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The Importance of Syntax in Understanding English Sentence Structure

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini mengeksplorasi peran sintaksis dalam pembelajaran bahasa Inggris, khususnya bagi penutur non-asli. Metode yang digunakan adalah tinjauan pustaka, dengan 12 jurnal akademik yang diterbitkan antara 2019-2024 melalui Google Scholar dan ResearchGate, dan 3 di antaranya memenuhi kriteria seleksi. Penelitian ini menganalisis struktur kalimat, termasuk pola sederhana dan kompleks, idiom, serta hubungan budaya. Sintaksis mencakup elemen seperti subjek, predikat, objek, klausa, dan frasa, serta hubungan antar elemen untuk membentuk makna. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa penguasaan sintaksis meningkatkan konstruksi kalimat, mendukung komunikasi yang efektif, dan membantu pemahaman kompleksitas bahasa Inggris. Penelitian ini juga menyoroti pentingnya sintaksis dalam memahami idiom dan struktur kalimat kompleks dalam konteks formal dan informal. Penguasaan sintaksis sangat penting untuk pembelajaran bahasa yang efektif dan mendukung pengembangan keterampilan bahasa secara menyeluruh.

Kata Kunci: *Pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris, Struktur Kalimat, Sintaksis*

Abstract

This research explores the role of syntax in English language learning, particularly for non-native speakers. Using a literature review method, 12 academic journals published between 2019-2024 were reviewed through Google Scholar and ResearchGate, with 3 meeting the selection criteria. The study analyzes sentence structures, including simple and complex patterns, idioms, and their cultural connections. Syntax involves elements like subjects, predicates, objects, clauses, and phrases, and how these elements work together to form meaning. The research shows that mastering syntax improves sentence construction, enhances communication, and helps learners navigate English's complexity. It also highlights the importance of syntax in understanding idioms and complex sentence structures in both formal and informal contexts. Mastery of syntax is crucial for effective language learning and supports the development of comprehensive language skills.

Keyword: *English language learning, Sentence structure, Syntax*

INTRODUCTION

Language is the main communication tool that distinguishes humans from other living things (Noermanzah, 2020). As a complex system of symbols, language allows humans to express thoughts, feelings and ideas. In everyday life, language not only serves to convey information, but also to establish social relationships, build culture, and develop knowledge. The basic components of language include phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics, which together form a structured and meaningful communication system. (Darwin et al., 2021). Syntax, as one of the main branches of linguistics, is key in organizing sentence structure to allow messages to be conveyed clearly and unambiguously.

Syntax is an important branch of linguistics that focuses on the way words are organized into meaningful sentences (Pramitasari, 2020). In English, syntax plays an important role in determining the structure and order of words, so that the message conveyed can be properly understood. A good understanding of syntax helps *non-native* speakers understand the basic rules of English, such as the use of subjects, predicates, objects and adverbs. Syntax is a branch of linguistics that deals with grammar and grammatical matters.

The scope of syntax includes elements such as phrases, clauses, and sentences (Pradestania & Umami, 2022). In the analysis of syntactic structure, there are three main components, namely syntactic functions, categories, and roles. Syntactic function refers to the parts in the syntactic structure that are filled by certain categories (Verhaar, 1978). This structure includes subject (S), predicate (P), object (O), complement (Kom), and adverb (Ket). Syntactic category refers to the type of word or phrase that fills the function, such as

noun (N), verb (V), adjective (A), adverbial (Adv), numeralia (Num), preposition (Prep), conjunctions (Konj), and pronomina (Pron). Of these categories, nouns, verbs, and adjectives are the main categories, while the rest are auxiliary categories. Meanwhile, syntactic role focuses on the function of the verb or verb as the center in a clause (preposition).

In understanding the importance of syntax, the structure of English plays a fundamental role as a guide to constructing logical and organized sentences. English has basic sentence patterns such as Subject-Verb-Object (SVO), which serve as the foundation for constructing simple sentences. In addition, structural variations such as compound and complex sentences, which involve the use of conjunctions, subordinate clauses, and prepositional phrases, demonstrate the flexibility and richness of English syntax. An understanding of these structures is essential, as errors in the placement of sentence elements can result in ambiguity or misinterpretation. Therefore, mastering syntactic structures not only helps learners in constructing grammatically correct sentences but also enhances the clarity and effectiveness of communication in a variety of contexts, both academic and professional.

Syntactic functions are basically basic structures that do not yet have meaning. However, meaning will emerge when the function is associated with certain syntactic categories and roles. With the relationship between function, category and syntactic role, the structure eventually forms a specific meaning. This research aims to explore the importance of syntax in English language learning, particularly in understanding sentence structure. By understanding the basic concepts of syntax, such as simple sentence patterns (SVO), complex sentences, and other structural variations, the learners are expected to improve their English skills. This research also highlights how syntax contributes to communication skills, both orally and in writing, in various formal and informal situations.

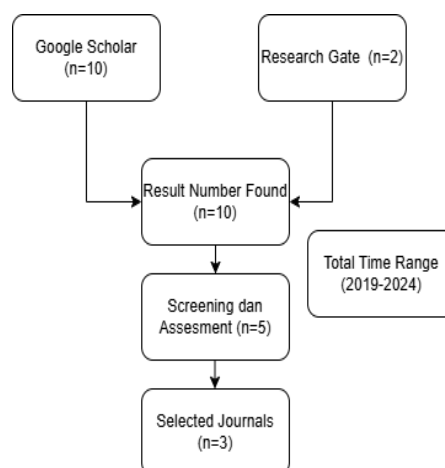
The benefit of this research is that it provides English language learners and teachers with insights into effective strategies for understanding and teaching syntax. A good understanding of syntax can help learners construct more structured and meaningful sentences, thus being able to communicate more clearly. In addition, this research can be used as a guide in developing an English language learning curriculum that focuses on syntax. By understanding the importance of syntax, this research is expected to make a real contribution in improving English competence, especially for non-native speakers. Mastery of good sentence structure not only supports academic ability, but also becomes an important provision in the world of work, where communication in English is often a major requirement. This shows that syntax not only serves as a linguistic component, but also as

an important element in the development of overall communication skills.

In addition to its fundamental role in communication, syntax also serves as a tool for cultural expression and intellectual development. By mastering syntax, individuals can not only construct accurate sentences but also convey nuanced meanings that reflect cultural and contextual subtleties. This is particularly significant in multilingual settings, where syntax acts as a bridge to understanding diverse linguistic patterns and promoting cross-cultural communication. Moreover, the study of syntax helps in unraveling the complexities of language acquisition, enabling educators to design more effective teaching methodologies. As English continues to dominate as a global lingua franca, a solid grasp of its syntactic rules becomes indispensable for both academic success and professional opportunities in an increasingly interconnected world.

RESEARCH METHOD

This type of research uses the literature review method with reference sources derived from journals. The process of searching for journals to get the final selected journal was carried out with the following steps:



Gambar 1. Proses Pencarian Jurnal

Based on the results of journal searches on *Google Scholar* and *ResearchGate* with the keyword Work Discipline with a time span of 2019 to 2024. This is due to the need to obtain the latest information and relevance of research related to work discipline in that period. This search aims to obtain *up-to-date* references on the latest theoretical developments and findings in the field. Researchers found 12 relevant journals within the 2019-2024 timeframe. *Google Scholar* was the source with the highest number of journals, with 10 journals, while *ResearchGate* contributed 2 other journals.

The *screening* and assessment process was carried out using several selection criteria, namely journals that discuss the relationship between work discipline and employee productivity, journals that use quantitative or *mixed-methods* research methods, and journals that highlight aspects of human resource management. Of the 12 journals found, 9 journals were eliminated because they did not meet the criteria or were not available in full-text. Finally, only 3 journals were selected for use in this study as they met all the selection criteria.

In the subsequent stage of the research method, a comprehensive thematic analysis was conducted on the selected journals. This process involved identifying key themes related to work discipline and employee productivity, as well as examining methodological approaches employed in the studies. By focusing on quantitative and mixed-methods research, the analysis ensured the extraction of robust findings that highlight the interplay between work discipline and human resource management strategies. Furthermore, attention was given to how these studies addressed practical applications in organizational settings, thereby enriching the theoretical and empirical foundation of the current research.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

| No. | Nama Peneliti | Judul Penelitian | Metode | Hasil | Kesimpulan |
|-----|---|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | Ida Cahyani | Analysis Of Simple Sentence Structure In English: Functional Syntax Approach | The analysis employs Morley's Functional Syntax Approach to identify the function of each English active sentence element and describe the structure of a simple sentence in English. | The semantic role of the verbs in a sentence determine the elements of filler before and after the verb given in a sentence. | Verbs play a central role in determining the presence of other elements, so that the structure of syntactic functions and functional roles in a sentence can be thoroughly identified. |
| 2 | Imron Hadi Elsan Arvian Beny Alam Fitra Mandela | Interaksi Morfologi-Sintaksis Dalam Kontruksi Kalimat Sederhana Bahasa Inggris | Analyzing morphological-syntactic interactions in simple sentences found in the formation of: (1) predicate (VP) (2) Kind of tenses (3) kind of lexical verbs (4) constituent (5) category (6) and function of the sentence structures, (3) prove the data that has been found and explain it based on the science of Morphology-Syntax interaction taken from Katamba's theory. | Morphology-Syntax interactions occur in the construction of simple English sentences. | The word can be adjusted to its constituent position, function, and category in the English sentence structure, so that the sentence type is already a simple sentence. |
| 3 | Siti Ismahani, Larasati Dwi Wahyuni, Tanzila Bahar, Hafizah Ismayati, Raisa Rahmi | Analyzing Sentence Structures in English Idioms: a Simplified Syntactic Analysis with Tree Diagrams | Simplified syntactic analysis using tree diagrams. | Idiom sentences often use simple sentence structures, with nominal subjects and verbal predicate phrases. The other two categories, while differing in level of popularity, tend to use more complex structures, such as those involving prepositional phrases and idiom sentences are not limited to a particular sentence type and can appear in a variety of structures, from simple to complex sentences, depending on the context. | Idiom sentences in English can understand the complexity of language and culture in depth. |

Table 1. Screening Data Results

Syntax has a deep understanding with English sentence structure, as in various in-depth studies on this topic. In the research (Cahyani, 2021) The analytical approach used highlights how syntax becomes the foundation for understanding the relationship between elements in a sentence. Cahyani uses Morley's functional syntax method, which emphasizes that the verb becomes the central element that determines the filling of other elements in the sentence structure. This shows a strong relationship between semantic functions and syntactic elements in forming simple sentences.

Other studies by (Hadi et al., n.d.) highlights the interaction between morphology and syntax in the construction of simple sentences. This approach addresses how elements such as predicates, verb categories and constituents work harmoniously in sentence structure. This relation exposes the important role of syntax in systematically integrating linguistic elements, which goes hand in hand with an in-depth exploration of sentence structure.

In addition, the research (Ismahani et al., 2024) adopts tree diagram analysis to identify the syntactic structure of idioms in English. This research shows how idioms, although often using simple structures, can also form more complex sentences. This

approach not only explains sentence structure, but also highlights the relationship between syntax, idioms and cultural complexity. These studies emphasize the importance of syntax in understanding English sentence structure. A syntactic approach not only helps in the analysis of simple sentences, but also explains how sentence elements interact in a broader context, including idioms and the cultural complexities they contain.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research results, it can be concluded that work discipline is an essential factor that has a significant effect on employee productivity and performance. Work discipline is not only influenced by internal aspects of individuals such as motivation, but also by the support of the work environment, training, compensation, and company management policies. Consistent implementation of work discipline can create a positive work culture, improve team collaboration, and strengthen company sustainability. Therefore, companies need to adopt policies that support the development of discipline, such as providing training, rewarding performance, and creating a conducive work environment. In addition, attention to employee welfare is also important to ensure the sustainability of high levels of discipline, so that they can contribute optimally to the success of the company.

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