

A Structural Organization of Modern English Multiple Complex-Compound¹

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Abstract

The article focuses on the factors that cause linear and vertical sentence extension of multiple complex-compound sentences used in English fictional literature. Considering the sentence structure as a combination of 2 Units – paratactic and hypotactic the authors define the structural peculiarities of paratactic and hypotactic units including the number of clauses and its bonds. The extension of paratactic unit within multiple complex-compound sentences in most cases depends on structural, semantic, contextual factors. The authors introduce the method of combinatorial potential computation of multiple composite sentences to define theoretically possible models and to compare them with probability models.

Keywords: Paratactic Unit; Hypotactic Unit; Paratactic Expanding; Communicative Tasks; Semantic Factors.

1. Introduction

Different approaches to the study of the multiple compound-complex sentences in Modern English lead to revealing the essence of the composite sentence in general and its types in particular. Developing the concepts of Chomsky's Generative Grammar Redford (2010) focuses on major syntactic characteristics of linguistic units, Culicover (2009) highlights the correspondences between a syntactic form and meaning, Rosenberg (1977), investigates the levels of sentence production reflecting laboratory research data. Berk (1999), Adger (2004) and Tallerman (2011) identify constituent structure, types of clauses, relationships within the clause and processes that change grammatical relations, give a further insight on coordination and subordination.

¹ Please cite this paper as follows:

Rakova, K. I., Morozova, E. N., Perelygina, T. A., Stolyar, E. D., & Trubayeva, E. I. (2019). A structural organization of modern English multiple complex-compound. *Journal of Research in Applied Linguistics*, 10(SP), 309-319.

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Bybee (2001) examines different types of the relationships between the main clause and the subordinate clause, describing the main clause as innovative and subordinate clause as conservative.

Russian linguists started investigating the compound-complex sentence as an object of research in the second half of the XXth Century. Attention was given to minimal structural models of the compound-complex sentence, their classification and structural and semantic peculiarities (Vasilenko, 1958; Kholodov, 1965; Kalashnikova, 2012; Kashisaz & Mobarak, 2018; Ukhanov, 1981).

The authors study the multiple compound-complex sentence as a syntactic and communicative unit. Some scholars attempt to explain the correlation of temporal zones in Multiple compound complex sentences analyzing different means for expressing the temporality (Sheifel, 2005). Examining modal meanings expressed by the modal verbs in the multiple compound-complex sentences they admit that this type of a composite sentence represents the combination of different types of modality rather typical in Modern English (Rakova & Eschenko, 2011; Aziz & Abdolghader, 2018).

Some papers deal with the interrelation of idioms and syntactic constructions represented by Multiple Compound-Complex units which is considered with regard to the correlation of the structural and communicative aspects of syntax. The analysis indicates that the use of idioms results in the simplification of the structure of Multiple Compound-Complex Sentences, i.e. in the decrease of the number of clauses and syntactic ties (Rakova & Ryadinskaya, 2012; Kheirabadi & Mirzaei, 2019). The studies of Multiple compound complex sentences functioning in movie scripts dialogues show that they are represented by utterance units consisting of communicative moves and turns, taking the form of initiating and reacting communicative utterances (Rakova & Voloshina, 2011). Analyzing poetic texts new parameters of multiple compound complex sentences were traced with regard to modality, temporality and correlation of text and syntactic units (Parnikova, 2014).

According to Boldyrev and Vinogradova (2015) the communicative perspective of the composite sentence is predetermined by multiple factors one of which is the individual's ability to interpret and metainterpret. The authors state that the transfer of the given and the new through composite sentences is governed by at least two principles: the conceptual representation and the conceptual hierarchy of meanings.

Unfortunately, the complexity of the Multiple Compound-Complex Sentence and the complicated interrelationship of its constituents prevent from learning about the nature of coordination and subordination interaction of this type of composite sentence. Therefore, the objectives of this study are to single out the factors

that cause linear and vertical expansion and reveal structural and communicative potential of Multiple Compound-Complex Sentence used in English fictional literature.

2. Method

Traditionally a composite sentence is considered as a construction which is made up of a definite combination of subject-predicate phrases. Composite sentences exist as a system comprising complex, compound sentences, their multiple variants and constructions combining coordinate and subordinate clauses as well.

Each unit, whether it is of hypotactic, paratactic or of hypotactic-paratactic nature, is represented by a subsystem of syntactic constructions within the whole system of composite sentences (Rakova, 2017; Eslami & Ahmadi, 2019).

We present a new approach to the analysis of a multiple compound-complex sentence, by providing it as an integration of two parts: hypotactic and paratactic complexes, each having specific characteristics and different structural and information potential. This approach gives us an opportunity to regard the structure of the above mentioned complexes and, applying structural computing techniques, to determine the set of all possible models of this syntactic unit and shed light on the mechanism of interaction between coordination and subordination (Kozhabergenova et al., 2018; Shukla, 2017; Ardakani et al., 2015).

3. Results and Discussion

Each subject-predicate phrase (block) of a multiple compound-complex sentence is graphically presented by a model with a combination of rectangles and circles, a rectangle denoting two things: a principal clause of a hypotactic complex and a coordinate clause of a paratactic complex; and a circle standing for a subordinate clause.

Structurally a paratactic complex can be minimal or unextended consisting of a single block and an extended complex comprising two or more blocks, for instance:

Many things happened, and that man did not know when

he had any responsibility for them and when he did not (Warren, 1979, p. 392).

The sentence under study includes the paratactic complex which is represented by a single block (Many things happened), so it's considered to be a minimal paratactic complex. Consequently, two or more coordinate blocks compose

an extended paratactic complex: Well, he did run when the time came, and he got more than one vote, but not many more, and Mr. Dolph Pillsbury

and his pals won that round (Warren, 1979, p. 70).

This four-clause sentence serves as an example of the extended paratactic complex comprising two coordinate clauses (he got more than one vote, but not many more /Block 1/, Mr. Dolph Pillsbury and his pals won that round /Block 2/).

Paratactic and hypotactic complexes can take initial, medial, and final positions in the sentence. It should be noted that the arrangement of the units is predetermined by structural and textual factors. The initial position of the hypotactic complex depends on the context preceding the analyzed sentence where the author describes Willie Stark's intention to run for President: "I'm going to run," he repeated <...> "I'm going to run," he repeated again". It stands to reason that the following sentence starts with the inverted phrase: Well, he did run when the time came.

The paratactic block in the final position informs the reader of Pillsbury who turned to be a winner (Pillsbury and his pals won that round). This position is predefined by the context that follows the sentence in which the author narrates about Pillsbury's dirty business (The fellow who was elected against Willie that fall didn't hang his hat up in the office before he had signed the check for the advance payment to J.H. Moore). Hence the position of the constituents of the multiple compound sentence depends on the communicative task of the textual fragment.

Coordination as a type of a relation of autonomous members takes some new features in a multiple compound-complex sentences. The analysis of the sentences taken from the novels by English and American writers of the XIX-XXth centuries proves that coordinate clauses can be arranged not only at a single but different subordination levels simultaneously:

He began telling me and he finished telling me about eleven o'clock that night with Lucy Stark, after she had put the kid to bed, and me sitting with him in the parlor out at his pappy's place, where he had asked me to spend the night, and where he and Lucy ordinarily lived in the summer and where they were going to live that winter too instead of a room in town because winter too instead of a room in town because Lucy had just been fired from her teaching job for the coming year and there wasn't any reason to be in town and be spending good money for rent (Warren, 1979, p. 69).

The above given eight-clause sentence involves coordination at the first and second subordination levels. The initial paratactic block and the principal clause of the hypotactic extended complex are combined by the use of the coordinating conjunction and, making up Subordination level 1 with four subordinate clauses: (He

began telling me and he finished telling me about eleven o'clock). The syntactic connection of a final paratactic block and the preceding subordinate clause (Lucy had just been fired from her teaching job for the coming year and there wasn't any reason to be in town and be spending good money for rent) is identified as coordination of Subordination level 2 for these clauses are also linked semantically and have nothing to do with the coordinating clauses of Subordination level 1.

Another constituent of a Multiple Compound-Complex sentence is a hypotactic complex which can structurally be a closed unit, unable to further extend its structure, and an open unit able to extend it. An open hypotactic complex falls into a minimal (unextended) and extended models, i.e.

The country here is rich and pleasant /a/, but you must pass through rough and dangerous places before you reach the end of your journey /b/ (Baum, 2010, p. 15).

This three-clause sentence is composed of a single paratactic block /a/ and a closed hypotactic complex combining two clauses: principle and subordinate ones (b).

Conversely, the extended hypotactic complex has an open system structure, capable of model extension. It's characterized by a specific arrangement of its

clauses, depending on the type and number of syntactic ties. The complex can be based on only one type of coordination: homogeneous parallel subordination or heterogeneous parallel subordination or consecutive subordination.

Constructions composed by means of the combination of two or three syntactic relations are commonly used in fiction:

1. *A time comes when you think you cannot bear another thing, but it happens to you, and you can bear it (Warren, 1979, p. 82).*
2. *She has maybe had plenty to put up with already in her way, and you would be a sap to crucify her just because you got some high-faluting idea you are an Eagle Scout and she is Joan of Arc (Warren, 1979, p. 375).*

Example 1 shows the construction with an extended hypotactic block made up with the help of consecutive subordination (A time comes when you think you cannot bear another thing) and an extended paratactic complex comprising two blocks (but it happens to you, and you can bear it).

Example 2 illustrates the 5-clause sentence composed of a minimal paratactic complex (She has maybe had plenty to put up with already in her way) and an extended hypotactic complex based on consecutive subordination and

homogeneous parallel subordination (you would be a sap to crucify her just because you got some high-faluting idea you are an Eagle Scout and she is Joan of Arc).

The proposed method of combinatorial potential computation of Multiple Composite Sentences allows all theoretically possible models to be defined and compared with probability models. The whole set of models is calculated by this formula: mn , with m – as types of syntactic ties, and n – the number of ties. Therefore $2^2 = 4$, so we have 4 models based on the combination of 2 types of syntactic bonds:

- Model 1 consecutive subordination - homogeneous parallel subordination.
- Model 2 consecutive subordination - heterogeneous parallel subordination.
- Model 3 consecutive subordination - consecutive subordination.
- Model 4 homogeneous parallel subordination - consecutive subordination.
- Model 5 homogeneous parallel subordination - heterogeneous parallel subordination.
- Model 6 homogeneous parallel subordination - homogeneous parallel subordination.
- Model 7 heterogeneous parallel subordination - consecutive subordination.
- Model 8 heterogeneous parallel subordination - homogeneous parallel subordination.
- Model 9 heterogeneous parallel subordination - heterogeneous parallel subordination.

This set of models includes 3 structures with the repeated syntactic ties and it doesn't meet the requirements of the analyzed unit (consecutive subordination - consecutive subordination = 1 syntactic tie). So, 9 models are theoretically possible but only 6 represent probability models.

The analysis of compound-complex sentences proves that coordination involves not only coordinate blocks and hypotactic complexes; it can unite two or more hypotactic complexes. (Rakova, 2017)

Hence, the coordination controls the sequence of the elements in the composite sentence independently on their structure:

1. The sides were so steep that none of them could climb down, and for a moment it seemed that their journey must end. (Baum, 2010, p. 40)
2. He learned that the world is like an enormous spider web and if you touch it, however lightly, at any point,

the vibration ripples to the remotest perimeter and the drowsy spider feels the tingle and is drowsy no more but springs out to fling the gossamercoils about you who touched the web and then inject the black, numbing poison under your hide (Warren, 1979, p. 180).

The first example illustrates the combination of two closed hypotactic complexes – Complex 1: The sides were so steep that none of them could climb down.

Complex 2: for a moment it seemed that their journey must end. Hence, this construction can be regarded as a 2 complex unit. The second example introduces three minimal hypotactic complexes –

Complex 1: He learned that the world is like an enormous spider web.

Complex 2: if you touch it, however lightly, at any point, the vibration ripples to the remotest perimeter.

Complex 3: the drowsy spider feels the tingle and is drowsy no more but springs out to fling the gossamercoils about you who touched the web and then inject the black, numbing poison under your hide. Unlike example 1 the analyzed construction is considered to be a three complex unit combined by means of coordination.

The multiple compound-complex sentence can be expanded by increasing the number of hypotactic complexes. Open hypotactic complexes which are constituents of this type of sentence can be both unextended and extended ones, for example:

1. *But there wasn't a sound except that nameless stir of the night which comes even when there isn't a breath of wind and you are too far from the beach to get the whisper and ruffle that is always there, even when the sea is quietest (Warren, 1979, p. 255).*
2. *You know they went wading in the creek when they were kids, and when they were bigger they used to go out about sunset and lean on the back fence and look across the country at the sky and not know what was happening inside them or whether they were happy or sad, and when they got grown they slept with their wives and tickled their babies to make them laugh and went to work in the morning and didn't know what they wanted but had their reasons for doing things and wanted to do good things, because they always gave good reasons for the things they did, and then when they got old they lost their reasons for doing anything and sat on the beach in front of the harness shop and had words for the reasons other people had but had forgotten what the reasons were (Warren, 1979, pp. 68-69).*

Example 1 introduces a 6-clause sentence which comprises two minimal hypotactic complexes composed with the help of consecutive subordination:

Complex 1- there wasn't a sound except that nameless stir of the night which comes even when there isn't a breath of wind. Complex 2 - you are too far from the beach to get the whisper and ruffle that is always there, even when the sea is quietest. This composite sentence presents the most frequently used pattern among the sentences based on one syntactic tie.

The number of hypotactic complexes varies from 2 to 4 in the multiple sentence, most of which having very complicated structure. Sentence 2 may serve as an example. The cited 16-clause sentence uniting 4 open hypotactic complexes makes up a 4 complex unit. Complex 1 based on the consecutive subordination is a minimal unit (You know they went wading in the creek when they were kids). Complex 2 being an extended construction is made up by means of the combination of heterogeneous and homogeneous parallel subordination (and when they were bigger they used to go out about sunset...). Complex 3 is represented by heterogeneous parallel subordination and consecutive subordination (and when they got grown they slept with their wives and tickled their babies...). Complex 4 is of similar structure, having less number of subordinate clauses than complex 3 (and then when they got old they lost their reasons for doing anything ...). So, we trace simultaneous linear and vertical extension of the whole multiple sentence due to communicative tasks set up in the text that increase the number of hypotactic units and cause complicated combinations of syntactic bonds.

4. Conclusion

The multiple compound-complex sentence is a type of a composite sentence alongside with complex, compound sentences, their multiple variants of syndetic and asyndetic nature. Though the analyzed type of the sentence provides large-scale structural variation it can be defined and described. The analysis of the structural organization of the multiple compound-complex sentence reveals the factors of the vertical and horizontal extension of the parts based on coordination and subordination. Communicative tasks of textual fragments define the informative significance of each part of the multiple compound-complex sentence defining peculiarities of the constituent parameters.

5. Summary

A proposed approach for the analysis of a multiple compound-complex sentence, by providing it as an integration of two parts: hypotactic and paratactic complexes, reveals specific characteristics of the sentence and examines structural and information potential. This approach gives us an opportunity to classify the

sentences according to the structure of the paratactic and hypotactic complexes – the combination of minimal paratactic complex and extended hypotactic complex, extended paratactic complex and minimal hypotactic complex, extended paratactic and extended hypotactic units. The method of combinatorial potential computation of multiple composite sentences introduced in this study allows to define all the theoretically possible models and to compare them with probability models singling out more accurately their characteristics. Complicated relations of the complexes within the multiple compound-complex sentence depend on the structural and informative organization of its constituents.

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