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UNDERSTANDING, STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF ADVERBIAL CLAUSES IN FORMING COMPLEX SENTENCES

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A B S T R A C T

This study aims to examine the definition, structure, and function of adverbial clauses in the formation of complex sentences in English. Adverbial clauses are adverbial clauses that play an important role in providing additional information to the main clause, including time, place, cause, condition, purpose, and manner. This study uses a qualitative method with a library research approach, analyzing various literature in the form of books, journals, and relevant articles as secondary data sources. The data obtained were analyzed using validity techniques and source triangulation to ensure meaningfulness. The results show that adverbial clauses consist of three main elements: subordinating conjunctions, subjects, and predicates. This structure prevents the clause from standing alone; it must depend on the main clause to form a complete meaning. This study confirms that mastery of adverbial clauses is not only grammatical but also supports analytical thinking skills and systematic argumentation. Therefore, a deep understanding of adverbial clauses is an important aspect in learning English for students and academic writers.

Keywords

Adverbial Clauses, Function, Definition.

INTRODUCTION

Language plays a crucial role in social life, as without it, people cannot communicate or exchange ideas. In Indonesia, many consider English a must-learn language, as it serves as an international "payment tool" in the world of technology and business. The way we use language also influences how clearly information is received. When clauses are structured correctly, the resulting sentences are easier to understand and more effective (Rakhmasari, 2022).

Indonesians learning English often encounter many obstacles when constructing adverbial clauses. This occurs due to several differences, such as the addition of -ing to verbs in English, whereas in Indonesian there is no such rule. Furthermore, omissions of adverbial clauses are also quite common in TOEFL questions, further complicating student learning (Rakhmasari, 2022). Every sentence, including phrases and clauses, must have constituent parts. This means that a sentence is formed from several elements that work together to create a clear meaning. In grammar, constituents are the elements that build the structure of a sentence, phrase, or clause. These elements can be phrases, words, or even morphemes (Sumardi & Said, 2021).

Adverbial clauses are an important part of forming more complex sentences. They provide additional information to the main clause, such as about the time, place, reason, condition, purpose, or how something happened. Adverbial clauses not only make a sentence longer but also clearer and more coherent. Using these clauses helps writers connect main ideas with supporting ideas neatly, so the sentence feels fluid and easy for the reader to understand.

In learning English, understanding adverbial clauses is crucial because it helps students create more varied and clear sentences. Mastering these clauses also supports academic writing skills, particularly in connecting ideas logically. Furthermore, the use of adverbial clauses also strengthens written arguments. Clauses such as cause, purpose, or opposition help writers explain reasons, provide direction, or present differing perspectives. This demonstrates that understanding adverbial clauses is not just about grammar, but also about more organized and critical thinking.

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative library research approach, examining the structure and function of adverbial clauses. The data sources for this study consist of secondary data sources obtained from books, journals, scientific magazines, and articles supporting the research. The data collection technique was carried out through several stages, namely by conducting a literature study by reviewing written sources, as well as analyzing, recording, and summarizing the results of studies from various sources related to adjective clauses. Data analysis in this study used data validity to ensure the data and interpretations used were correct and reliable.

This was then combined with source triangulation techniques to strengthen the research conclusions. This approach also helped minimize interpretation bias, strengthen arguments, and increase the credibility of the research results.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

RESULTS

Adverbial clauses play a crucial role in forming complex sentences in English. They function as subordinate clauses, providing additional information to the main clause, whether related to time, place, cause, purpose, condition, method, opposition, effect, or comparison. Based on the literature reviewed, adverbial clauses cannot stand alone because they are structurally dependent on independent clauses to form a complete and logical meaning.

Structurally, an adverbial clause consists of three main elements: a subordinating conjunction, a subject, and a predicate. This structure emphasizes that adverbial clauses are an integral part of complex sentences. Furthermore, the position of adverbial clauses in a sentence is flexible; they can be placed at the beginning or end of a sentence, with appropriate punctuation adjustments to ensure clarity of meaning. This flexibility allows writers to emphasize specific information according to the communication context.

There are nine main types of adverbial clauses commonly used in English, each with a distinct function in explaining logical relationships between ideas. In the context of academic writing, the use of adverbial clauses has been shown to improve the coherence, cohesiveness, and systematicity of arguments. Therefore, mastering adverbial clauses is not only related to grammatical aspects, but also contributes to the development of analytical thinking skills and effective academic writing skills for students and academic writers.

Table 1. of Discussion Results of Adverbial Clauses

Discussion Aspects	Key Results	Short Explanation
Understanding Adverbial Clauses	Subordinate clauses that provide additional information to the main clause	Adverbial clauses function to explain time, place, cause, purpose, conditions, method, conflict, result and comparison,

		and cannot stand alone without a main clause.
Position in a Sentence	Part of a complex sentence	Adverbial clauses always depend on independent clauses to form a complete and logical meaning.
Adverbial Clause Structure	Consists of 3 main elements	The elements include: (1) subordinating conjunction, (2) subject, and (3) predicate. This structure means that the clause cannot stand alone.
Position in a Sentence	Flexible (beginning or end of sentence)	It can be placed before or after the main clause. If it's at the beginning of a sentence, it's usually followed by a comma.
Main Function	Provide additional information that clarifies the meaning	Functions to explain logical relationships between ideas, such as cause and effect, time of event, or the purpose of an action.
Role in Academic Writing	Improve the coherence and logic of writing	Adverbial clauses help writers organize arguments systematically and clarify the relationships of ideas in academic texts.
Types of Adverbial Clauses	There are 9 main types	Includes: time, place, reasons, goals, conditions, contradictions, methods, consequences/results, and comparisons.
Benefits in Learning English	Supports analytical thinking and writing skills	Mastery of adverbial clauses is not only grammatical, but also improves the ability to construct complex sentences effectively.
Learning Implications	Important for students and academic writers to master	A good understanding helps to use English clearly, coherently and easily understood.

Based on Table 1, the discussion shows that adverbial clauses are an essential component of complex sentences because they function as subordinate clauses that provide additional information to the main clause. Adverbial clauses consist of a subordinating conjunction, a subject, and a predicate, which means they cannot stand alone and must depend on an independent clause to form complete meaning. Their position in a sentence is flexible, either at the beginning or the end, and they serve to explain logical relationships such as time, cause, purpose, condition, result, and comparison. In academic writing, the use of adverbial clauses contributes to clearer organization, stronger coherence, and more systematic presentation of ideas, making them important for students and academic writers to master in order to communicate effectively and analytically in English.

DISCUSSION

Definition of Adverbial Clauses

In English, a clause is the smallest grammatical unit capable of conveying a complete idea. A clause itself is a structure containing a subject and a predicate. In essence, a clause is similar to a phrase, except that it contains both a subject and a predicate. Clauses are divided into two types: independent clauses and dependent clauses. Independent clauses can stand as complete sentences because their meaning is complete. Meanwhile, dependent clauses cannot stand alone, even though they contain a subject and a verb. An adverb is a word used to describe a verb, adjective, or even another adverb. From this definition, it can be understood that an adverb functions to provide additional information to the word it describes. By explaining these elements, adverbs make their meaning clearer and more detailed. Therefore, adverbs are usually easy to recognize in a sentence.(Sumardi & Said, 2021).

An adverbial clause is part of a complex sentence. This type of sentence is one of the most interesting elements of English because, when used correctly, it can make writing appear more profound and clear. Adverbial clauses themselves are subordinate clauses that function to connect and provide additional information to the main clause. According to Leech (1989:26), an adverbial clause is a subordinate clause that is tied to the main clause and provides additional information about the contents of the main clause (Rakhmasari, 2022). An adverbial clause is a type of subordinate clause that depends on the main clause. Therefore, it cannot stand alone

as a complete sentence in English. Adverbial clauses must be combined with an independent clause to ensure clear meaning. If the adverbial clause is placed at the beginning and followed by the main clause, it is usually separated by a comma. However, if the adverbial clause follows the independent clause, a comma is generally not necessary (Ramli et al., 2023).

In traditional grammar, adverbial clauses are one of the three main types of subordinate clauses, along with relative clauses and complement clauses. The primary function of an adverbial clause is to act like an adverb, providing additional information about the situation of an action for example, the time, place, reason, or condition for the event in the main clause to occur. Therefore, the adverbial clause in the example can be called a clause of time, place, cause, or condition depending on the type of information it provides (Lin, 2015).

The Structure of Adverbial Clauses in Forming Complex Sentences

In English grammar, adverbial clauses are a type of subordinate clause that plays a crucial role in forming complex sentences. These clauses provide additional information to the main clause, such as about time, place, reason, method, purpose, or specific conditions. The presence of adverbial clauses enhances the meaning of a sentence and helps demonstrate logical relationships between ideas that cannot be explained simply by a simple sentence (Putranti et al., 2021).

Structurally, adverbial clauses consist of three main elements, namely:

1. *Subordinating conjunction (konjungsi subordinatif)* is a conjunction used to show the relationship between an adverbial clause and the main clause. Some examples are: because, although, when, while, if, since, unless, as, before, after, and until. Subject; namely the actor or topic discussed in the adverbial clause.
2. *Predicate (predikat)* is a verb or combination of verbs that describes what the subject is doing or experiencing.

Adverbial clauses can be positioned at the beginning, middle, or end of a sentence, depending on the emphasis of the information. For example:

- Because it was raining, I stayed at home.
- I stayed at home because it was raining.

These two sentences actually have the same meaning, but the different placement of the clauses makes the emphasis or focus of the message slightly different (Dewi, 2024).

Function of Adverbial Clauses

Typically, adverbial clauses are used to provide supporting information about what happens in the main clause. But beyond that, they also have a broader role, helping maintain coherence between sentences, paragraphs, and even entire texts. In conversation, adverbial clauses can also influence how someone conveys their meaning, not just changing the content of the main clause (Lin, 2015).

Functionally, adverbial clauses work like single adverbs, only with more complex forms. These clauses have several main roles, such as providing additional information with a more complete structure:

1. Explaining time. Example: I will call you when I arrive.
2. Show the cause (reason). Example: She went to bed early because she was tired.
3. State the condition. Example: If it rains, we will stay inside.
4. Indicates destination (purpose). Example: He studied hard so that he could pass the exam.
5. Shows contradiction (contrast). Example: Although it was cold, they went swimming.

With these functions, adverbial clauses not only make the action in the main clause clearer, but also help strengthen the relationship between sentences so that the text feels more cohesive and easier to understand (Nazara, 2024). Besides serving to connect meaning between one idea and another, adverbial clauses also help readers grasp the context and see the logical connections between the events or ideas being conveyed. Therefore, the use of these clauses makes complex sentences more structured and organized, making the intended message clearer, more fluid, and easier to understand (Adam & Afrizal, 2024).

In creating complex sentences, adverbial clauses play a crucial role because they connect related ideas in a more logical way. These clauses demonstrate a meaningful connection between the main idea and its supporting information, making the sentence feel more vivid and clear. Furthermore, the use of adverbial clauses also demonstrates the writer's ability to organize information neatly and sequentially an

important characteristic of academic writing and scientific papers (Adnyani et al., 2023).

Types of Adverbial Clauses

In both academic writing and everyday conversation, there are various types of adverbial clauses that help clarify the relationships between ideas in complex sentences. Time clauses are used to indicate when something happens, while place clauses explain where an action takes place. Furthermore, cause clauses provide a reason for an action, and condition clauses explain certain conditions that must be met for an event to occur (Subagyo et al., 2024). Meanwhile, a purpose clause is used to explain the purpose or what is intended to be achieved through an action. On the other hand, a contrast clause is used when there are two opposing ideas, but they are still related in meaning (Febriany & Handayani, 2024).

Types of Adverbial Clauses and their explanations:

1. Adverbial Clause of Time (Klausa Waktu)

   This clause is used to explain an event that occurred. It usually begins with a conjunction such as *when, while, before, after, since, until*, or *as soon as.*

   Example: I started writing the report after I finished the research.

2. Adverbial Clause of Place (Klausa Tempat)

   This clause is used to show where an action occurs, and usually uses conjunctions such as *where* or *wherever*.

   Example: You can sit wherever you like.

3. Adverbial Clause of Reason (Klausa Sebab/Alasan)

   This clause is used to explain why an action occurs, and usually uses conjunctions such as *because, since*, or *as.*

   Example: She stayed at home because she was sick.

4. Adverbial Clause of Purpose (Klausa Tujuan)

   This clause is used to explain the purpose or objective of an action, and usually uses the conjunctions *so that* or *in order that.*

   Example: He studies hard so that he can pass the exam.

5. Adverbial Clause of Condition (Klausa Syarat)

   This clause is used to indicate conditions that must be met for something to happen, and usually uses conjunctions such as *if, unless, provided that*, or *in case.*

Example: You will succeed if you work hard.

6. Adverbial Clause of Concession (Klausa Pertentangan)

   This clause is used to show a difference or contradiction between two ideas, and usually uses conjunctions such as *although, though, even though, whereas*, or *while.*

   Example: Although it was raining, they continued the match.

7. Adverbial Clause of Manner (Klausa Cara)

   This clause is used to describe how an action is carried out, usually using conjunctions such as *as, as if,* or *as though*.

   Example: He behaves as if he knew everything.

8. Adverbial Clause of Result or Effect (Klausa Akibat)

   This clause is used to show the impact or result of an action, and usually uses conjunctions such as *so that* or *such that*.

   Example: The lecture was so interesting that everyone paid attention.

9. Adverbial Clause of Comparison (Klausa Perbandingan)

   This clause is used to compare two actions or conditions, and usually uses conjunctions such as *as, than*, or *the more.*

   Example: She runs faster than I do.

The use of various types of adverbial clauses plays a crucial role in today's academic writing. These clauses not only make sentence structures more complete and varied, but also help clarify meaning and logical relationships between ideas in a text. When used appropriately, writers can structure main and supporting ideas in a hierarchical manner, making their writing appear more coherent and easier to follow. Furthermore, adverbial clauses also make writing feel more fluid and organized because each idea is arranged in a logical order. This is useful not only in academic writing but also in everyday conversation, where clarity and coherence are essential. In short, adverbial clauses help one write more clearly, logically, and easily understood (Harianja et al., 2022).

CONCLUSION

The results of this study indicate that the relationship among the three Abrahamic religions is strongly rooted in the figure of Prophet Abraham as the primary source of the monotheistic tradition. The development of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam has taken place over a long historical journey, marked by processes of revelation, the formation of community identity, and responses to social, political, and cultural changes in each period. These three religions not only serve as guides for ethics and

spirituality but also play a role in shaping the structure of civilization through political institutions, legal systems, and patterns of interaction among religious groups. From a socio-political perspective, the trajectory of the Abrahamic religions is closely related to the dynamics of power surrounding them from ancient kingdoms, empires, church authorities, and caliphate institutions to the influence of modern colonialism. Differences and changes in doctrines and religious institutions often reflect the political contexts in which these religions grew. This study also emphasizes that conflicts often labeled as religious conflicts are, in fact, largely caused by political motivations, group identity, and competition for resources.

In the current era, globalization and secularization present both challenges and opportunities for the three Abrahamic traditions. These social transformations demand adaptation to modern values, while also creating greater space for interreligious dialogue to reduce tensions and strengthen a harmonious pluralistic life. Overall, the three Abrahamic religions can be understood as traditions that continuously interact and negotiate their roles in socio-political dynamics throughout history. Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that future researchers develop comparative studies on the theology of the three Abrahamic religions using philosophical or hermeneutical approaches to examine how variations in the interpretation of revelation influence the formation of doctrines within each tradition. For academics and scholars of religious studies, further research can focus on analyzing the relationship between religion and the state in various modern contexts to understand interactions Abrahamic religions with democracy, secularization, and pluralism.

Meanwhile, for those who study interfaith dialogue, research is needed on effective models of cross-faith dialogue to help mitigate socio-religious conflicts, especially in regions that have a history of tensions between Abrahamic communities. In the socio-political realm, an interdisciplinary approach that combines history, anthropology, and political science also needs to be developed to uncover the structural factors that shape both conflict dynamics and interfaith harmony. In addition, society and policymakers are expected to recognize that many religiously nuanced conflicts are actually rooted in issues of identity and politics, so public policies should be designed with a multicultural perspective to create a more inclusive social life.

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