

## THE USE OF ADJECTIVE CLAUSE IN ENGLISH SENTENCES

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*Adjective clause is a dependent clause that functions like an adjective. Descriptive method is used by describing adjective clause based on the functions, types, introductory words and form. The results of analysis show that the function of adjective clause in this article mostly modify a noun; the type of adjective clause mostly are essential and the most common introductory words of adjective clause are who, which, and that.*

#### A. Definition of Sentence

In grammar, students learn how to construct sentence. A sentence is the largest grammatical unit consisting of phrases and / or clause, used to express a statement, question, command, etc (Hornby, 1987 : 1071). According to house and Harman in Husain, a sentence is a group of words that states a complete thought (Husain, 1993 : 94). While according to Syah, a sentence is a group of words which has minimally one subject and one predicate and it has a complete meaning (1977 : 91). From some definitions above, we can conclude that a sentence is a largest grammatical unit consisting of phrases and / or clauses used to express a statement, question, command, etc which has minimally one subject and one predicate and state a complete thought and meaning.

Basically there are three kinds of sentence, those are simple, compound and complex sentence. A simple sentence is a sentence that only consists of main clause without any subordinate clause (Syah, 1997 : 93). A compound sentence is a sentence that consists of two or more main clauses without any subordinate clause (Husain, 1993 :

102). Whereas a complex sentence is a sentence that consists of an independent clause and one or more dependent clause, the dependent clause can be adverb, adjective or noun clause (Farmer, 1985 : 341).

#### B. Definition of Clause

A clause is component of a (complex) sentence, with its own and predicate, especially on doing the work of a noun, adjective or adverb (Hornby, 1987 : 204). Another definition of clause is a group of words which has its own subject and predicate (Syah, 1977 : 88). There are two basic types of clause, those are :

##### 1. Independent /principal /main clause

Main clause is a clause which contains a complex idea and it can stand by itself as a complete simple sentence (Husain, 1977 : 88). While according to Farmer, an independent clause is a group of word containing a subject and a predicate that can stand as a sentence by itself, the clauses in color are independent (1985 :324).

e.g. : The moon is shining in the sky

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## 2. Dependent / subordinate clause

Dependent clause is a clause that can't stand by itself or still depends on independent clause because it does not have a complete idea yet (Husain, 1993 : 90). Another definition of independent clause is a group of words containing a subject and a predicate that functions as a part of a sentence and depends on the rest of the sentence to complete its meaning; the clauses in color are dependent (Farmer, 324 : 325). A dependent clause may be an adverb clause, an adjective clause, or a noun clause.

- e.g. : a. The girl *who played the violin* won the trophy. (adjective clause)  
 b. *Whatever she does* is always wrong for him. (noun clause)  
 c. Grace was angry *because we didn't invite her at the party*. (adverb clause)

## C. Adjective Clause

### 1. The definition of adjective clause

An adjective clause gets its name from the way it functions in a sentence.

Adjective means word that describes a noun (Manser, 1995 : 5).

Here are some definitions of adjective clause :

- Adjective clause is a dependent clause that functions like an adjective (Farmer, 1985 : 329).
- Adjective clause is a clause that functions as an adjective or modifies a noun (Syah, 1997 : 90).
- Adjective clause is subordinate clause that functions as an adjective that modifies a noun or pronoun (Husain, 1933 : 90).

### 2. The function of adjective clause

From the definition above we can conclude that the functions of adjective clause are :

- Adjective clause modifies a noun.  
It means that adjective clause describes or gives additional information to a noun.

e.g. : The movie, *that we saw yesterday*, was the best movie I've ever seen.

The example shows us that the adject-

ive clause *that we saw yesterday* describes the noun *the movie*.

- Adjective clause modifies a pronoun.

It means that adjective clause describes or gives additional information to a pronoun.

e.g. : It is me *whom you met at the party last night*.

The example shows us that the adjective clause *whom you met at the party last night* describes the pronoun *me*.

### 3. The types of adjective clause

There are two types of adjective clause, those are :

- An essential / limiting / restrictive adjective clause.

An essential adjective clause contains information that is necessary to the meaning of the sentence. Without it, the sentence would have a very different meaning (Farmer, 1985 : 330). Restrictive adjective clause also helps us to identify or define the noun phrase which they modify (Krohn, 1975 : 185).

To find out whether the clause is essential or not, remove it from the sentence and see if the sentence still has the same meaning or not.

e.g. : 1. The place *where she died* has been rebuilt.

2. The place has been rebuilt.

Obviously sentence (1) means something very different with sentence (2), the adjective clause *where she died* influences the meaning of the whole sentence.

Since removing the adjective clause changes the meaning of the whole sentence, the adjective clause is essential.

- A nonessential / additive / nonrestrictive / appositive / non defining adjective clause.

Additive adjective clause, in the other hand give further information which is not essential to the meaning or identification of the noun phrase, they are equivalent to separate (Krohn, 1975 : 187). A nonessential adjective clause simply adds information to a sentence, the information does not

change the meaning of the sentence.

e.g. : 1. Anna, *who lives in Russia*, will visit us in June.

2. Anna will visit us in June.

When we remove the adjective clause *who lives in Russia*, the meaning of the whole sentence does not change because the adjective clause *who lives in Russia* just an additional that is not necessary for the sentence.

Since removing the adjective clause from the sentence does not change the basic meaning of the sentence, the clause is considered to be nonessential. Notice that a nonessential adjective clause is always set off from the rest of the sentence with commas in writing and by pauses in speaking. The relative pronoun *that* can't be used in nonessential adjective clause (Krohn, 1975 : 187).

#### 4. The introductory words of adjective clause

An adjective clause may be introduced by a relative pronoun or by a relative adverb (Farmer, 1985 : 32). That's why adjective clause is also called as relative clause.

a. Relative pronoun is pronoun that join clause used in adjective clause are to the rest of a sentence (Manser, 1985 : 348). Relative pronoun that are *who*, *whom*, *whose*, *which* and *that*. The choice of a relative pronoun can depend on the gender of its antecedent or, especially in writing, on the kind of adjective clause it introduces (Farmer, 1985 : 391). Relative pronoun function to describe or modify the preceding noun or pronoun (Ahmadi, 1993 : 52).

##### i. Who

*Who* is used to refer to persons that function as subject of the sentence (Farmer, 1985 : 389).

Grace, *who is my best friend*, will

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marry a lawyer next month

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The sentence shows that relative pronoun *who* refers to *Grace* that functions as subject.

*Who* is also used to refer to animals

that are pets or that are called by name (Farmer, 1985 : 391).

*My cat, who is called pussie, loves eating fish.*

This sentence shows us that *who* refers to *my cat* that function as the subject of the sentence.

*Who* is always followed by the verb of the clause.

##### ii. Whom

*Whom* is used to refer to persons that function as object of the sentence (Farmer, 1985 : 389).

The subject of the clause will always follow the object pronoun *whom*.

Ivy loves the man *whom she met*

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*at the cinema*

The sentence shows that the pronoun *whom* refers to *the man* that function as the object of the sentence.

##### iii. Whose

*Whose* refers to persons, animals, object / things that have possessive meaning (Ridwan, 1995 : 19).

The cat *whose fur is black* is my neighbor's.

##### iv. Which

*Which* refers to objects, animals, and ideas but not person (Farmer, 1985 : 391).

The dictionary, *which I bought last week*, is very heavy.

*Which* may refer to collective nouns like *committee* and *orchestra*, which name groups of people (Farmer, 1985 : 391).

The London symphony orchestra, *which I saw in the music concert last week*, will perform on TV.

In writing, *which* preferred to *that* for using in non essential clauses.

##### v. That

*That* refers to persons, object, ideas, or animals. In writing *that* is preferred to *which* in essential clauses (Farmer, 1985 : 392).

That mountains *that rise along the shores of Loch Ness* shroud the lake of fog. (essential clause)

b. Sometimes adjective clause is introduced by the combination of a preposition and a relative pronoun.

i. in which

The suitcase *in which your clothes were packed* has been lost.

ii. from whom

The man *from whom you got this letter* has been died.

c. Relative adverb is adverb that functions as conjunction of a sentence (Syah, 1974 : 74). The relative adverb used in adjective clause is *where* and *when*.

i. Where

*Where* is used to refer to places

He does not know the hospital *where his wife died*.

ii. When

*When* is used to refer to time.

Sunday is the day *when people enjoy their holiday*.

5. The form of adjective clause

Two sentences with identical nouns may be combined to form one sentence with an adjective clause. The identical noun in the second sentence (plus any determiners of modifiers) is replaced by the relative pronoun or relative adverb that begins the adjective clause (Farmer, 1985 : 331).

The thief steals *the girl's* wallet.

*The girl* is my neighbor.

These sentence can be combined into :

The girl *whose wallet is stolen by the thief* is my neighbor.

Here are some rules related to the form of adjective clause :

a. Every sentence containing a noun preceded by a superlative form of adjective such as *best*, *tallest*, etc is followed by an adjective clause containing *ever* that means at *any time* (Krohn, 1975 : 187).

The *best* thing that I *ever* had is you.

b. That + *be* can be omitted when :

i. *Be* is followed by an *-ing form of verb*

(watching, buying, etc) or a prepositional phrase (on the table, in the box, etc) (Korhn, 1975 : 188).

The girl *that is playing* the ball is Marianne.

The girl *playing* the ball is Marianne.

ii. *That + be* is followed by a phrase containing *as.....as* or *like* (Korhn, 1975 : 188).

I want the dress *that is* as beautiful as Natasia's.

I want the dress as beautiful as Natasia's.

There is no change in meaning when *that + be* is omitted from an adjective clause.

c. *That* may be omitted from adjective clause by adding *suffix-ing* to the verb, but only a small number of adjective clause can be changed in this way because it depends on the verb whether it can be added with *suffix-ing* or not (Korhn, 1975 : 187).

Peter bought a bicycle that costs \$100.

Peter bought a bicycle costing \$100.

d. When the verb in the clause is finite of *be* (was, were, been, etc) and the adjective is ended in *-ble* (impossible, visible, etc), both the relative pronoun and the finite may be, and usually are omitted (Hornby, 1975 : 156).

The only person *who was visible* was a policeman

The only person visible was a policeman.

e. When the verb in the clause is in one of the progressive tenses, the relative pronoun (subject) and the finite of *be* may be, and usually are omitted (Hornby, 1975 : 157).

The man (who was) driving the truck was drunk.

f. The relative pronoun *who* is also omitted in colloquial speech after *there is / was*, etc and *it is / was*, etc (Hornby, 1975 : 157).

There is somebody who wants to see you at the door.

- g. The relative pronoun *that* in some cases may replace *who*, especially in colloquial style in informal situation (Hornby, 1975 : 157).

The boy *who / that* broke the window was called Tommy.

#### D. Discussion

This writing describes adjective clause based on the function, types, introductory words and form found in English articles.

##### 1. The functions of adjective clause

###### a. Modifies a noun

*He even wrote down details from the previously mentioned movies which he planned to copy when he had his own wedding reception.*

The clause *which he planned to copy when he had his own wedding reception* in the sentence above is an adjective clause because it functions like an adjective, that is to modify a noun.

The function of adjective clause *which he planned to copy when he had his own wedding reception* modifies the noun *the previously mentioned movies*.

###### b. Modifies a pronoun

*But most observers agree that the power of the uniformed dons has only waned slightly, if at all, and that it is they who are still running many of the rackets on the mean streets of Grotavia.*

The clause *who are still running many of the rackets on the mean streets of Grotavia* is an adjective clause. It functions like an adjective, that is to modify a pronoun.

The function of adjective clause *who are still running many of the rackets on the mean streets of Grotavia* is to modify the pronoun *they*.

##### 2. The types of adjective clause in the article.

###### a. Essential adjective clause

1. *He once swore if he ever got married, he would have a reception which he would enjoy.*

The clause *which he would enjoy* in the sentence above is an adjective clause because it functions like an adjective that is to modify the noun *a reception*.

2. *He once swore if he ever got married, he would have a reception.*

It is obviously seen that first sentence means something different with the second sentence, it means that the adjective clause *which he would enjoy* influences the meaning of the whole sentence, since removing the adjective clause changes the meaning of the whole sentence, the adjective clause is essential.

###### b. Nonessential adjective clause

1. *This light, which guards a real pedestrian crossing to the major mosque in our neighborhood, seems to change from red to green to red without a regular pattern.*

The clause *which guards a real pedestrian crossing to the major mosque in our neighborhood* in the sentence above is an adjective clause because it functions like an adjective that is to modify the noun *this light*.

2. *This light seems to change from red to green to red without a regular pattern.*

There is no basic different in meaning between the first and second sentence because the adjective clause *which guards a real pedestrian crossing to the major mosque in our neighborhood* just gives additional information which is not necessary for the meaning of the sentence to the noun *this light*, since removing the adjective clause does not change the basic meaning of the whole sentence, the adjective clause is considered to be nonessential.

##### 3. The introductory words of adjective clause.

###### a. Relative pronoun

###### 1. Who

*When Sukarno became the object of adoration once again, it came many years after his death, and he was*

*mostly idolized by young people who had never experienced his leadership.*

The clause *who had never experienced his leadership* in the sentence above is an adjective clause because it functions like an adjective that is to modify a noun.

The adjective clause *who had never experienced his leadership* describes the noun *young people*, it proves that the relative pronoun *who* refers to persons.

## 2. Whom

*They are friends of their parents or friends of their parents' friends, or their parents' bosses and associates whom they had never met before.*

The clause *whom they had never met before* in the sentence above is an adjective clause because it functions like an adjective that is to modify a noun.

The adjective clause *whom they had never met before* describes the noun phrase *friends of their parents or friends of their parents' friends, or their parents' bosses and associates*, it proves that the relative pronoun *whom* refers to persons.

## 3. Whose

*From Jakarta to Medan to Makasar the man whose fall was so welcomed at home and around the world in 1998 is now seen as being to and decisive*

The clause *whose fall was so welcomed at home and around the world in 1998* in the sentence above is an adjective clause because it functions like an adjective that is to modify a noun.

The adjective clause *whom are whose fall was so welcomed at home and around the world in 1998* has possessive meaning to the noun *the man*, it proves that the relative pronoun *whose* has possessive meaning to person.

## 4. Which

*I almost forget the concept of a dream wedding until I attended a wedding reception which pretty much resembled weddings in those movies.*

The clause *which pretty much resembled weddings in those movies* in the sen-

tence above is an adjective clause because it functions like an adjective that is to modify a noun.

The adjective clause *which pretty much resembled weddings in those movies* describes the noun a wedding reception, it proves that the relative pronoun *which* refers to object.

## 5. That

*Despite the fact that initially Don Soekarnino had a soft spot for the masses, and was even rumored to be genuinely concerned about their suffering, he had by this stage prostrated himself at the altar of wealth and power.*

The clause *that initially Don Soekarnino had a soft spot for the masses, and was even rumored to be genuinely* in the sentence above is an adjective clause because it functions like an adjective that is to modify a noun.

The adjective clause *that initially Don Soekarnino had a soft spot for the masses, and was even rumored to be genuinely* describes the noun *the fact*, it proves that the relative pronoun *that* refers to object.

## b. Combination of a preposition and a relative pronoun

### 1. In which

*In this topsy-turvy world, who can blame drivers when the very purpose of the light is already questionable, let alone the haphazard manner in which it performs its role?*

The clause *in which it performs its role* in the sentence above is an adjective clause because it functions like an adjective that is to modify a noun.

The combination of preposition and relative pronoun *in which* refers to *the haphazard manner*.

### 2. With whom

*Those couples would be celebrating their luck in love since they actually had found someone with whom they wanted to spend the rest of their lives.*

The clause *with whom they wanted to spend the rest of their lives* in the sentence

above is an adjective clause because it functions like an adjective that is to modify a noun.

The combination of preposition and relative pronoun *with whom* refers to someone.

### 3. For which

*The rise of Tommy "The driver" Soehartito mark the opening of a new chapter in brutality and greed, a chapter that ended with Tommy's year-long flight for justice and the cold blooded slaving of a supreme court judged in broad daylight, a crime for which Tommy received derisory 15 – year sentence.*

The clause for which Tommy received derisory 15 – year sentence in the sentence above is an adjective clause because it functions like an adjective that is to modify a noun.

The combination of preposition and relative pronoun for which refers to a crime.

### c. Relative adverb

#### 1. When

*Soehartito's long and steady rise to the top of steaming Grotavia dunghill really began way back in 1942 when Dutch Holland and his henchmen, who had ling dominated the city's underworld, were muscled out by the Japanese Yakuza, eager to get their hands on the numbers, prostitution and gambling rackets that were and still are, such a part of the city's vice scene.*

The clause *when Dutch Holland and his henchmen, who had ling dominated the city's underworld, were muscled out by the Japanese Yakuza, eager to get their hands on the numbers, prostitution and gambling rackets that were and still are, such a part of the city's vice scene* in the sentence above is an adjective clause because it functions like an adjective that is to modify a noun.

The relative adverb *when* refers to 1942, it proves that the relative adverb *when* refers to time.

### 4. The form of adjective clause

*They said they were just lucky to have liberal parents who left all the wedding decisions to them.*

The clause *who left all the wedding decisions to them* in the sentence above is an adjective clause because it function like an adjective that is to modify the noun liberal parents.

This sentence is formed by combining :

1. They said they were just lucky to have liberal parents.
2. Liberal parents who left all the wedding decisions to them.

The identical noun in these two sentences is liberal parents, the identical noun in the second sentence is replaced by the relative pronoun *who*.

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