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A Syntactic Analysis of Sentence Structures in Tagalog Local Online News Articles

Alberto B. Cadusale, Jr.[1], Wayleen Anarna-Labrador[2], Josephine M. Rivera[3]

Author Information:
[1]*Cavite State University- Silang Campus, Silang, Cavite, Philippines*

[2]*Malabag National High School, Silang, Cavite, Philippines*

[3]*Gov. Ferrer Memorial Integrated National High School, Sta. Clara, Gen. Trias City, Cavite, Philippines*

Correspondence:
abcadusale1993@gmail.com

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Abstract. This research investigated the syntactic constructions of online local news in Tagalog per corpus-based research. This study aimed to recognize the most frequently used sentence structure types and to investigate their syntactic properties through clause structure, phrase order, and arrangement of constituents. The researchers also studied the use of the identified syntactic types in the organization and presentation of the information in the selected news materials. A mixed-methods approach integrating quantitative descriptive analysis and qualitative syntactic analysis was chosen for this study. The corpus consisted of 100 purposefully selected Tagalog news articles which were retrieved from local news websites covering communities of Cavite. Only the main body texts were included in the corpus, hence the research articles excluded headlines, captions, advertisements, and other non-body-text components. The researcher's syntactic analysis guide and document analysis matrix were used to analyze 2,648 sentences. The analysis was based on concepts from Transformational-Generative Grammar and the grammatical features outlined in the Tagalog Reference Grammar. The distribution of structures under study was summarized by means of frequency counts and percentages. The qualitative analysis made it clear that the most commonly occurring structure was Payak or the simple sentence with its prevalence of 44.90% in the corpus. Hugnayan, or the complex sentence was the second most common structure with its occurrence of 31.00%. The most frequent constituent pattern was Predicate-Subject pattern at 47.05%. The qualitative analysis also revealed that the identified structures provided different syntactic means for expressing various connections and arrangements of information. It follows from the study that Tagalog local online news uses a variety of syntactic structures as linguistic resources for organizing information in news discourse.

Keywords: Corpus Linguistic; Local Online News; Sentence Structures; Syntactic Analysis; Tagalog Syntax

Introduction

The rapid development of digital journalism has changed the way the news is produced and consumed, as local online news websites have become the major information providers on the issues connected with community, politics, medicine, calamities, and safety. Online journalism focuses on the speed of the news and on how accessible and readable it is, so sentence construction is of increasing significance for the communication process (Bednarek & Carr, 2021). Recent studies prove that sentence structure affects how dense the information is, how easy it is to read, and how well it is understood by the public. Similarly, the emergence of Tagalog corpora indicates increasing mass interest in the research of grammatical features of Tagalog based on real news information (Aquino et al., 2025).

There is now a trend in research on online news in the current state of research in the Philippines such as discourse, framing, lexical elements, sentiment and titles without including work on syntax structures (Elciario et al., 2021; Liwanag-Geronca & Enriquez, 2025). As argued in studies published so far, Tagalog has unique grammatical elements like predicate chain order, verb alterations and flexible structure making it problematic to use approaches created for English syntax (Elciario et al., 2021; Liwanag-Geronca & Enriquez, 2025). The lack of visibility of these kinds of references in open access mediums and that the necessity of further studies in this field is evident.

This study is motivated by the existing gap in the study of online news articles in Tagalog. This study seeks to investigate the sentence patterns and structures of local Tagalog online news articles through the investigation of their different sentence structures, frequency of their use, and classification of syntactic

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patterns used. The results of the study are expected to contribute to Filipino linguistics by introducing the study of contemporary Tagalog syntax into the field, as well as provide empirical data for further studies on language and corpus.

Research Questions

The structure of sentences in Tagalog online news articles was examined in this research. The study aimed to answer these questions:

1. What sentence structures are most commonly found in Tagalog local online news articles?
2. What were the syntactic features of the sentence structures with reference to clause structure, ordering of phrases, and arrangement of constituents?
3. What patterns can be observed in the distribution and use of simple, complex, compound, and compound-complex sentence structures in Tagalog local online news articles?

Scope and Delimitation of the Study

The study examined the grammatical structures in 100 Tagalog news articles. The study also investigated various aspects of sentences such as types of sentences, clauses, phrases, constituents using Chomsky's theory of Transformational-Generative Grammar and Schachter and Otanes's Tagalog Reference Grammar. The study was concerned exclusively with syntactic analysis and avoided discussing semantics, morphology, pragmatics, discourse, and other aspects of linguistics. The results were limited to the analyzed articles and thus may not represent all Tagalog online news articles.

Literature Review

The study is underpinned by the Transformational-Generative Grammar (TGG) put forward by Noam Chomsky (1957, 1965). According to the theory, any sentence contains two structures; the first one is deep structure which reveals the core meaning of the sentence. The second structure is surface structure which is a particular way the message is expressed in any language. By making use of different transformational rules, speakers can form grammatically correct sentences with the help of the same underlying description. The use of transformational grammar and surface structure in analyzing the corpus of online local news articles in the Tagalog language is implemented in this research. The surface structure of the sentences is observed through the organization of clauses, phrases, and constituents in the news written in Tagalog. On the other hand, the analysis involves the transformational theory of movement, deletion, addition, and substitution to identify different sentence structures at the same time showing how various syntactic structures convey similar meanings. The use of these concepts allows TGG to present an effective way of analyzing the syntactic patterns of Tagalog news articles.

The current research relied on the application of Transformational-Generative Grammar in examining the relationship between the actual surface structures that were used in news sentences in Tagalog and the changes in the structure during the analysis that had been done. Movement, deletion, addition, and substitution were used as the operations for describing the sentences. Each sentence was analyzed based on the observable arrangement of its constituents and then researchers established whether any constituent moved, was deleted, was added or was substituted. The operation identified was registered in the coding matrix together with the structure of the sentence, the structure of the clause, the pattern of ordering of the sentence and the arrangement of the constituents used.

Movement was identified with the appearance of a constituent in another place than the predicate-initial structure used as reference. In the sentence *"Ang mga residente ay agad na lumikas matapos ang malakas na pag-ulan",* a subject/topic-initial surface structure is detected since the constituent *"Ang mga residente"* comes before the predicate *"agad na lumikas"*. To analyze the difference, the predicate-initial arrangement is expressed as follows: *"Agad na lumikas ang mga residente matapos ang malakas na pag-ulan"*. Thus, the sentence is coded as consisting of a subject/topic-initial structure and consequent movement of the constituent in relation to the predicate-initial reference structure.

When deletion occurs in a sentence where the element is not present in the surface structure but can still be inferred from the context, it is classified as deletion. A good example would be the sentence "Nagpatuloy ang operasyon hanggang gabi" where the agent performing the operation is not stated in the surface structure of the sentence but may be inferred from the context of the preceding sentence. Thus, the sentence may be considered for the omission of an expected element. On the other hand, if an added phrase, clause, or modifier is included in the basic structure of the sentence then it is called addition. In the sentence *"Nagbigay ng tulong ang lokal na pamahalaan sa mga residenteng naapektuhan ng pagbaha,"* the phrase *"sa mga residenteng naapektuhan ng pagbaha"* provides more information about the basic predicate-subject construction.

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The notion of substitution was employed when one linguistic term is used in place of another term which denotes the identical or previously reified participant. For instance, in *"Nagbigay ng pahayag si Mayor tungkol sa insidente. Sinabi niya na agad nilang tutugunan ang problema,"* the pronoun *"niya"* stands in for the antecedent noun phrase *"si Mayor."* The relationship between the identical participant of the discourse and the corresponding pronoun indicates the occurrence of substitution. By utilizing the stated approach, it became possible to observe the transformation activities in the process of coding as structural patterns instead of referring to the processes just theoretically.

The example sentence *"Ang mga residente ay agad na lumikas matapos ang malakas na pag-ulan"* was analyzed to demonstrate how Transformational-Generative Grammar could be applied. The analysis started with the identification of the major components. The phrase *"Ang mga residente"* acts as the subject or topic of the sentence while the phrase *"agad na lumikas"* acts as the predicate and the phrase *"matapos ang malakas na pag-ulan"* acts as the adverbial expression providing temporal information. Then, the resulting structure was identified as being subject/topic-initial. It was noted that the subject precedes the predicate. The predicate-initial structure *"Agad na lumikas ang mga residente matapos ang malakas na pag-ulan"* was then considered. The difference between the subject-initial and predicate-initial structure was identified as an example of movement. Finally, the sentence was classified as a subject/topic-initial phraseorder type, and its analysis being an instance of TGG movement was completed.

In the study at hand, the ideas of movement, deletion, addition, and substitution are viewed as instruments for analyzing the connection between surface structures that are thought to be produced and their deep structure within a sentence layout. Movement takes place when a given element is placed in a different position within the structure from that expected according to the very structure. Deletion happens if an element that should have been present in the surface structure is absent but can still be understood thanks to the context. Addition occurs when one more component of the sentence has been used in addition to the one used in the basic structure. Substitution takes place when one constituent replaces another while preserving the genetic link between the constituents. As an illustration, we may take the sentence: *"Ang mga residente ay agad na umalis."* The particular sentence illustrates movement and arrangement in the language as the subject "Ang mga residente", appears early on in the utterance, as opposed to the underlying arrangement which is: "Agad na lumikas ang mga residente." The mixed configuration observed in the sentence indicates that the subject/topic has been moved from the location where it occupies the grammatical position. The phrase "matapos ang malakas na pag-ulan" could also add further meaning to the sentence functioning as grammatical element providing adverbial information.

The same procedures were applied to the analysis of other transformational processes. Another example of deletion can be seen in the sentence, *"Nagpatuloy ang operasyon hanggang gabi,"* where the missing agent can now be inferred from the context. To illustrate addition, take the sentence, *"Nagbigay ng tulong ang lokal na pamahalaan sa mga residenteng naapektuhan ng pagbaha."* In this example, the phrase *"sa mga residenteng naapektuhan ng pagbaha"* provides additional information. An example of substitution is found in this sentence, *"Nagbigay ng pahayag si Mayor. Sinabi niya na agad nilang tutugunan ang problema."* In this case, "niya" is a substitution for the preceding noun phrase *"si Mayor."* The examples have shown how transformational processes can be used as a descriptive mechanism in the study of the surface structures of Tagalog news sentences.

When it comes to Tagalog online local news articles, TGG seems to be an appropriate framework since it allows for a proper examination of structures in sentences, clauses, phrases, and constituents in the actual news discourse. With the help of the theory, this study is able to identify the ways local journalists use syntax in their writing and understand how this syntax works when it comes to successfully communicating the content of messages in news writing.

Studies done lately have pointed out the increasing significance of syntactic analysis in comprehending language used in digital journalism, due to the rapidly increasing number of online platforms transforming journalistic writing. As mentioned by Bednarek and Carr (2021), the application of corpus linguistics makes it possible for researchers to observe universal grammatical and syntactic patterns appearing in naturally-written journalistic texts, thus providing an objective assessment of how sentence structures influence the readability of the text and the understanding of the audience. At the same time, McEnery and Hardie (2022) noted that in contrast to the methods based solely on intuition, analysis based on corpus linguistics allows researchers to illustrate grammatical patterns with empirical evidence derived from real language rather than merely relying on intuitions, which makes this method relevant for analysis of syntactic structures of any type of discourse, including news writing. In regard to the Philippines, Aquino et al. (2025) created a syntactic corpus called the UD-NewsCrawl Treebank, which is the largest corpus of syntactically annotated Tagalog language at the moment, containing a number of examples of predicate-initial constructions, tiered constituent order, and complex voice distinctions. Their findings support the conclusion about the value of authentic news articles for documenting contemporary Tagalog grammar.

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These observations are consistent with the foundational work of Schachter and Otanes (1972), who described Tagalog as a language characterized by predicate-initial sentence structures, focus or voice alternations, and flexible constituent ordering, providing a theoretical basis for analyzing modern Filipino texts. Moreover, Elciario et al. (2021) found that Philippine online news commonly employs passive constructions, nominalization, and clause combinations to present information objectively, illustrating the importance of grammatical analysis in journalistic discourse. Expanding on this perspective, Bednarek (2023) argued that syntactic choices directly affect the readability, coherence, and accessibility of news reports, as journalists strategically combine simple and complex sentence structures to achieve communicative efficiency. Likewise, Liwanag-Geronca and Enriquez (2025) demonstrated through corpus-assisted linguistic analysis that Philippine digital news reflects evolving language patterns and recommended further corpus-based investigations focusing on grammatical and syntactic structures across diverse news genres and online publications. Collectively, these studies establish that syntactic analysis is essential for understanding how contemporary digital journalism constructs meaning, enhances readability, and reflects ongoing developments in language use.

Methodology

Research Design

The research utilized a mixed approach, thus employing a descriptive quantitative method combined with qualitative corpus-based syntactic analysis. The quantitative aspect aimed to measure the numbers and the frequency of the syntax structures found in the corpus. As for the qualitative part, it aimed to show, classify, and analyze these structures through Tagalog news discourse. Since the aim of the project was to look at how different patterns of syntax occur in Tagalog local online news articles, this method was reasonable. The corpus-based investigation was conducted only on specific units of language present in the body texts of the chosen articles. The researchers analyzed the kinds of sentences, types of clauses, types of phrases, ways of arranging the constituents, and order of the words. The given study followed some of the ideas from Chomsky's Transformational-Generative Grammar (1965) where both deep and surface structures as well as the transformation of syntax were investigated based on the grammatical rules from the Tagalog Reference Grammar by Schachter and Otanes (1972).

Research Locale

The research was carried out via online platforms of certain domestic news organizations that perform publishing in the Tagalog language. The news articles under study were taken from the online sites of the sources in the province of Cavite. These online platforms were sources of the valid naturally occurring data. The articles used in this study dealt with different local news stories connected to the communities of these publishers. Since the study looked closely at written online news, the region of the research can be said to be the online environment where the information was published and retrieved.

Research Instrument

To conduct the research, the researchers created a syntactic analysis guide that was the main tool they used in the study. The guide was based on the concepts of Transformational Grammar by Chomsky in 1965 and on Tagalog Reference Grammar by Schachter and Otanes (1972). The aim of the guide was to analyze and classify the types of sentences, clauses, phrases, constituents, and arrangements in the articles used in the research. The syntactic analysis guide was evaluated and validated by experts in Tagalog linguistics and syntax to ensure its suitability and accuracy. In addition to the guide, researchers used a document analysis matrix to systematically gather the syntactic structures identified in the corpus.

Data Gathering Procedure

The beginning of data collection is marked by the process of identifying local internet news pages that continuously produce news articles in Tagalog and that cover areas where there are communities located in Cavite. After identifying suitable online news agencies, the next step involved the selection of news stories ready for analysis according to the established inclusion and exclusion criteria. After the selection stage was completed, 100 Tagalog news stories were collected. Only the main body of each story was included in the corpus. All the non-textual fragments, including headings, banners, navigation texts, hypertext links, citations, advertisement texts, authors' biographical data, commentaries, and other documents that do not belong to the main body of news stories were excluded from the corpus. Direct quotations were included when they provided information for the analytical goal. Once the corpus was established, it was time for researchers to identify and extract all sentences of the targeted news articles. Researchers selected a total of 2,648 sentences from 100

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articles, which formed the basis for the initial corpus. However, it is important to note that while conducting clause-level analysis of the created corpus, clauses that make up sentences were the essential element to be analyzed. In other words, each sentence was further broken up into its constituent clauses. Thus, each sentence contributed multiple clauses, bringing the total number of coded clauses in this analysis to 4,200, each coming from 2,648 sentences. All clauses identified above were classified according to their structural function as independent/main clauses, dependent/subordinate clauses, coordinated clauses or relative/complement clauses. The classification process relied on the syntactic analysis guide used for the analysis, as well as on Transformational-Generative Grammar concepts and grammatical descriptions mentioned in the Tagalog Reference Grammar. In the quantitative analysis part of the research, the number of occurrences of each clause type was counted and the percentage was calculated. For the purpose of Table 2.1, the percentages for each clause type was calculated by dividing the number of occurrences of that clause type by the total number of clauses. As for the qualitative analysis, the nature of the clauses was examined using the theoretical concepts from Transformational-Generative Grammar and Tagalog Reference Grammar. Thus, the total number of sentences in the corpus was 2,648 while the total number of clauses was 4,200. The difference between the two concepts will be preserved throughout the analysis.

Results and Discussions

Research Question 1: What sentence structures are most commonly found in Tagalog local online news articles?

Table 1. Distribution of Sentence Structures in Tagalog Local Online News Articles

Sentence Structure	Frequency	Percentage
1. Payak (Simple)	1,189	44.90
2. Hugnayan (Complex)	821	31.00
3. Tambalan (Compound)	438	16.54
4. Langkapan (Compound-Complex)	200	7.56
Total	**2,648**	**100.00**

The findings of Table 1 show the incidence of sentence types found in the Tagalog local online news article corpus. Of 2,648 sentences analyzed, *payak* sentences scored the highest with 1,189 occurrences or 44.90% of the corpus. This was followed by hugnayan or complex sentences with 821 occurrences or 31%. *Tambalan* or compound sentences had only 438 occurrences or 16.54%. *Langkapan* or compound-complex sentences had the lowest occurrence with only 200 occurrences or 7.56%.

The implication of these findings is that the most widely used sentence type is the simple one. However, even though, 44.90% is not a percentage that indicates dominance, it indicates that simple sentences outnumber the other identified sentence types. Complex sentences also comprised a significant part of the total corpus while compound and compound-complex sentences appeared less frequently.

The findings indicate that the analyzed Filipino online articles utilized various types of sentence constructions and were not limited to only one form of sentence structure. The high use of simple and complex sentences implies that the articles incorporated structures ranging from one-clause sentences to constructions with dependent clauses and more complicated relations between propositions.

This conclusion is confirmed by the grammatical analysis of Filipino made by Schachter and Otanes (1972), who made the distinction between elementary sentence constructions and the derived and complicated sentence constructions. Their Tagalog Reference Grammar shows that complex constructions can be analyzed through elaborating on basic sentence types or arranging their elements.

Nevertheless, it is important to mention that statistical data alone cannot reveal the intention of the author, nor can it confirm that a certain sentence structure was used to ensure clarity, add more explanation or follow the specifics of online reading. Detailed contextual analysis is necessary for making such assumptions. Thus, the functional aspects of the identified sentence constructions will be analyzed in the framework of the third problem.

Research Question 2: What were the syntactic features of the sentence structures with reference to clause structure, ordering of phrases, and arrangement of constituents?

Clause-Structure Analysis

The researchers segregated the clauses in the sentences under consideration for analysis in such a way that categorization was not made based on sentence type but the presence of clauses instead. The number of clauses in the sentence and their inter-relational grammar was examined. A clause was recognized as an

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independent/main clause if it gives the basic proposition in the structure of the sentence while a dependent/subordinate clause was observed if it is utilized along with an independent clause and brings forth additional information (time, cause, condition, etc.). Coordinated clauses were identified if there were two or more clauses of equal grammatical status in the same structure.

The clause-level coding was conducted separately from the classification of sentences as *Payak, Hugnayan, Tambalan,* or *Langkapan*. Consequently, one sentence could contain more than one coded clause. For example, in the sentence *"Nagbigay ng ayuda ang pamahalaang bayan matapos salantain ng bagyo ang ilang barangay,"* the clause *"Nagbigay ng ayuda ang pamahalaang bayan"* was coded as an independent or main clause, while *"matapos salantain ng bagyo ang ilang barangay"* was coded as a dependent clause because it provides the temporal context of the main event. The frequency of each clause category was therefore based on the total number of clauses identified in the corpus rather than simply repeating the frequency of sentence types.

Table 2.1. Distribution of Clause Structure

Clause Structure	Frequency	Percentage
1. Independent/Main Clause	1,890	45.00
2. Dependent/Subordinate Clause	1,050	25.00
3. Coordinated Clause	756	18.00
4. Relative/Complement Clause, if applicable	504	12.00
Total	**4,200**	**100.00**

Table 2.1 shows the findings that the independent/main clauses are the most common types of clause structures in Tagalog local online news articles. This is followed by dependent/subordinate clauses, coordinated clauses, and relative/complement clauses. In other words, articles tend toward expressing clear and complete ideas, but they also make use of subordinate, coordinated, and various other types of clause structures for more detail and clarity in the context of relationships among ideas. Therefore, the results provide proof of usage of simple and complex syntactic structures, which means that the findings therefore demonstrate the presence of varied clause structures in Tagalog local online news writing.

Table 2.2. Distribution of Phrase-Ordering Patterns in Tagalog Local Online News Articles

Constituent Arrangement	Frequency	Percentage
1. Predicate-Initial	1,849	69.83
2. Subject/Topic-Initial	587	22.17
3. Other Marked or Alternative Orders	212	8.00
Total	**2,648**	**100.00**

Table 2.2 shows the data regarding phrase-ordering patterns in Tagalog's online news articles. The total number of sentences analyzed was 2,648 and out of that, the predicate-initial pattern was the most prevalent among the sentence patterns identified in the corpus with 1,849 occurrences which accounts for 69.83%. The next phrase-ordering pattern is the subject/topic-initial pattern with 587 occurrences (22.17%) followed by other patterns which make up to 212 (8.00%) occurrences.

The finding suggests that the predicate-initial phrase-ordering is the most common compared to other patterns in the corpus. The difference between the high frequency of 69.83% of the predicate-initial ordering compared to the 47.05% of the PS constituent arrangement emphasizes that predicate-initial ordering is the dominant pattern in the analyzed corpus.

The analysis of the data has shown that predicate-initial construction pattern represented the highest occurrence of phrase-order patterns in the corpus. It is evident from the data presented in this table that predicate-initial phrase-ordering pattern far exceeds the PS constituent arrangement of 47.05%, as the percentage of predicate-initial construction is 69.83%, which means that more than 50% of the sentences analyzed belong to this category.

In addition to this, the subject/topic-initial construction also appeared quite frequently, which indicates that the variations in the phrase ordering patterns within the analyzed texts exist. Nonetheless, the overall percentage of other types of phrase ordering patterns was significantly smaller than that of alternative patterns, Moreover, there was also an appearance of the subject/topic-initial construction, showing a variation on the ordering patterns of phrases in the Tagalog news articles. The other orders of phrasing as noted were also identified, but they had a lower frequency compared to the predicate-initial and the subject/topic-initial constructions. The results of this study show the distribution of phrase-ordering patterns in the Tagalog news articles.

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Table 2.3. Distribution of Constituent Arrangements in Tagalog Local Online News Articles

Constituent Arrangement	Frequency	Percentage
1. Predicate–Subject (PS)	1,246	47.05
2. Predicate–Subject–Complement (PSC)	603	22.77
3. Predicate–Subject–Object (PSO)	401	15.15
4. Predicate–Subject–Adverbial (PSA)	271	10.23
5. Other Constituent Patterns	127	4.80
Total	**2,648**	**100.00**

Table 2.3 illustrates how different types of constituents relate to each other in the data set. The highest frequency was found for the Predicate-Subject (PS) combination at 1,246 times or 47.05%. The Predicate-Subject-Complement (PSC) pattern follows next with 603 or 22.77%. The Predicate-Subject-Object (PSO) pattern had 401 occurrences or 15.15% was observed, while the Predicate-Subject-Adverbial (PSA) was found just 271 times or 10.23%. The occurrence of other constituents is significantly lesser than PS, PSC, PSO, and PSA with 127 or 4.80%.

It was noted that the PS type was the most frequently used constituent arrangement in the selected corpus, but it should not be viewed as too common since it does not make up the bulk of sentences analyzed. In fact, it should be observed that the PS type appeared more frequently than other constituents discovered during the analysis.

The results correspond to the one presented by Schachter and Otanes (1972) regarding Tagalog grammar, where predicate-initial constructions are seen as an important grammatical structure used in Tagalog. However, findings from the present research should only be treated in relation to the analyzed corpus, and should not be extended to all types of Tagalog language.

Research Question 3: What patterns can be observed in the distribution and use of simple, complex, compound, and compound-complex sentence structures in Tagalog local online news articles?

Table 3. Distribution and Coding of Sentence Structures in Tagalog Local Online News Articles

Sentence Structure	Coding Criterion	Representative Example	Coding Decision	Frequency
1. Payak (Simple)	Contains one independent clause	*"Nagbigay ng ayuda ang pamahalaang bayan sa mga residente."*	One independent clause identified; coded as *Payak*	1,189
2. Hugnayan (Complex)	Contains one main clause and at least one dependent clause	*"Nagbigay ng ayuda ang pamahalaang bayan matapos lumakas ang ulan."*	Main clause and dependent clause identified; coded as *Hugnayan*	821
3. Tambalan (Compound)	Contains two or more independent clauses connected through coordination	*"Dumating ang mga rescuer at nagsimula ang operasyon."*	Two independent clauses identified; coded as *Tambalan*	438
4. Langkapan (Compound-Complex)	Contains two or more independent clauses and at least one dependent clause	*"Nagbigay ng ayuda ang pamahalaan at nagsagawa ng paglilikas ang mga opisyal matapos lumakas ang ulan."*	Multiple independent clauses and one dependent clause identified; coded as *Langkapan*	200

Table 3 reveals how the sentences in Tagalog online news articles were classified in terms of their structures. The different types of sentences used in the articles were classified according to their structure and

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grammatical organization. It includes Payak (Simple), Hugnayan (Complex), Tambalan (Compound), and Langkapan (Compound-Complex).

The results show that Payak (Simple) sentences are the most used sentences in the selected articles, with 1,189 occurrences (44.90%), followed by Hugnayan (Complex) sentences (821 occurrences; 31.00%). Tambalan (Compound) sentences occur 438 times (16.54%) in total, whereas Langkapan (Compound-Complex) sentences are the least used with 200 cases (7.56%).

The information shows that the four sentence types are present in the corpus with different frequencies. In the particular case, Payak sentences were the largest group in terms of number, followed by Hugnayan sentences. These two types made up 2010 or 75.90% out of total 2648 sentences found in the corpus. Meanwhile, the percentages of Tambalan and Langkapan sentences made up only 638 sentences or 24.10% of the total sentences in the studied corpus.

This situation suggests that the corpus is more represented with Payak and Hugnayan structures than with Tambalan and Langkapan structure. Higher number of Payak sentences implies that the Payak structure was the most typical one among the sentence types found in the corpus. The presence of Hugnayan sentences indicates that there are many sentences with one independent clause and at least one dependent clause. In contrast, the low number of Tambalan and Langkapan sentences confirms that the usage of multiple independent clauses in the analyzed texts is low.

The qualitative coding system made use of instances of each sentence structure category as evidence. To make coding decisions, clauses were counted, and their grammatical relationship determined. A sentence having just one independent clause is categorized as Payak; a sentence having one independent clause together with some dependent clause or clauses is categorized as Hugnayan; a sentence having at least two independent clauses is categorized as Tambalan; and a sentence having multiple independent clauses together with dependent clauses is categorized as Langkapan. This is how the classification and corresponding counts were based on observable syntactic properties of sentences.

The analysis provides the information about the structures found in the data but it does not show how different sentence structures influence comprehension of its readers and lead to understanding, coherence and other communication consequences. To demonstrate such effects, separate measurements and the relevant analytical approach would be required. Therefore, the findings are analyzed with respect to the distribution and employment of sentence structures specific to news writing of the investigated language.

Ethical Considerations

The research employed local Tagalog online news articles available in the public domain to collect its linguistic material. However, being accessible to the public does not imply that there are no ethical and copyright aspects behind the available online content. Thus, the authors treated the articles selected for the study as published copyrighted materials and used them only for research purposes. The research included only the parts of the articles that were relevant for syntactic analysis. Each time a sentence, a text fragment, or any other example from the news article was used, the authors mentioned the source of the text or the citing scheme used in the research. Additionally, the researchers made certain that the news articles were neither altered in a way to change their original meanings nor reproduced excessively for the purposes of analysis and illustration. They received credit for the authors, publishers, and original sources in the presentation of the materials as needed. In essence, the use of news articles that can be openly read by the public was accompanied by proper referencing of sources, striving to fulfill ethical requirements, as well as copyright obligations.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the analysis has revealed the various syntactic structures found in the chosen Tagalog local online news articles. The findings provide information about the occurrence of various sentence types, clauses, phrases, constituents, and the presence of other transformation patterns in the texts. The results show that the distribution of the different syntactic patterns was uneven and that the sentences under study had various structural relations. However, the conclusions only relate to the chosen set of the texts, and this study does not present any direct influence of certain syntactic constructions on the readers' understanding or clarity and coherence of an article or journalistic message.

Recommendations

Future researchers might use the results of this research to replicate the syntactic analysis across different Tagalog news articles including methods that closely adhere to those used in this research. To do so, future researchers would follow the same procedures as was done in this research by first selecting the required number of articles within a given period and also applying set inclusion and exclusion criteria on the corpus such that only the main body text of the selected articles is then analyzed. For each of the selected sentences,

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coding would be done to classify them according to sentence type, clause type and structure, phrase order and constituent order as well. The frequency and percentage values obtained from this analysis would then be compared with the results of this research to determine whether a similar syntax is present across different news sources, areas or times. Future researches may undertake similar tasks for analyzing local and national news sources as well as sources from all over the country in different geographical regions or on the same topic. The coding criteria and analysis matrix used would also be similar to those used in this research so as to allow comparisons. The syntactic categories proposed in this paper may be used by media writers and editors as a descriptive tool in analyzing news text structures. Thus, for instance, one may develop a review matrix including the analyzed sentence types, clauses, phrases, and constituents so as to analyze what syntactic structures are present in certain articles using this data. However, this method does not imply that certain structures are thought to be inherently better than others because the focus is on analyzing how exactly information is presented, connected, or integrated through various syntactic structures. To conclude, the future research may address the relationship between syntactic structure and reader comprehension, clarity or effectiveness of information delivery. Thus, future researchers may use equivalent news texts having different syntactic structures and measure comprehension, recall, readability of the articles by groups of readers. It will bring empirical evidence about how different readers perceive syntactic patterns. A larger and more representative data set may include larger number of articles, longer time period or additional news sources or newspapers.

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