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Sentence Functions in British and American Novels

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٢٠٢٢- ٢٠٢١

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَلِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ لِيَجْزِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسَاءُوا بِمَا عَمِلُوا
وَيَجْزِيَ الَّذِينَ أَحْسَنُوا بِالْحُسْنَى

صدق الله العلي العظيم

سورة النجم الآية (٣١)

In the name of God, the Most Merciful, the Compassionate

Yea, to God belongs all That is in the heavens And on
earth : so that He rewards those who do Evil, according to
their deeds, And He rewards those who Do good, with what is
best.

(Ali, Yusuf: ٢٠٠٨)

Dedication

To all my family

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Table of Contents

Subject	Page
Title	i
Quran	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Table of Contents	v
Chapter One : Introduction	
١-١ The Problem	١
١-٢ The Aims	١
١-٣ The Hypotheses	١
١-٤ The Procedures	٢
١-٥ The Limits of the Study	٢
١-٦ The Value of the Study	٢
Chapter Two : The Literature Review	

Chapter One

Introduction

English sentence is a set of words that is complete in itself, typically containing a subject and predicate, conveying a statement, question, exclamation, or command, and consisting of a main clause and sometimes one or more subordinate clauses. A sentence is a group of words that are put together to mean something.

١-١ **The Problem**

١-how frequent are the sentences classified according to functions used in American and British novels ?

٢- What are the kinds of sentence used in American and British novels ?

١-٢ **The Aims**

١- To identify the frequencies of occurrence of the sentences classified according to functions in American and British novels .

٢-To identify the types of sentences used in American and British novels .

. ١-٣ **The Procedures**

The procedures follows in this study are:

١١-Tracing literature review about sentences function in English.

٢- Choosing two novels one in British, and another on in American English to find out the function of sentences used in the novels .

٣-Analyzing the data chosen for the present study.

٤- Making conclusion.

١-٤ *The Limits*

This present study is limited to sentence classified according to functions in a British and American novels.

١-٥ *The Value*

Theoretically, this study is limited to study the sentence functional in American and British novels .

Practically, It is hoped that this study will be benefit to people who are interested in linguistics and Grammar and to explore how the sentences are very important to students while they study the field of Grammar .

Chapter Two

Literature Review

٢-١ The Definition of Sentence

English sentence is a set of words that is complete in itself, typically containing a subject and predicate, conveying a statement, question, exclamation, or command, and consisting of a main clause and sometimes one or more subordinate clauses. A sentence is a group of words that are put together to mean something. A sentence is the basic unit of language which expresses a complete thought. It does this by following the grammatical rules of syntax. For example:(Jespersen, ١٩٨٣: ١٧)

A complete sentence has at least a subject and a main verb to state (declare) a complete thought. Short example: Walker walks. A subject is the noun that is doing the main verb. The main verb is the verb that the subject is doing. In English and many other languages, the first word of a written sentence has a capital letter. At the end of the sentence there is a full stop or full point.(Biber.et al, ١٩٩٩: ١٢٢)

Sentences can be classified according to various ways of classification like complexity, relevance and function. However, the present study is limited to function.

٢-٣ The Functions of Sentence

There are four types of sentences:

١-Statement

٢- Interrogative

ʒ-Exclamation

ʒ-Command

ʒ-ʒ-1 The Statement Sentence

Statement sentences give information. We use them to share facts and statements, in other words, to declare things. In fact, it is probably the type of sentence we use most each day. Here are a few examples:

The dog went to the county fair.

She saw the dog eat popcorn.

Dogs don't usually eat popcorn (Palmer, ʒ001:0ʒ).

A statement sentence is written like declarative . Basically , a declarative sentence has a neutral tone; so, it ends with a period. The normal way to convey a statement in language is by using a sentence with a declarative structure

This is my father.

Our teacher told us to listen carefully.

It means I was drunk yesterday. (Palmer, ʒ001:0ʒ).

ʒ-ʒ-2 Interrogative Sentences

Quite simply, an interrogative sentence is a question. It is easy to recognize because it always ends in a question mark (?). Questions ask things like who, what, where, when, why, and how. Here are some examples:

Why is the dog going to the county fair?

Have you ever been to a county fair?

What is your favorite snack?

How do you make popcorn? (Swick, 2003)

An interrogative sentence: Writing an interrogative sentence is simple and easy. Questions should ask things like who, what, where, when, why, or how. So, using those words, let's try to ask some questions about:

Who solved this difficult problem?

Who won yesterday's election? (Alexander, 1990)

If the interrogative is the direct object, indirect object, or the object of a preposition, use *whom*. When *whom* stands for an indirect object, it is preceded by the prepositions *to* or *for* and is the object of one of those prepositions.

Whom did you invite to the dance? (direct object)

To whom are they going to give first prize? (indirect object)

From whom did you get those beautiful roses? (object of a preposition) (Swick, 2003)

2-3-3 Exclamation Sentence

Exclamatory sentences share strong feelings or excitement. They are just like declarative sentences in that they share declarations, but the difference is that the words are said with more emotion. They are powerful sentences, so they always end with an exclamation mark.

Exclamations can be complete sentences or individual words. They make an emphatic statement or suggest great surprise. Exclamations are customarily punctuated with an exclamation point: (Eastwood, 2002)

That's terrible!

Often, the same sentence can be an ordinary statement or an exclamation.

Use an exclamation point to identify the sentence as an exclamation, indicating

emphasis or surprise:

Look at that ugly dog. (ordinary)

Look at that ugly dog! (emphasis or surprise)

That's amazing. (ordinary)

That's amazing! (emphasis or surprise)

Certain words often introduce an exclamation: *so*, *such* (*a*), *how*, and *what* (*a*). Use *so* to modify an adjective, use *such a* to modify an adjective followed by a singular noun or with a singular noun alone, and use *such* to modify an adjective followed by a plural or collective noun or with a plural or collective noun alone. For example:

Your daughter is so intelligent!

That idea is so stupid!

Jim is such a liar!

This class is such a terrible bore! (Steven, 1983:272).

Use *how* to introduce an exclamation that consists of an adverb or adjective followed by a subject and a verb:

How gorgeous you look tonight!

How pitifully mother sobbed!

In many cases, an exclamation is still possible even when omitting modifiers:

How he has grown!

How the fields have withered in the heat!

Use *what a* followed by an adjective and a singular noun or by a singular noun alone:

What a charming girl she has become!

What a shock that was!

Use *what* followed by an adjective and a plural or collective noun or by a plural or collective noun alone:

What great strides you've made!

What idiots! (Alexander, 1990:204).

2.3-4 Command Sentence

A command is a word expressing an imperative, thus, an imperative sentence gives instructions, requests, or demands, or shares a wish or invitation. Basically, they tell someone what to do or reflect something you want to happen. Here are some examples: (Harmer, 1999:29)

Have fun at the fair! (Expressing a wish)

Come to the fair with me! (Sharing an invitation)

Feed the dog once per day. (Giving instructions)

Please don't give the dog popcorn. (Sharing a request)

Stop feeding the dog! (Giving a demand)

The verbs in imperative sentences are in what is called an "imperative mood," meaning they give commands. Look at these two sentences:

Don't feed the dog. Imperative verb "don't" expressing a command

He didn't feed the dog. Indicative verb "didn't," reflecting a lack of action (Krohn, 1971: 112).

Chapter Three

Data Analysis

Table (١) British novel Analyses

No.	Declarative	Interrogative	Imperative	Exclamatory
٥٠٠٢	١٣٦٥	٩٤	٨	١٢

Table (٢) American Novel Analysis

No.	Declarative	Interrogative	Imperative	Exclamatory
٥٠٠٤	٩٨٩	٥٨	١٣	٩

From the table (١) the British novel (*Hard Times*) by Charles Dickens . number of sentences (٥٠٠٢). The declarative sentences are (١٣٦٥). The interrogative sentences are (٩٤). The imperative sentences are (٨). The exclamatory sentences are (١٢).

From table (٢), the American novel (*The Time Travel's Wife*) by Audrey Niffenegger. The number of sentences are (٥٠٠٤). The number of declarative sentences are (٩٨٩), while the interrogative sentences are (٥٨). Imperative sentence (١٣), while the exclamatory sentence (٩).

Chapter Four

Conclusions

Sentences have many functional such as Declarative, Interrogative, Imperative and Exclamatory, British and American writers use these functions in their novels to clarify something. As noticed from the tables (١) and (٢), British writers use the declarative sentence more than American writers, also we notice in British novel the interrogative and exclamatory sentences are used more than American novel. Imperative sentence are in American novel are more common than British novels.

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