



SYNTACTIC AND SEMANTIC ANALYSIS ON NADIA MURAD'S NOBEL LECTURE

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Abstract

Nadia Murad is known by the world for her dark past. She was one of the victims of sexual harassment by ISIS. She lost his family, she was detained as a slave, burned with cigarettes, and raped. She managed to escape after that she lived with a family, who was able to smuggle her out of territory controlled by the Islamic State, allowing her to go to a refugee camp in Duhok, northern Iraq. On December 16, 2015, she spoke to the United Nation Security Council about human trafficking and conflict. The 2018 Nobel Peace Prize was given to Denis Mukwege and her for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict. Until now, she is known as a human rights activist.

The study focuses on the analysis of adjective phrases in syntax and its meaning in semantic in Nadia Murad's Nobel lecture. A descriptive qualitative is used to obtain the data. The objectives of this study are to find out the five grammatical functions of adjective phrase proposed by Dixon in Ompungsunngu (2016), and their semantics meaning based on a theory by Downing (2015). It is found that only two grammatical functions of adjective phrase in the lecture, they function as noun phrase modifier and subject complement. While from the semantics meaning, the lecture has a preference to use evaluation descriptor adjective and restrictive classifier adjective.

Keywords: Adjective phrase, semantic meaning, Nadia Murad, Nobel lecture.

Introduction

Nadia Murad, a 2018 Nobel peace prize winner, is a human rights activist. Murad and Denis Mukwege, a Congolese gynecologist and priest, won prizes for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict. Murad was a victim of sexual harass-



ment by ISIS in 2014. She lost his family, was detained as a slave, burned with cigarettes, and raped until finally, she escaped in 2015. On December 10, 2018, she gave her lecture as a Nobel peace prize winner.

This issue has led to research publications. Sari (2020), on social behavioral sciences, explains the efforts of Murad in fighting for minority rights in Iraq to be free from the shackles of ISIS. Her action has been in the spotlight of the world because she was able to stand tall after passing through ISIS captivity and slavery, and succeeded in winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 2018 ago. The emergence of women activists such as Murad, one of which is caused by the lack of support and protection from the government of her home country in handling the case. As a result, feminist movements continue to emerge because they assume that the state is no longer able to handle cases of discrimination and violence against women.

Murad's different narratives in different context in 2014 and 2015 are also analyzed by Mustafa (2015) in his case study. In 2014, when Murad was interviewed by two western mass media, her narrative was compacted and less detailed. While in December 2015, mediated by the discourse of the latter and by the genre of testimony, when Murad was testified about her torment before the Security Council, the narrative became more detailed and transformed from a description of personal suffering into a call for action.

This study, otherwise, is aimed to analyze the syntax and semantic component of a lecture delivered by Nadia Murad as a 2018 Nobel peace prize winner, specifically on the adjective phrase and its semantic meaning. Adjectives that the function is to raise interest modification for specifying the nature of the relationship between syntax and semantics. Syntax and Semantics tackle fundamental issues and draws together the key concepts of traditional grammar and formal linguistics (Miller, 1985).

According to Aminuddin (1988), a pure system of semiotic always begins with syntax, then continues with semantics that is related to language used in communication. This study focuses on the analysis of the adjective phrases in her Nobel lecture. The study answers the questions (1) what are the five grammatical functions of adjective phrase used in Nadia Murad's Nobel lecture? and (2) what are the semantics meaning from those adjective phrases?.

A previous study by Ompungunggu (2016) entitles *The Study of Adjective Phrase in the Seventeen Magazines'* shows that the five main grammatical functions of adjective phrases in sentences from eight articles are as head of adjective phrases, modifiers of noun phrases, subject complements, object complements, and appositive and of all sentences in eight articles, most of the sentences in eight articles use adjective phrases that serve as complementary objects.

Another previous research on syntax and semantic by Jawad and Yosif (2017) on Shapiro's poem "Auto Wreck" attempts to illustrate how adjectives are exploited by Shapiro in achieving various literary purposes. Syntactically, adjectives are used attributively to change the nouns by which the nouns add detailed explanations to major events throughout the poem. Semantically, the lexical use of the adjective is purely descriptive to describe the connotation of



poetry. In addition, the semantic nature of the adjectives used outlines the poet's intent as far as the themes and ideas he wishes to convey.

Literature Review

Adjective

Adjectives are the third-largest word class after nouns and verbs (Sujatna, 2014). An adjective is a word that describes a noun or pronoun. In addition, it describes, identifies, or quantifies words (Dixson in Ompusunggu, 2016). An adjective phrase may consist of an adjective or a sequence of words in which an adjective is the head of the phrase. For example: (1) I am pretty. The word "pretty" is an adjective. (2) They are rich. The word "rich" is an adjective and (3) We are sad. The word "sad" is an adjective.

Adjectives have characteristics called central adjectives. Central adjectives can be influenced to show comparative and superlative levels, such as with large, larger, and largest. Central adjectives also serve attributive and predictive syntactic roles (Biber, Conrad, Leech, 2002). In an attributive position, similar to the theory by Dixson in Ompungunggu (2106), adjectives are part of noun phrases: they precede and modify head nouns. Predictive adjectives are not part of a noun phrase, but are a characteristic of noun phrases which are elements of separate clauses. Usually, predicative adjectives occur as subject predicatives following a copular verb *That'll be quite tiring*. Here, the adjective tiring describes the subject. Predicative adjectives also occur as object predicatives: *Even John Wick called it charming*. Here, the adjective charming describes the object.

Morphologically, the adjectives most often used in English are monosyllabic words, or disyllabic words of native origin. They tend to be paired as opposed to *good-bad*, *big-small*, *large-small*, *tall-short*, *black-white*, *easy-hard*, *soft-hard*, *dark-light*, *alive-dead*, *hot-cold*, which has no specific form to mark it as an adjective. Many adjectives, such as *sandy*, *milky*, come from nouns, other adjectives, or verbs with the addition of certain characteristic suffixes. Some of them are of native origin, as in *greenish*, *hopeful*, *handsome*, *handy*, *foremost*, *useless*, while others are formed on Greek or Latin bases, as in *central*, *secondary*, *apparent*, *civic*, *creative*, and yet others via French such as *marvelous* and *readable* (Downing, 2015).

Adjective Phrase

An adjective phrase is any phrase the head of which is an adjective (Sujatna, 2014). It could be one or more words. Adjective phrases can be constructed by using participles or prepositions together with their objects. An adjective phrase is built around an adjective, for example (1) I have been to a very interesting place. The preposition "very" modifies the adjective "interesting". (2) I am very happy to do this project with you. The preposition "very" modifies the ad-



jective "happy". According to Dixson (1982) in Ompusunggu 2016 adjective phrase includes adjectives performing five main grammatical functions in sentences in English. The five functions of adjectives and adjective phrases are (1) Adjective phrase head; (2) Noun phrase modifier; (3) Subject complement; (4) Object complement and (5) Appositive.

Adjectives as Adjective Phrase Head

The first grammatical function performed by adjectives is the head of the adjective phrase. An adjective phrase consists of adjectives plus modifiers or complement. For example, the following italicized adjectives function as head of adjective phrases: (1) *Blue*, the word *blue* is adjective. (2) *Extremely big*, the word *big* is modifiers in an adjective phrase "extremely big".

Adjectives as Noun Phrase Modifiers

The second grammatical functions performed by adjectives and adjective phrases are modifiers of noun phrases. Noun phrase modifiers are words, phrases, or clauses that change or explain nouns including pronouns or noun phrases. For example, the adjectives in italics and the following adjective phrases function as modifiers of noun phrases: (1) My aunt planted *pink* flowers in her garden. The word *purple* is an adjective functions as a noun phrase. (2) The *very tall* giraffe ate my food. The word *very tall* is an adjective phrase functions as a noun phrase.

Adjectives as Subject Complements

The third grammatical function performed by adjectives and adjective phrases is complementary to the subject. Complementary subjects are words, phrases, or clauses that follow copular, or connect, verbs and describe subject clauses. The term adjective predicate is also used for an adjective phrase that serves as a complement to the subject. For example, the following italics and oblique adjectives function as complementary subjects: (1) Under the table is *dirty*. The word *dirty* is an adjective function as subject complement. (2) The candy tastes *extremely sweet*. The word *extremely sweet* is an adjective phrase functions as subject complement.

Adjectives as Object Complements

The fourth grammatical function performed by adjectives and adjective phrases is a complement to the object. Complementary objects are words, phrases, or clauses that directly follow and modify objects directly. For example, the following italics and italics function as complementary objects: (1) My uncle painted the wall *red*. The word *red* is an adjective function as an object complement. (2) The little girl wanted her room bright *yellow*. The word *bright yellow* is an adjective phrase functions as object complement.



Adjectives as Appositives

Based on (Dixson, 1998 in Ompusunggu 2016) "The fifth grammatical function that adjectives and adjective phrases perform is the appositive". Appositive is a word, phrase, or clause that supports words, phrases, or other clauses by explaining or modifying words, phrases, or other clauses. For example, the following adjectives in italics and adjectives that function as an appositive: (1) The man, *old and poor*, died. The word *old and poor* are adjective phrase functions as appositive. (2) *Aware of the situation*, the man called for emergency services. The word *aware of the situation* is an adjective phrase head functions as an appositive.

Semantic Meaning

From the semantic point of view, there is a broad agreement to divide adjectives into categories and the decision to put a particular adjective in one of both categories is sometimes slightly arbitrary (Heyvaert, 2010). Downing (2015) categorizes it on descriptors (those that describe the referent) and classifier (those that sub-classify it). It is necessary to pay attention on semantic to discover the internal structure of language (Parker, 1986).

Descriptors

This category refers to such adjectives which indicate the following types of meaning:

size, weight, extent	: thick-thin, high-low, wide-narrow, deep-shallow, young-old
colour	: red, brown, pink, yellow, white
shape	: circle, square, oval, triangle
meanings related to time	: new, old, early, late, weekly, daily
evaluative	: awesome, pretty, handsome, kind, dreadful, shocking
an active/passive process	: satisfying, exciting, worrying, broken, activated, exhausted
general qualities	: warm-cool, full-empty, sweet-sour, strong-weak, bright-dull
a temporary state	: alight, alone, awake, aghast, ajar (with predicative function only)

Figure 1: adjective classification according to Downing (2015)

Classifiers

These are the three types of classifier adjectives. The first is restrictive, which limits the reference of a noun in relation to other references, as in the average, supplementary, chief, complete, overall, and final. While related, the second criterion, limits referrals to groups such as nationality, religion: Brazil, Christianity, and Muslims. The third, the meaning of specific categories, is associated with culture, technology, science, and so on. The examples are *heavy* industry, *light* aircraft, *the financial* crisis, a *nuclear* plant, and *parliamentary* debates (Downing, 2015).



Methods

The proposed method of this study is descriptive qualitative in analyzing the adjective phrase used by Nadia Murad in her Nobel Lecture 2018. This method was used since it provides an intensive, holistic description and analysis of a single entity. Moreover, a descriptive-qualitative design was carried out in a natural setting (Alwasilah, 2008). The data is gained from Nobel Prize official website, www.nobelprize.org. After the data source is gained, there are 55 adjective phrases found in the lecture. The data then categorized and analyzed.

Findings

From the syntactic analysis, there are 68 adjectives and 55 adjective phrases in the lecture by Nadia Murad as the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize winner. Adjective phrase as adjective phrase head, adjective as object complement, and adjective as appositive are not found in the lecture. In contrast, adjective phrase as a noun phrase modifier emerged 51 times, while adjective phrase as a subject complement emerged only 4 times. The most representative findings are presented in a table below. NPM stands for noun phrase modifier and SC stands for subject complement.

No	Phrase	Function	Descriptors	Classifier
1	Distinguished Members of the Committee	NPM	Evaluation	Restrictive
2	my warm greetings to you	NPM	General Qualities	Restrictive
3	It is true	SC	General Quality	Restrictive
4	a new roadmap	NPM	Time	Restrictive
5	hideous crimes against each other	NPM	General qualities	Category-Specific Meaning
6	Unexpected things happened	NPM	Process	Restrictive
7	Yazidi family has a story	NPM	Evaluation	Relating
8	I am the first Iraqi	NPM	Time	Relating
9	a whole society	NPM	Restrictive	Restrictive
10	a useless war	NPM	Evaluation	Category-Specific Meaning
11	a few Yazidis	NPM	Size	Restrictive
12	the Yazidis face the same fate	NPM	General qualities	Restrictive
13	the appropriate protection	NPM	Evaluation	Restrictive
14	the international community	NPM	Restrictive	Restrictive
15	is serious about providing assistance	SC	Evaluation	Restrictive

Figure 2: Adjective phrase used in Nadia Murad's 2018 Nobel Prize Lecture

Noun phrase modifier is the most frequent adjective phrase in the lecture. It emerged 51 times or 93% of the total adjective phrase used. These are the example of adjective phrases as noun modifiers in the lecture: (1) *My warm greetings to you*. The adjective *warm* modifies the



noun *greetings*. It was in the opening of the lecture to greet the audiences in the 2018 Nobel Prize ceremony. (2) *Yazidi family has a **similar** story*. The adjective *similar* modifies the noun *story*. It is used to narrate the Yazidi family that has a more horrible story than others because of the genocide. (3) *A **peaceful** community ...*, the adjective *peaceful* modifies the noun *community*. This adjective in accordance with a community that helped her to get through the horrible story. (4) *A **useless** war ...*, the adjective *useless* modifies the noun *war* to shout out that the war is useless and it is not necessary to happen. The last adjective phrase that as noun phrase is (5) *... **restore a normal** life*. The adjective *normal* modifies the noun *life*. It is used to convey Murad's hope on the Yazidi and herself.

The adjective phrase as a subject complement in the lecture emerged only 4 times or 7% from the total adjective phrase used. These are the proof of the usage of adjective phrase as a subject complement in the lecture: They are (1) *It is **inconceivable** ...*, The adjective *inconceivable* complements the subject *it* that refers to woman trafficking that is mentioned in the previous sentence. The second one is (2) *The community is **serious** about providing assistance ...* The adjective *serious* complements the subject the community which gave a real action to the trafficking. (3) *It is **true** ...* The adjective *true* complements the subject. It was used to affirm that they are numerous conflicts and problems in the world. And (4) *I am **proud** of the Yazidis ...* The adjective *proud* complements the pronoun *I* that refers to Murad as a member of Yazidi.

Furthermore, as far as semantic is concerned, on the descriptors, the lecture has a preference to use evaluation adjectives. From 51 adjective phrases as noun phrase modifier, evaluation adjective emerge 20 times or 40%, restrictive adjective emerges 12 times or 22%, general quality adjective emerges 7 times or 14%, and then size, time and process adjective emerges 4 times or 8%.

The evaluation adjectives in the lecture are (1) kind attention, (2) valuable prize, (3) useless war, (4) peaceful community, and (5) distinguished member. The general quality adjectives in the lecture are (1) warm welcome, (2) same fate, (3) different belief, (4) plain sight, and (5) blank slate. The size adjectives in the lecture are (1) long battle, (2) few Yazidi, (3) whole society, and (4) huge efforts.

Also, these are the active and passive process adjectives in the lecture. (1) Lasting peace is an active process, while (2) unexpected things, (2) unprecedented brutally and, (3) unlimited support belong to passive process adjectives. On the time adjective, these are the adjectives that used in the lecture: (1) a new roadmap, (2) first day, (3) the 70th anniversary, and (4) the 100th anniversary.

On the semantic analysis, it can be seen that Murad mostly used evaluative descriptor adjectives in her lecture to give her own perspective and evaluation about the things that she experienced. The adjectives (1) *kind attention*, (2) *valuable prize*, (3) *peaceful community*, and (4)



distinguished member in accordance with Murad's gratitude as 2018 Nobel peace prize winner. While the adjective *useless war* in line to Murad's sadden experience.

On the other hand, analysis on classifier adjective shows that restrictive adjective was mostly used by Murad since it restricts the referent of the noun that she used to describe something. The adjective that mostly used was *international* on the phrase *international community*, *international sympathy*, *international protection*, and *international institution*. This shows that Murad received a lot of attention from the world. While relating adjective that restricts to referents such as nationalities and religions emerged on the adjective *Yazidi* and *Iraqi* that Murad used to tell her identity. And category-specific meanings adjective emerged 6 times on the phrase *hideous crimes*, *useless war*, *long battle*, *unprecedented brutally*, *internal wars*, and *racial discrimination*. These adjectives were used to narrate her tragic story that associated with war.

Conclusions & Suggestions

From syntax and semantic analysis, it can be concluded that the lecture by Nadia Murad as Nobel Peace Prize winner has a preference to use adjective phrase as a noun phrase modifier that is 92% from the total adjective phrase use. Moreover, semantically, those adjective phrases are mostly in the evaluative descriptor adjective and restrictive classifier adjective. Evaluation adjectives are very versatile, however, in the sense that adjectives can be applied to many various types of the referent (Goddard, Taboada, and Trnavac, 2017). Despite their versatility, evaluation adjectives are often subject to collocation restrictions or tendencies which can be valuable clues to semantic structure (cf. Barrios & Goddard 2013) in (Goddard, Taboada, and Trnavac, 2017). Here, the adjectives (1) *kind attention*, (2) *valuable prize*, (3) *peaceful community*, and (4) *distinguished member* are in accordance with Murad's gratitude as 2018 Nobel peace prize winner. While the adjective *useless war* in line to Murad's dark experience. The restrictive classifier adjective that mostly used by Murad restrict the referent of the noun that she want to convey.

This study contributes to enrich the study of syntax and semantic field. Moreover, this study suggested to the English students to study more about the analysis of the five main grammatical functions of adjective phrase, and it is suggested to the English teachers to teach their students to give examples of sentences consisting adjective phrases based on the five main grammatical functions to be able to apply in sentences. Thus it will make the writing richer. This study is also limited. It is also suggested for linguists to do further research on syntax and semantic.

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