

Simple Sentence Structure on The Fault in Our Stars Novel by John Green: A Syntactical Analysis

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Abstract - The study aimed at analyzing types of simple sentence patterns and the constituent structure of simple sentence structures discovered in the novel entitled The Fault in Our Stars by John Green. Data Source of this study is The Fault in Our Stars novel, it was written by John Green and published on January 10, 2012. The collected data in this study were analyzed by using some following theories related to the syntactic field. First, the types of simple sentences are categorized through the theory proposed by Greenbaum and Nelson (2002). Second, constituent structure of the sentence was discussed by Brown and Miller (1991). In addition, the sentence structure was constructed into a tree diagram based on Fabb's theory (1994). The method of data collection in this study was library research. Then, data analysis were two steps, namely Categorizing all selected data by using Greenbaum and Nelson's theory (2002) to categorize the types of simple sentence pattern, and analyzing the constituent structure of simple sentence found in the novel entitled The Fault in Our Stars by using tree diagram based on Brown and Miller (1991) and combined with Fabb's theory (1994). This study used formal and informal method by Sudaryanto (1993) in presenting the result. The formal method involved presenting the data in a table, while informal method means using ordinary words to explain the result of the study.

Keywords: *Simple Sentence, Sentence Pattern, Syntactical analysis, Novel*

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1. INTRODUCTION

Syntax is the study of language rules. Gleason (2002:128) describes syntax as the principles of organizing the construction created by the process of derivation and inflection (word) into more significant constructions of various types. Many people, especially academics, are familiar with the term syntax. The function of syntax in the written text is to prevent grammatical mistakes. It has become essential to study syntax in literary works. Knowing how language works and how to examine phrase patterns in a text are the goals of comprehending syntax.

One of the example of literary work is a novel. Sumardjo (1998) explained that a novel is a lengthy prose narrative encompassing intricate plotlines, a multitude of characters, and diverse settings. It evolved from various forms of narrative nonfiction, including letters, biographies, and historical accounts. A novel is not constrained by nonfictional data; instead, it offers authors the freedom to construct intricate and vivid imaginary worlds, and to weave compelling narratives that captivate readers. It is a rich and comprehensive form of artistic expression, allowing for the exploration of complex themes and the creation of multi-layered characters and plots. Nurgiyantoro (2007), stated that a novel could be described as a lengthy work of prose fiction that presents a complex narrative featuring a wide range of characters and fictional events.

After knowing some definitions of novel, then a good and popular novel entitled *The Fault in Our Stars* written by John Green chosen as data source. It is his fourth solo novel, and sixth novel overall. It was published on January 10, 2012. The story is narrated by Hazel Grace Lancaster, a 16-year-old girl with thyroid cancer that has affected her lungs. Hazel is forced by her parents to attend a support group where she subsequently meets and falls in love with 17-year-old Augustus Waters, an ex-basketball player and amputee. In this novel provides meaningful and valuable sentences and dialogues to be data of a study especially about syntax.

The study aimed at examining sentence constructions in this novel and creating a tree diagram to make the structure easier to understand for readers. The study discussed about simple sentence patterns and the constituent structure of simple structures found in the novel entitled *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green. This study only focussed on the syntactic analysis related to the result of the study. Furthermore, there were some theories used in this study which were proposed by Greenbaum & Nelson (2002) in assessing the kinds of simple sentences. On the other hand, the constituent structure of the sentence was discussed by Brown and Miller (1991) as the second research problem of the study and made into a tree diagram using Fabb's theory (1994).

There were few studies that resemble this one; the reviews that were most comparable could be found in two publications; The first article entitled *A Syntactical Analysis of Simple Sentences in Kembang Babur* by Evha Nazalatus Sa'adiyah Sy, Devie Reztia A (2019) The purpose of this research to find what are kinds of simple sentence found in Kembang Babur books? The data were taken from a Kembang Babur book and uses descriptive qualitative method. The results indicate that there are three categories of simple sentences in the Kembang Babur book: (a) affirmative sentences, (b) negative sentences. (c) Queries that pose questions. Then, article entitled *Analysis of Simple Sentence Structure in English: Functional Syntax Approach*, by Cahyani (2020) The goal of this study is to define the component parts and functional organization of simple sentences with active voice by analyzing English simple sentences, particularly

declarative sentences. The information was extracted from Ninda Daianti's short fiction, "Let them eat" Cake. The idea put out by Morley (2000) is employed, along with a qualitative descriptive methodology. According to the findings, a basic phrase may have a functional role structure that is mostly made up of semantic roles for each function's filler elements, which can take the shape of SP-O, S-P-C, or S-P-A.

2. METHOD

The aimed of this research were as follows: examine sentence constructions in this novel and creating a tree diagram to make the structure easier to understand for readers. The data was obtained by reading the novel and selected simple sentences, then 'note taking' applied to record simple sentence patterns and the constituent structure of simple structures discovered in the novel entitled *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green.

2.1 Research Design

The study used descriptive qualitative method to describe all the data and the processes of analyzing it. No numbers are included only the description and explanation on simple sentence patterns and the constituent structure of simple structures found in the novel.

2.2 Research Population and Sampling

Due to being the descriptive qualitative research, there were participants involved in the process of the study. There were only the data or the sentences in the novel required to perform the analysis of this study.

2.3 Data Collection Instrument

Since this study is library research, the data was collected from reading and understanding the information carefully the sentences in the novel required to perform the analysis of this study. The information of this study is obtained from the lyrics of the songs.

2.4 Data Analysis

Being the descriptive qualitative research has brought this study to analyzing the qualitative data that is more subjective, rich, and consists of in-depth information presented on simple sentence patterns and the constituent structure of simple structures discovered in the novel entitled *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green. This study only focus on the syntactic analysis related to the result of the study. Furthermore, there were some theories used in this study which were proposed by Greenbaum & Nelson (2002) in assessing the kinds of simple sentences. On the other hand, the constituent structure of the sentence was discussed by Brown and Miller (1991) as the second research problem of the study and made into a tree diagram using Fabb's theory (1994). This study used formal and informal method by Sudaryanto (1993) in presenting the result. The formal

method involved presenting the data in a table, while informal method means using ordinary words to explain the result of the study.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presented the results that discovered in the novel entitled *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green, there were found all types of simple sentence pattern based on Greenbaum and Nelson's theory (2002) which covered S-V, S-V-O, S-V-O-O, S-V-C, S-V-O-C, S-V-A, and S-V-O-A as formulated in the table below.

The finding used bracketing for represent how different parts of s sentence relate to each grammatically, and identify label syntactic units called constituents like Noun Phrases (NP), Verb Phrases (VP), Adjective Phrase (Adj. P), Adverb Phrase (Adv. P), Prepositional Phrase (PP), Determiner Phrase (Det).

Bracketing can help to understand sentence structure (constituent analysis), reveal ambiguity in sentences, analyze literary style and syntax, teach and learn grammar more effectively, prepare for syntax tree (tree diagram)

Table 3.1 Occurrence of Simple Sentence Pattern in *The Fault in Our Stars* Novel written by John Green

No.	Types of Simple Sentence Pattern	Frequency
1	S-V	6
2	S-V-O	4
3	S-V-O-O	4
4	S-V-C	4
5	S-V-O-C	2
6	S-V-A	2
7	S-V-O-A	4
Total		26

Types of Simple Sentence Pattern

3.1 S-V

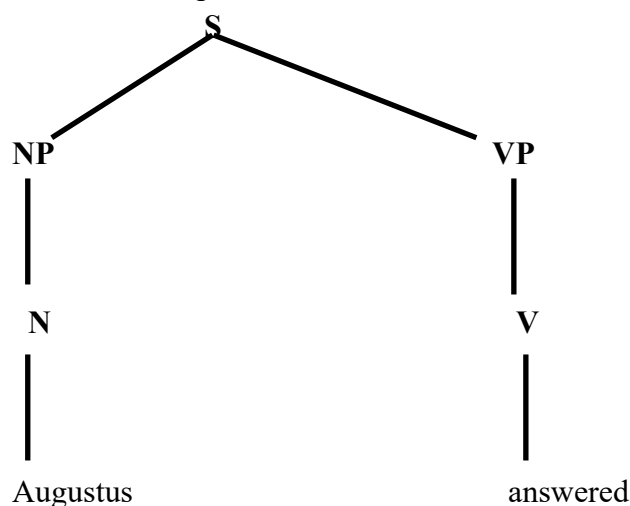
A simple sentence can consist of just a subject and a verb. The formula is constructed into a subject and also followed by an intransitive verb. The verb will always come after the subject where it does not require another element to complete the sentence, therefore, it can be built without the following object in the sentence. Some data are explained below as examples of sentences that only consist of subject and verb elements, the analysis are below.

Augustus answered

(Augustus) (answered)

[S] [V]

In this sentence, only two elements that constructed the structure, namely Noun (Augustus) as the filler of the subject and the main Verb (answered) completed the sentence. The subject usually acts as the agent of the sentence and controls other elements. Since the sentence is in the past tense, the form of the verb element becomes the past verb (answered). As it can be seen from the sentence above, Augustus answered is a simple sentence with a single subject from noun phrase and the predicate from the verb phrase and still categorized as a complete sentence.



The tree diagram that was written above showed the sentence he was gone has some details in its structure to be analyzed. First, the mother S consists of NP and VP as the sister nodes at the same line. Moreover, NP is constructed by Noun (Augustus) as the main subject in the sentence. On the other hand, the following VP is main verb as the head of the verb phrase which is “answered”.

3.2 S-V-O

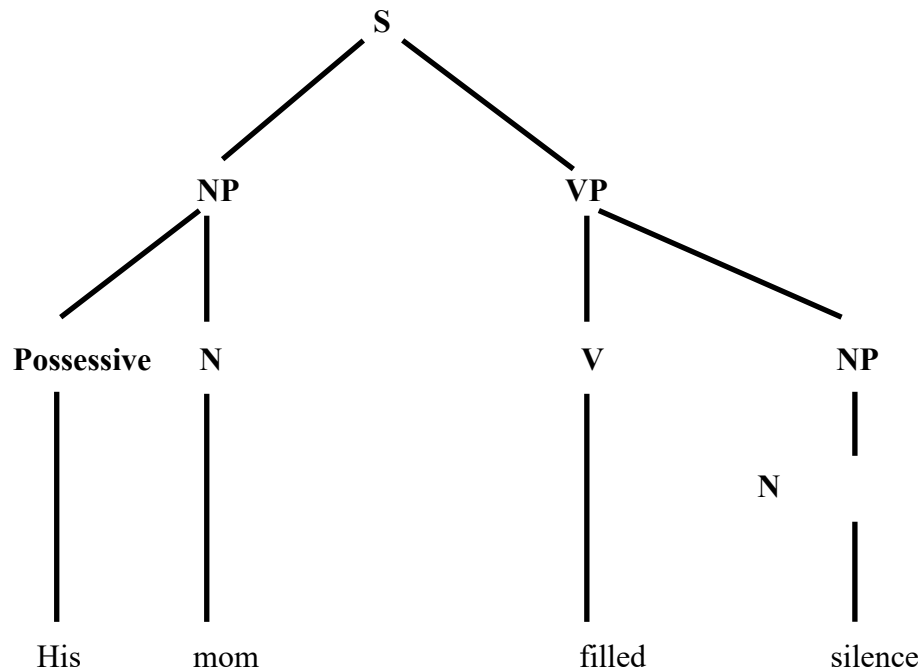
Simple sentences also consist of a subject, a verb, and an object. The formula is built by a subject in the initial position, followed by a transitive verb, and ended by an object. The reason why object is very necessary in this context is because of the transitive verb which requires another element to make the sentence understandable. There are some data found in this study, some examples are below.

His mom filled silence

(His mom) (filled) (silence)

[S] [V] [O]

The sentence above consisted of three elements in total which are subject, verb, and object. The subject is constructed by noun phrase (His mom) is in the initial position. On the other hand, the predicate which constructed by verb phrase (filled). Moreover, the object was (silence).



The tree diagram of the sentence in this case showed the structure His mom filled silence, the mother S node was divided into NP and VP. The NP was constructed by a subject consist of Possessive (His) and Noun (mom) at the beginning. On the other hand, the VP consisted of V, and NP. The verb was filled which was described in the past tense as a regular verb. NP was constructed by Noun (silence).

3.3 S-V-O-O

Simple sentences are generally presented with a single subject. However, the subject usually shows more than one subject. It can show multiple subjects in the same sentence. Likewise, with the object where there are two or more objects can be shown in a simple sentence which are direct and indirect objects. Therefore, there are some examples of sentences below showing the sentence structure with double objects.

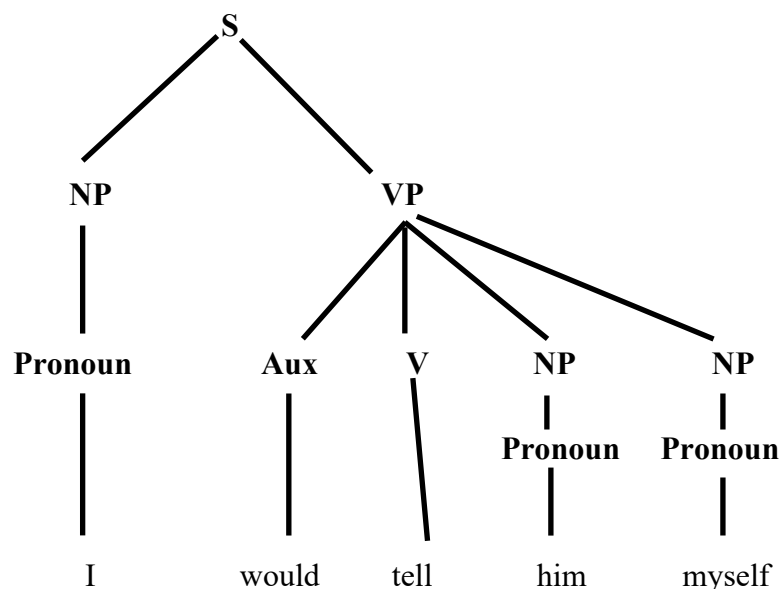
I would tell him myself

(I) (would tell) (him) (myself)

[S] [V] [O] [O]

The context of the sentence above showed the elements constructed a simple sentence which consisted of subject, verb, and double objects. The objects are direct object and indirect object because they have different purposes. The direct object a (myself) is related to the verb has brought where the verb acted on and it directly received the action. On the other hand, the indirect object (him) which is object pronoun showed the recipient of the direct object in the sentence above. Besides, the subject is pronoun (I). On the other hand, the verb was constructed by auxiliary (would) and main verb (tell).

The illustration below depicts the sentence structure my son has brought me a snack. The mother S node was divided into sister nodes NP and VP. The NP went down to the pronoun (I). On the other hand, VP was about an auxiliary (would) and verb (tell). Moreover, the VP consisted of NP that could be seen as the picture above, it was started by an object pronoun (him) which was delivered from the first NP and noun phrase (myself) as the second NP.

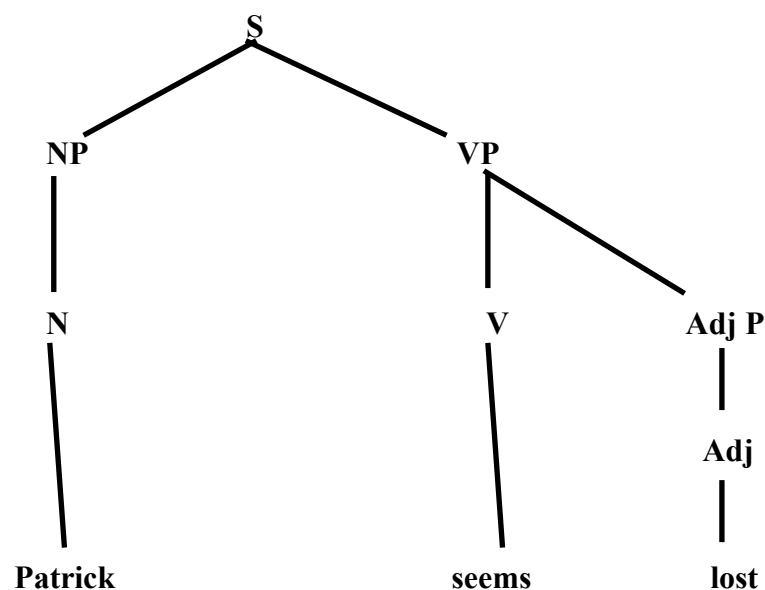


3.4 S-V-C

In another case, a simple sentence also can be constructed by a subject, a verb, and a complement. It typically has the role of attribute in a sentence where it shows the identification and characteristics of the subject. The subject complement provides more information about the subject which is divided into noun, noun phrase, adjective or adjective phrase.

Patrick seems lost
 (Patrick) (seems) (lost)
 [S] [V [C]

The sentence above portrayed the simple structure occurring between the elements subject, verb, and complement. The elements above have their functions as (I) showed the agent, (seems) was the action, and then the word (lost) was about the subject complement which completed the subject of the sentence. Moreover, the sentence was also in the active sentence since the subject was shown as the main agent of the sentence. The complement was taken from an adjective lost as it completed the sentence since there was no any object following the verb.



Furthermore, the mentioned tree diagram above illustrates how the sentence structure was composed by some elements that were covered by a noun phrase, a verb phrase, and an adjective phrase. S node above was constructed by NP and VP, then NP only followed by the noun Patrick which was one of the character in the novel. On the other hand, VP was about V and Adjective P where the verb seems was situated in the present tense. The following adjective phrase was taken from the word lost as it described the character in the sentence.

3.5 S-V-O-C

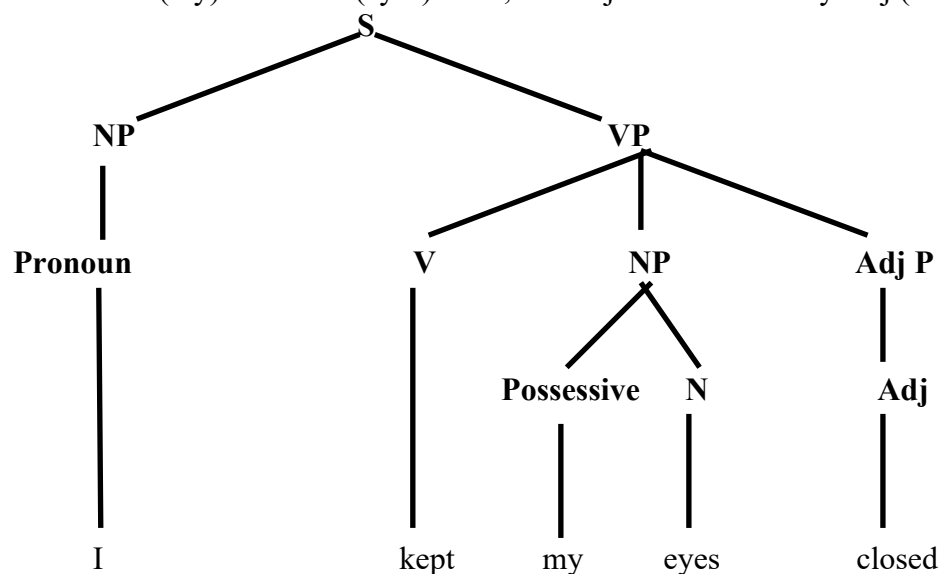
The simple sentence also can be followed by an object and its complement. It typically has the recipient role in a sentence where the person involved in the action, generally the person receiving something or intended to receive something. The object complement describes and identifies the direct object in a sentence through a noun, an adjective, and a pronoun.

I kept my eyes closed

(I) (kept) (my eyes) (closed)
 [S] [V] [O] [C]

The sentence is a simple sentence because it consists of one subject, one verb, one object and one compliment: that is, I kept my eyes closed. The structure of the data above can be seen through the tree diagram.

The data bellow was illustrated to show the simple structure of the sentence I could hear him breathing. The mother S was divided into NP and VP. And then, NP was occurred a pronoun (I). On the other hand, the VP was main verb, and then the NP and Adj P. The main verb (kept) where the structure situated in the simple past tense. The noun phrase was about Possessive (my) and noun (eyes). Last, the Adj P constructed by Adj (closed).



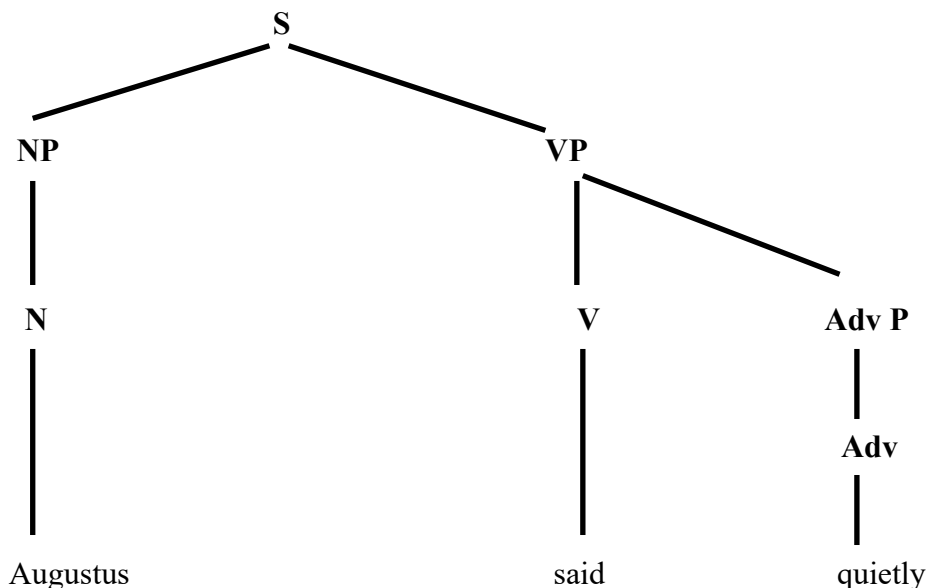
3.6 S-V-A

There is another type of simple sentence where it also contains an adverbial element. It showed a wide range of meanings and completed the sentence to show the space, time, manner, degree, cause, and so on. The adverbial complement in a sentence is sometimes an optional element but it is also an obligatory because the main verb is not complete without them.

Agustus said quietly
 (Augustus) (said) (quietly)
 [S] [V] [Adv]

The data above mentioned a sentence Augustus said quietly explained through a simple structure. The elements that appeared in this case were a subject, a verb, and then an adverbial. The subject in this sentence showed (Augustus) which was about a noun phrase in the initial position. On the other hand, the verb (said) was situated the sentence in the

past tense because the whole sentence described an activity that was conducted at the moment in the past. Last, the context of adverbial in this sentence was also taken from the Adverbial phrase (quietly) modifying the verb in the sentence above.



Above, the data was illustrated to show the simple structure of the sentence Augustus said quietly. The mother S was divided into NP and VP. And then, NP was occurred a noun (Augustus). On the other hand, the VP was between main verb, and then the Adv P. The main verb said where the structure situated in the past tense. Last, the adverbial phrase was about an adverbial of manner (quietly).

3.7 S-V-O-A

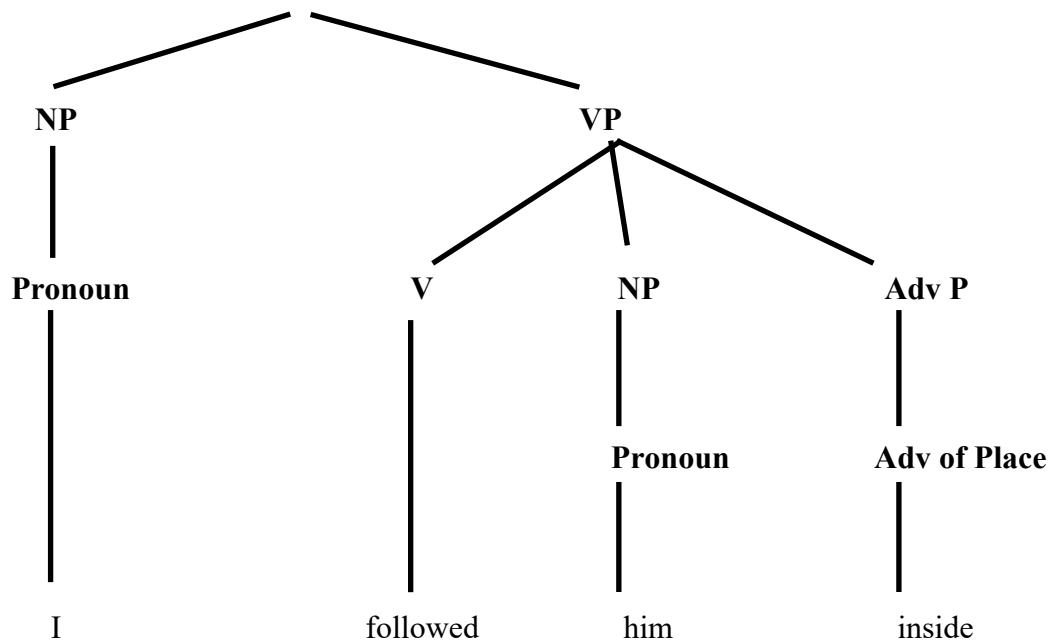
The last type is a simple sentence that is followed by an object and the adverbial at the same time. This sentence showed a direct object because the main verb in this case is a transitive verb and the last element is ended by the adverbial complement.

I followed him inside

(I) (followed) (him) (inside)
 [S] [V] [O] [Adv]

The sentence is classified as a simple sentence because it consists of one subject, one verb, one object and one adverbial that is I followed him inside. The structure of the data above can be seen through the tree diagram.

S



4. CONCLUSION

Based on results and discussion in this study that the total data discovered in the novel entitled *The Fault in Our Stars* written by John Green was 26 data. Furthermore, there were found all types of simple sentence pattern based on Greenbaum and Nelson's theory which covered S-V, S-V-O, S-V-O-O, S-V-C, S-V-O-C, S-V-A, and S-V-O-A. Lastly, all of the types of simple structure patterns analyzed deeply by using tree diagram.

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