SYNTACTIC SEGMENTATION LINEARITY IN AMADOR DAGUIO'S "MAN OF EARTH"

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Abstract

Poetry consists of language yet produces effects that ordinary language does not produce. It is a language differently ordered or arranged. Linguistic analysis, when applied to poetry, would result in a grammar that is different from the grammar that a linguistic analysis of ordinary language would produce. This linguistic research is supported by Corder's theory of linear grammar which theorizes that the structural linearity of language is revealed in the constituent construct making up the syntax (sentence). It investigates syntactically the textuality of the poem "Man of Earth" written by Amador T. Daguio. It aims to identify the two components of syntax which are the immediate constituents and word order. This qualitative study uses the syntactic structural analysis of two phases, the immediate constituents analysis and word order analysis. Findings reveal that the lexical categories that make up the immediate constituents of the poem are nouns, verbs, determiners, auxiliaries, prepositions, conjunctions, adjectives, pronouns, adverbs, and interjections. Word order analysis reveal that there are five (5) S-LV-SC patterns, five (5) S-V patterns, and three (3) S-TV-DO patterns used in the poems. In conclusion, the poem written by Amador T. Daguio reveals the immediate constituents and word order of sentences of the syntactic structures of its textuality. This study recommends that poems of other Filipino writers will be analysed to compare its structural linearity, and integrate the poem in teaching the basic sentence patterns in a language class.

Keywords: syntax, segmentation linearity, poetry, man of earth

Introduction

Communication is an essential function of civilization. Basically, it consists of the five macro skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and viewing. It is the dual or two-way process of transmitting messages from one person to another. It is the symbolic interaction between two or more people that influences each other's behavior. With it, not only does one make his/her self-understood, s/he also gets to understand others. Communication can be through songs, poems, letters and etc.

Language is one of the most uniquely human characteristic that distinguish from other creatures. It means, language is a communication which holds an important role in human's life. It is the most effective medium of communication. It allows people to communicate their ideas, to say or write things to each other and express their communicative needs. It has but one purpose: to serve as the code for the transmission of messages between and among people. By virtue of convention or social agreement, language thus exists as a tool used in expressing ideas and feelings to achieve understanding. It is a part of, in fact, the greatest achievement of culture and is adequate for the communication needs of the people who use it.

Language symbolizes a sense, a concept, an idea, or a thought that is delivered in the form of sound. *Muhammad* (2011:48). Because the symbol refers to a concept, idea, thought, it can be said that language has a meaning. However, the language of poetry is different from the language of other literary genres. That is to say, the grammar of poetry is different. This refers to the fact that the rules of grammars will have to be modified so as to permit certain "liberties" or "licenses" on the one hand, and to account for the novel kinds of restrictions that are imposed on linguistic units in poetry both within and beyond the sentence, on the other. Such grammar would reveal, in comparison with the grammar of the ordinary language, many differences between poetic language and the ordinary language and any literary genre. Therefore, literature particularly poetry can not be examined apart from language. Accordingly, poetry can not be grasped without a thorough knowledge of grammar.

Poetry consists of language yet produces effects that ordinary language does not produce. So poetry is language differently ordered or arranged. This would make it clear that linguistic analysis, when applied to poetry, would result in a grammar that is different from the grammar that a linguistic analysis of ordinary language would produce" (cf. Levin, 1962: 11). Poetry differs from ordinary discourse in the way in which it uses the language. Many of these differences derive from certain literary conventions. In other words, many features distinguishing poetry from ordinary discourse result from the mere fact that "a writer addresses himself to writing a poem. In itself, this fact entails a considerable number and variety of linguistic particularities. The traditions and conventions of the poetic form entail features like rhyme, alliteration, meter and so on" (ibid: 59).

The challenges of the 21st Century which is integrating language and literature across discipline post great opportunities to novice writers in research to venture in some of the literary texts of the different genres. Language and literature as cultural text are good sources of data in which digital culture is the dimension of postmodern culture. Cultural texts are those objects, actions,

and behaviors that reveal cultural meanings. Literature, for instance, can no longer be sufficiently defined using structural thinking. A photo is an image, but is also a cultural text, a picture with cultural information beyond just the picture itself. In interpreting works of literature, we must incorporate concepts from other domains for a more complete analysis. Language and literature is a normative collocation in higher education in our country today. Literature, even as it can be defined in traditional and post structural ways, can truly understood when taken within the context of culture and society to which it belongs.

Moreover, language and literature can best be understood when taken with the concepts of philosophy, of social sciences, of popular music, of performance. Thus, there is a need to scrutinize the use of language in a literary text?" For Terry Eagleton as quoted by Pinzon (2017): "literature is not an objective category, it is a construct and is shaped by historical conditions". The construction of literature, particularly the canon in literature, is made courtesy of power. This paper argues that Amador T. Daguio's *"Man of Earth"* follows syntactic segmentation linearity in its free verse textuality. This argument is supported by the linguistic theory of linear grammar, which Corder (179) explains: Linear grammar treats the sentences of a language as a "string" of grammatical categories like beads in a necklace, or alternatively as a series of slots to be filled by words of the category appropriate to each slot. The linear structural analysis of Amador T. Daguio's "Man of Earth: is focused on the idealization of raw data, immediate constituents, and rewrite rules for each syntactic unit.

Methods and Materials

This academic paper uses the qualitative descriptive design specifically syntactic structural analysis consisting of three phases: idealization of raw data immediate constituent analysis, and word order analysis. It is deemed appropriate for studies that describe the textuality of the poem that is covered in this study. Generally, in analyzing the structure of sentences, one pivotal tool is the simple notion that sentences consist of smaller structural units called constituents (Finegan, 1986: 133). Linguists find it useful to treat sentences as consisting, first, of the largest grammatical units. Three largest units in turn can be analyzed as consisting of smaller units, which in turn can be analyzed.

The corpus that is used in this study is the poem "Man of Earth" originally written by Amador P. Daguio, a Filipino poet, novelist and teacher during the pre-war. He was best known for his fictions and poems. He had published two volumes of poetry, "Bataan Harvest" and"The Flaming Lyre". He served as chief editor for the Philippine House of Representatives before he died in 1966. This poem is taken from the article posted by Gimino Abad on February 26, 2015 at http://ncca.gov.ph/about-culture-and-arts/in-focus/amador-t-daguio-a-turning-point-in-filipino poetry-from-english/.

The researcher chooses a poem "Man of Earth" written by Amador P. Daguioas a literary piece to be analyzed as corpus of the study. Having chosen the literary piece, the researcher downloads a copy of the poem from a reliable source in the internet to have access to the poem.She then does the process called idealization where she initially identifies the sentences by order and

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function, and retrieves the elliptical units in the sentences in order to complete them. For the syntactic structural analysis, two phases are used in gathering data: Immediate Constituent Analysis and Word Order Analysis. For the first problem which deals with the immediate constituents of the sentences, the Immediate Constituent Analysis is done whereby words in each sentence were identified by lexical categories that include content words (N, V, ADI, ADV) and function words (DET, PREP, CONJ, PRON, INTJ). Determiners include articles (a, an, the), demonstratives (this, these, that, those) as well as possessive personal pronouns (my, your, his, her, its, our, their) (Finegan, 1986: 135). .

For the second problem that deals with word order of the sentences in the poem, Word Order Analysis is used based on the concept that the words in a sentence are not just strings of elements arranged in left-to-right order, but also arranged in hierarchical constituent structure. The researcher classifis the sentence pattern used in each sentence into (1) S – LV-SC; (2) S – IV; (3) S-TV-DO; (4) S-TV-IO-DO; and (5) S-TV-DO-OC.

Results

Immediate Constituent Analysis

The immediate constituent of the nine (9) idealized sentences are hereby analyzed

1. Pliant   is   the   bamboo.
   Adj   *V*   *Det*   *N*

2. I   am   man   of   earth.
   Pro   *Aux*   *N*   *Prep*   *N*

3. They   say   that   from   the   bamboo,   we   had
   Pro   *V*   *Conj*   *Prep*   *Det*   *N*   *Pro*   *V*

our   first   birth.
Pro   *Adj*   *N*

4. Am   I   of   the   body   or   of   the   green   leaf?
   Aux   *N*   *Prep*   *Det*   *N*   *Conj*   *Prep*   *Det*   *Adj*   *N*

5. Do   I   have   to   whisper   my   every   sin   and   grief?
   V   *Pro*   *Aux*   *Prep*   *V*   *Det*   *Adj*   *N*   *Con*   *N*

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6. If   the   wind   passes   by   must   I   stoop   and
  Conj   *Det*   *N*   *V*   *Prep*   *Aux*   *Pro*   *V*   *Conj*

try   to   measure   fully   my   flexibility?
V   *Prep*   *V*   *Adv*   *Det*   *N*

7.   I   might   have   been   the   bamboo,   but   I
    Pro   *Aux*   *Aux*   *Aux*   *Det*   *N*   *Conj*   *Pro*

will   be   a   man.
Aux   *Aux*   *Det*   *N*

8. (You)   bend   me   then,   O   Lord.
     N   *V*   *Pro*   *Adv*   *Intrj*   *N*

9.(You)   bend   me   if   you   can.
     N   *V*   *Pro*   *Conj*   *Pro*   *Aux*

Rewrite Rule

1. Adj+ V+Det +N   S1

2.Pro+Aux+N+Prep+N   S2

3. Pro +V+Conj+Prep+Det+N+Pro+V+Pro+Adj+N   S3

4. Aux +N+Prep+Det+N+Conj+Prep+Det+Adj+N   S4

5. V+Pro+Aux+Prep+V+Det+Adj+N+Conj+N   S5

6. Conj+Det+N+V+Prep+Aux+Pro+V+Conj+V+Prep+V+Adv+Det+N   S6

7. Pro+Aux+Aux +Aux+Det+N+Conj+Pro+Aux+ Aux+Det+N   S7

8. N+V+Pro+Adv+Intrj+N   S8

9. N+V+Pro+Conj+Pro+Aux   S9

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Where:

Adj	is	Adjective
V	is	Verb
Det	is	Determiner
N	is	Noun
Pro	is	Pronoun
Aux	is	Auxiliary
Prep	is	Preposition
Conj	is	Conjunction
Adv	is	Adverb
Intrj	is	Interjection

With the aim of investigating this literary piece, a poem written by Amador Daguio is focused as a model textuality for syntactic structure analysis: *"Man of Earth"* The linguistic medium of the poem is English containing four (4) stanzas with four (4) lines in each stanza. Indicated below is the number of idealized sentences and part of speech.

Sentence 1 is made up of an adjective, verb and noun.
Sentence 2 is made up of pronoun, auxiliary, noun, preposition, and noun.
Sentence 3 is made up of pronoun, verb, conjunction, preposition, determiner, noun, pronoun, verb, pronoun, adjective and noun.
Sentence 4 is made up of auxiliary, noun, preposition, determiner, noun, conjunction, preposition, determiner, adjective, and noun.
Sentence 5 is made up of verb, pronoun, auxiliary, preposition, verb, determiner, adjective, noun, conjunction, and noun.
Sentence 6 is made up of conjunction, determiner, noun, verb, preposition, auxiliary, pronoun, verb, conjunction, verb, preposition, verb, adverb, determiner, and noun.
Sentence 7 is made up of pronoun, auxiliary, auxiliary, auxiliary, determiner, noun, conjunction, pronoun, auxiliary, auxiliary, determiner, and noun.
Sentence 8 is made up of noun, verb, pronoun, adverb, interjection and noun.
Sentence 9 is made up of noun, verb, pronoun, conjunction, pronoun and auxiliary.

Word Order Analysis

The word order analysis of the poem reveals the following sentence patterns:

1. Pliant   is   the   bamboo.
    S   *LV*   *SC*

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2. I   am   man   of   earth.
   S   *LV*   *SC*

3. They   say   that   from   the   bamboo,   we   had
   S   *V*   *S*   *LV*
our   first   birth.
               SC

4. Am   I   of   the   body   or   of   the   green   leaf?
   S   *V*

5. Do   I   have   to   whisper   my   every   sin   and   grief?
       S   *TV*   *DO*

6. If   the   wind   passes   by   must   I   stoop   and
  Conj   *S*   *V*   *S*   *V*
try   to   measure   fully   my flexibility?

7. I   might   have   been   the   bamboo,   but   I
  S   *LV*   *SC*   *conj*   *S*
will be a man.
LV   *SC*

8. (You)   bend   me   then,   O   Lord.
    S   *TV*   *DO*

9. (You)   bend   me   if   you   can.
    S   *TV*   *DO*   *Conj*   *S*   *V*

The word order analysis shows that Sentence1 uses the S-LV-SC pattern where the subject is the adjective *pliant*, *the* linking verb *is,* and the subjective complement, the noun *bamboo*.

      Sentence 2 uses the S-LV-SC pattern where the subject is *I*, thelinking verb *am,* and the subjective complement *man.*

Sentence 3 uses the two patterns; (a) the S-V pattern where the subject is *they* and the intransitive verb is *say*, then (b) the S-LV-SC pattern where the subject is *we*, the linking verb is *had* and the subjective complement *birth*.

Sentence 4 uses the S-V pattern where the subject is *I*, and the linking verb *am*.

Sentence 5 uses the S-TV-DO pattern where the subject is *I*, the transitive verb *whisper,* and the direct object *sin* and *grief.*

Sentence 6 uses two patterns after the conjunction *if; (a)* the S-V pattern where the subject is *wind*, the intransitive verb *passes, (b)* another S-V pattern where the subject is *I* and the intransitive verb *stoop* and *try.*

Sentence 7 uses two patterns in between the conjunction *but; (a)* the S-LV-SC pattern where the subject is *I*, the linking verb *have,* and the subjective complement *bamboo, (b)* another S-LV-SC pattern where the subject is *I,* the linking verb *be,* and the subjective complement *man*.

Sentence 8 uses S-TV-DO pattern where the subject is the elliptical unit *you*, transitive verb *bend,* and the direct object *me*.

Sentence 9 uses two patterns in between the conjunction *if; (a)* the S-TV-DO pattern where the subject is the elliptical unit *you*, the transitive verb *bend,* and the direct object *me ,* and (*b)* S-V- pattern where the subject is *you,* the intransitive verb *can.*

Conclusion

Based on the findings, the generalization is arrived at that the poem "Man of Earth" written by Amador Daguio reveals the structural linearity of language making up its syntax (sentence).

Recommendations

Based, on the findings and the conclusion, the following recommendations are hereby offered: Analyze the poems of other Filipino writers and compare its structural linearity; and integrate the poem in teaching the basic sentence patterns in a language class.

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