



SYNTACTIC STRUCTURE OF THE SENTENCES  
IN JAMES ROSS' *THE CARD*

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**Abstract**

Determining the sentences' syntactic structure was the research's main goal. One of the most important things to acquire in order to comprehend English is grammatical structure. Understanding syntactic structure is crucial because poorly structured sentences might convey the wrong meaning. Syntactic structure aids in word recognition, guarantees that sentences flow naturally together, and determines how words are arranged in lengthy phrases. The forms and functions of syntactic structure employed in James Ross' *The Card* are the two primary subjects of analysis in this study. This particular research is qualitative in nature. To be more precise, the writer gathered the information through non-participatory observation. The majority of the findings on the forms support Seely's (2012) postulated forms of syntactic structure. Subject, verb, object syntactic structure is the most common type. Then, the functions found fully validate the syntactic structural functions described by Morley (2000). Nominal function is the primary function of syntactic structure.

Keywords: syntactic structure, forms of Syntactic structure, functions of syntactic structure

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Syntactic structure is about word order. According to Cruz-Ferreira and Abraham (2006, p. 130), syntactic structure refers to how words are combined to create sentences. It indicates that certain words must be combined in the syntactic structure in order to obtain the intended meaning. As a result, syntactic structure is a representation of how words are connected in basic sentences to express meaning.

Analysis of syntactic structure is necessary for a number of concerns. First, it is difficult to recognize and organize syntactic structure. Nonetheless, the sentences' syntactic structure aids in word identification. The sentences should make sense without any extraneous words added or removed. Second, the syntactic structure of the sentences' word placements is unknown. When a position is poorly structured, it might occasionally convey the erroneous message. It guarantees that each sentence flows naturally into the next. Third, when faced with a lengthy sentence, syntactic structure becomes unclear. By comparing the size of one

word to other words, the statement can be understood. The syntactic structure's forms and functions define those terms.

The author of "The Card" is James Ross, an American short story writer. It talks about how a small child feels when he is born into a family that comprises of his parents, sister Laura, and himself. His father sent him a card on his tenth birthday, but he eventually vanished from the house and left his own family behind. The little boy's name was Mickey, and the only thing he could recall about his father was the birthday card he had received from him, which he treasured. Every now and then, he would read the birthday card again, hoping to deduce anything about his father's personality from the words his father had written to him.

## **II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

The syntactic structure refers to the organization of words, phrases, or clauses to create simple sentences within the framework of language. Multiple interpretations of this

structure are presented by various experts in the field. To begin with, Cohen (2017, p. 1) states that syntactic structure is a structure that symbolizes the arrangement of words in a sentence. In other words, it can be said that it symbolizes the way in which words are arranged to form a meaningful and coherent expression. By analyzing the syntactic structure of a sentence, we can better understand the relationships between words and how they come together to convey a specific message.

Similarly, as stated by Cruz-Ferreira and Abraham (2006, p. 130), syntactic structure refers to the way words are combined to create sentences. Words combined in a specific order, according to syntactic rules, form the foundation of every sentence. This process involves arranging words in a way that conveys the intended meaning while following the grammatical rules of the language. Each word's placement within the sentence is determined by its syntactic function, whether it serves as a subject, verb, object, or modifier.

Third, according to Chomsky (2002, p. 102), the actual functioning

of language makes use of syntactic structure. In other words, syntactic structure and functions are integral components of language that work together to create coherent and meaningful communication. By studying their interplay, we gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of language and how it is used to convey information.

From the explanations provided earlier, it is evident that every language system possesses its unique structures, regulations, configurations, and grammatical roles. The syntactic arrangement signifies a framework that reveals the integration of words within sentences to communicate a message effectively. Understanding the implications of syntactic organization involves applying the configurations and purposes within genuine language occurrences.

## **2.1 Forms of Syntactic Structure by Seely (2012)**

There are seven forms of syntactic structure such as Subject + Verb (SV), Subject + Verb + Object

(SVO), Subject + Verb + Object + Object (SVOO), Subject + Verb + Complement (SVC), Subject + Verb + Object + Complement (SVOC), Subject + Verb + Adverbial (SVA), and Subject + Verb + Object + Adverbial (SVOA).

First, SV consists of two slots which are subject and verb. According to Seely (2012, p.8), SV is the most basic and simplest form to construct the sentence. SV affects the entire forms of syntactic structure. Subject is a noun that is located at the beginning of sentence and before verb. Then, verb is commonly located after the subject. The verb consents with the subject in number or person. In SV, the verb is intransitive verb that does not need object after verb. Rudy and Harry (2014, p.192) mention that intransitive verb is a verb that does not require an object because it has a complete meaning and is only formed in active voice. For example, “bees fly”. ‘Bees’ is the subject and ‘fly’ is intransitive verb that does not need an object.

Second, SVO is composed of subject, verb, and object. Seely (2012, p.10) states that the SVO is covered by object. Object is a noun that refers to

different person, thing, idea, and subject. The object is affected by a verb. In this form, the verb is a transitive verb. Rudy and Harry (2014, p.187) say that transitive verb is a verb that gives objects a complete meaning and cannot stand alone without pronouns and pronouns as objects. For instance, “bees produce honey”. ‘Produce’ is a verb that requires any objects such as ‘honey’. The word ‘produce’ cannot stand alone and needs ‘honey’ as an object to create a meaningful sentence.

Third, SVOO is subject, verb, and followed by two objects. The first object is oblique object and the second object is direct object. Seely (2012, p.11) mentions, “A number of verbs usually have not one object, but two”. The sentence is not complete if it has only subject, verb, and object. For example, “bees bring queen bee nectar”. ‘Queen bee’ is oblique object and ‘nectar’ is direct object. ‘Queen bee’ is oblique object and ‘nectar’ is direct object. ‘Nectar’ is direct object as what the bees bring and ‘queen bee’ oblique object since it is the object that gets the advantages of ‘nectar’. The positions of objects can be shifted by

using preposition. For instance, “bees bring nectar to queen bee”. It means that the two objects can be moved different ways by applying preposition to and still which have the same meaning.

Fourth, SVC is subject, verb, and complement. Seely (2012, p.12) says that complement in SVC does not refer to something different from the subject. SVC connects subject to complement. Complement refers to subject. Therefore, subject and complement at before and after verb should be the same things. SVC depends on SV that lead to C (complement) as noun or adjective. The complement is the interconnection between the complement and the completer. For example, “bees are insects”. The word ‘insects’ refers to ‘bees’ that indicates the same thing.

Fifth, SVOC is subject + verb + object + complement. SVOC is where the complement as object complement should be located after the object. Seely (2012, p.13) says that SVOC share similar role as SVOO, but the difference is in C (complement). In SVOC, the position of complement cannot be replaced with object – the

position is not as the same as SVOO where the position of two objects can be shifted by applying preposition. For example, “bees make queen bee mad”. ‘Mad’ is an adjective as complement and ‘queen bee’ as object. The complement modifies the object.

Sixth, SVA consists of subject, verb, and adverbial. Seely (2012, p.14) mentions that an adverbial in SVA is followed by movement, position, or by asking question where. SVA requires an adverb after a verb to form a sentence. For instance, “bees live in hive”. The word ‘in hive’ is adverbial that directs to certain place or position.

Seventh, SVOA is subject, verb, object, and adverbial. It entails O (object) to be followed by A (adverbial). Seely (2012, p.15) mentions that SVOA requires an object before an adverb which means that the object need the adverb to produce a meaningful sentence. For example, “bees keep the honey in”. The verb ‘keep’ needs the object ‘the honey’ and the adverb ‘in’ because it will not complete without the word ‘in’.

From the explanation above, syntactic structure has several forms. The forms are Subject-Verb (SV),

Subject-Verb-Object (SVO), Subject-Verb-Object-Object (SVOO), Subject-Verb-Complement (SVC), Subject-Verb-Object-Complement (SVOC), Subject-Verb-Adverbial (SVA), and Subject-Verb-Object-Adverbial (SVOA). Every form of syntactic structure has different patterns. Each element in forms makes the sentence grammatically meaningful. Its elements should be arranged in the sentences of English. Any sentences can be analyzed by using forms of syntactic structure. The forms determine the structure of sentences.

## **2.2 Functions of Syntactic Structure by Morley (2000)**

According to Morley (2000), there are four functions of syntactic structure to establish the sentences in the English language such as nominal function, verbal function, adjectival function, and adverbial function. First, nominal function is denoting features as the participant and participating entities relating to people and objects. Second, verbal function indicates features as a process including actions, events, and states. Third, adjectival function represents features as

attributes such as features and qualities. Fourth, adverbial function signifies feature as circumstances that can be the relationships of location, time, manner, and reason.

First, nominal function associates with a participant, entity, and thing. Nominal function is the most complex function because it has a subject, an object, and a complement at the same time nominal function is a syntactic function of a noun phrase such as subject, object, and complement.

There are three different roles of subject in nominal function such as nominative subject, attribute subject, and circumstantial subject. Additionally there are two different roles of object in nominal function such as direct object and oblique object. First role of object in nominal function is direct object. Direct object occurs instantly in nominal phrases or clauses. Second, oblique object occurs in a noun phrase or prepositional phrase. There are also two different roles of complement in nominal function such as direct complement and oblique complement. First role of complement in nominal function is

direct complement. Direct complement determines the interconnection between a subject and an object. Second, oblique complement is expressed by a prepositional phrase.

Second, verbal function is about a process. The verbal function involves the verb phrase, which consists of the main verb and auxiliary verb. Two distinct roles of the verb in verbal function are the main verb and the auxiliary verb.

Third, adjectival function represents as qualitative feature and characteristic or property. The function of adjectives is a syntactic function that emphasizes the use of an adjective phrase as a modifier in a noun phrase. Adjectival function has the potential to serve as both a headword and a qualifier. First, adjective can be a headword. Adjective as a headword is located between an article and a noun, for example, "a strong man". 'Strong' is located between the article 'a' and the headword 'man'. Second, adjective can be a qualifier that determined by a position and role. The qualifier is placed after the headword, for example, "nothing is very new". 'Very' and 'new' are expandable

adjectives. Adjectival function will help to modify the noun phrase.

Fourth, adverbial function is a circumstantial function. Adverbial function is a syntactic function which represents an adverb phrase such as modifier in adjective phrase or in adverb phrase. Adverbial function can be circumstantial adverbial and adjuncts adverbial. First, circumstantial adverbial is a preposition that marks based on the circumstances of the verb. Second, adjuncts adverbial expresses an adjuncts proposition.

Based on explanation above, syntactic structure has some functions. The functions are nominal function, verbal function, adjectival function, and adverbial function. Every function of syntactic structure has different roles. Each element in functions makes the sentence grammatically meaningful. Its elements should be arranged in the sentences of English. The sentences can be analyzed by using functions of syntactic structure.

### **III. METHOD OF RESEARCH**

This research is a qualitative research. Qualitative research is a process for examining and

understanding issues for research. Creswell (2012, p.4) said, “Qualitative research is a means for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem”. Qualitative research has several characteristics. Creswell (2012, p.175) added that some characteristics of qualitative research are natural setting, researcher as key instrument, multiple sources of data, inductive data analysis, participants’ meanings, emergent design, theoretical lens, interpretive, and holistic account.

The source of the data used in this research was the short story entitled *The Card* written by James Ross in 2009. To collect the data, non-participant observation was used since the researcher just used the available short story.

### **III. FINDINGS**

#### **4.1 Forms of Syntactic Structure in James Ross’ *The Card* Short Story**

There are six forms of syntactic structure that have been found in the short story *The Card* by James Ross which are SV, SVO,

SVC, SVOC, SVA, and SVOA, except SVOO. From James Ross’ *The Card* short story, there are 85. SVO is one of many forms that is mostly found in 36 sentences of the short story.

##### **4.1.1 Subject + Verb (SV) in James Ross’ *The Card* Short Story**

Subject + Verb (SV) is one of many forms of syntactic structure that can be found in James Ross’ *The Card*. There are 7 sentences of SV found in the short story. Two of seven sentences representing SV are “now you are ten, and how you have grown” and “then she laughed and slapped me across the arm”.

The first sentence is “now you are ten, and how you have grown”. From the sentence ‘you have grown’ is SV. ‘You’ is a subject and ‘have grown’ is a verb. ‘Have grown’ is a verb that is in form of past participle, ‘grow’. ‘Have grown’ does not need an object to complete the sentence because it is a part of transitive verbs. ‘Now you are ten’ is only an additional clause that can stand independently. Without the first

clause, 'how you have grown' can be a sentence.

The second sentence is "then she laughed and slapped me across the arm". From the sentence 'she laughed' is SV. 'She' is a subject and 'laughed' is a transitive verb. 'Laughed' is a verb that is in form of simple past tense, 'laugh'. Even though there is a preposition 'and' in the sentence, the word 'laughed' cannot be accompanied with 'me' because 'she laughed' can stand by itself. The other phrase 'slapped me across the arm' is sufficiently built. It means that 'she laughed' and 'she slapped me' are different actions happening in the sentence.

In conclusion, the two sentences are taken as the examples of SV. The sentences prove that the other five sentences are also SV. The first sentence "you have grown" has similar form with the second sentence "she laughed". The two sentences use transitive verbs because the verbs do not require the objects. The verbs can stand by itself. Most verbs in SV are transitive verbs.

#### **4.1.2 Subject + Verb + Object (SVO) in James Ross' *The Card* Short Story**

Subject + Verb + Object (SVO) is the second form of syntactic structure in James Ross' *The Card*. There are 36 sentences of SVO. The form is mostly found in the short story. Two of thirty six sentences representing SVO are "her arms are scabbed like she has been shining up a rusty drainpipe and accidentally slid back down and scraped herself" and "I said, what was dad like?".

The first sentence is "her arms are scabbed like she has been shining up a rusty drainpipe and accidentally slid back down and scraped herself". From the sentence "she has been shining up a rusty drainpipe" is SVO. It consists of "she" is as a subject, 'has been shining up' is as a verb, and 'a rusty drainpipe' is as an object. 'Has been shining' is a verb that is in form of present perfect progressive, 'shine'. 'Up' is a phrasal verb of 'shining' as 'shining up'. 'Has been shining up' needs an object to complete the sentence because it is a part of intransitive verbs. The object is 'a rusty drainpipe'. 'A' is a

determiner, 'rusty' and 'drainpipe' are noun phrases which mean that 'A' informs 'rusty drainpipe'. The other part of a sentence "accidentally slid back down and scraped herself" is only an additional phrase that can stand by itself.

The second sentence of SVO is "I said, what was dad like?". 'I' is as a subject, 'said' is as a verb, and 'what was dad like?' is as an object. 'Said' is a verb that it can be in form of simple past tense is 'say'. The word 'said' is an intransitive verb because it is impossible to stand alone without an object. It needs an object to complete a sentence.

#### **4.1.3 Subject + Verb + Complement (SVC) in James Ross' *The Card* Short Story**

The third form of syntactic structure is Subject + Verb + Complement (SVC). There are 9 sentences of SVC in James Ross' *The Card* the short story. Two of nine sentences representing SVC are "I had studied this card on more than one occasion, I was trying to work out some depth to what he was telling me" and "and I am not pretending to

be not tough so you will think that really I secretly am tough either". 'What was dad like?' is an object as a noun phrase that can be analyzed by changing the form of question into a statement as what dad was like. 'What dad was like' means that a person does not know someone. 'What' is a determiner that referred to 'dad was like'. The function of determiner is to ask the information about someone.

Firstly, the clause "I was trying to work out" is SVC. It consists of 'I' is as a subject, 'was trying' is as a verb, and 'to work out' is as a complement. 'Was trying' is a verb that is in form of past progressive tense, 'try'. The verb requires a complement to complete the sentence. 'To work out' is a complement. 'Out' is a phrasal verb of 'work' as 'work out'. The complement is used to support the verb. The sentence does not need an object after the complement because it has informed the verb. The other clause "I had studied this card on more than one occasion" is only addition that can stand by itself.

Secondly, the clause "I am not pretending to be not tough" is SVC.

'I' is a subject, 'am not pretending' is a verb, and 'to be not tough' is a complement. 'Am not pretending' is a verb that is in form of present progressive tense, 'pretend'. In the sentence, an object is not needed after the complement because the complement has informed the verb. In this context, the verb and the complement are shaped by the negative statement where both of them use 'not'. The word 'not' will not change the form of subject, verb, and complement. The other clause "so you will think that really I secretly am tough either" is the additional information of the previous clause that can stand by itself.

The first sentence "I was trying to work out" and the second sentence "I am not pretending to be not tough" are SVC. The first sentence uses a positive statement and the second sentence uses a negative statement. Complements in the sentences are needed to support the verbs. The sentences do not require the objects after the complements because they have informed the verbs. The complements and the subjects in SVC are mostly related. The

complements and the subjects share the same things or entities.

#### **4.1.4 Subject + Verb + Object + Complement (SVOC) in James Ross' *The Card* Short Story**

The fourth form of syntactic structure is Subject + Verb + Object + Complement (SVOC). There are 8 sentences of SVOC in James Ross' *The Card* the short story. Two of eight sentences representing SVOC are "then I used mam's phone to call the police and grass Marc for the twenty grams of cocaine he had stashed in a haversack under the stairs" and "like I already had asked someone to get my back and then discovered they had not got it, or something".

Firstly, the clause "I used mam's phone to call the police" is SVOC. 'I' is a subject, 'used' is a verb, 'mam's phone' is an object, and 'to call the police' is a complement. The word 'used' is a verb that is in form of simple past tense, 'use'. The verb requires an object and a complement to complete the sentence. 'Mam's phone' is an object as a noun phrase that indicates a possession. It means that the phone belongs to mam.

The object has an important part in the sentence to support the complement. 'To call the police' is a complement, and it is also as a noun phrase. 'The' is a determiner of 'police'. The other clause "and grass Marc for the twenty grams of cocaine he had stashed in a haversack under the stairs" is only addition that can stand alone.

Secondly, the clause "I already had asked someone to get my back" is SVOC. 'I' is a subject, 'already had asked' is a verb, 'someone' is an object, 'to get my back' is a complement. The word 'had asked' is a verb that is in form of past perfect tense, 'ask'. 'Someone' is as an object that has an important part in the sentence to support the complement. 'To get my back' is a complement. 'My back' indicates a possession which means a protection. The other clause "and then discovered they had not got it, or something" is only addition that can stand alone.

In conclusion, the two sentences are SVOC. The sentences prove that the other six sentences are also SVOC. The first sentence "I used mam's phone to call the police" and the second sentence "I already had

asked someone to get my back" are SVOC. The first sentence focuses on possessive object which means that something belongs to someone. The object is used to support the complement. The second sentence focuses on indefinite pronoun as an object. The object also supports the complement. The objects should be located before the complements. The position of complements cannot be replaced with objects. The objects are the important parts in the sentence to support the complements.

#### **4.1.5 Subject + Verb + Adverbial (SVA) in James Ross' *The Card Short Story***

Subject + Verb + Adverbial (SVA) is the fifth form of syntactic structure. There are 10 sentences of SVA found in James Ross' *The Card* the short story. One of ten sentences representing SVA are "but the killer was at the bottom of the card, below the rhyme, he had added" had just failed her exams and she was working in Safeway".

In the sentence "but the killer was at the bottom of the card, below the rhyme, he had added", "the killer

was at the bottom of the card” is SVA. It consists of “the killer” is as a subject, ‘was’ is as a verb, and ‘at the bottom of the card’ is as an adverb. ‘The’ is a determiner of ‘killer’. ‘Was’ is a verb that that is in form of simple past tense, ‘is’. ‘At’ identifies a particular place or location. Therefore, ‘at the bottom of the card’ is an adverb where ‘of’ shows the interconnection between at the bottom and the card. The other part of a sentence “below the rhyme, he had added” is only an additional phrase that can stand by itself.

#### **4.1.6 Subject + Verb + Object + Adverbial (SVOA) in James Ross’ *The Card* Short Story**

The sixth form of syntactic structure is Subject + Verb + Object + Adverbial (SVOA). There are 15 sentences of SVOA found in James Ross’ *The Card* the short story. One of fifteen sentences representing SVOA is “she smiles at me, and I guess that she is still tripping and I should ask her later when she is straight.”

In the sentence “she smiles at me, and I guess that she is still

tripping and I should ask her later when she is straight”, ‘I should ask her later’ is SVOA. It consists of ‘I’ is a subject, ‘should ask’ is a verb, ‘her’ is an object, and ‘later’ is an adverb. ‘Should’ is a verb modal that followed by the main verb ‘ask’. ‘Her’ is an object as pronoun of ‘she’. Object and adverb are required to form a sentence. The clause “I should ask her later” is ‘Later’ is an adverb that indicates a recent of time. It means that subject needs a verb, complete without the other clause “she smiles at me, and I guess that she is still tripping” in the sentence.

#### **4.2 Functions of Syntactic Structure in James Ross’ *The Card* Short Story**

There are four functions of syntactic structure namely nominal function, verbal function, adjectival function, and adverbial using Morley’s theory. From James Ross’ *The Card* short story, there are 85 sentences collected during observation. Based on functions of syntactic structure in James Ross’ *The Card*, nominal function is the most

widely used in 45 sentences of the short story.

#### **4.2.1 Nominal Function in James Ross' *The Card* Short Story**

Nominal function is one function of syntactic structure that can be found in James Ross' *The Card*. There are 45 sentences of nominal function. This function is mostly found in the short story. One of forty six sentences representing nominal function are "and I have read all women' s magazines she buys and I knew from the off it was not going to last."

In the sentence "and I have read all women' s magazines she buys and I knew from the off it was not going to last", 'I have read all women's magazines'; 'I' and 'all women's magazines' denote as the noun phrases in a nominal function. 'I' is a nominative subject because the subject 'I' can control the verb and also can express a possession of thing. 'Have read' is a verb that is in form of past participle, 'read'. The verb 'have' is identified by the subject 'I'. 'All women's magazines' is an object that possessed by the subject 'I'. 'All' is a

determiner that refers to the whole quantity of something which is 'women's magazine'. In this case, nominal function can be seen through the subject and object as the noun phrases.

#### **4.2.2 Verbal Function in James Ross' *The Card* Short Story**

Verbal function is the second function of syntactic structure. There are 7 sentences of verbal function in James Ross' *The Card* the short story. Two of seven sentences representing verbal function are "I won't go on" and "the next morning I waited until Marc went out".

The first sentence is "I won't go on". 'I' is a subject that followed auxiliary verb 'won't' affects the main verb 'go'. 'On' is a phrasal verb of 'go' which is 'go on'. It means that 'won't go on' is a verb phrase in a verbal function.

The second sentence is "the next morning I waited until Marc went out". From the sentence 'I waited' is a verbal function. 'I' is a subject that is followed by the verb 'waited'. In this case, the verb comes after subject. 'Waited' is a verb that it is

form of simple past tense, 'wait'. The word 'waited' as a main verb will influence the action of the subject.

It can be concluded that the two sentences are taken as the examples of verbal function. The sentences prove that the other five sentences are also verbal function. The first sentence "I won't go on" and the second sentence "the next morning I waited until Marc went out" are verbal functions. In the first sentence, the verb is an auxiliary verb. It is usually located after the main verb, but it cannot stand alone without the main verb. In the second sentence, the verb is a main verb. The main verb comes after subject. The sentences use transitive verbs because the verbs do not require the objects. Most verbal function focuses on the transitive verb.

#### **4.2.3 Adjectival Function in James Ross' *The Card* Short Story**

Adjectival function is the third function of syntactic structure. There are 6 sentences of adjectival function in James Ross' *The Card* the short story. Two of seven sentences

representing adjectival function are "I do not mean strict; more like serious" and "but the funny thing is daft one-off card with a stupid picture and a deranged verse it might have been".

Firstly, "I do not mean strict" is an adjectival function. 'I' is a subject, 'do not mean' is a verb, and 'strict' is an adjective. The verb is affected by negative statement which uses 'not', but it does not change the function as an adjectival function. In this context, 'strict' is an adjective as qualifier because it is located after a verb. The adjective is not the verb but it describes the subject who is performing the action.

Secondly, 'the funny thing is daft one-off card with a stupid picture' is an adjectival function. 'The funny thing' is a subject where 'funny thing' is determined by 'the'. 'Is' as a verb and 'daft one-off card' is an object. 'Daft' is an adjective to define 'one-off card' as a noun phrase. 'With' is a preposition to link the object and complement. 'A stupid picture' is an adjective as a headword. Adjective as a headword is located between article and noun. The headword adjective 'stupid' is located between article 'a'

and noun 'picture'. Adjectival function will help to modify the noun phrase.

In conclusion, the two sentences are taken as the examples of adjectival function. The sentences prove that the other four sentences are also adjectival function. The first sentence "I do not mean strict" and the second sentence "the funny thing is daft one-off card with a stupid picture" are adjectival functions. The adjective in the first sentence is qualifier adjective. The qualifier adjective is where the adjective comes after the verb, and it can stand by itself without any objects. The adjective in the second sentence is headword adjective. The headword adjective is where the adjective is located after the object. The adjectival function focus on the adjectives in the sentences.

#### **4.2.4 Adverbial Function in James Ross' *The Card* Short Story**

The last function of syntactic structure is adverbial function. There are 27 sentences of adverbial function found in James Ross' *The Card* the

short story. One of twenty seven sentences representing adverbial function are "she smiles at me, and I guess that she is still tripping and I should ask her later when she is straight."

In the sentence "I guess that she is still tripping", 'I' is a subject, 'guess' is a verb, and 'that she is still tripping' is an adverb. 'Guess' as a verb does not change the form because it is in simple present tense. In an adverbial function, "that" is denoted as adjuncts or known as subordinating conjunctions. Subordinating conjunctions is to combine one sentence to another sentence. It means that the word "that" connect 'I guess' and 'she is still tripping' in the sentence. 'She is still tripping' consists of 'she' as a subject, 'is tripping' as a verb, and 'still' as an adverb which are in adjuncts. The adverb requires the subject and verb in the sentence because it is a dependent clause. Meanwhile, the subject and verb need adverb to complete the sentence.

The adverb identifies the subject and verb in the sentence. It also gives more information of the

action. Circumstantial adverbial is not a complement but it is a preposition. The preposition 'once' can be put before subject or after the verb. It will not change the function of adverbial in a sentence.

## V. CONCLUSION

Two conclusions have been derived from the findings. The initial inference pertains to the configurations of syntactic framework, while the subsequent conclusion relates to the roles of syntactic structure. This chapter will summarize the forms and functions of syntactic structure.

The short story "The Card" presents six different forms of syntactic structure. These include subject and verb, subject, verb, and object, subject, verb, and complement, subject, verb, object, and complement, subject, verb, and adverbial, as well as subject, verb, object, and adverbial. Among these forms, the most prevalent one observed in the story is subject, verb, object.

In the short story "The Card," there are four key functions of syntactic

structure to consider. Firstly, the nominal function stands out as the most intricate, encompassing subject, object, and complement simultaneously. Secondly, the verbal function comprises a main verb alongside an auxiliary verb. Lastly, the adjectival function deserves attention as the third form within this structure. The adjectival function includes a headword and qualifier. The fourth function is an adverbial function. The function of an adverb is composed of adjectives and contextual adverbs. Syntactic functions are primarily used for nominal purposes.

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