

Phrase and Clause Level Function of Prepositional Phrase at, in, on with Reference to Novel 'Emma' By Jane Austen

Silvia Wardani¹, I Nyoman Sedeng², I Gusti Ngurah Parthama³

^{1,2,3} Udayana University, Denpasar, Indonesia
e-mail: silviaaaw28@gmail.com¹, nyoman_sedeng@unud.ac.id²,
ngrpart77@yahoo.com³

Abstrak

Frasa preposisi adalah salah satu unsur dalam kalimat yang memodifikasi kata benda atau kata kerja. Kadang dianggap tidak penting. Namun, keberadaannya dalam kalimat dapat memberikan perubahan makna yang sangat spesifik. Penelitian ini berjudul Fungsi Tingkat Frase dan Klausa dari Frase Preposisi pada, dalam, dengan mengacu pada Novel 'Emma' karya Jane Austen. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis frasa preposisi pada, di, pada mengenai fungsinya pada tingkat frasa dan klausa. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif dan penelitian kepustakaan terapan. Datanya adalah PP at, in, on yang diambil dari novel Emma karya Jane Austen pada chapter 9 (volume I) dan chapter 8 (volume II). Untuk mengumpulkan data, penelitian ini menggunakan metode dokumentasi dan observasi. Data dianalisis dengan menggunakan teori fungsi frase preposisional pada tingkat frase dan klausa. Dari data tersebut ditemukan 185 frase preposisional. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa prepositional phrase at, in, on berfungsi seperti pada level frase nomina dan level klausa. Pada tataran frase, mereka berperan sebagai post-modifier pada frase nomina sedangkan pada tataran klausa mereka berfungsi sebagai adjunct, baik optional adjunct maupun obligatory adjunct.

Kata Kunci: *Frase Preposisi; Tingkat Frase; Tingkat Klausa*

Abstract

The prepositional phrase is one of the elements in a sentence that modifies the noun or verb. It is sometimes considered not important. However, the existence of it in the sentence may give a very specific change of the meaning. This study entitled Phrase and Clause Level Function of Prepositional Phrase at, in, on with reference to Novel 'Emma' by Jane Austen. It aimed to analyse the prepositional phrase at, in, on regarding to the functions in a phrase and clause level. This study was qualitative study and applied library research. The data were the PP at, in, on taken from a novel entitled Emma by Jane Austen in chapter 9 (volume I) and chapter 8 (volume II). To collect the data, this study applied documentation and observation method. The data were analysed using theory of prepositional phrase functions in a phrase and clause level. There were 185 prepositional phrases found from the data. The result showed that the prepositional phrase at, in, on functions as in a noun phrase level and a clause level. In a phrase level, they were as the post-modifier in a noun phrase while in a clause level they were functioning as adjunct, either optional or obligatory adjunct.

Keywords : *Prepositional Phrase; Phrase Level; Clause Level*

INTRODUCTION

Prepositional phrase (PP) is a combination of a preposition (P) and a noun phrase (NP) which makes a new unit as one of the elements in a sentence. In a sentence, a prepositional phrase gives information related to the context. The prepositions are sometimes thought as small units which is not essential, however they have specific use (Swick, 2011). The preposition in a prepositional phrase marks the relation between its complement and another elements. Morenberg (1997) stated that prepositions are put before

the noun phrases which functions as oblique object. The noun phrase is important as the oblique object of a preposition since it is the main element of prepositional phrase's formation.

The formation of prepositional phrase is preposition followed by its complement or oblique object. Quirk et al (1985) mention three complements of a prepositional phrase, they are noun phrase, *wh*-clause, and *-ing* clause. Typically, the oblique object of the prepositional phrase is a noun phrase. Noun phrase is always positioned after the preposition as the object of the preposition. It is also mentioned by Valin (2004) that the structure for prepositional phrase is preposition + noun phrase (P+NP), with the preposition as the head of the phrase. The head in a prepositional phrase functions to determine what kind of phrase it is. Since the head is the preposition it is categorized as prepositional phrase.

Prepositional phrase shows a relation of two entities, between their complements and other parts in the sentence. This relation is regarded as function of prepositional phrases. Prepositional phrase functions in a level of a phrase and a clause. As it is mentioned by Davidson (2006), that a prepositional phrase can modify the noun and thus, the phrase-level of prepositional phrase as modifier in a noun phrase is in a noun phrase level. In this level, the prepositional phrase is embedded with the noun phrase that it modifies and thus the prepositional phrase becomes one unit as the noun phrase. In a clause level, the prepositional phrase acts as an adverb such in SVA, SVCA, or SVOA. The prepositional phrases as an adverb in those structures can be additional or optional and can be necessary in a sentence or obligatory. The optional is an addition information and if it were removed the sentence would be still grammatically correct. While the obligatory one is essential and if it were remove it would make the sentence ungrammatical.

Phrase Level

Prepositional phrase itself is the commonest phrase functions as the post-modifier, and commonly it modifies the noun phrase. According to thoughtco.com site, Nordquist (2020) mentions that the most common post-modifiers for a noun phrase is prepositional phrase. Quirk et al (1985) name the phrase level function as a 'post-modifier in a noun phrase' which the prepositional phrase modifies a noun phrase before it and the adverb function is called as an 'adjunct'. In addition, Morenberg (1997), called the phrase level function as an adjective function since the prepositional modifies the noun phrase like the adjective does. In this phrase level, the prepositional phrase modifies the noun phrase. The prepositional phrase in this function is embedded with the noun phrase before it to specify or limit the meaning of the noun and it makes a new unit of a noun phrase. Morenberg (1997) adds that prepositional phrase functioning as post-modifier in a noun phrase can be re-phrased into **which** question.

Clause Level

Second function of preposition is in a clause level or adjunct which modifies a verb in a sentence. Clause is the smaller sentence that may form a sentence and in this function, the prepositional phrase is in a clause-level. This function of prepositional phrase acts as an adverb and Quirk et al (1985) call it as adjunct which is categorized into optional and obligatory adjunct. Adjunct attributes to question such **what, where, when, how, for whom, under what circumstance**. The prepositional phrase in this function is symbolized as A or Adverb because it similarly acts as an adverb. An optional adjunct it can be placed anywhere in the clause, however as an obligatory adjunct it is always positioned either after the verb **be** or after the object such in SVOA pattern.

In terms of optional adjunct, it can be added or removed without affecting the structure and meaning, thus it is called as optional adjunct. However, in obligatory adjunct, it is not acceptable to be removed from the sentence because removing it will affect the structure and the meaning. Obligatory adjunct refers to complementary in a clause-level. Because it is necessary as the complementation of either subject or object, and removing the obligatory adjunct will make grammatical error in a sentence. Quirk et al (1985) add that obligatory adjunct is needed for verb **be** or other verbs as complementation for subject.

Morenberg (1999) adds that for the verb **be** the prepositional phrase is as the predicate adverb because it is the complement of the subject.

The prepositional phrase is interested to be analysed because even a small unit can give information and complete a sentence to make a more meaningful unit. Thus, this study aims to analyze the function of prepositional phrase in a phrase and clause level. This study takes novel entitled Emma by Jane Austen in chapter 9 (volume I) and chapter 8 (volume II) as the data.

METHOD RESEARCH

This study was qualitative study because it relied on text and did not involve data with numbers or need to be processed mathematically or statistically and it applied library research using novel as the data source. The data source that used is novel entitled Emma by Jane Austen chapter 9 (volume I) and chapter 8 (volume II). Those chapters were taken as the data source in consideration of the purposive random sampling technique. As stated by Sugiyono (2015), that purposive random sampling is one of non-probability samplings with particular consideration. The consideration of choosing the sample was considering the chapters which contained most prepositional phrases **at, in on** in each volumes. This study used documentation and observation to collect the data. In this study, the method of analyzing data was applying content analysis method since this study was qualitative which relied on text and did not involve with statistical process. The data were analyzed according to the phrase and clause level function of a prepositional phrase. The prepositional phrase in a phrase level is embedded with its noun phrase before it, while in a clause level it acts as adjunct either optional or obligatory. After analyzing the data, the next is presenting the data in an informal method because the data were presented textually (Sudaryanto, 1993).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

There are 185 prepositional phrases **at, in, on** found in chapter 9 and 8. Those prepositional phrases are functioning as post-modifier in a noun phrase as a phrase level and as adjunct in clause level.

Phrase Level

As a phrase level, the prepositional phrase is embedded with the noun phrase before it. The noun phrase has a new unit which is a prepositional phrase and they make a new noun phrase.

Data 1: The intellects of Highbury **in general** should be put under requisition (p. 85).

From the data above, the sentence containing prepositional **in general** modifies the noun phrase **the intellects of Highbury**. This prepositional phrase is embedded with the noun phrase before it thus they make a new unit as a noun phrase. The first noun phrase is 'the intellects' and is added by 'of Highbury', therefore the new noun phrase is 'the intellects of Highbury.' It attributes to question 'which intellects of Highbury should be put under requisition?' The answer is the intellects of Highbury in general. The prepositional phrase also can be re-phrased into 'the intellects of Highbury which is in general should be put under requisition'.

Data 2: Miss Nash, head-teacher **at Mrs. Goddard's**, had written out (p. 85).

This second data contains a prepositional phrases **at Mrs. Goddard's**, it modifies the noun phrase **head-teacher** can be rephrased into 'Miss Nash, head-teacher which is at Mrs. Goddard's, had written out'. With question **which it** becomes 'which head-teacher had written out?' The answer is the head-teacher in Mrs. Goddard's. The noun phrase head-teacher becomes a new unit of a noun phrase after being added by the prepositional phrase 'at Mrs. Goddard's.'

Data 3: Such collections **on a very grand scale** are not uncommon. (p. 85).

On a very grand scale is modifying the noun phrase **collections** which can be re-phrased into 'such collections which is on a very grand scale are uncommon.' It also attributes to question **which**, 'which collections are uncommon?' the answer is collections on a very grand scale. This prepositional phrase is denoting metaphor meaning which is not

relating to physical location. 'Such collections' is the first noun phrase and then the prepositional phrase 'on a very grand scale' is embedded with it, thus the new noun phrase is formed.

Data 4: A poet **in love** must be encouraged (p. 95).

The 4th data contains prepositional phrase **in love**. It is modifying **a poet** which can be re-phrased into 'a poet which is in love must be encouraged'. Regarding question **which** it becomes 'which poet must be encouraged?' A poet in love. This prepositional phrase is added after the noun phrase 'a poet' and this addition makes a new unit of a noun phrase.

Data 5: Your thoughts **on this subject** are very much like mine (p. 262).

The 6th prepositional phrase functioning as post-modifier in a noun phrase is **on this subject**. This prepositional phrase is modifying **your thoughts** as a noun phrase and attribute to question **which**, 'which thoughts are very much like mine?' And it can be re-phrased into 'your thoughts which is on this subject are very much like mine. The last is **on the subject** which modifies the NP **my wishes**. It can be re-phrased into '...as my wishes which is on the subject have been ever since I knew you' and attributing to question word which it becomes 'which wishes have been clear and decided?.' 'On this subject' is added to specify the meaning or limit the meaning of the noun phrase, it is embedded with 'your thoughts' to make a new unit of a noun phrase.

Optional Adjunct

Prepositional phrase as an optional adjunct is in a clause level. This prepositional phrase is not essential there, however it gives more particular information regarding the context and if it were removed the rest of the clause or the sentence would be still grammatically correct.

Data 1: Frank Churchill came back again; if he kept his father's dinner waiting, it was not known **at Hartfield** (p. 257).

The prepositional phrase **at Hartfield** modifies the verb **known** in a passive form. The function of this prepositional phrase is as optional adjunct because if it were changed into active form the clause would be grammatically correct, say 'Emma did not know it at Hartfield.' This PP informs where something was not known, at Hartfield. Hartfield is a name of an estate property owned by Woodhouse family, including Emma. The verb 'know' is not essential to add it an adverb, the prepositional phrase were removed it would still make the entire clause grammatical that it would be 'Frank Churchill came back again; if he kept his father's dinner waiting, it was not known.' The most important element in this clause is the existence of the subject, thus it must be added 'by Emma' for instance to make it grammatically correct

Data 2: We had met first **in the drawing-room** (p. 259).

In the drawing-room is a prepositional phrase functioning as optional adjunct to add more information where the subjects had met for the first time. The pattern of this clause is SVAA, S is the subject 'we', 'had met' is the verb with past perfect tense, the first A is 'first' which is also optional and the latter A is the prepositional phrase 'in the drawing room.' Both adverbs are optional and removing them would not make the sentence ungrammatical, that it would become 'we had met.'

Data 3: **At dinner**, they were too numerous for any subject of conversation to be general (p. 260).

The prepositional phrase **at dinner** functions as optional adjunct which informs when they have the conversation. The pattern of the first data is ASVC with prepositional phrase as A can be placed anywhere in the clause, for instance in the end position which becomes 'they were too numerous for any subject of conversation to be general at dinner.'

Data 4: What you told me **on that head**, confirmed an idea (p. 263).

Prepositional phrase in data 4 is functioning as optional adjunct. **On that head** tells where the subject 'you' (Frank Churchill) told 'me' (Emma). The pattern is subject 'you' is followed by the verb 'told' and then the object 'me.' The prepositional phrase is an additional

information that it would still make the sentence grammatical if it were removed, 'what you told me confirmed an idea.'

Data 5: He called for a few moments, just to leave a piece of paper **on the table** (p. 86).

The clause with prepositional phrase **on the table** are functioning as optional adjunct which gives information relating to the position of where the subject 'he' leaves a piece of paper. The verb 'leave' does not need an adverb as an essential element, thus it is an optional as an additional information similar as the previous data.

Obligatory Adjunct

Obligatory adjunct is an adjunct which is essential in the sentence or a clause. The obligatory adjunct cannot be removed since removing it would make the sentence truly ungrammatical. It is used after the word *be* and other verbs which needs an adverb either as the subject or object complement

Data 1: But Harriet was **in a tremor**, and could not touch it (p. 87).

The prepositional phrase in first data functions as obligatory preposition which is important as the complement of the primary verb **was**. **In a tremor shows** the condition of Harriet and it attributes to question how is Harriet. This prepositional phrase is a complement of 'Harriet' which completes the sentence making it grammatical. It is as the sentence complement that it describes about the Harriet's stance. If it were removed, the clause would be 'Harriet was,' be ungrammatical and be meaningless sentence. Therefore, the prepositional phrase an obligatory adjunct is essential to be but in that clause.

Data 2: Mr. John Knightley must be **in town** again (p. 98).

The second prepositional phrase, **in town**, is categorized as obligatory adjunct that completes **must**. It informs where Mr. John Knightley must be on the particular date. This prepositional phrase is describing about Mr. Knightley and thus it is as the sentence compliment or the predicate adverb. It is placed after the verb **be** with the auxiliary verb 'must' which describes the necessity of doing a particular thing. Removing the prepositional verb would make the sentence meaningless and ungrammatical, 'Mr. John Knightley must be again.'

Data 3: My friend feels **at all** as I do (p. 101).

At all is a prepositional phrase which according to Merriam Webster-Dictionary it means in any way or respect. It is categorized as an obligatory adjunct telling how my friend feels. The verb 'feel' is a linking verb which needs a complement to make the clause or sentence containing it meaningful. Therefore, the existence of the prepositional phrase in that clause is essential as the complement of the linking verb and it gives information that my friend feels in any respect or in any way as I do.

Data 4: Jane herself was quite **at a loss** (p. 260).

The 4th data is having **at a loss** as the prepositional phrases. It indicates the obligatory adjunct because it comes after the verb **be** in a past tense which must take a complement to complete the sentence. The prepositional phrase is as the complement of the subject which tells how Jane's condition is. It describes about Jane and thus it acts as the subject complement in that clause. The clause would be ungrammatical if the prepositional phrase were removed because it is the complement that makes the sentence meaningful and grammatical.

Data 5: We are **in great hopes** (p. 262).

The next prepositional phrase, **in great hopes**, functions as obligatory adjunct as the complement of subject *we* which informs the conditions of the subjects. The prepositional phrase describes the subject 'we.' It comes right after the verb *be* which the complement is essential there to make the clause grammatically correct. Removing the prepositional phrase would make the clause meaningless.

SIMPULAN

In terms of functions, prepositional phrase has function as post-modifier in a noun phrase and as adjunct. Prepositional phrases that modify the noun phrase is in a form of

noun phrase level. This function of prepositional phrase is called as post-modifier in a noun phrase or adjective prepositional phrase. In this function the prepositional phrase is embedded with the noun phrase before it and they make a new unit as a noun phrase in a clause or a sentence. The prepositional phrase that modifies it gives more specific information or limit the information regarding the previous noun. The second function of prepositional phrase is as an adjunct which is in a clause level. The adjunct function can be either obligatory or optional. The prepositional phrase in this function is symbolized as A or Adverb because it similarly acts as an adverb. An optional adjunct it can be placed anywhere in the clause, however as an obligatory adjunct it is always positioned either after the verb **be** or after the object.

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