

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

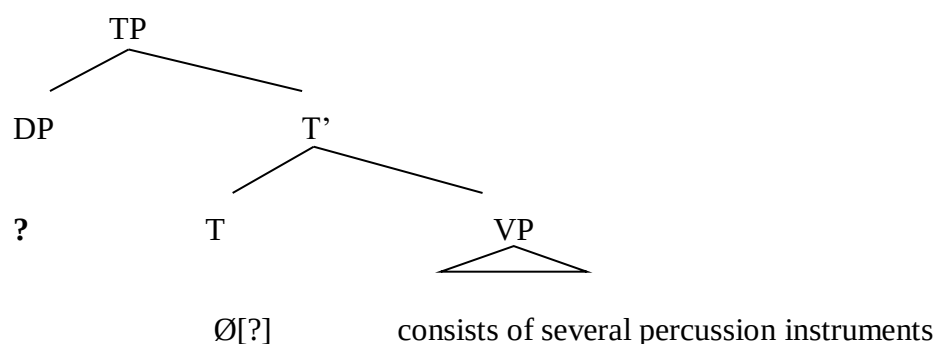
1.1 Background of the Study

Syntax is one of the major components of grammar. In linguistics, Chomsky (2002) proposes that syntax is the study of the principles and processes by which sentences are constructed in particular languages. The term syntax comes from the Ancient Greek ‘syntaxis’, a verbal noun which literally means ‘arrangement’ or ‘setting out together’. It is also used to refer 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 sentence (Matthews, 1982:1)” as Valin noted (2001). Having said that, Lockwood (2002) supports, “syntax will be understood as involving the study and description of the arrangements of words into phrases, clauses and sentences in various languages”.

According to Carnie (2002), “syntax studies the level of language that lies between words and the meaning of utterances”. It explains how words and phrases are arranged to form correct sentences”. The scope of syntax also covers the analyses. The analyses might be done by using bracketed, immediate constituent, and tree diagram ways. “Each of these has a definite use to make one understood by identifying and classifying the syntactic categories with their functions. Thus, syntax needs knowledge and skills” Basri (2013, p.125).

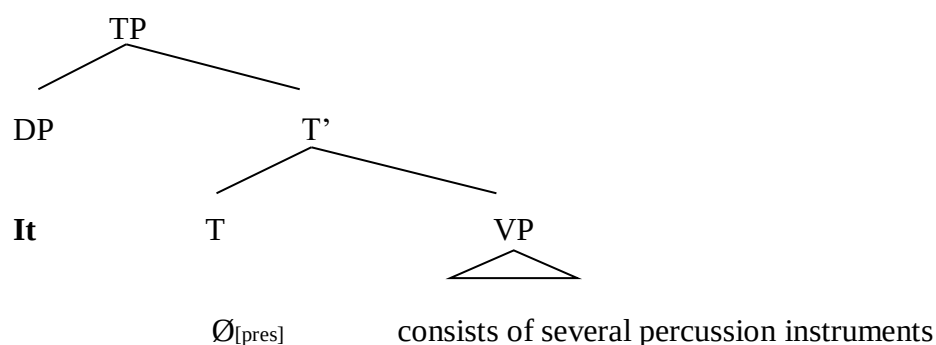
The writer describes the ungrammatical structures by a tree called tree diagrams. Ungrammatical structures were chosen because they will be presented in the form of a tree diagram in order to know what makes them ungrammatical. The writer wishes to break the data down into its component parts of speech with an explanation of the form, function, and syntactical relationship of each part. The writer is interested in conducting the present study is because a syntactic analysis is not an approach that students wish to take when they analyse sentence structure in University of Trunojoyo Madura. In addition, it has come to the writer's notice that a lot of students committed ungrammatical structures, which needs to be taken care of.

The present study aims to identify the types of ungrammatical structures and how they are presented and broken down into tree diagrams. In other words, the writer also wished to solve the ungrammatical structures found in the students' essays.



One of the examples of ungrammatical sentences found in the source of the data is "...consists of several percussion instruments...". The structure (represented by the symbol DP) is broken down into one bit (called

subconstituent): a noun. This structure is considered ungrammatical because of an absence of a noun, which is an important part of a noun phrase. The rule for a noun phrase is NP consists of (D), (AdjP), N and (PP). The simplest NPs must contain any form of noun phrase. It is considered ungrammatical when a noun phrase (NP) does not consist of a noun, considering the rule must minimally generate a noun phrase (NP) that contains only a noun (N). Determiner (D), adjective phrase (AdjP) and prepositional phrase are optional. Their optionality is marked with putting parentheses around the optional elements. Therefore, a noun is needed to fill the missing space. A pronoun is highly suggested because it can be substituted for another noun mentioned in the previous sentence. This datum can be revised as:



In the datum above, the difference between the previous structure (which is ungrammatical) and the above sentence which has been analysed and become the correct one can clearly be seen. As stated previously, this is how structures are represented in syntax. Thus, the writer is interested in conducting the present study. The theory the writer wishes to use was proposed by Andrew Carnie in 2002.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problems

- 1) What types of constituents do the ungrammatical structures belong to?
- 2) How are the data represented and broken down into tree diagrams?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

- 1) To find out and identify what types of constituents ungrammatical structures belong to.
- 2) To analyse how the ungrammatical structures (that later are going to be changed to correct structures) are formed and broken down in tree diagrams.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, the writer wishes to give some enlightenment so the students would gain a far better understanding of how ungrammatical sentences are represented in syntax.

Practically, this study is expected to be able to improve and develop the students' skills at arranging words into sentences, clauses, and phrases, and the study of the formation of sentences and knowing the relationship of their component parts. The writer wishes to give some better changes in their process of their structuring or forming correct structures. The writer also wishes there will be another person who is interested in conducting a syntactic analysis.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is the field of English syntax focusing on ungrammatical structures that later would be analysed using Andrew Carnie's theory.

The limitation of the study is every structure which is ungrammatically correct found in essays written by second semester students of English Department of University of Trunojoyo Madura.