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Sentence Patterns in British and American Drama

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
إِنِّي جَزَيْتُهُمُ الْيَوْمَ بِمَا صَبَرُوا
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سورة المؤمنون أية رقم "١١١"

Dedication

I thank Almighty Allah first and last for the great blessings.

He has bestowed upon me, and then I thank those whom He has bestowed.

My beloved parents do not stop doing all their efforts for me from the moment I was born until these blessed moments.

I thank my strong self for enduring all the difficulties until I reached this stage.

Also, special thanks to my brothers and friends who supported me until I reached the end of my path.

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Abstract

The goal of this research study sentence patterns in two contemporary plays, Sarah Kane's "Blasted" The British play and Suzan-Lori Parks' "Topdog/Underdog" The American play.

The aim is to identify and classify the sentence patterns used in each play, analyzing their frequency and distribution. Seven sentence patterns are investigated: SV, SVA, SVC, SVO, SVOA, SVOO, and SVOC.

The analysis reveals differences in the usage of sentence patterns between the British and American plays. "Blasted" predominantly employs SV patterns, while "Topdog/Underdog" utilizes SVA patterns more frequently.

CHAPTER ONE :

INTRODUCTION

1:1 The Problem of the present study is that there is a need to identify the sentence patterns in the British play "BLASTED" and American play "TOPDOG\UNDERDOG" . These two plays have not been investigated concerning sentence patterns , as far as the researcher knows .

1:2 The Aim: The present study aims to identify the sentence patterns in the British play "BLASTED" and American play "TOPDOG\UNDERDOG".

1:3 Scope : The present study is limited to analyzing sentence patterns used in the British play " BLASTED " and American play " TOPDOG\UNDERDOG ".

1:4 Methodology : The procedures of the present study is to analyze the texts according to the sentence patterns used in the British play " BLASTED " and American play " TOPDOG\UNDERDOG " . A number of pages are taken from both plays for investigation, Sentence number and word number will be recognized . The sentences will be classified according to sentence patterns.

1:5 Value : The present study is theoretical in the sentence patterns in British play "BLASTED "and American play " TOPDOG\UNDERDOG " .

Chapter Two:

LITERATURE REVIEW

2:1 Introduction

The present study will investigate the seven types of English sentence patterns ,

"SV: subject + verb " , "SVA : subject+verb+adjunct" ,

"SVC :subject+verb+complement" , "SVO :subject+verb+object" ,

"SVOO :subject+verb+object+object" , "SVOA :subject+verb+object+adverb" ,
and "SVOC :subject+verb+object+complement" .

According to their function in the first five pages of the British play " Blasted ,
by the auther Sarah Kane " and other five pages of the American play "
Topdog\Underdog by Suzan_Lori Parks " . "Quirk et al (1973:167)"

2:2 Sentence Patterns in English

Sentence patterns are related to the obligatory elements present in the sentence . These are called basic patterns , because any sentence can ultimately reduced to one patterns . Even if you come across a long sentence can still be grammatically complete . If you take these optional elements away , what remains is a basic pattern . For example :

After a long chase the hunter ultimately killed the lion with a precise gunshot .

Here , we will notice that this long sentence can be reduced to the basic structure : The hunter killed the lion .

This is one basic pattern of sentences which consists of the subject , the verb and an object " SVO " . Other patterns are similarly made of diferent obligatory elements . In all there are seven patterns .

"Quirk et al (ibid.)"

So , we have seven types of sentence patterns :

_ Pattern 1: SV (Subject + Verb):

The basic elements for this kind of sentence are the subject and the verb . This patterns does not involve an objects , complements , or adjuncts. For examples :

The door opened .

Ail laughed .

We go . "Hung(2008:106)

_ Pattern 2: SVA " Subject + Verb + Adjunct):

In this kind of sentences the obligatory elements are the subject , the verb and the adjuncts . Adjuncts are expressions of place , time , direction , etc . If we remove them from the sentence will become grammatically incomplete . For examples: The car was on the garage .

She is in the school .

My parents were upstairs. "Quirk et al (ibid.)"

_ Pattern 3: SVC (Subject + Verb + Complement):

This type of sentences consist of the subject, the verb and the complement. The complement is obligatory . if you remove that element the sentence will be incomplete. A complement is normally a noun or an adjective. For examples:

His hair is black .

Noor become a doctor .

The girl turned sad . "Hung(2008:109)

_ Pattern 4: SVO (Subject + Verb + Object):

This pattern is one of the most common sentence structures . These types of sentences consist of the subject, the verb , and object .

For examples:

We knew the answer.

The engineers fixed the bridge.

You clean the kitchen."Hung(2008:107)

_Pattern 5. SVOA (Subject + Verb + Object + Adverb) :

This type of sentences includes an adverbial (A) that modifies or provides additional information about the action in the sentence. The adverbial can indicate time, place, manner, or degree.

For examples:

The boy ate an apple in the kitchen.

She put the book on the shelf.

Ahmed left the friends in the hotel .

"Quirk et al (ibid.)"

_ Pattern 6. SVOC (Subject + Verb + Object + Complement):

This type of sentences include a complement in addition to the subject, the verb and an object. The complement may be related to the subject or the object.

For examples:

They named the ship Titanic.

She heard the girl crying.

I find the box empty.

"Hung(2008:111)"

_ Pattern 7. SVOO (Subject + Verb + Object + Object): Hung(2008)

This type of sentences includes two objects together with the subject and the verb. One of the objects is considered the direct object and the other the indirect object, representing the recipient or beneficiary of the action. This pattern often occurs with verbs that involve giving or transferring something to someone.

For examples:

She gave her sister a gift.

Ameer showed me his new car.

I told them a joke.

"Hung(2008:108)"

2:3 Dependent and Independent clauses :

Independent Clause:

An independent clause is a group of words that contains a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought. An independent clause is a sentence.

For examples:

Ali ate a pizza .

Noor went to the home .

A.Razzak&Al-Hassan(1986:13-14)

Dependent Clause:

A dependent clause is a group of words that contains a subject and verb but does not express a complete thought.

For examples :

Ali ate a pizza because she was hungry.

Noor went to the home after she finished the work.

A.Razzak&Al-Hassan(ibid.)

Table(1) the difference between Dependent and Independent clauses :

According to "**A.Razzak&Al-Hassan(ibid.)**"

Dependent clause	Independent clause
Group of words that contain a subject and a predicate but dose not express a complete idea .	Group of words that contain a subject and a predicate and expresses a complete idea .
Dose not convey a complete thought .	Conveys a complete thought .
Contain subordinating conjunctions .	Can be combined together with coordinating conjunctions .
Can not be found in every sentence .	Can be found in every sentence .

2:4 British and American Drama :

Blasted is the first play written by the British playwright Sarah Kane .

It was first performed in 1995 at the Royal Court Theatre in London .

The main subjects are war, gender issues, and dysfunctional society .

This play takes place in a hotel room in Leeds and revolves around an alcoholic middle-aged journalist called Ian and his ex-girlfriend called Cate. The terminally ill Ian takes the young woman to the hotel room where he seduces and rapes her. Then, the hotel room changes into a secret war zone. The third character, A Soldier comes in with his gun.

"kane(2001:63)"

Topdog / Underdog American play,

By Suzan-Lori Parks , 2001.

The main subject:

a tragedy about sibling rivalry and social injustice. A darkly comic fable of brotherly love and family identity,

This play tells the story of Lincoln and Booth, two brothers whose names, given to them as a joke, foretell a lifetime of sibling rivalry and resentment. Haunted by their past, the brothers are forced to confront the shattering reality of their future.

"<https://www.pulitzer.org/winners/suzan-loriparks#:~:text=A%20darkly%20comic%20fable%20of,shattering%20reality%20of%20their%20future.>"

Chapter Three

ANALYSIS

3:1 Introduction

In this chapter, the present study will classify each type of sentence pattern, in a table according to the number of sentences to show the frequency of each pattern. A few number of pages of the British play "Blasted" and American play "Topdog/Underdog" are taken for analysis.

The sentences having any kind of sentences pattern (SV, SVA, SVC, SVO, SVOO, SVOA and SVOC) will be identified for analysis.

3:2 Analysis of sentence patterns in the two plays

The first play , BLASTED "British play "

- 1-It could be anywhere in the world . SV
- 2- There is a large double bed . SVC
- 3- Tow doors-one is the entrance from the corridor . SVOA
- 4- The other leads off to the bathroom . SVA
- 5- Tow people enter . SV
- 6- Ian is 45 . SVC
- 7- cate is 21 . SVC
- 8- They enter . SV
- 9- Cate stops at the door . SVA
- 10- Ian comes in . SVA
- 11- He looks briefly out of the window at the street . SVA
- 12- I've shat in better place than this . SVA
- 13- He gulps down the gin . SVO
- 14- I stink . SV
- 15- Ian goes into the bathroom . SVA
- 16- We hear him run the water . SVOO
- 17- He comes back in . SVA
- 18- He checks . SV
- 19- It is loaded . SVC
- 20- It under his pillow . SVO

- 21- He brings up the sandwiches . SVO
- 22- He leaves fifty pence . SV
- 23- Cate comes into the room . SVA
- 24- She puts her bag down . SVOA
- 25- She goes around the room . SVA
- 26- She smells the flowers and smiles . SVO
- 27- Cate lovely . SV
- 28- Ian comes back in . SVA
- 29- He stops . SV
- 30- He goes back in the bathroom. SVA
- 31- He dresses . SV
- 32- We hear him coughing terribly in the bathroom. SVOA
- 33- He spits in the sink. SVA
- 34- It's nothing . SVC
- 35- He pours himself another gin. SVOO
- 36- He collects his gun. SVOO
- 37- He smiles at Cate . SV
- 38- I'm glad . SVC
- 39- You've come . SV
- 40- He offers her champagne . SVOO
- 41- I was worried . SVC
- 42- He indicates his chest . SVOO
- 43- I didn't mean that . SVA

- 44- You sounded unhappy . SVC
- 45- He pours them both a glass . SVOO
- 46- He goes to the window . SVA
- 47- Wogs and Pakis taking over . SV
- 48- You shouldn't call them that . SVO
- 49- It's not very nice . SVC
- 50- There's Indians at the day . SVA
- 51- They're really polite . SVC
- 52- They should be . SV
- 53- He's friends with some of them . SVO
- 54- He's got learning difficulties . SVO
- 55- He's not . SV

- 56- Ian Glad my son's not a Joey . SVC
57- I feel sorry for . SV
58- Ian looks at her . SVO
59- He decides against it . SVO
60- You know . SV
61- I love you . SVO
62- I'm here for the night . SVA
63- Ian drinks . SV
64- She's made her point. SVO
65- I would . SV
66- I couldn't . SV
67- You don't love me . SVO
68- I don't blame you . SVO
69- I wouldn't . SV
70- I couldn't leave mum . SVO
71- There is a knock at the door . SVA
72- Ian starts . SV
73- Cate goes to answer it . SVO
74- I said . SV
75- He takes his gun from the holster. SVOA
76- He listens . SV
77- He listens . SV
78- Cate opens the door . SVA
79- There's no one there . SVC
80- She brings them in . SVO
81- I can't . SV
82- I actually can't . SV
83- I'd puke all over the place . SV
84- It's only a pig . SVC
85- I'm hungry . SVC
86- I can't . SV
87- I'll take you out for an Indian . SVOA
88- Cate beams . SV
89- She separates the cheese sandeiches . SVO
90- Ian watches her . SVO

91- You look like a lesbos . SVO

92- She continues to eat . SV

93- Ian attempts to dress . SV

94- He gathers his clothes . SVO

95- He dresses . SV

96- Cate eats . SV

97- Ian returns . SV

98- He picks up his gun. SV

Table (1) Classifying Sentence according to The Sentence Patterns
in the British play "Blasted" :

Word no	Sentence no	P1 "SV"		P2 "SVA"		P3 "SVC"		P4 "SVO"		P5 "SVOA"		P6 "SVOO"		P7 "SVOC"	
5065	98	free	%	free	%	free	%	free	%	Free	%	free	%	free	%
		34	34%	19	19%	14	14%	20	20%	5	5%	6	6%	0	0%

Analysis :

1- P.1"SV": This pattern has been used 34 times in the British play "Blasted" making 34% to show the importance of using this type in the play .

2- P.4"SVO" : This pattern comes after pattern 1 "SV" . This pattern has been used 20 times in the British play "Blasted" making 20% that show there is less use to this pattern in the play .

3- P.2"SVA" : This pattern comes after pattern 1 "SV" and pattern 4 "SVO" . This pattern has been used 19 times in the British play "Blasted" making 19% to show us there is less use to this pattern than previous patterns .

4- P.3"SVC" : This pattern comes after the previous patterns "SV", "SVO", and "SVA" , This pattern has been used 14 times in the British play "Blasted" making 14% to show us this pattern used less in this play .

5- P.6"SVOO" : This pattern is used much less than the previous patterns , This pattern has been used 6 times in the British play "Blasted" making 6% to show us this pattern is used less in this play .

6- P.5"SVOA": This pattern is used much less than the previous patterns, This pattern has been used 5 times in the British play " Blasted" making 5% to show us this pattern is used less in this play .

7- P.7"SVOC": This pattern has never been used in the British play " Blasted" that show us there is no need to use this pattern in the play .

The second play , TOPDOG\UNDERDOG " American play "

- 1-A seedily furnished rooming house room . SVA
- 2- Booth sets up his equipment . SVOO
- 3- Lincoln comes in quietly . SVA
- 4- He is a black man in his later 30s . SVC
- 5- He is dressed in an antique frock coat . SVA
- 6- He is dressed to look like Abraham Lincoln . SVA
- 7- He surreptitiously walks into the room . SVOA
- 8- Lincoln goes to get the food . SVO
- 9- He sees a stray card on the floor . SVOA
- 10- He brings the food over . SVOA
- 11- They eat . SV
- 12- Lincoln eats slowly and carefully . SVA
- 13- Booth eats voraciously . SVA
- 14- Booth finishes eating . SV
- 15- He turns his back to Lincoln . SVC
- 16- He mutters the 3-card pattern under his breath . SVOO
- 17- His moves are still clumsy . SVC
- 18- He darts a look over at Lincoln . SVA
- 19- Lincoln cleans up . SV
- 20- He clears the food . SV
- 21- Booth goes back to using the table . SVA
- 22- Booth sits on his bed . SVA
- 23- Lincoln sitting in his easy chair . SVA
- 24- Booth comes in looking . SVA
- 25- He is bunched up . SVC
- 26- He makes sure his brother . SVO
- 27- He pulls out . SVA

- 28- He then slithers out . SVO
29- He removes his coat . SVOO
30- He wears a very nice new suit . SVO
31- He removes the jacket . SVO
32- The suits still have the price tags on them . SVO
33- He takes two neckties . SVO
34- He pulls a magazine from the front . SVOO
35- He clearly had a busy day . SVA
36- He lays one suit out in Lincoln's easy chair . SVOA
37- He lays out in his own bed . SVOO
38- He goes out into the hall returning . SVA
39- He sets up between the bed and the recliner creating 2 separate spaces .
SVOO
40- He sets up the whiskey . SVO
41- He hears footsteps . SVO
42- Lincoln dressed in street clothes . SVA
43- Lincoln looks around . SVA
44- Booth leaves . SV
45- Lincoln stands there alone . SVA
46- He takes off his shoes . SVO
47- He takes off his socks . SVO
48- He takes his getup out . SVOA
49- He puts it in . SVO
50- He leaves his feet bare . SVOO
51- The top hat has an elastic band . SVC
52- He positions securely . SVA
53- He picks up . SV
54- He sits . SV
55- He pretends to get shot . SV
56- He gets up . SV
57- The recliner is extended . SVC
58- Lincoln lies there asleep . SVO
59- He wakes with a start . SVO
60- He is horrific . SVC

- 61- He takes a deep breath . SVOO
 62- Booth comes in full of a swagger . SVA
 63- He slams the door . SVO
 64- He opens the door . SVO
 65- Lincoln wakes up . SV
 66- Booth swaggers about . SV
 67- His moves are exaggerated . SVC
 68- He walks round . SVA
 69- Lincoln making sure his brother sees him . SVOO
 70- Booth goes into his bed . SVA
 71- Lincoln keeps drinking . SVO
 72- Booth sitting in the privacy of his bed room . SVA

Table (2) Classifying Sentence according to The Sentence Patterns

In the American play "Topdog\Underdog" :

Word no	Sentence no	P1 "SV"		P2 "SVA"		P3 "SVC"		P4 "SVO"		P5 "SVOA"		P6 "SVOO"		P7 "SVOC"	
4669	72	free	%	free	%	free	%	free	%	free	%	free	%	free	%
		10	13%	21	29%	9	12%	18	25%	5	6%	9	12%	0	0%

Analysis:

1-P.2"SVA": This pattern has been used 21 times in the American play "Topdog/Underdog" making 29% to show us the importance of using this type in the play.

2-P.4"SVO" : This pattern comes after pattern 2 "SVA" , This pattern has been used 18 times in the American play "Topdog/Underdog" making 25% to show us there is less use to this pattern in the play .

3-P.1"SV": This pattern comes after pattern 2 "SVA" and pattern 4 "SVO" , This pattern has been used 10 times in the American play "Topdog/Underdog" making 13% to show us this pattern is used less than previous patterns in this play.

4-P.3"SVC" : This pattern comes after the previous patterns "SVA","SVO" and "SV" , This pattern has been used 9 times in the American play "Topdog/Underdog" making 12% to show us this pattern is used less in this play .

5-P.6"SV00": This pattern the same prevoies pattern "SVC" comes after the prevoies patterns "SVA","SVO" and "SV" , This pattern has been used 9 times in the American play "Topdog/Underdog" making 12% to show us this pattern is used less in this play .

6-P.5"SVOA": This pattern is used much less than the prevoies patterns , This pattern has been used 5 times in the American play "Topdog/Underdog" making 6% to show us this pattern is used less in this play.

7-P.7"SVOC": This pattern has never been used in the Amercian play "Topdog/Underdog" that show us there is no need to use this pattern in the play .

The following table shows the total responses at the British play " Blasted " and American play " Topdog\Underdog " :

Table (3) The frequencies of occurrence at the British Play " Blasted " and the American Play " Topdog\Underdog " :

	British Play "Blasted"	%	American Play "Topdog\Underdog"	%
P1 "SV"	34	34%	10	13%
P2 "SVA"	19	19%	21	29%
P3 "SVC"	14	14%	9	12%
P4 "SVO"	20	20%	18	25%
P5 "SVOA"	5	5%	5	6%
P6 "SV00"	6	6%	9	12%
P7 "SVOC"	0	0%	0	0%

Discussion :

1- Pattern 1 "SV" This pattern has been used 34 times in the Brtish play "Blasted" making 34% and this pattern has been used 10 times in the American play "Topdog/Underdog" making 13% that means this pattern has been used more in British play than Amercian play to show us the importance of using this type in the British play "Blasted" .

2- Pattern 2 "SVA" This pattern has been used 19 times in British play "Blasted" making 19% and this pattern has been used 21 times in American play "Topdog/Underdog" making 29% that means this pattern has been used more in American play than British play to show us the importance of using this type in the American play "Topdog/Underdog" .

3- Pattern 3 "SVC" This pattern has been used 14 times in British play "Blasted" making 14% and this pattern has been used 9 times in American play "Topdog/Underdog" making 12% that means this pattern has been used more in British play than American play to show us the importance of using this type in the British play "Blasted".

4- Pattern 4 "SVO" This pattern has been used 20 in British play "Blasted" making 20% and this pattern has been used 18 times in American play "Topdog/Underdog" making 25% that means this pattern has been used more in American play than British play to show us the importance of using this type in the American play "Topdog/Underdog" .

5- Pattern 5 "SVOA" This pattern has been used 5 times in British play "Blasted" making 5% and this pattern has been used 5 times in American play "Topdog/Underdog" making 6% that means this pattern has been used in the same percentage in the British and American play to show us this type used less in both plays .

6- Pattern 6 "SVOO" This pattern has been used 6 times in British play "Blasted" making 6% and this pattern has been used 9 times in American play "Topdog/Underdog" making 12% that means this pattern has been used more in American play than British play to show us the importance of using this type in the American play "Topdog/Underdog" .

7- Pattern 7 "SVOC" has never been used in the British play "Blasted" and the American play "Topdog/Underdog" that means there is no need to use this pattern in both plays .

Chapter Four

CONCLUSION

-The use of sentence patterns in the British play "Blasted":

The first pattern "SV" . This pattern has been used more than other patterns in the play .The fourth pattern "SVO" . This pattern comes after the first pattern "SV" that means this pattern is used little less than the first pattern "SV" in the play .The second pattern "SVA" . This pattern is used little less than the previous patterns P.1"SV" and P.4"SVO" in the play . The third pattern "SVC" . This pattern comes after the previous patterns P.1"SV",P.4"SVO" and "SVA" that means this pattern is used less than the previous patterns in the play . The sixth pattern "SVOO" . This pattern has been used more less than other patterns in the play . The fifth pattern "SVOA" . This pattern has been used more less than the other previous patterns in the play . The seventh pattern "SVOC" . This pattern has never been used in the play that means there is no need to use this type from sentence patterns in the play .

-The use of sentence patterns in American play "Topdog/Underdog":

The second pattern "SVA" .This pattern has been used more than other patterns in the play .

The fourth pattern "SVO" . This pattern comes after the second pattern "SVA" that means this pattern is used little less than the second pattern "SVA" in the play .

The first pattern "SV" .This pattern is used little less than the previous patterns P.2"SVA" and P.4"SVO" in the play .

The third pattern "SVC" and the sixth pattern "SVOO" . These patterns have been used equally in the play because of the number of times in the play .

The fifth pattern "SVOA" . This pattern has been used more less than the previous patterns in the play .

The seventh pattern "SVOC" . This pattern has never been used in the play that means there is no need to use this type of sentence patterns in the play .

-If we compare the two plays in the use of sentence patterns, the result is:

Pattern 1 "SV" This pattern has been used more in British play than American play to show us the importance of using this type in the British play. Pattern 2 "SVA" This pattern has been used more in American play than British play to show us the importance of using this type in the American play. Pattern 3 "SVC" This pattern has been used more in British play than American play to show us the importance of using this type in the British play. Pattern 4 "SVO" This pattern has been used more in American play than British play to show us the importance of using this type in the American play. Pattern 5 "SVOA" this pattern has been used equally in the British and American play to show us this type used less in both plays. Pattern 6 "SVOO" this pattern has been used more in American play than British play to show us the importance of using this type in the American play. Pattern 7 "SVOC" has never been used in the British play and the American play, that means there is no need to use this pattern in both plays.

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