



IIT Madras

BSc Degree

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CLAUSE ANALYSIS - II

- We have already seen what simple and compound sentence are.
- When a sentence has an independent clause and one or more subordinate clauses then it is called a complex sentence.
- Ordinarily, we often use as many or even more complex sentences than simple or compound ones.

VIDEO CLIP

Listen to this audio-visual clip and make notes if necessary. But try and see if you can find different kind of sentences length-wise long, short, simple, compound, etc.

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mK53d6aIG48>

Please watch the section 00:00 – 01:00

Source: English Speeches (YouTube)

Video description: Actor Madhavan addresses the 14th edition of the Indian Conference by Harvard Business School.

We are using 1.00 minute of this video for academic purposes.

ACTIVITY 1

After making his exit from Albert Mission School in that theatrical manner (on the day following the strike), Swaminathan became so consistently stubborn that a few days later his father took him to the Board School and admitted him there. At first Swaminathan was rather uncertain of his happiness in the new school. But he excited the curiosity that all new-comers do, and found himself to his great satisfaction the centre of attraction in Second C. All his new classmates, remarkably new faces, often clustered round him to see him and hear him talk. He had not yet picked the few that he would have liked to call his chums. He still believed that his Albert Mission set was intact, though, since the reopening in June, the set was not what it had been before. Sankar disappeared, and people said that his father had been transferred; Somu was not promoted, and that meant he was automatically excluded from the group, the law being inexorable in that respect; the Pea was promoted, but he returned to the class exactly three months late, and he was quite full up with medical certificates, explanations, and exemptions. He was a man of a hundred worries now, and passed his old friends like a stranger. Only Rajam and Mani were still intact as far as Swaminathan was concerned. Mani saw him every day. But Rajam had not spoken to him since the day when his political doings became known.

In the paragraph above, we have complex sentences as listed below.

- a. After making his exit from Albert Mission School in that theatrical manner (on the day following the strike), Swaminathan became so consistently stubborn that a few days later his father took him to the Board School and admitted him there.
- b. But he excited the curiosity that all new- comers do, and found himself to his great satisfaction the centre of attraction in Second C.
- c. He had not yet picked the few that he would have liked to call his chums.

- d. He still believed that his Albert Mission set was intact, though, since the reopening in June, the set was not what it had been before.
- e. Sankar disappeared, and people said that his father had been transferred; Somu was not promoted, and that meant he was automatically excluded from the group, the law being inexorable in that respect; the Pea was promoted, but he returned to the class exactly three months late, and he was quite full up with medical certificates, explanations, and exemptions.
- f. Only Rajam and Mani were still intact as far as Swaminathan was concerned.
- g. But Rajam had not spoken to him since the day when his political doings became known.

1) a. *After making his exit from Albert Mission School in that theatrical manner (on the day following the strike), Swaminathan became so consistently stubborn that a few days later his father took him to the Board School and admitted him there.*

Independent Clause	Subordinate Clause
Swaminathan became so consistently stubborn	that a few days later his father took him to the Board School
	and (his father) admitted him there

- One subordinate clause can be different from another not only in length, but also in its function.
- The subordinate clauses in 1(a) are both alike in that they both complement the adjectival phrase ‘so consistently stubborn’ in the independent clause.
- But in the same sentence, we can have two or three subordinate clauses performing two or three different functions.

he excited the curiosity that all new- comers do

Independent clause	Subordinate clause
he excited the curiosity	that all new comers do

Here the subordinate clause is working like an adjective and it further qualifies the noun ‘curiosity’ in the independent clause given above.

Ordinarily speaking there are three kinds of subordinate clauses:

- a. Noun Clause
- b. Adjectival Clause
- c. Adverbial Clause

There can be atleast three different kinds of noun clauses depending upon their function. They can be:

- a. Subordinate Noun Clause working as subject to some verb in the independent clause. For example,

That the pandemic would disappear was believed last year by everyone.

Independent clause	Subordinate clause
(it/that) was believed last year by everyone	That the pandemic would disappear (working as a subject to the verb ‘was’ in the independent clause)

- In clause analysis of a sentence we do the following:
 - a. We identify the number of clauses.
 - b. We understand their nature- if they are adjectival, adverbial or noun clauses.
 - c. We understand their function- namely, x qualifies y as an adjectival clause, or it is a subordinate noun clause subject to or object to something.

b. Subordinate Noun Clause working as an object to a verb in the independent clause, such as in the following sentences:

He still believed that his Albert Mission set was intact

c. A clause in apposition- It gives additional information about the noun in the independent clause, but it cannot stand by itself.

Rabindranath Tagore, who is a Nobel Laureate, was not only a great writer, but also a great manager. He ran a school, a university, a printing press, and a journal nearly all his life which is a life worth talking about.

The given paragraph has two sentences. Sentence 1 has three clauses:

1. Rabindranath Tagore was not only a great writer
2. (Rabindranath Tagore) was also a Nobel Laureate
3. (Rabindranath Tagore) but (was) also a great manager

(2) is not adjectival clauses, it is a subordinate noun clause in apposition. It does not qualify the preceding noun, it provides additional information about the main noun.

He still believed that his Albert Mission set was intact, though, since the reopening in June, the set was not what it had been before.

Independent Clause	Subordinate Noun Clause
He still believed	that his Albert Mission set was intact
though, since the reopening in June, the set was not what it had been before	what it had been before- subordinate noun clause in apposition to the noun set

ACTIVITY 2

Find different kinds of subordinate noun clauses in the following paragraphs. Compare your answers with the ones given in the ‘Answers’ section below.

Rajam realized at this point that the starting of a cricket team was the most complicated problem on earth. He had simply expected to gather a dozen fellows on the maidan next to his compound and play, and challenge the world. But here were endless troubles, starting with the name that must be unique, Government taxes, and so on. The Government did not seem to know where it ought to interfere and where not. He had a momentary sympathy for Gandhi; no wonder he was dead against the Government.

ANSWERS

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE	SUBORDINATE NOUN CLAUSE
Rajam realized at this point	that the starting of a cricket team was the most complicated problem on earth
The Government did not seem to know	where it ought to interfere and where not

Thank you!

