

## THE ANALYSIS OF LANGUAGE GAMES AND PRIVATE LANGUAGES ON HANS CRISTIAN ANDERSEN (*THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL*)

Tiyas Saputri  
Program Studi S1 Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris  
Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan  
Universitas Nahdlatul Ulama Surabaya  
Jl. Jemursari No. 51-57 Surabaya  
E-mail: [tiyass@unusa.ac.id](mailto:tiyass@unusa.ac.id)

### ABSTRAK :

Penelitian ini fokus pada analisis sintaksis *The Little Match Girl*, sebuah cerita pendek oleh Hans Christian Andersen, berdasarkan permainan bahasa Wittgenstein dan teori bahasa pribadi. Ceritanya tentang mimpi dan harapan anak yang sekarat. Dalam cerpen ini, ada beberapa pengaturan struktur kalimat yang tidak mematuhi aturan tata bahasa. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis cerita pendek ini secara sintaksis, yang menggunakan beberapa aturan tata bahasa yang diformulasikan untuk memetakan kalimat ke representasi formal dari struktur sintaksisnya, yang juga merupakan bagian dari teori. Metode penelitian adalah deskriptif kualitatif. Data dikumpulkan dari masing-masing kalimat dengan membaca cerpen. Dalam analisis, para peneliti dianalisis dengan menggunakan aturan tata bahasa kemudian disajikan dalam bentuk tabel. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa beberapa kalimat tidak mematuhi aturan tata bahasa (bahasa pribadi) dalam 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a, 6a, dan 7a tetapi kemudian mereka diperiksa dalam tata bahasa yang benar dan dikoreksi (permainan bahasa) (lihat 1b, 2b, 3b, 4b, 5b, 6b, dan 7b). Namun, mereka masih dapat dimengerti karena mudah untuk memahami isi dari cerita *The Little Match Girl* karena ia memiliki bahasa pribadi khusus untuk mendapatkan estetika penulisan. Sebagai penutup, Hans Cristian Andersen memiliki bahasa pribadi khusus sehingga dia tidak mematuhi aturan tata bahasa dalam menulis cerita pendeknya karena itu adalah bagian dari lisensi puitis.

*Kata Kunci: analisis sintaksis, permainan bahasa, bahasa pribadi*

## ABSTRACT :

This research focuses on a syntactical analysis of *The Little Match Girl*, a short story by Hans Christian Andersen, based on Wittgenstein's language games and private languages theories. The story is about a dying child's dreams and hope. In this short story, there are some arrangements of sentence structure which do not obey the rules of grammar. The objective of the study is to analyze this short story syntactically, which uses some formulated grammar rules to map a sentence to a formal representation of its syntactic structure, which is also a part of the theory. The research method was descriptive qualitative. To collect the data, the researcher used documentation and observation methods. In the analysis, the researchers analyzed by using grammar rules then presented in form of tables. The finding showed that some sentences do not obey the grammar rules (private language) in 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a, 6a, and 7a but then they are checked in the correct grammar and corrected (language game) (see 1b, 2b, 3b, 4b, 5b, 6b, and 7b). However, they are still understandable because it is easy to understand the content of the story of *The Little Match Girl* as he has his own specific private languages to get aesthetics of writing. To conclude, Hans Cristian Andersen has his own specific private languages so that he does not obey the grammar rules in writing his short story because it is part of poetical license.

Keywords: *syntactical analysis, language games, private languages.*

## INTRODUCTION

"The Little Match Girl" is a short story by Hans Christian Anderson. The story is about a dying child's dreams and hope (Andersen, 2012). It tells about the poverty, hunger and helplessness of a **little girl** who is sent to sell **matches** when she is supposed to stay at home or at school. When all the world seems to be celebrating the New Year's Eve, the **girl** is deprived of the joy. In writing "The Little Match Girl", Hans Christian Andersen has his own specific private languages. It can be seen from some examples in this paper. In relation with that, we should understand about poetic license. Poetic license is freedom we grant an author regarding the use of in virtue of relation and the relation in writing (Rosenbaum, 2016).

Another definition is that poetical license liberty taken by poets to use the language in unconventional ways, to liberate their work from standard language in matters such as grammar, meaning, word order, the use of archaic or new coined words, conventional rules, diction, rhyme or

pronunciation etc in order to meet the requirements of their metrical pattern, to establish or achieve a desired, special poetic effects or other literary works (Bernard Beatty, 2008).

On the other hand, it tends to the desire distortion of a pattern to beautify the writing of literary work. It can be seen in the short story that there are some arrangements of sentence structure which do not obey the rules of grammar. Therefore, the arrangements of sentence structure which do not obey the rules of grammar tend to the private languages of Hans Cristian Andersen in "The Little Match Girl" which show the characteristic of his writing. Besides the private languages, it also shows that the poetical license which is applied in this story. Moreover, it can be known from his characteristics of writing in his story that there is a liberty to use the language in unconventional ways / rules.

Andersen's characteristics are certainly different from another writer of literary work. Each writer has its own characteristics as their writing style even they are unique in writing the literary work for the sake of aesthetics, it is called the theory of poetical license. Based on the poetical license, the writer or author is free or has an authority to abandon the conventional rules of sentence structure grammar (syntax) in writing his / her literary work to get the aesthetics. Although the writer or the author has liberty in writing the literary works, the arrangements of sentence structure should be analyzed in order to know whether the sentence structures obey the rule of grammar (language games) or not (private languages).

Dealing with that, it is needed to use a tool to analyze the arrangements of sentences, namely a syntactical analysis. To do a syntactical analysis, it also needs to consider Phrase Structure rules (PS rules). PS rules are a type of rule used to describe a given language's syntax to break down a natural language sentence into its constituent parts (known as syntactic categories), including both lexical categories (parts of speech) and phrasal categories). Here is a set of PS rules:

- a.  $S \rightarrow NP VP$ , means Sentence consists of a NP (Noun Phrase) obeyed by a VP (Verb Phrase).
- b.  $NP \rightarrow (Det) A^* N (PP/S)$ , means Noun Phrase consists of an optional Det (Determiner), any number of optional A, an obligatory N, and then an optional PP or a modifying S.
- c.  $VP \rightarrow V (NP) (PP/S/VP)$ , means VP can consist of an obligatory V obeyed by an optional NP and then any number of PPs or an S.
- d.  $AP \rightarrow A (PP/S)$ , means Adjective Phrase consists of Adjective and then any number of PPs or an S. It occurs is in 'linking verb' constructions, example happy, uncomfortable, terrified, etc.

e. AdvP → (AdvP) Adv, means Adverb Phrase consists of Adverb and it is often used to modify verbs, adjectives, and adverbs themselves, example soundly, well, etc.

On the other hand, it is also stated in the Tyson's theory that rule of combination of a sentence structure is Subject (Noun) + Predicate (Verb+Descriptor) (Tyson, 2006). Moreover, it is explained in the Phrase Structure rules (PS rules) that  $S \rightarrow NP VP$ , means a Sentence consists of a NP (Noun Phrase) obeyed by a VP (Verb Phrase) (Sells, 2008). It means that, in a sentence, after Subject (NP), it should be followed with Predicate (VP). Therefore, the research of the study is to analyze this short story syntactically, which uses some formulated grammar rules to map a sentence to a formal representation of its syntactic structure, which is also a part of the theory.

A syntactical analysis is a process of analyzing a string of symbols, either in natural language, computer languages or data structures, conforming to the rules of a formal grammar. It provides a hierarchical set of groupings of words and phrases which can be the basis for a general-purpose, finite, and compositional procedure to extract meaning from any sentence of the language (Ritchie, 2005). In doing this, grammar should be considered as a set of rules which describes which sequences of words are valid sentences of a language.

The rules will indicate in some way an analysis or structure for the sentence, information about what the component parts of the sentence are, and how they are linked together. There is a general pattern of a sentence structure, "Subject – Verb – Complement" in which the "Subject" is some sort of self-contained phrase, the "Verb" is one of a particular class of words which behave in certain ways and the "Complement" is another phrase of some sort (Ritchie, 2005). It means that, in a sentence, after Subject, it should be followed with Verb and then the Complement.

There are some previous studies related to syntactical analysis. Nhat (2019) conducted a research about "A Syntactic Analysis of English Short Stories for Children". It is an investigation of the syntactic characteristics of the English short stories targeted at children. It demonstrated an increasing complexity in terms of syntactic structures as the targeted age-groups are more grown up. Another research was conducted by Nugraheni (2016) to find sentence types that occurred in *Pitch Perfect 2* movie using syntactical analysis, which later would be applied in teaching grammar. It was found that the dominant in this movie is declarative sentences because in this movie, all characters just make a statement. The application of sentence types in *Pitch Perfect 2* movie using imperative sentences in teaching grammar. Furthermore, Purwata (2008) conducted a research on "A syntactical analysis on sentence patterns used in *Westlife's* song lyrics". He finally found seventeen kinds of the sentence patterns. The most sentence patterns of the

lyrics used as the samples are kernel sentences and transformed sentences. he also found the substandard English words, such as I've, 'cause, and gonna. The sentence patterns of the Westlife's songs consists of noun phrase plus verb phrase, some sentences consist of conjunction plus noun phrase plus verb phrase, some sentences consist of adverb of place plus noun phrase plus verb phrase. Meanwhile, in this research, the researcher focuses on a syntactical analysis of the sentences in *The Little Match Girl* short story by Hans Christian Andersen, based on *Wittgenstein's language games and private languages theories* to find out whether the sentences obey the grammar or not and what makes it happens.

Language game is a meaningful system of communication complied with rules, while private language is not (Kenny, 2007). Therefore, in the language game, the system of a language position includes arrangements of morphs, letters, syllables, words, phrases, clauses, sentences, patterns within syntagmatic-paradigmatic, signifier-signified and etc, obey the rules of grammar. For example, the arrangements of sentences obey the rules of grammar of sentence structure (syntax) and meaningfully understood.

On the contrary, in the private language, the arrangements of sentences do not obey the rules of grammar of sentence structure (syntax) and yet might only be understood by an individual. In this paper, it will focus only on syntactical analysis, which uses some formulated grammar rules to map a sentence to a formal representation of its syntactic structure, which is also a part of the theory. "Subject – Verb – Complement" in which the "Subject" is some sort of self-contained phrase, the "Verb" is one of a particular class of words which behave in certain ways and the "Complement" is another phrase of some sort (Ritchie, 2005).

In the aspect of how the words in a given phrase are arranged or how the phrases are arranged in a given clause is not always clear. In this case, there is a test for phrases, which can be used to analyze, which is called Transposition (Miller, 2002). Transposition is one of the tests that reveal whether a given sequence of words make up a phrase or are just words that happen to come one after the other. The transposition test can also be applied in active-passive and other sequences of words.

## **METHOD**

The research method used in this study was descriptive qualitative through syntactical analysis. By using this method, the researcher analyzed *The Little Match Girl* syntactically. It means that the researcher described the syntactical analysis of *The Little Match Girl* based on Wittgenstein's language games and private languages theories on declarative sentence *The Little Match Girl* is a short story by Hans Christian Andersen, based on Wittgenstein's language games and private languages theories. The data

population of this research is all sentences about the syntactical analysis of *The Little Match Girl* based on Wittgenstein's language games and private languages theories.

To collect the data, the researcher used two methods to collect the data. First, the researcher used documentation method. It is one method that used book, note and short story to collect the data. In this research, the researcher used short story as a source of data. Second, the researcher used observation method for obtaining the data. The researcher was reading the short story to find the declarative sentences. The steps of collecting data were: 1. Reading the short story, 2. Writing all sentences which have the same type of syntactical analysis in the short story. From those steps, the researcher obtained some examples in the short story which should be analyzed descriptively. To analyze the data, the researcher classified sentences which belong to language game or private language. Next, the researcher put the sentences into a group in the table. The sentences which do not obey the grammar rules belong to private language. After that, they are checked to the correct grammar and they are corrected and categorized into the language game. To make the reader understand, the researcher used declarative sentence to describe the sentence related to the grammar.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

After the sentences are categorized into language game or private language based on *Wittgenstein's language games and private languages theories*, the sentences which do not obey the rules of the grammar are analyzed grammarily then corrected into the correct grammar and the correction is put into the language game. Certainly, the research are different from the previous studies mentioned above because this research focuses on a syntactical analysis of the sentences in *The Little Match Girl* short story by Hans Christian Andersen, based on *Wittgenstein's language games and private languages theories*. The result and discussion are shown below:

**Table 1. Classification of sentence 1**

Private Language	Language Game
1a. Most terribly cold it was	1b. (At) most, it was terribly cold

Table 1 clearly shows that it can be seen that "cold" (Adjective) in 1a is the complement but "cold" precedes "it" (subject) and "was" (verb). Therefore, it is analyzed syntactically and corrected in grammar. To get grammatically correct, the sentence should be "It was most terribly cold" (1b) which the word "most" should be placed after verb "was".

**Table 2. Classification of sentence 2**

Private Language	Language Game
2a. "sat the poor girl"	2b. The poor girl sat

Table 2 demonstrates that "sat" (V2) in 2a, which is the Predicate (VP), precedes "the poor girl" (in 2a), which is the Subject (NP). It means that the sentence does not obey the grammar rule. It should be Subject (NP) precedes the Predicate (VP) to get grammatically correct. Therefore, the sentence in 2a becomes "the poor girl sat" (2b).

**Table 3. Classification of sentence 3**

Private Language	Language Game
3a. "Stiff and stark sat the child there with her matches of which one bundle had been burnt"	3b. The child sat there, stiff and stark, with her matches of which one bundle had been burnt

Table 3 clearly shows that "sat" (V2) in 3a, which is the Predicate (VP), precedes "the child" (in 3a), which is the Subject (NP). It means that the sentence does not obey the grammar rule. It should be Subject (NP) precedes the Predicate (VP) to get grammatically correct. Therefore, the sentence in 2a becomes "the child sat there" (2b). Furthermore, the words "stiff and stark" should be placed after the clause "the child sat there" and put comma between those words to give information condition on the child while sitting there.

**Table 4. Classification of sentence 4**

Private Language	Language Game
4a. Her little feet she had drawn close up to her	4b. She had drawn her little feet close up to her

Table 4 shows that in (4a), it can be seen that the object (her little feet) is at the beginning of the sentence. It means that it does not obey the grammar rule that the object (NP) should be placed after verb. Therefore, the sentence should be "She had drawn her little feet close up to her" (4b).

**Table 5. Classification of sentence 5**

Private Language	Language Game
5a. "On the table was spread a snow-white tablecloth"	5b. A snow-white table cloth was spread on the table

Table 5 clearly shows that there is a sequence of words introduced by preposition (PP-Prepositional Phrase). In 5a, it is introduced by "on the table" (PP). Meanwhile, the Subject (a snow-white tablecloth) is in the last part of the

sentence. To get grammatically correct, preposition (PP-Prepositional Phrase) should be transposed in the last part of the clause (see 5b) and the Subject (a snow-white tablecloth) should be transposed at the beginning of the sentence. Therefore, the sentence should be “A snow-white table cloth was spread on the table” (5b).

**Table 6. Classification of sentence 6 and 7**

Private Language	Language Game
6a. “...from her father she would certainly get blows”	6b. she would certainly get blows from her father
7a. “... and to go home she did not venture”	7b. ... and she did not venture to go home

Table 6 shows that in 6a and 7a, the sentence structures are almost similar and they do not obey the rule of grammar. In 6a, it is introduced by “...from her father” (PP) then it is followed with the clause which consists of subject and predicate (“she would certainly get blows”). To get grammatically correct, preposition (PP-Prepositional Phrase) should be transposed in the last part of the clause (see 6b). The example of 7a also shows similar case, after conjunction “and”, it is followed with PP “to go home” then it is followed with the clause of negation which consists of subject and predicate in negative clause (“she did not venture”). To get grammatically correct, preposition (PP-Prepositional Phrase) should be transposed in the last part of the clause (see 7b) without transposing the conjunction. All examples above presented in tables (see 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a, 6a, and 7a) show arrangements in the sentence structure (syntax) which do not obey the grammar rules (private language) but then they are corrected in grammar (language game) (see 1b, 2b, 3b, 4b, 5b, 6b, and 7b). Although, there are some arrangements in the sentence structure which do not obey the grammar rules, they are still meaningful / understandable because it is not difficult to understand the content of the story of *The Little Match Girl*.

## CONCLUSION

To conclude, Hans Cristian Andersen has his own specific private languages why he does not obey the grammar rules in writing his short story. It is related with the use of poetical license which he abandons the rule of sentence structure grammar (syntax) to get aesthetics of writing which shows his writing style. Abandoning the rule of grammar can be proved by using a syntactical analysis. Therefore, by using the syntactical analysis, it can also be proved that the language games and private languages’ theories are applied in this story which the private languages, sentence structure that do not obey the grammar rules, can be corrected in grammar then it becomes language

games. However, he did not change his writing style and he did it for the sake of aesthetics.

## RECOMMENDATION

It is important to keep improving grammar mastery (syntax-grammatical sentence structure) in order that we can analyze well whether the sentences of writing obey the grammar rules or not. After that, we should transfer our knowledge to others (for example our students). Hopefully, this article can be useful for all readers especially for them who are interested to do syntactical analysis based on *Wittgenstein's* language games and private languages theories on *The Little Match Girl* short story by Hans Cristian Andersen and want to do a further study about it.

## REFERENCES

- Andersen, Hans Christian. (2012). *The Little Match Girl* B. B. a. S. Parminter (Ed.) Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Bernard Beatty, Tony Howe, Charles E. Robinson. (2008). *Liberty and Poetic License-New Essayson Byron*. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press.
- Kenny, Anthony. (2007). *Philosophy in the Modern World (A New History of Western Philosophy; V. 4)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Miller, Jim. (2002). *An Introduction to English Syntax*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Nhat, T., & Cam, T. T. H. (2019). A Syntactic Analysis of English Short Stories for Children. *Taíp Chí Khoa Hoïc*, 15. Vietnam: Qhuy Non University.
- Nugraheni, S. A. (2016). The Syntactical Analysis of Sentence Types in Pitch Perfect 2 Movie and Its Application in Teaching Grammar at The Eleventh Grade of Vocational High School. Purworejo: Purworejo Muhammadiyah University.
- Purwata, I. (2008). *A syntactical analysis on sentence patterns used in Westlife's song lyrics*. Doctoral dissertation. Malang: Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim.
- Ritchie, Chris Mellish and Graeme. (2005). *The Grammatical Analysis of Sentences*. UK: Springer.
- Rosenbaum, John W. (2016). Poetic License: Learning Morality from Fiction in Light of Imaginative Resistance. *Teorema*, XXXV(3), 165-183.
- Sells, Jong-Bok Kim and Peter. (2008). *English Syntax: An Introduction*. Chicago: Chicago University Press Book.
- Tyson, Lois. (2006). *Critical Theory Today* (second edition ed.). London: Routledge.