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# INVESTIGATING TYPES OF SENTENCES ON SHORT STORIES FROM THE *STORY WEAVER* WEBSITE

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## ABSTRACT

Most English students are still confused about the types of sentences and how to identify them. Also, most English students are not aware of the types of sentences. This study identifies what types of sentences are found in some short stories on the Story Weaver website and what type of sentence is mostly used. The qualitative method is applied, and a simple calculation is used to identify the frequency of each type of sentence. There are 12 stories with different levels based on most read by people. The data taken from the *Story Weaver* website and divided into four short stories with levels 1, 2, 3, and 4 based on the sorts of sentences: simple sentence, compound sentence, complex sentence, and compound-complex sentence. The data is selected by the most read people for each level. The data referring to sentences were identified and selected based on their types. The sentences were analyzed by their structure and types sentences based on the theory of Loberger and Shoup (2009). The result shows that the stories consist of 563 sentences. There are 374 of simple sentences, 35 compound sentences, 137 complex sentences, and 17 compound-complex sentences. From the result, it can be concluded that the most used type of sentence is simple sentence. The reason underlying the finding is that a simple sentence is suitable for beginners with easy words to help the reader quickly grasp the main point being made. Also, they convey a clear idea concisely and straightforwardly. In addition, simple sentences are commonly used because they are easier to read and understand, particularly for non-native speakers or those with limited language skills.

*Keywords: Sentences, types of sentences, short story, story weaver*

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## INTRODUCTION

The creation of a good sentence in writing requires that we grasp expression and be familiar with the guidelines for using it. Using effective sentences can make it simpler for us to communicate our ideas or arguments to others ((Ernawati, 2014). We can also make our writing more interesting by using a variety of sentences. The problem with this study is that most students still have difficulty understanding types of sentences. (Arvelina, 2020) stated that most English students are still confused to choose the right types of sentences to utilize in their writing. Additionally, a lot of students struggle to recognize different types of sentences.

Types of sentences can be found in a short story. Through short stories, it can help the students to learn the types of sentences from there. According to (Hansen, 2022), a short story is a concise fictional prose narrative that is shorter than a novel and typically only involves a small number of characters. Short stories focus on one character and give a less through portrayal of the other characters. In short stories, the author usually writes in various types of sentences. Therefore, short stories can be used as a medium for learning and understanding the types of sentences.

There is one site that can be used to read short stories for free, namely *Story Weaver*. A non-profit company called Pratham Books has launched an effort called *Story Weaver* to promote reading in native languages and save extinct languages both in India and around the world. A free online resource for kids to develop reading habits is called *Story Weaver*. There are four levels for short stories: level 1, level 2, level 3, and level 4 ranging in length from 250 words to more than 1.500 words. These levels are intended for different groupings of readers according to their understanding. This website offers a wide variety of stories that are accessible to everyone. People who desire to learn English through reading will find *Story Weaver* to be very beneficial.

Previous studies on type of sentences analysis have various data and result. By analyzing student's descriptive writing, it is found that the most type used was simple sentence (Purnama, 2016) . Another study on type of sentences was also done to investigate a literary work. The research found that simple and compound sentence were the most used types(Jumrah et al., 2023). In addition, type of sentences analysis done by investigating a television program has shown that all type of sentences occurred (Kaefiyah, 2015). This study then investigates type of sentences in another form of data that is short stories from online source.

Based on the previous studies mentioned, the gap that can be filled by this study is that the short stories analyzed have a leveling in the source so that it is different from the previous analysis. The study offers a more comprehensive and detailed analysis because the data used are short stories with various levels ranging from easy to advanced. This analysis is expected to give more ideas, motivation, and inspiration for further similar projects.

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Thus, this study has two aims. The first aim is to identify the types of sentences used in short stories from the *Story Weaver* website.  The second aim is to identify the dominant types of sentences used in short stories from the *Story Weaver* website.

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A theoretical framework provides the foundation upon which a research study is conducted (Adom et al., 2018). This definition provides insight into the concept of a theoretical framework in research. The theoretical framework includes a set of ideas, assumptions, and theories that provide a background or context for a study. It provides a structure for observing and understanding the subject of the study and directs the collection and analysis of data. A theoretical framework guides the study, describing what must be investigated, why it is crucial to investigate it, and how the results should be evaluated. Supporting theories are important in making the final project. The theories that will be explained in the following paragraphs are the definition of a sentence, the types of sentences, and the *Story Weaver* website.

### Definition of a Sentence

A sentence is a grammatical construction that has a clear beginning and ending, expresses a complete thought or a question, and is understood by speakers (Loberger & Shoup, 2009). A sentence is classified as being of one of the following basic types, they are simple, complex, and compound. A simple sentence is a sentence that consists of one independent clause with no coordinate or subordinate clause. In addition, according to (Fabb, 2005), simple sentences can be divided into several types. Compound sentence contains multiple independent clauses, which are often linked by a coordinating conjunction. Coordinating conjunctions are words that join two independent clauses or two equal grammatical structures into a single sentence. FANBOYS is an acronym that stands for "For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So." These are the seven coordinating conjunctions in English, and they are used to connect words, phrases, and clauses in a sentence. Complex sentence contains an independent clause and one or more dependent clauses. When the dependent clause is placed before the independent clauses, the two clauses are separated by a comma; otherwise, no punctuation is necessary. A subordinating conjunction is a conjunction that connects a dependent clause to an independent clause in a sentence. Subordinating conjunctions show a relationship of dependency between the clauses, indicating that the dependent clause cannot stand alone as a complete sentence. The dependent clause provides additional information or sets the context for the independent clause. Here are the common subordinating conjunctions: after, although, as, as if, as long as, as soon as, because, before, even if, even though, if, once, since, so that, though, unless, until, when, wherever, and while.n addition to simple compound sentences, there are compound-complex sentences, which have two or more independent clauses and one

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or more dependent clauses.

**Story Weaver Website**
In 2004, Pratham Books was founded as a children's book publisher in a variety of languages to encourage kids to read and to tell them stories that hold their interest and stimulate their imaginations. The main goal was to create high-quality, reasonably priced picture books in several Indian languages to aid children in learning to read. Then, in 2015, Pratham Books launched a free digital collection of children's books that gives every child free access to literature in their native tongue called Story Weaver.

With a readership of 50 million since its founding, Pratham novels has released more than 4000 novels in 22 Indian languages. Early readers, fiction, non-fiction, and children's books about science, history, mathematics, and nature are just a few of the genres included in the volumes. Many of the nation's most well-known authors and illustrators have collaborated with Pratham Books, and their books have won several awards.

There are lots of stories on the *Story Weaver* website and lots of texts on them. There are four levels of short stories on the *Story Weaver* website: level 1, level 2, level 3, and level 4 ranging in length from 250 words to more than 1.500 words. These levels are intended for different groupings of readers according to their understanding. Level 1 is for beginners with easy words, word repetition, and less than 250 words. Level 2 with simple concepts and consists of up to 600 words. Level 3 with longer sentences with up to 1.500 words. Level 4 with longer sentences, more nuanced stories, and developed in more than 1.500 words. This website offers a wide variety of stories that are accessible to everyone. People who desire to learn English through reading will find *Story Weaver* to be very beneficial.

**METHOD**
The method of analysis used in this study is a qualitative method. The qualitative methods in the research are by searching 12 short stories with different levels and then describing the types of sentences from the texts. The data are taken from the *Story Weaver* website. The subject under analysis in this study takes 12 short stories with different levels. The data were chosen based on the most read by people. Several steps are taken in the data collection process. The first step is by reading the data that will be analyzed taken from the *Story Weaver* website. The second step is finding the sentences that consist of simple sentences, compound sentences, complex sentences, and compound-complex sentences. The third step is identifying the types of sentences in short stories from the *Story Weaver* website.

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The data is taken from the *Story Weaver* website and divided into four short stories with levels 1, 2, 3, and 4 based on the sorts of sentences: simple sentence, compound sentence, complex sentence, and compound-complex sentence. The data is selected by the most read people for each level. Tables were used to make the data look neater and more organized. The next step is analyzing the data by identifying the types of sentences.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This paper analyzed types of sentences on short stories from the *Story Weaver* website. The stories are selected based on different levels from level 1 until level 4. From 12 short stories collected from the *Story Weaver* website, there are 563 sentences found. Here are the results of the types of sentences used in short stories.

| No | Title | Level | SS | CS | CXS | CCS | Total |
|----|-------|-------|----|----|-----|-----|-------|
| 1 | *The Red Raincoat* | 1 | 9 | - | 12 | 2 | 23 |
| 2 | *Smile Please!* | 1 | 15 | - | 1 | 1 | 17 |
| 3 | *Rani's First Day at School* | 1 | 30 | - | 4 | - | 34 |
| 4 | *It's All The Cat's Fault* | 2 | 4 | - | 9 | - | 13 |
| 5 | *The Magic Block* | 2 | 41 | 1 | 3 | - | 45 |
| 6 | *The Scarecrows on Parade* | 2 | 37 | 2 | 8 | - | 47 |
| 7 | *When I Grow Up* | 3 | 29 | 5 | 12 | - | 46 |
| 8 | *Stage Fright* | 3 | 50 | 2 | 12 | - | 64 |
| 9 | *The New Girl* | 3 | 56 | 1 | 13 | - | 70 |
| 10 | *A Helping Hand* | 4 | 45 | 17 | 29 | 11 | 102 |
| 11 | *Come Back Soon, Mira!* | 4 | 26 | 2 | 20 | 3 | 51 |
| 12 | *Kaakasaurus* | 4 | 32 | 5 | 14 | - | 51 |

| **Total** | **374** | **35** | **137** | **17** | **563** |
|-----------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
|           |         |        |         |        |         |

Note:
   a) SS = Simple Sentence
   b) CS = Compound Sentence
   c) CXS = Complex Sentence
   d) CCS = Compound-complex sentence
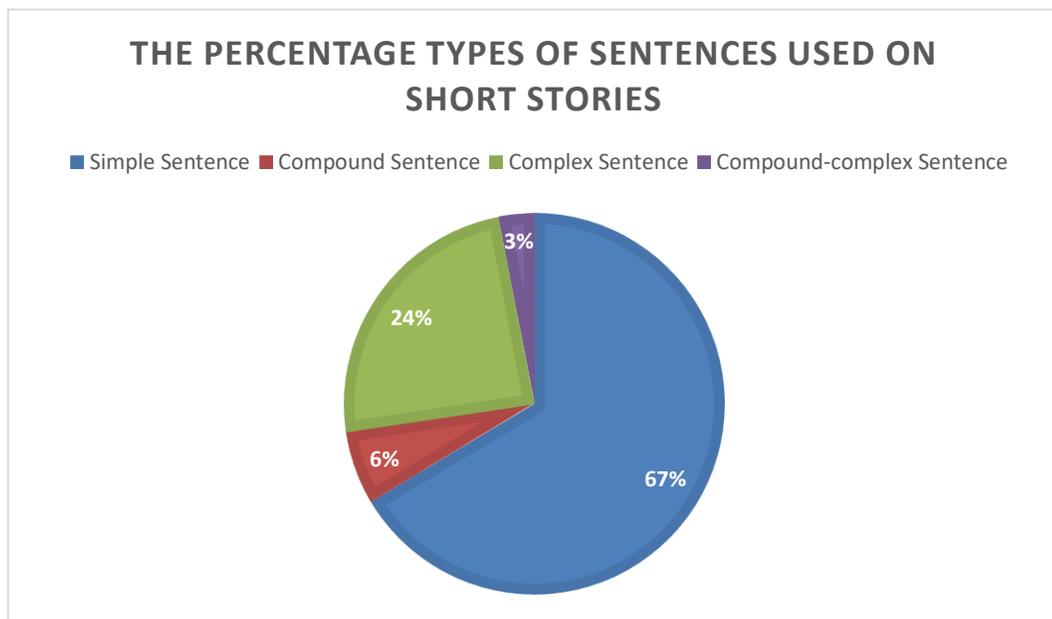


The table above shows that the short stories consist of 374 simple sentences (67%), 35 compound sentences (6%), 137 complex sentences (24%), and 17 compound-complex sentences (3%). It can be concluded that the types of sentences found in short stories are simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences. Furthermore, the most used types of sentences are simple sentences.

Of the 12 stories that have been analyzed, most of them are simple sentences. The reason why those sentences on stories are mostly used in simple sentences is that a simple sentence is suitable for beginners with easy words to help the reader quickly grasp the main point being made. Also, they convey a clear idea concisely and straightforwardly. In addition, simple sentences are commonly used because they are easier to read and understand, particularly for non-native speakers or those with limited language skills. Using complex sentence structures or advanced vocabulary can make it more difficult for some readers to follow along, which can be frustrating and may

even discourage them from continuing to read.

After selecting all of the articles chosen, 563 sentences are found. The analysis finds that the articles use all of the sentence types based on the theory from (Loberger & Shoup, 2009). As shown in the table above, the most used sentence type in short stories from the *Story Weaver* website is simple with 374 sentences or 67% of all sentences.  Simple sentence examples found in the short stories are as follows:

*1.  A fawn was racing in the forest.*

| A fawn | was racing | in the forest |
|---|---|---|
| Subject | Verb | Complement |
| Independent clause | | |

This sentence only has one independent clause with one subject *(a fawn)* and one verb *(was racing)* also one complement *(in the forest).* Thus, it forms as a simple sentence.

*2.   He leapt and cleared the stream.*

| He | leapt     and cleared | the stream |
|---|---|---|
| Subject | Verb | Object |
| Independent clause | | |

This sentence also has one independent clause. It only has one subject *(he)* and a compound verb *(leapt and cleared).* A simple sentence may have two subjects and two verbs. Since the sentence only has one independent clause, it is categorized as a simple sentence.

*3.   Gauri and her mother returned to their hut.*

| Gauri  and  her mother | Returned | to their hut |
|---|---|---|
| Subject | Verb | Complement |
| Independent clause | | |

*4.   "Ma, may I wear it now?" asked Manu.*

| "Ma, may I wear it now?" | Asked | Manu |
|---|---|---|
| Object | Verb | Subject |

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| Independent clause |
| --- |

Based on theory from Deterding and Poedjosoedarmo (2001) stated that when a sentence is spoken by someone using a quotation mark and the verb describes a verbal process, then the sentence in a quotation mark is called an object.

The second most used sentence type is complex sentence. There are 52 complex sentences found in short stories or 20% from 100%. According to Loberger and Shoup (2009), a complex sentence contains an independent clause and one or more dependent clauses. The dependent clause is usually introduced by a subordinate such as *because, if, although, since, when, while, who,* and others. Complex sentences examples found in the short stories are as follows:

*1. She tied the pretty red ribbons that were flapping in the breeze on her straw hair.*

| She | Tied | the pretty ribbons |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Subject | Verb | Object |
| Independent clause | | |

| That | were flapping | in the breeze on her straw hair |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Subordinator | Verb | Complement |
| Dependent clause | | |

This sentence is categorized as a complex sentence because it has one independent clause *(She tied the pretty ribbons)* and one dependent clause *(that were flapping in the breeze on her straw hair)*. The dependent clause starts with *that*, so it can not stand alone and depends on the main clause of the sentence.

*2. If she had not got stuck on the tree, I would not have taken the ladder to climb it.*

| If | She | had not got stuck | on the tree |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Subordinator | Subject | Verb | Complement |
| Dependent clause | | | |

| I | would not have taken | the ladder | to climb it |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Subject | Verb | Object | Complement |
| Independent clause | | | |

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This sentence is also a complex sentence. It has one dependent clause *(If she had not got stuck on the tree)* and one independent clause *(I would not have taken the ladder to climb it)*. The sentence starts with a dependent clause with subordinator *if*.

Next, the sentence types used in the short stories are compound sentences. There are 24 compound sentences or 9% out of 100% can be found in the short stories. According to Loberger and Shoup (2009), a compound sentence contains multiple independent clauses, which are often linked by a coordinating conjunction. Coordinating conjunctions are words that join two independent clauses.

FANBOYS is an acronym that stands for "For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So." These are the seven coordinating conjunctions in English, and they are used to connect words, phrases, and clauses in a sentence. Compound sentences examples found in the short stories are as follows:

1. *Mother took the scarecrows into the fields* **and** *she fixed them amidst the tall stalks of grain.*

| Mother | Took | the scarecrows | into the fields |
|---|---|---|---|
| Subject | Verb | Object | Complement |
| Independent clause | | | |

+ *and*

| And | she | fixed | them amidst the tall stalks of grain |
|---|---|---|---|
| Coordinator | Subject | Verb | Complement |
| Independent clause | | | |

This is a compound sentence because it has two independent clauses. The clauses are connected by *and* as the coordinator, so it is categorized as a compound sentence.

Finally, the least types of sentences used in the short stories are compound-complex sentences. It only has 9 compound-complex sentences or 4%. According to Loberger and Shoup (2009), compound-complex sentences which have at least two independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

1. *Miss told me that I had to be your mentor and show you around because you are a new student.*

| Miss | told | me |
|---|---|---|
| Subject | Verb | Object |
| Independent clause | | |

| that | I | Had | to be your mentor |
|---|---|---|---|

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| Subordinate conjunction | Subject | Verb | Complement |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dependent clause | | | |

| and | Show | You | around |
|---|---|---|---|
| Coordinate conjunction | Verb | Subject | adverb |
| Independent clause | | | |

| because | You | Are | a new student |
|---|---|---|---|
| Subordinate conjunction | subject | verb | complement |
| Dependent clause | | | |

This is a compound complex sentence because it has two independent clauses and two dependent clauses.

**CONCLUSION**

This study identifies what types of sentences are used in short stories from the *Story Weaver* website. This study also identifies what sentence type is mostly used in short stories. However, 12 stories are selected based on level 1 until level 4 and the stories were selected based on the most read by people.

Based on the result in chapter four, the total of the sentences that have been analyzed are 563 sentences from 12 short stories. The result shows that from 12 short stories, all of the sentence types used are simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex. The total of simple sentences is 374 (67%), 35 compound sentences (6%), 137 complex sentences (24%), and 17 compound-complex sentences (3%). Furthermore, from the result, it can be known that the most used sentence types in the articles are simple sentences. The reason why a simple sentence is mostly used in short stories is the reader or listener can more easily understand the intended message because of simple phrases' inherent clarity and directness. They offer clear information without adding more complication or ambiguity.

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