

# AN ANALYSIS TYPE OF ADVERBIAL CLAUSE IN MOVIE ALICE IN WONDERLAND

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### ABSTRACT

This descriptive qualitative research aimed to investigate the types of adverbial clauses in the movie "Alice in Wonderland". The study focused on the dialogue and subtitles of the film. The researchers selected utterances containing adverbial clauses as the primary data source. Data collection employed an observational method with a non-participatory technique. The analysis utilized a clause-identifying method and a differentiating comparative technique. The theoretical framework applied was Huddleston and Pullum's (2002) typology of adverbial clauses. The results revealed that adverbial clauses were frequently used in the film's dialogue to add context and complexity to the narrative. From 49 identified instances of adverbial clauses, 31 were categorized as conditional, 9 as time, 2 as comparison and 7 as causal. Conditional clauses emerged as the most common type of adverbial clause used. The characters primarily used these clauses to express hypothetical situations, temporal relationships, and cause-effect connections in a way that enhanced the fantastical and whimsical nature of the story.

**Keywords:** adverbial clauses, Syntax, types of adverbial clauses

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In English, different types of clauses are used to construct sentences. These clauses fall into two different categories, there are independent (main) clause and dependent (subordinate) clause. Independent clause is a group of words that contains a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought. And the dependent clause is a group of words that contains a subject and verb but does not express a

complete thought. The independent clause can stand alone as a complete sentence without dependent clause. But this dependent clause cannot stand alone as a complete sentence and needs to be connected to an independent clause.

The dependent clause has 3 types, there are noun clause, adjectives clause, and adverbial clause. Noun clause is dependent clause that functions as a noun

in a sentence and contain a subject and verb but cannot stand alone, like "what she said." They can act as the subject, object, or complement within a sentence, for example "What she said surprised me." Noun clause often begin with words like "that", "who," "what," or "why." Secondly, an adjective clause also called a relative clause, modifies a noun or pronoun. It typically starts with "that," "which," "who," "whom," or "whose," like "the book that is on the table" or "students who worked hard passed the test." Lastly, adverbial clause is a particular kind of dependent clause that provides additional context and descriptive information, such as time, place, reason, condition, degree/comparison, and other circumstances, to modify a verb, adjective, or adverb in an independent clause. They are frequently introduced with the subordinating conjunctions "after," "although," and "when."

For instance, the adverbial clause in time adverbs, can be found in single words like "yesterday," phrases like "at 11:45" or "in the morning," and complete sentences like "when the sun rises" in English. Adverbial clauses provide information on the where, when, how, and why of the actions in the main clause. The two main sections of this introduction lay the groundwork for a thorough analysis of adverbial clauses. In the first section, different structural types of adverbial clauses from different languages are explored. The concept of adverbial subordinate clauses is characterized, typical types are examined, 'speech act' adverbial clauses are discussed, and the phenomenon of subordinator borrowing between languages is taken into consideration. In this moment, the researchers attempt to know deeply about adverbial clauses so will turn

to the general phenomenon and specific phenomenon.

The general phenomenon was discovered in a news article on a website by CNA.com, the statement shown below.

Michelle "Mike" Ng, who died on Jan 2 of ovarian cancer, called the event a "living funeral", rather than a celebration of life, because she wanted death to be "close to heart and something that is not so scary". The utterance above has two subjects Michelle "Mike" Ng and she, and two verbs called and wanted. From the characteristic, it is a compound complex sentence with subordinator because, and. The main clause was followed by adverbs to talk about cause and effect. By looking at the characteristic, it is the sentence with adverbial clause.

Next, the second phenomenon found in a talk show on YouTube between the host Jimmy Fallon and the guest Ariana Grande. When the show was on going, he mentioned "I haven't seen you since the tragic events that happened in Manchester." The utterance above has one subject I and two verbs haven't see and happened. By looking at the characteristic, it's complex sentence with subordinator since. Since is talk about adverb of time or cause on effect. And that's mean the type in the utterance above is adverbial clause.

The last phenomenon and topic want to focus to analysis is talk about a film Alice in wonderland, the researchers found one of the data in this film. "If I had a world of my own, everything would be nonsense." The utterance above has two subjects: "I" and "everything", and two verbs: "had" and "would be". By looking at the characteristics, it's a complex sentence with the subordinator "if". "If" introduces a conditional clause, which is a type of adverbial clause. It sets up a condition

(having a world of one's own) that would lead to a result (everything being nonsense).

In doing this research, the researchers found some previous study to support this research. Ambalegin (2023) examined the use of clauses within a dialogue or set of utterances. Through a qualitative analysis of the dialogue, the study discovered several deviations from standard grammatical rules in how the characters formed clauses orally. The data source was found in the conversation of film Cruella, there were 133 total utterances' clauses into three distinct categories. The investigation specifically focused on the use of unstructured clauses, although the structured construction of these clauses was not covered in detail. It was discovered that 82 utterances in the data had subordinators, which suggested the presence of subordinate clauses. In analyzing data, the researchers applied the theory of Creswell (2018) definition of qualitative research as focused on words rather than numbers and theory of Huddleston, Pullum, and Reynolds (2021), who described a clause as a larger sentence unit with a subject and predicate. The findings and results point to ways that English language instruction might take advantage of knowledge about such natural variations in conversational clause formation by native speakers.

Another previous research by Rakhmasari (2022) aimed to describe the components of English reduced adverbial clauses that can be shortened, as well as the modifications that take place within the reduced clauses. Among the data sources were books and corpora of frequently used sentences. The study combined interactive data analysis techniques, such as data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing, with qualitative

methods. In analyzing data, the researchers applied the theory of Leech (1989) and Parrot (2000) as supporting clauses that offer details about the main clause. Guided by qualitative research methods (Miles & Huberman, 2009; Moleong, 2014), discovered that subject, subject-auxiliary, and conjunction elements can be omitted from adverbial clauses when the subjects match the main clause. The findings show that when the subject of the adverbial clause and the main clause are the same, the number of adverbial clauses can be decreased. The subject and auxiliary verb, and the conjunction are the parts that can be omitted. An adverbial clause can be reduced to a present participle (verb + -ing), past participle (verb + -ed), or to a clause devoid of an auxiliary verb and subject.

The previous studies and this present research all focus on analyzing clauses in English but differ in their specific objectives and data sources. Ambalegin (2023) examined various clause types in the film "Cruella", while Rakhmasari (2022) investigated reduced adverbial clauses in written sources such as books and corpora. This present research, however, analyzes adverbial clauses specifically in the movie "Alice in Wonderland". All three studies apply qualitative methods but use different theoretical frameworks. Ambalegin used theories from Creswell (2018) and Huddleston et al. (2021), Rakhmasari applied theories from Leech (1989) and Parrot (2000), while this study focuses on adverbial clause theory. The findings also vary: Ambalegin quantified clause types, Rakhmasari detailed adverbial clause reduction, and this study categorizes adverbial clauses into types (causal, conditional, time). Specifically, this research investigated the types and usage of

adverbial clauses in the dialogue of "Alice in Wonderland".

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Syntax**

Syntactic theories in linguistics aim to explain how sentences are structured and understood across languages. Among these, Chomsky's (1965) generative grammar has had the greatest impact. It suggests that language is a natural human ability that is regulated by universal principles. This theory transformed the field by proposing that sentences' surface structures are derived from more abstract, deeper structures. As a result of Chomsky's work, a number of generative frameworks, sub-theories, and methodologies have been developed, all of which aim to improve and broaden the original ideas.

Other important methods have surfaced to either support or contradict generative grammar. With the exception of the main verb, every word in a sentence depends on every other word in dependency grammar. Conversely, phrase structure grammar examines sentences in terms of their component phrases as opposed to their individual words. These theories offer different perspectives on how to model syntactic relationships and have been influential in computational linguistics and natural language processing.

As syntactic theories advanced, linguists started paying closer attention to the various kinds of subordinate clauses and how they fit into sentences. As a result, the deeper understanding of adverbial clauses, a particular kind of subordinate clause, was achieved. As adverbs in a sentence, adverbial clauses modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs by adding details about the time, place, manner, condition, or reason.

Syntactic theory's examination of

adverbial clauses shows how these sentence structures add to the overall meaning and complexity of sentences. The way adverbial clauses are introduced typically by subordinating conjunctions where they fit into sentences, and how they function with the main clause are all examined by linguists. This examination of adverbial clauses highlights the complex ways in which language enables us to communicate connections between concepts and occurrences, highlighting the intellectual sophistication of human communication and the underlying cognitive processes that support it.

### **2.2 Adverbial Clauses**

An adverbial clause is a dependent clause that functions as an adverb in a sentence. It modifies the main clause by providing additional information about the action described. Huddleston et al., (2021) state that adverbial clauses answer questions like when, where, why, how, or under what conditions the action in the main clause occurs.

#### **1. Adverbial clauses of time:**

These show when an action takes place. They use words like "when," "while," "before," "after," or "as soon as."

#### **2. Adverbial clauses of condition:**

These express a condition for the main clause. They typically use "if," "unless," or "provided that."

#### **3. Adverbial clauses of purpose:**

These indicate the reason for an action. They often use "so that," "in order that," or "to."

#### **4. Adverbial clauses of concession:**

These express contrast or an unexpected result. Common subordinators include "although," "even though," and "while."

#### **5. Adverbial clauses of reason/causal:**

These show cause-and-effect relationships to explain why something happens.

Common subordinators are "because," "since," and "as."

#### **6. Adverbial clauses of result:**

These express the consequence or result of an action. They often use "so...that," "such...that," or "therefore."

#### **7. Adverbial clause of comparison:**

Comparison clauses are used to compare two actions, states, or entities. They can express equality, similarity, or difference. They typically use "than," "as...as," or "the...the."

#### **8. Adverbial clause of manner:**

Manner clauses describe how an action is performed or how something happens. They often use "as," "like," "the way," or "as if/though."

### **3. RESEARCH METHOD**

In this research, qualitative methods were employed using an observational method to collect data on instances of adverbial clauses from the movie "Alice in Wonderland". Qualitative research provides a descriptive analysis to examine linguistic phenomena in more detail (Creswell, 2013). The data source was the dialogue in the film, involving both spoken utterances and written subtitles.

The collected data were analyzed through a clause-identifying method to distinguish adverbial clauses from other sentence structures, and a differentiating comparative technique to determine the types and functions of the identified adverbial clauses within the context of the dialogue (Taylor et al., 2016).

Additionally, the data was gathered by the researchers using a non-participatory observation technique, watching the film without interacting with or influencing the source material. The data were analyzed descriptively using words and sentences. The theory used for analyzing the data was

based on the types of adverbial clauses proposed by Huddleston et al., (2021).

### **4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

#### **4.1 Results**

This research showed adverbial clauses existed in Alice in Wonderland film. There were 49 utterances of adverbial clauses that the researchers found from the film. In this research, there were four types of adverbial clause explained are causal, conditional, time and comparison.

The data mostly to use if conditional to communication, the second is when, and the next is because and while, then the last is comparison. The researchers found 31 data to use if conditional, 9 data to use time, 2 data to use comparison and 7 data to use causal. After all, the researchers decided to make discussion 12 of 49 utterances. Because the other words have many the same form. The data shown as below.

#### **4.2 Discussion**

##### **Utterance 1**

"When clouds go rolling by, they roll away"

The utterance above has one subject "they" and two verbs "go rolling" and "roll". Examining its structure, it's a complex sentence with the subordinator "when". "When" talks about time. This means the type in the utterance above is an adverbial clause of time.

##### **Utterance 2**

"If I had a world of my own, everything would be nonsense."

This utterance has two subjects "I" and "everything", and two verbs "had" and "would be". Analyzing its composition, it's a complex sentence with the subordinator "if". "If" introduces a conditional clause. This means the type in the utterance above is an adverbial clause of condition.

#### Utterance 3

"They would sit and talk to me for hours, when I'm lonely in a world of my own."

This utterance has two subjects "they" and "I", and three verbs "would sit", "talk", and "am". Upon inspection of its format, it's a complex sentence with the subordinator "when". "When" indicates time. This means the type in the utterance above is an adverbial clause of time.

#### Utterance 4

"For if one drinks much from a bottle marked 'poison', it's almost certain to disagree with one, sooner or later."

This utterance has two subjects "one" and "it", and two main verbs "drinks" and "is". Considering its grammatical structure, it's a complex sentence with the subordinator "if". "If" introduces a conditional clause. This means the type in the utterance above is an adverbial clause of condition.

#### Utterance 5

"If you think we're wax-works, you ought to pay"

This utterance has two subjects "you" and "you", and two verbs "think" and "ought". From its syntactic arrangement, it's a complex sentence with the subordinator "if". "If" introduces a conditional clause. This means the type in the utterance above is an adverbial clause of condition.

#### Utterance 6

"I'll never catch him while I'm this small."

This utterance has two subjects "I" and "I", and two verbs "will catch" and "am". By looking at the characteristics, it's a complex sentence with the subordinator "while". "While" indicates time. This means the type in the utterance above is an adverbial clause of time.

#### Utterance 7

"I can't explain myself, sir, because I'm not myself,"

This utterance has one subject "I" and two verbs "can't explain" and "am". By looking at the characteristics, it's a complex sentence with the subordinator "because". "Because" indicates reason. This means the type in the utterance above is an adverbial clause of reason/causal.

#### Utterance 8

"If I were a rabbit, where would I keep my gloves?"

This utterance has one subject "I" and two verbs "were" and "would keep". By looking at the characteristics, it's a complex sentence with the subordinator "if". "If" introduces a conditional clause. This means the type in the utterance above is an adverbial clause of condition.

#### Utterance 9

"If you stay long enough we might have a battle!"

This utterance has two subjects "you" and "we", and two verbs "stay" and "might have". By looking at the characteristics, it's a complex sentence with the subordinator "if". "If" introduces a conditional clause. This means the type in the utterance above is an adverbial clause of condition.

#### Utterance 10

"We'll sweep this clear in half a year, if you don't mind the work."

This utterance has two subjects "we" and "you", and two verbs "will sweep" and "don't mind". By looking at the characteristics, it's a complex sentence with the subordinator "if". "If" introduces a conditional clause. This means the type in the utterance above is an adverbial clause of condition.

#### Utterance 11

"The sun is like a toy balloon."

This utterance has one subject "sun" and one verb "is". It's a simple sentence with an adverbial phrase of manner "like a toy balloon". The word "like" introduces a

comparison. This means the type in the utterance is an adverbial phrase of manner, functioning as a simile.

Utterance 12

"After all that's happened"

This is a dependent clause with an implied subject and verb in "that's happened". It's an adverbial clause of time introduced by "after". This clause would typically be part of a complex sentence, providing temporal context for a main clause.

## 1. CONCLUSION

The research findings are expected to provide into how adverbial clauses are used in everyday speech, especially in talk show, film video contexts. The research attempts to uncover trends and subtleties in the usage of adverbial clauses in spontaneous, semi-formal speech by analyzing both structured and unstructured clauses in these dialogues. The analysis may reveal how characters in films use adverbial clauses to add context, express relationships between ideas, and enhance the overall coherence of their speech. The findings of this study could advance knowledge of the use of adverbial clauses in English, potentially informing language instruction and other linguistic research in this field, especially when it comes to conversational analysis and media discourse. The study has identified various types of adverbial clauses that appear in the lively and frequently appear to be spontaneous context of film dialogues, such as those of time, reason, condition, and purpose, among others. This study examines the role of adverbial clauses in crafted yet naturalistic speech across a spectrum of formality and spontaneity by focusing on film contexts. Film is a medium that frequently aims to replicate natural conversation while also serving narrative and artistic purposes.

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