

NOMINALIZED AND EMBEDDED SENTENCES

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Chapter one

Introduction

1. The problem

Most of Iraqi English language learners (IELL) do not realize the difference between the nominalized and the embedded sentence, since the difference between them is not so obvious. Both sentences may be regarded as a means of combining two sentences together in one single sentence and this similarity may cause confusion to the learners as they begin to treat them or think that they are one.

1.2 The significance

The research deal with two wide spread types of sentences and that could be useful to the syllabus designers, teachers, and learners. It introduces the concept of nominalization which includes a general study of the nominal clauses and phrases. In addition, the research presents the embedded sentence and discusses its difference with the nominalized sentence in order to approach at a dear distinction between these two types.

1.3 The procedure

The research is divided into two chapters:

The first deals with the introduction and it includes the problem, the significance the procedure and limits of the study. The second chapter is going to be dedicated to discuss three subjects: the nominalized sentence, the embedded sentence and the relation between the nominalized and embedded sentence.

Chapter Two

2.1 The Nominalized Sentence

2.1.1 The difference between noun and nominal

Nouns are identified as nouns by two aspects of form, their inflectional morphemes and their derivational morphemes. The inflectional morphemes are the noun plural [-s pl] and the noun possessive [-s ps]. Any word that has the possessive [-s ps] is a noun, except for phrase, like "the queen of England's dress". Any word that has the plural [-s pl] is also a noun. And if it does not have the [-s pl] but can take it in the same position. In addition we shall consider as nouns those words that have only a plural form, like clothes, goods, and thanks. (Stagebery, 1981. 154)

Nouns are identified not only by inflectional morphemes but also by noun. Forming derivational suffixes added to verbs, adjectives, nouns, adverbs and bound forms. Compare these sentences:

The quality is pure. [1]

The quality is purity. [2]

It is the form of purity, with its – ity added to an adjective, which signifies that it is a noun. (Ibid, 155)

Nominals: Any word, whatever its form-class (noun, verb, adjective, adverb, or an inflected word), will be tabbed a nominal if it occupies one of the seven noun positions listed below:

- Subject of verb.
- Subjective complement.
- Direct object of verb.
- Indirect object of verb.
- Objective complement.
- Object of preposition.
- Retained object.

Such a classification is according to the position not to the form. (Ibid, 220)

We enjoyed the game. [3]

Game is a noun by form, since it can be pluralized in its context, and a nominal by position, since it occupies the dried object slot.

What can one except from the young. [4]

Young is an adjective by form because it is inflected by –er– and – est. One could say "from the younger" but not "from the youngs). It is a nominal by position because it is in the object of preposition slot. (Ibid, 221)

Liefrink (1973:58) argues that the nominalization of a sentence may be regarded as one of several procedures speakers of English have to their disposal combining two or more sentences with each other.

It is clear. We need more time. [5]

That we need more time is clear. [6]

In the previous example the procedure of nominalization turns to separate sentences into one through out inserting a nominal element (that we need more time) to function as the subject of the new sentence.

Under the term nominalization we may consider the terms noun phrase and nominal clauses. Biber, etal (2000: 97) state that a noun phrase in the strict sense consists of a noun as head, either alone or accompanied by determiners and modifiers. The head noun can also be followed by complements, which complete the meaning of the noun and typically take the form of that clause or infinitive clauses:

His refusal to come annoys the teacher. [7]

She admires the way you think. [8]

The two sentences show that the nominal element (his refusal to come, the way you think) acts as a subject in the first sentence and as an object in the second sentence.

The noun phrase in the previous example take the role of combining two separate sentences.

He refuses to come. This annoys the teacher. [9]

Noun phrase in a broad sense may be singled out as nominals. (Ibid: 98)

2.1.2 Types of nominals

Gramley and Patsold (1992: 167) show that there are four types of nominals:

2.1.2.1 Derived nominals

She approved to leave. [10]

Her approval to leave; [11]

We convert the previous sentence into a nominal (noun phrase) by nominalizing the verb in the sentence.

2.1.2.2 Action nominals

He understands the problem. [12]

The understanding of the problem; [13]

In the second example, we are invited to complete the phrase and to add another part to have a whole sentence because we have a nominal element only.

2.1.2.3 Gerunds

You sings popular songs. [14]

Your singing popular songs is something good. [15]

We produce a nominal by putting the verb in its gerund (the way of nominalizing a verb by adding – ing to it) condition. (Ibid, 1992: 168)

2.1.2.4 Infinitives

You complain the situation get worse. [16]

To complain is no matter helpful. [17]

By using to-infinitive we are going to produce another type of nominals. The sentence (you complain) consisting subject and verb, while the phrase (to complain) is a subject. (Ibid, 1992: 169)

Foley and Hall (2005: 25) explained that it is sometimes more concise and elegant, especially in written English, to use noun phrase rather than verb phrase to express an idea:

- Verb phrase: The committee decided to open the playground to all children. This was welcomed by the local schools. [18]
- Noun phrase: The committee's decision/ The decision of the committee to open the playground to all children was welcomed by the local schools. [19]

Concerning the nominal clauses, Spears (2005: 112) defines the nominal clauses as a dependent clause functioning as a nominal. The nominal clause does not behave exactly like a noun in that it does not occur in the plural, nor can it take all the noun's determiners and complements.

Quirk and Greenbaum (1973: 316) state that just as noun phrases may occur as subject, compliment, appositive and prepositional complement, so every nominal clause may occur in some or all of these roles. But the occurrence of nominal clauses is limited by the fact that they are normally abstract; they refer to events, facts, states, ideas.

The only exception to this generalization is the nominal relative clause which may refer to object people and substance.

2.1.3 The types of nominal clauses

The nominal clauses are types of subordinate clause that contain no marker within themselves to indicate subordinate status. The types of nominal clause are:

2.1.3.1 That – clauses

She is still alive. This is a consolation. [20]

That she is still alive is a consolation. [21]

By forming the nominal that – clause (that she is still alive) from the first sentences. We are going to combine two sentences to have one whole sentence. The nominal that – clause function as a subject in the new sentence. (Ibid: 317)

2.1.3.2 Wh – interrogative clauses

How can we reduce this high temperature? My problem is that.

My problem is how we can reduce this high temperature. [22] (Close, 1983: 97)

The idea of producing one sentence by forming a nominal clause is still the same. The nominal wh – interrogative clause (how we can reduce this high temperature) functions as a subject complement in the new sentence.

2.1.3.3 Yes – No interrogative clauses

The dependent yes – no interrogative clause is formed with if or whether. If we have two sentences like:

Are you really enjoying yourself? I wonder. [23]

I wonder if/ whether you are really enjoying yourself. [24] (Close, 1983: 98)

We produce a single sentence from two sentences by forming the nominal yes – no interrogative clause.

2.1.3.4 Nominal relative clauses

The nominal relative clause, also introduced by a wh – element.

Home is where your friends and family are. [25]

The relative clause (where your friends and family are) functions as a subject complement and it also functions in another nominal functions. (Quirk and Greenbaum 1973: 318)

2.1.3.5 To – infinitive nominal clauses

The to – infinitive nominal clause can occur as subject, direct object, subject complement, appositive and as an adjectival complement.

My wish is to be a pilot. [26]

In the previous sentence the nominal clause (to be a pilot) makes no exception from the previous types of the nominal clauses. It functions as a subject complement to the sentence.

2.1.3.6 Nominal – ing clauses

The nominal – ing clause, a participial clause like:

Telling lies is wrong. [27]

The previous sentence is also a combination of two sentences by forming a nominal clause from one of those sentences. (Ibid: 321)

In most treatments, a nominalization would be derived by means of nominalization rules.

John's proof of the theorem. [28]

John proved the theorem. [29]

The nominalization rule in its most general form can be formulated as [31].

John gave a proof of the theorem. [30]

X DET N Y Nom the N wh – word X Y [31]

The application of the nominalization rule [31] to sentence [30] is:

The proof which John gave of the theorem. [32] (Lieftrink: 1973: 57)

2.2 The Embedded Sentences

It is stated that embedding can be defined as the occurrence of one unit as a constituent of another unit at the same rank in the grammatical hierarchy. (Quirk, etal, 1985: 43) In a sentence like: Some students will be working late in their rooms. [33] It can be observed that one kind of phrase, the prepositional phrase in their rooms, contains as a constituent another phrase which is the noun phrase their rooms. In the former example we have the phenomenon of embedding which accounts for the indefinite extensibility of certain units of grammar. There is no reason to describe one unit as more extensible than the other; they are both, as phrases, placed at the same position in the hierarchy. But each unit can be a constituent of the other: (Ibid: 44)

In generative grammar embedding is the process or the result of including one sentence within another. The sentence:

I went to the shop. [34]

Can be embedded within the sentence:

The shop was opened. [35]

By turning it into a relative clause within the second sentence:

The shop which I went to was opened. [36]

(Crystal David, 1992: 119)

Sometimes a long phrase or clause is embedded in another clause fitted into the middle of it interrupting the normal subject–verb – object sequence. When the subject of a sentence is followed by an embedded descriptive phrase. The subject is separated from the verb, and this may make the sentence confusing or it can make a sort of difficulty.

That picture (of the children being talked to by the prime minister) is wonderful. [37]The sentence says that the picture is wonderful not that the prime minister is wonderful. (Swan, Michad: 1995: 181-182)

It is important to recognize that however long a phrase may be there is always the possibility of making it longer by further embedding.

e.g This is the house [that Jack built]

This is the malt [that Jack built]

This is the rat [that ate the malt[that lay in the house [that Jack built]]]

This is the cat [that killed the rat [that ate the malt [that lay in the house [that Jack built]]]] [38] (Quirk, etal, 1985: 43)

The indefinite length of noun phrases and prepositional phrases does not affect their position in the grammatical hierarchy, since however long a phrase may be the clause which contains it will always be longer.

Embedding occurs also, when one clause is made a constituent of another clause: the case normally described as subordination. The two clauses in [39] and [40] constitute simple sentences, but it is also possible to combine them into a single (complex) sentence, by subordinating one to the other as in [41].

The weather has been remarkably warm. [39]

We returned from Italy last week. [40]

The weather has been remarkably warm since. [41]

We returned from Italy last week. (Ibid: 44)

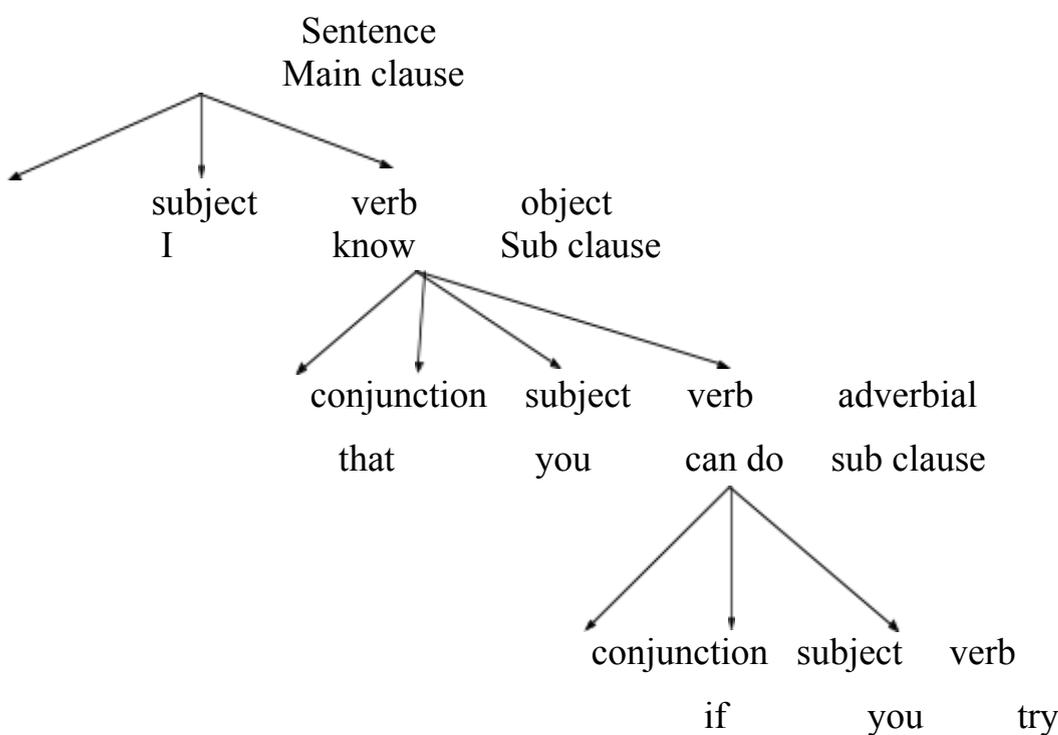
(Biber, etal, 2000: 113) indicates that a clause may be embedded in a longer structure, either as a clause element or as port of a phrase which realizes a clause element. There are very often several layers of embedding, where embedded clauses are clauses are identified by bracketing.

An embedded clause is called a dependent clause. The subordinate clause, in which it is embedded, is termed the main clause.

(Leech, etal, 1994: 383) explained that a sub clause can have another sub clause inside it which means that the first sub clause behaves as a main clause.

e.g

I know that you can do it if you try. [42]



2.3 Comparison Between the Nominalized and the Embedded Sentences

2.3.1 The difference between the nominalized and the embedded Sentences

Liefrink, (1973: 68) states that embedding is similar to nominalization in the idea that they are both can be regarded as one of the several procedures speakers of English have at their disposal for combining two or more sentences with each other.

The most obvious difference between these two procedures is that an embedded sentence retain basically the surface structure of the sentence, where as a nominalized sentence exhibits the surface structure of a noun phrase.

Thus when [43] is embedded might appear as in [44], and when nominalized might appear as in [45].

People tend to criticize the British way of life [43] that people tend to criticize the British way of life is understandable. [44]

I find people's tendency to criticize the British way of life rather irritating. [45]

Sentence [44] represents one possible way of combining [43] with [46].

This is understandable. [46]

Just as sentence [45] represents one possible way of combining [43] with [41].

I find this rather irritating [47]

Other example of combination of two sentences one of which is nominalized is:

- They had decided to have at least five children, they never regretted it [48].
- They never regretted their decision to have at least [49] five children. (Ibid; 59)

It is mentioned that a nominal clause is closely integrated with the main clause in which it is embedded. It cannot normally be left out without injuring the structure of the main clause. Its freedom of movement is limited.

Clauses containing direct speech are often analyzed as nominal clauses, embedded within the clause containing the reported verb:

Veronica said: " take them both up to their room, Nanny" [50] (Biber, etal, 2000: 194)

2.3.2 The relativezation

There is a great diversity in English relative clause type:

1. Subject – subject relatives: In which the subject of the embedded sentence becomes relativized.

e.g: The girl who speaks Basque is my cousin.

We understand that the "who" refers to the "girl" we understand this as speakers of English despite the fact that "who" can refer to persons of either sex in the singular or plural.

- The boy who speaks Basque is my cousin. [52]
- The girls who speak Basque are my cousins. [53]

"who" is the relative pronoun, in all sentence it has the same referent as the head NP which directly precedes it.

In order to function as a relative, the embedded sentence must contain a np that is identical in form and reference to the np in the main clause.

2. Object – subject relative: It is also to have an embedded sentence with a relativized subject modifying a np that is the object of the main clause.

e.g: I know the girl who speaks Basque. [54]

Object np of the embedded relatives clause is identical to some np in the main clause. The object of the embedded sentence is relativized. (Ceke Murcia, Freeman, 1999: 574 – 582)

Chapter Three

Conclusion

It can be concluded that the nominalized and the embedded sentence although seemingly similar to each other but they differ in a certain aspect. This related to the surface structure of both of them.

It is not necessary that each nominalized sentence is an embedded sentence and vice versa. A nominalized sentence can stand alone without being embedded in another one. But if it is used by the speaker of English to combine two sentences, it tends to be embedded in another sentence. The nominalized sentence take the range of functions taken by nouns (subject, object, complement ...etc) with certain restriction.

Also, there is an indefinite length for the sentence because there is always a possibility of making it longer by further embeddings. We use the subordination as a means of embedding one sentence into another. In addition, the nominalization of a sentence is a subordination case but without the existence of the marker.

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