the order of the main elements in a sentence.

**Tree diagrams**

There are many reasons for studying syntax, from general humanistic and behavioral motivations to much more specific goals such as those in the following:
1. To help the students and the readers to illustrate the patterns of English more effectively and clearly.
2. To enable the students and the readers to analyze the structure of English sentences in a systematic and explicit way.

Studying syntax is tightly correlated with the tree diagrams which show how sentences are built and organized to become thoughtful and meaningful. In this course, students learn how to parse sentences into several lexical elements and apply them to tree diagrams. It can be imagined that this is quite hard for lecturers as well as the students how to virtually draw the tree diagrams as one of the core of syntax course.

Tree diagram is a way to elaborate lexical items in a sentence and to represent the syntactic structure of a phrase or sentence (Radford, 2009, p.483). Syntactic tree diagram can be said to be a good apparatus to represent the internal structures of phrases and clauses.
In a tree diagram, the rules say that a sentence is the combination of NP and VP, and an NP can be made up of a Det, any number of As, an obligatory N, and any number of PPs, and so on. of the possible tree structures that these rules can generate, the following is one example

```
S
  NP
    Det A N V NP PP
    ... ... ... Det N P NP
    ... ... ...
```

Example: *Everyday he went to the sea with his hat*

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S
  Adv P NP VP
    Adv Pron V PP PP
    Everyday he went to Det N with Poss Pron Det N
    the sea his net
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B. Prepositional Phrases

A phrase is a group of words without a subject and verb, used as one part of speech. (There are several types of phrases including the verb phrase, noun phrase, and prepositional phrase). Prepositions are generally short words that express relations, often locational relations in space or time (Roberts, 2016, p.54). Other examples are: to, at, from, with, towards, in, off, by, up, down, since, before, after, during, until, like. Prepositions don’t always express locational concepts, though: in an accident, in a blue coat, off work, under pressure, at great speed, on the make, like a maniac. The most commonly used preposition in the English language – of – does not express a location. two basic forms of PP: (a) PPs in which the preposition (P) is complemented by an NP (e.g. beside a stream and to Max) and (b) PPs consisting of just a P.

Prepositional phrase can be defined as a phrase consisting of a preposition – as head of phrase, objects and any modifiers of the object. DJ. Alerton (1976:133-134) said that prepositional phrase is a grammatical elements. A grammatical elements means that we apply it to the classes of morpheme, words, phrases, clauses and even sentences. Regards of the size of the element; thus the class of deverbal noun forming suffixes, the class of prepositions, the class of noun phrase, etc

Preposition phrase belongs to bilateral dependencies in which the presence of a preposition requires the presence of other elements –objects and modifiers –and vice versa (Valin, 2004). Generally, the objects and modifiers of a prepositional phrase can be noun and pronoun, but any other lexical categories can also be its objects or modifiers, like verb, adjective and adverb.

Example of Prepositional Phrases: *until after the game*. The tree diagram is
Another example of Prepositional Phrases: *the cat sat in the mat*. The tree diagram is

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Fig 1. Tree Diagram of Prepositional Phrase
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Downing & Locke (2006) stated that preposition consists of two types. Those are simple prepositions and complex prepositions. It can be seen that in a simple preposition, the preposition has a single prepositional particle. Parts of single prepositional particles are: *about, across, after, around, as, at, in, towards*, etc. In complex preposition, the preposition can be formed by the combination of two prepositional particles. It can be separated with a noun, an adjective, an adverb, and even phrases. The complex prepositional particles are as follows: *as for, except, according to, by means, in return for, on the part of, etc.* It is stated that a simple prepositional phrase consists of a single prepositional word and is followed by modifiers or complements. The complements consist of a noun, a noun group, a pronoun, an adverb, an adjective, a prepositional phrase, and a wh-clause. In the complex prepositional phrase, a phrase consists of two or three prepositions. It can be modified with a noun, noun group, a pronoun, an adverb, an adjective.

Mulyadi (2010) notes that prepositional phrase has distinct behaviour in each language. It is represented in syntactic level and it highly depends on morphological character of a language. He cited an idea of Brown & Mitter (1991, p.259), English’ prepositional phrase allows a preposition followed by another preposition, such as ‘from behind the backyard’ and ‘in under the window’.

C. Analytical Exposition Text

What is analytical exposition text? First, let's break down. First is, what is exposition text? So, simply put, exposition text is a text that presents one point of view on an issue. Exposition text can generally be found in scientific articles, journals, magazines, and the editorial or editorial section of a newspaper / mass media. While analytical exposition text is a text that contains the author's opinion about the things that happen around him. Be it an object, place, or event, without inviting the reader to do something.

Martin & Rose (2003, p.11) define exposition text is one of persuasive texts and there are two types of exposition texts, those are analytical exposition text and hortatory exposition text. Analytical exposition text is an exposition text that function is to justify position and persuade the reader or listener something in the case. On the other hand, hortatory exposition is a text that function is to persuade the reader or listener that some sort of action should be taken. Gerot & Wignel (1994, p.197) state the purpose of analytical exposition is to persuade the readers that
something is in the case. The generic structure of analytical exposition text is thesis, argument and reiteration.

Table 1. Analytical Exposition Sample on Accredited School

| Why Is It Important to Choose the Accredited School? |
|---------------------------------------------------|
| Most of teenagers need to go to school and there are a lot of schools over there. Nowadays, schools grow to offer plenty of choice; private and state ones. However it is a hard choice since there are many factors which need to be considered before making the selection. Some will be influenced by friends; because some friend got to certain school than we go to there too. Some prefer to choose certain school because of the closer distance. In fact, the primary decisive matter for selecting school is whether the school has been accredited or not. |
| Why is important to choose an accredited school? Well, accredited schools have an edge over the unaccredited schools. This label of Accredited School has an impact in employment opportunities. As result, if there are two or more students with similar qualifications, the student who comes from the accredited school will have an edge over the other candidate. Student from an accredited school has more open door than student with an accredited one. |
| Many students select certain school depending more on short term factors like friend influence and short distance from home. It is not bad since commuting actually needs much cost. Choosing school which is closer to home will save time, energy and money. However if that school is not accredited, the time and money spent along studying seems to be waste in the long term because it could become a limiting factor in gaining future opportunities. |
| Accredited school is not the only factor which will drive student’s success. Personality and characterization are very important too. However a student with good personality who comes from an accredited school is better than the others. |

Analytical exposition is one of argumentative texts which present some supporting idea on why certain writer’s opinion is important. The opinion is formulated in a thesis which needs to prove by selecting arguments. From the example, it is known that the text is classified as argumentative essay. Both present argument to support the thesis state in the orientation. This thesis places the writer’s position on the essay.

Based on Anderson & Anderson (1997), the generic structure of analytical exposition text is

1) Thesis. It is an introductory argument. It introduces the topic and shows the readers on writer’s position.
2) Arguments. They consist of point and elaboration
3) Reiteration In thesis. In the reiteration part, the writer make summary of their arguments and thesis before from his/her point of view.

All three aspects above (Thesis, Arguments, and Reiteration) have to be arranged in order, so that the reader can understand the analytical exposition text well.

According Gerod & Wignel (1997, p. 197), Analytical exposition text has of five characteristic of language feature.

1) First is the use the use of emotive words. E.g. feel, think, realize, etc.
2) The second one is the use of simple present tense.
3) The last one is the use of
   - relational process (to be, seems, become, etc),
   - internal conjunction, Addition (besides, in addition, furthermore). Comparisons (but, vice versa, meanwhile, on the other hand). Time (second, then, next). Cause-effect (consequence, as a result, and so).
   - and causal conjunction (reason why), e.g. as a result, because, by, consequently, despite, due to, for that reason and etc.

From the explanation above, it can be seen that analytical exposition text contains the author's thoughts about things that happen around him, whether objects, events, or places. This text is included in argumentative text because it shows an opinion (argument) against something.

3. METHOD

Gay et al (2006) who said that qualitative research is the collection, analysis, and interpretation of comprehensive narrative and visual data in order to gain insights into a particular phenomenon. This method intended to describe everything related to the topic of the research. The method of research is the way to help us to solve the problems of our research and show the validity of the paper as well. It explains how the process of the research is started from collecting the data until presenting it in a paper.

The researcher make the design as a guide in conducting research which includes the methods to be used, what data were collected, where the data were collected, how were the data collected, and from whom the data were collected. Qualitative research is best suited to address research problems where you do not know the variables and need to explore.

However, the descriptive qualitative research as stated by Miles, Huberman & Saldana (2014) is applied in analyzing the data. This research was conducted by applying descriptive qualitative research design. The data were used from two Texts of Analytical Exposition Text. With entitled Why is Social Distancing Important during Corona Pandemic? and The Importance of Wearing Mask during COVID-19 Pandemic Era. These texts were analysed by finding out the prepositional phrases that found in the two analytical exposition texts.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Data and Analysis

The analysis of the data was explained in detail. The data were analyzed based on the theory used. Based on the topic discussed, there are some forms of Prepositional Phrases which were found in the data source. In this research of analysis, the researcher tried to find the prepositional phrases which generally consist of a preposition plus an NP (Kim & Sells, 2008, p. 26) in the analytical Exposition text. The syntactic form of Prepositional Phrases can be seen below:
From the Syntactic form of PP, it can be divided in NP with other words that have correlated with the sentence. The analysis of the data was explained in detail. The data were analysed based on the theory used. Based on the two analytical exposition texts, there are some forms of preposition in which were found in the data source.

Here, the following complete the two texts of Analytical Exposition Text.

Table 2. Text 1. Why is Social Distancing Important during Corona Pandemic

| Why is Social Distancing Important during Corona Pandemic? |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| As cases of coronavirus disease or COVID-19 continue to spread like wildfire across the globe, the term social distancing seems to be flooding news and social media feeds. It is done by keeping a safe space about 1.5 meters between yourself and other people who are not from your household. Then, why is social distancing important? |
| When someone coughs or sneezes, they spray small droplets from their nose or mouth which may contain the virus. If you are too close, you can breathe in the droplets, including the COVID-19 virus if the person coughing has the disease, even if they do not feel sick. The best way to fight the spread of the virus is to stay at home, be away from your friends, and socialize online. |
| Physically distancing is critical to try and limit the spread of COVID-19. The rationale behind social distancing is to try and avoid a huge spike in COVID-19 cases that will put too much strain on our health care system all at once. If everyone gets sick at the same time, hospitals will be overwhelmed, and won’t have the capability to provide the necessary treatment for everyone. |
| As discussed above, it is clear that social (physical) distancing is important because it can effectively break the transmission chain if we continue to limit our physical interactions with others during the coronavirus pandemic. |

Table 3. Text 2. The Importance of Wearing Mask during COVID-19 Pandemic Era

| The Importance of Wearing Mask during COVID-19 Pandemic Era |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|
We have been faced with the COVID-19 pandemic since the end of 2019. COVID-19 is indeed a virus that spreads very quickly. To avoid the spread of the virus, we need to comply with the health protocols set by the government.

One of the health protocols that must be carried out during activities during a pandemic is to wear a mask. This is important to prevent the spread of the corona virus. Masks need to be used properly in order to provide effective protection. The benefits of using the correct mask can protect yourself and also others from the spread of the corona virus that can occur through the air.

It should be understood, new masks can provide effective protection when used properly. So, it's not just wearing it, the way to use a mask must be correct so that it can protect you from the corona virus. For example, only hanging the mask in one ear, lowering the mask under the nose so that it only covers the mouth, or even pulling the mask under the chin.

Not only when you go outside, it is also important for you to wear a mask when you are indoors with people who do not live with you. Also wear a mask when interacting with other people who do not allow you to keep a distance of at least 2 meters. That's because COVID-19 spreads mainly between people who are in close contact with each other.

From the statements above, it is obvious that everyone, without exception, needs to wear masks properly. Wearing proper mask can protect each other from COVID-19.

Table 4. The analysis of Prepositional Phrases of the Analytical Exposition in Text 1

| No. | Prepositional Phrases | Text 1 Form of PP |
|-----|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1.  | across the globe       | P + NP (det + N)  |
| 2.  | by keeping            | P + NP (N)        |
| 3.  | about 1.5 meters      | P + NP (N-num + N)|
| 4.  | from your household   | P + NP (det + N)  |
| 5.  | from their nose       | P + NP (det + N)  |
| 6.  | in the droplets       | P + NP (det + N)  |
| 7.  | at home               | P + NP (N)        |
| 8.  | from your friends     | P + NP (det + N)  |
| 9.  | behind social distancing | P + NP (A + N) |
| 10. | in COVID-19 cases     | P + NP (N + N)    |
| 11. | at once               | P + NP (N-num)    |
| 12. | at the same time      | P + NP (det + A + N)|
| 13. | for everyone          | P + NP (N)        |
| 14. | with others           | P + NP (N)        |
| 15. | during the coronavirus pandemic | P + NP (det + A + N) |

Table 5. The analysis of Prepositional Phrases of the Analytical Exposition in Text 2

| No. | Prepositional Phrases | Form of PP |
|-----|-----------------------|------------|
| 1.  | with the health protocols | P + NP (det + N + N) |
| 2.  | by the government      | P + NP (det + N) |
| 3.  | from the spread of     | P + NP (det + N) |
| 4.  | through the air        | P + NP (det + N) |
|   | Prepositional Phrases | Syntactic Form |
|---|----------------------|----------------|
| 5. | from the corona virus | P + NP (det + A + N) |
| 6. | in one ear            | P + NP (N-num + N) |
| 7. | under the nose        | P + NP (det + N) |
| 8. | under the chin        | P + NP (det + N) |
| 9. | for you               | P + NP (N)     |
| 10.| with people           | P + NP (N)     |
| 11.| with you              | P + NP (N)     |
| 12.| with other people     | P + NP (det + N) |
| 13.| at least 2 meters     | P + NP (A + N-num + N) |
| 14.| in close contact      | P + NP (A + N) |
| 15.| with each other       | P + NP (N-num + N) |
| 16.| From the statements   | P + NP (det + N) |
| 17.| from COVID-19         | P + NP (N)     |

From the analysis of Prepositional Phrases (PP) of the two Analytical Exposition Texts, it could be seen that the forms of PP are P + NP, in where text 1 was dominated the using of the forms of PP was PP = P + NP (det + N) and PP = P + NP (N), in where the syntactic forms of these PP are:

Not only are the two syntactic forms of PP, but also there other forms that found in the text 1. They are PP = P + NP (N-num + N), PP = P + NP (det + A + N), PP = P + NP (N + N) and PP = P + NP (A + N).

In text 2 of Analytical Exposition text, it could be seen that it was also dominated PP in text 2 are PP = P + NP (det + N) and PP = P + NP (N), in where, the syntactic form of these PP are:

From the syntactical form above, it could be seen that PP which dominated in the text 2 was PP = P + NP (det + N) and PP = P + NP (N), and the rest of other PP was using Adjective and N-num.
5. CONCLUSION

The syntax of a language is the set of rules that language uses to combine words and morphemes to create sentences. A prepositional phrase is a group of words consisting of a preposition, its object, and any words that modify the object. Most of the time, a prepositional phrase modifies a verb or a noun. These two kinds of prepositional phrases are called adverbial phrases and adjectival phrases, respectively.

After analysing some data above, some conclusions were made. All the forms of Prepositional Phrases in the two Analytical Exposition texts have been analysed. The forms of Prepositional Phrases found in the text 1 with entitled “Why is Social Distancing Important during Corona Pandemic?” were dominated by PP = P + NP (det + N) and PP = P + NP (N). The rest was PP = P + NP (N-num + N), PP = P + NP (det + A + N), PP = P + NP (N + N) and PP = P + NP (A + N).

It can be concluded that using preposition in sentence is very important because it functions to indicate to express the relation, location, space and time. Thus, it needs Phrase to show the specific indication to express the relation and location space and time in the sentences.

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