



## Analysis of Adjective Clauses in the Novel “The Little Prince” by Antonie De Saint Exupéry

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### Abstract

An adjective clause is a dependent clause that identifies or provides additional information about a noun. In this study, the researcher examines the use of adjective clauses in the novel *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. The research aims to identify adjective clauses based on their types and functions. Additionally, the researcher investigates which adjective clauses are most frequently used in the novel. Consequently, the adjective clauses in the novel are easily identifiable and suitable for analysis. The research design is a qualitative study utilizing content analysis to identify adjective clauses in *The Little Prince*. The researcher identified 16 adjective clauses and categorized them according to their types and functions. Based on type, there are 12 restrictive clauses (75%) and 4 non-restrictive clauses (25%). In terms of function, 10 clauses are relative pronouns (62.5%) and 6 are relative adverbs (37.5%), with relative pronouns being more prevalent. For future research, the researcher recommends a more comprehensive approach and accurate findings to benefit further studies and contribute to educational advancement.

**Keywords:** adjective clause, novel

### Introduction

English is widely used worldwide and is recognized as the most important language for communication (Nithideechaiwarachok et al., 2022). One crucial aspect of English is grammar, which cannot be separated from the language itself. Every language has its own structure and grammar (Al Baroroh

& Hani, 2020). Grammar refers to the structure and system of a language. In English, a clause is the smallest grammatical unit capable of expressing a complete thought. A clause is defined as a grammatical structure that contains both a subject and a predicate (Indriastuti, 2019; Sumardi & Said, 2021).



There are many types of clauses, one of which is the adjective clause, commonly found in magazines, novels, articles, and other written texts (Sarjono et al., 2022).

An adjective clause is a dependent clause that modifies a noun by describing, identifying, or providing additional information about it (Asiyah, 2018; Hidayah, 2021). One important function of adjective clauses is to use relative pronouns such as "who," "which," "when," and "where" (Setyaningrum et al., 2023a; Silfia & Riany, 2021; Indriastuti et al., 2023). The existence of adjectives in the formation of clauses and sentences is essential because, in linguistics, adjectives are a class of words that modify nouns or pronouns, often by specifying or explaining them further (Andani, 2015). The use of adjective clauses is frequently observed in writing, especially in literary works such as novels (Mustikawati, 2021). Literary works are often considered a reflection of reality conveyed through language, featuring a wide range of formal and informal language styles (Ramadhan et al., 2019; Ardias et al., 2019; Pambudi, 2015).

Novels are the focus of this research. Today, novels serve not only as tools to convey messages but also as expressions of characters' thoughts and emotions (Audry Putri Callista & Marudut Bernadtua Simanjuntak, 2022). A novel is a written work that narrates events and reflects cultural, social, political, and economic dynamics. These factors often inspire authors and shape

their selection of main and supporting characters, effectively holding up a mirror to society (Maghfiroh et al., 2024; Sisakht, 2014; Indriastuti, 2023). Novels, by their nature, are designed to be aesthetically pleasing, meaningful, and beneficial. Their length is not a fixed measure; while novels tend to be lengthy and dense, no strict word or page count is imposed (Rachman et al., 2021; Sidiq & Manaf, 2020; Masduki, 2011).

Novels are realistic works that carry deep psychological value, often evolving from historical events, letters, nonfiction, or documents, whereas romance literature tends to be more poetic (Nuryanti et al., 2020; Setyaningrum et al., 2023). According to Aswir et al. (2021), the novel is one of the most powerful literary forms that emerged, especially in the 19th and 20th centuries. It is a literary type of considerable length, typically involving a fictional plot (Berliana & Agustyowati, 2023). Because novels are written in paragraph form, they contain more grammatical elements, including adjective clauses, which makes them particularly suitable for analysis (Winarsih, 2013; Pramesty et al., 2022).

The researcher will use *The Little Prince* as the subject of this study. This novel, which has been translated into over 300 languages, is an intriguing object for the analysis of adjective clauses. In *The Little Prince*, the plot is developed through effective dialogue, facilitating rational, two-way conversations with clear direction,



purpose, and meaning. The use of dialogue in this novel creates a valuable educational text (Aswir et al., 2021; Lestari & Nabah, 2019; Indriastuti & Mustikawati, 2021). The aim of this research is to identify adjective clauses based on their types and functions, as well as to determine which adjective clauses are most frequently used in the novel. Therefore, the adjective clauses in this novel are easy to identify and worthy of analysis.

### **Method**

This research is designed as a qualitative study. Qualitative research is used to analyze, describe, and summarize various conditions and situations based on the data collected in the form of results or observations to explore problems that occur in the field (Sulistiani, 2018). Descriptive research aims to describe existing phenomena, both natural and artificial, created by human beings, which may include activities, characteristics, changes, relationships, similarities, and differences between one phenomenon and another (Mujarod, 2022). This study employs content analysis to identify adjective clauses in the novel *The Little Prince*. Content analysis is a well-established method for analyzing textual data, having evolved significantly in its approach to handling such data (Kleinheksel et al., 2020). The researcher extracts phrases containing adjective clauses from the text, with the analysis of the types of adjective clauses serving as

the variable. Adjective clauses are categorized into two types: those introduced by relative pronouns and those introduced by relative adverbs (Sumardi & Said, 2021).

The data collection process for this study involves the following steps: 1) Identifying the document chosen for analysis, in this case, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's *The Little Prince*. 2) Specifying the kinds of data to be collected. The researcher thoroughly examines the novel to identify sentences containing adjective clauses. These sentences are then highlighted and categorized accordingly. 3) Organizing the data. The collected information is categorized using a data card, keeping in mind the objectives of the study (Sumardi & Said, 2021).

To analyze the data, the researcher follows these steps: 1) Reviewing relevant literature on adjective clauses. 2) Continuously reading *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. 3) Identifying sentences containing adjective clauses. 4) Recording these sentences in the research instrument table. 5) Using theoretical frameworks to analyze and interpret the sentences. 6) Drawing conclusions. 7) Writing the final report (Sumardi & Said, 2021).

### **Result and Discussion**

Based on the content analysis, the researcher found data related to adjective clauses, categorized by their type and function, in chapters 1 to 3 of the novel.



**Table 1. Type and Function of Adjective Clause in Novel "The Little Prince" by Antonie De Saint Exupery**

No	Sentence	Type	Function
Chapter 1	● <i>They sleep through the six months <b>that</b> they need for digestion.</i>	Restrictive	Relative pronoun as subject
	● <i>In the course of this life, I have had a great many encounters with a great many people <b>who</b> have been concerned with matters of consequence.</i>	Restrictive	Relative pronoun as subject
	● <i>Whenever I met one of them <b>who</b> seemed to me at all clear-sighted</i>	Restrictive	Relative pronoun as subject
	● <i>I tried the experiment of showing him my Drawing Number One, <b>which</b> I have always kept.</i>	Restrictive	Relative pronoun as object
Chapter 2	● <i>So I lived my life alone, without anyone <b>that</b> I could really talk to</i>	Non-restrictive	Relative pronoun as object
	● <i>Thus you can imagine my amazement, at sunrise, <b>when</b> I was awakened by an odd little voice.</i>	Non-restrictive	Relative adverb of time
	● <i>And I saw a most extraordinary small person, <b>who</b> stood there examining me with great seriousness.</i>	Non-restrictive	Relative pronoun as object
	● <i>The grown-ups discouraged me in my painter's career <b>when</b> I was six years old.</i>	Restrictive	Relative adverb of time
	● <i><b>When</b> at last I was able to speak, I said to him:</i>	Restrictive	Relative adverb of time
	● <i>I remembered <b>how</b> my studies had been concentrated on geography, history, arithmetic and grammar</i>	Restrictive	Relative adverb of manner
	● <i><b>Where</b> I live, everything is very small.</i>	Restrictive	Relative adverb of place
	● <i>I want a sheep <b>that</b> will live a long time.</i>	Restrictive	Relative pronoun as object
	● <i>It is a very small sheep <b>that</b> I have given you.</i>	Restrictive	Relative pronoun as object
	Chapter 3	● <i>The little prince, <b>who</b> asked me so many questions, ....</i>	Non-restrictive
● <i>You can imagine <b>how</b> my curiosity was aroused by this half-confidence about the "other planets."</i>		Restrictive	Relative adverb of manner
● <i>The thing <b>that</b> is so good about the box....</i>		Restrictive	Relative pronoun as subject

Moreover, researcher has examined which adjective clauses are often used in the novel based on the type

and the function. Therefore, the adjective clauses in the novel are easy to find and worthy of analysis.



Table 2. Adjective Clauses Used Often in the Novel Based on Type and Function

No	Type of Adjective Clause	Times of show up	Percentage in percent (%)
1.	Restrictive	12	75%
2.	Non-restrictive	4	25%

  

No	Function of Adjective Clause	Times of show up	Percentage in percent (%)
1.	Relative pronoun as subject	5	31.25%
2.	Relative pronoun as object	5	31.25%
Total		10	62.5%

  

1.	Relative adverb of time	3	18.75%
2.	Relative adverb of manner	2	12.5%
3.	Relative adverb of place	1	6.25%
Total		6	37.5%

After analyzing the data found in *The Little Prince* from chapters 1 to 5, the researchers identified 16 adjective clauses and categorized them based on their type and function. In chapter 1, four restrictive adjective clauses were found. In chapter 2, nine adjective clauses were identified, six of which were restrictive and three non-restrictive. In chapter 3, three adjective clauses were discovered, two restrictive and one non-restrictive.

Based on their function, adjective clauses in *The Little Prince* chapters 1 to 5 were categorized into five different functions. The researchers found 10 instances of relative pronouns, with five adjective clauses functioning as a relative pronoun as subject and five functioning as a relative pronoun as object. Additionally, the researchers identified six adjective clauses functioning as relative adverbs: three as relative adverb

of time, two as relative adverb of manner, and one as relative adverb of place.

Across chapters 1 to 5, the restrictive type appeared more frequently, comprising 75% of the total, while the non-restrictive type made up 25%. Regarding function, relative pronouns were more common, appearing in 62.5% of cases, with relative pronouns as subjects and objects each accounting for 31.25%. In contrast, relative adverbs were less frequent, making up 37.5% of the total: 18.75% as relative adverb of time, 12.5% as relative adverb of manner, and 6.25% as relative adverb of place.

These findings align with previous studies by Sumardi and Said (2021), which also showed that adjective clauses functioning as relative pronouns occur more frequently than those functioning





as relative adverbs. However, unlike the current study, their research did not specify the particular types of relative pronouns or adverbs. Similarly, Hidayah (2021) reported that relative pronouns appear more often than relative adverbs, although their study did not explore the restrictive and non-restrictive types discussed in the current research.

### Conclusion

Researchers identified 16 adjective clauses in chapters 1 to 5 of the novel *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry and categorized them by type and function. In terms of type, there are 12 restrictive clauses (75%) and 4 non-restrictive clauses (25%), with restrictive clauses being more dominant. Regarding their function, 10 are relative pronouns (62.5%) and 6 are relative adverbs (37.5%), with relative pronouns appearing more frequently.

The limitation of this study is that it only examined a portion of the novel, so the findings are not yet comprehensive or conclusive. Future research should aim to analyze the entire text to provide more accurate and thorough results, contributing valuable insights for advancing education.

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