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**SYNTACTIC STRUCTURE OF RELATIVE CLAUSES WITH REFERENCE  
TO JOHN GREEN'S NOVEL *LOOKING FOR ALASKA***

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**Abstrak**

*Jurnal berjudul Syntactic Structure of Relative Clauses with Reference to John Green's Novel Looking for Alaska berfokus pada analisis tentang klausa relatif, khususnya pada struktur dan jenis klausa relatif. Tujuan dari penelitian ini ialah untuk memaparkan jenis-jenis klausa relatif dan menganalisis struktur klausa relatif yang ditemukan dalam novel yang ditulis oleh John Green berjudul Looking for Alaska yang pertama kali diterbitkan pada tahun 2005. Dalam menganalisa struktur klausa relatif dalam penelitian ini, digunakan teori tentang phrase structure rule dari Wekker dan Haegeman (1985) dalam buku mereka yang berjudul A Modern Course of English Syntax dan didukung oleh sebuah teori dari Haegeman tentang Wh-movement dalam bukunya yang berjudul Introduction to Government and Binding Theory 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition dan dalam menganalisis jenis-jenis klausa relatif, digunakan teori dari Quirk et al (1985) dalam bukunya yang berjudul A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language. Analisis data disajikan menggunakan tree diagram dan phrase structure rule. Hasil analisis dalam penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa semua jenis klausa relatif ditemukan dalam data. Jenis-jenisnya yaitu klausa relatif restrictive dan klausa relatif non-restrictive yang diperkenalkan oleh kata ganti who, which, whom, whose, that, zero atau dengan prasa yang berisi kata ganti contohnya: for which, to which dan lain sebagainya. Dalam fungsinya, klausa relatif dapat berfungsi sebagai subjek atau objek yang memberikan informasi mengenai kata sebelumnya sebagai anteseden atau hanya memberikan informasi tambahan pada kata sebelumnya. Selain itu, analisis dalam penelitian ini juga menunjukkan bahwa terdapat wh-movement dalam struktur klausa relatif.*

Kata kunci: Struktur Sintaksis, Klausa Relatif, Wh-movement

## **1. Background of the Study**

One of the main aspects of language besides semantic, pragmatic, and phonology is syntax. Syntax is the way that word and phrases are put together to form a sentence in a language (Hornby, 2010:1515). A sentence itself is a linguistic unit that consist a group of words that are grammatically linked. Sentences are either simple or multiple, in which a simple sentence consists of an independent clause whereas a multiple sentence contains more than one clause. Multiple sentences are compound or complex (Quirk *et al.*, 1985:719). A compound sentence consists of two or more coordinated main clauses in which the main clauses of a compound sentence have equivalent function, whereas, a complex sentence consists of one main clause or an independent clause which is joined by one or more subordinate clauses. A subordinate clause or also known as a dependent clause is a clause that cannot stand by itself as a sentence. There are some different types of dependent clause, such as: noun clauses, adverbial clauses and relative clauses. Relative clause is a subordinate clause that modifies a noun or a noun phrase. Relative clause is introduced by a relative pronoun such as: *who*, *which*, *whom*, *whose*, *that* and *zero*. This study analyzed the syntactic structure of relative clauses found in one of John Green's novels entitled *Looking for Alaska*.

## **2. Problems of the Study**

There are some problems that were discussed in this study, those are:

1. What types of relative clause are found in the novel *Looking for Alaska* by John Green?
2. How are the syntactic structures of relative clause in the novel *Looking for Alaska* by John Green?

## **3. Aims of the Study**

In relation to the problems of this study, the aims of this study are as follows:

1. To describe the types of relative clause found in the novel *Looking for Alaska* by John Green.

2. To analyze the syntactic structure of relative clause in John Green's novel entitled *Looking for Alaska*.

#### **4. Research Method**

Research Methods consist of data source, method and techniques of collecting data, and method and techniques of analyzing data. The data source of this study was taken from the novel by John Green entitled *Looking for Alaska* which first published in 2005. The data were collected through documentation method and analyzed descriptive qualitatively.

#### **5. Result and Discussion**

##### **5.1 Types of Relative Clause by Quirk *et al.* (1985)**

In analyzing the types of relative clause found in John Green's novel *Looking for Alaska*, theory proposed by Quirk *et al* was used. Quirk *et al* (1985) stated, according to their semantic relation between the clause and its antecedent, there are two kinds of relative clauses: restrictive relative clause and non-restrictive relative clause.

##### **5.1.1 Restrictive Relative Clause**

Restrictive relative clause is a subordinate clause that aims to modify the meaning of its head word, it gives detailed information defining the noun that comes before it (its antecedent). For examples:

- a. The lunch discussion centered on the girl *who was supposed to have been Alaska's roommate*.
- b. We are driving through the place *that she could not drive through*.

##### **5.1.2 Non-restrictive Relative Clause**

Non-restrictive relative clause is a subordinate clause that aims to provide additional information, so this clause does not have a big effect to the meaning of the sentence. For examples:

- a. Hyde talked about *the Gospel of Mark*, ***which I hadn't read until the day before.***
- b. I only registered the name Takumi, ***whom Alaska had mentioned yesterday.***

## 5.2 Syntactic Structure of Relative Clause

In analyzing the syntactic structure of relative clause, phrase structure rule theory by Wekker and Haegeman (1985) was used. Wh-movement theory by Haegeman (1994) was also used as a supporting theory in analyzing the syntactic structure of relative clause.

### 1. I see a girl *who loves books*. (Green, 2005 :83)

A relative clause can modify the subject or object of the main clause. In this clause the relative clause modifies the object of the main clause. The structure of the sentence above is as follows:

S → NP<sub>1</sub> VP<sub>1</sub>

NP<sub>1</sub> → N

VP<sub>1</sub> → V NP

NP → Det N S'

S' → Rel S

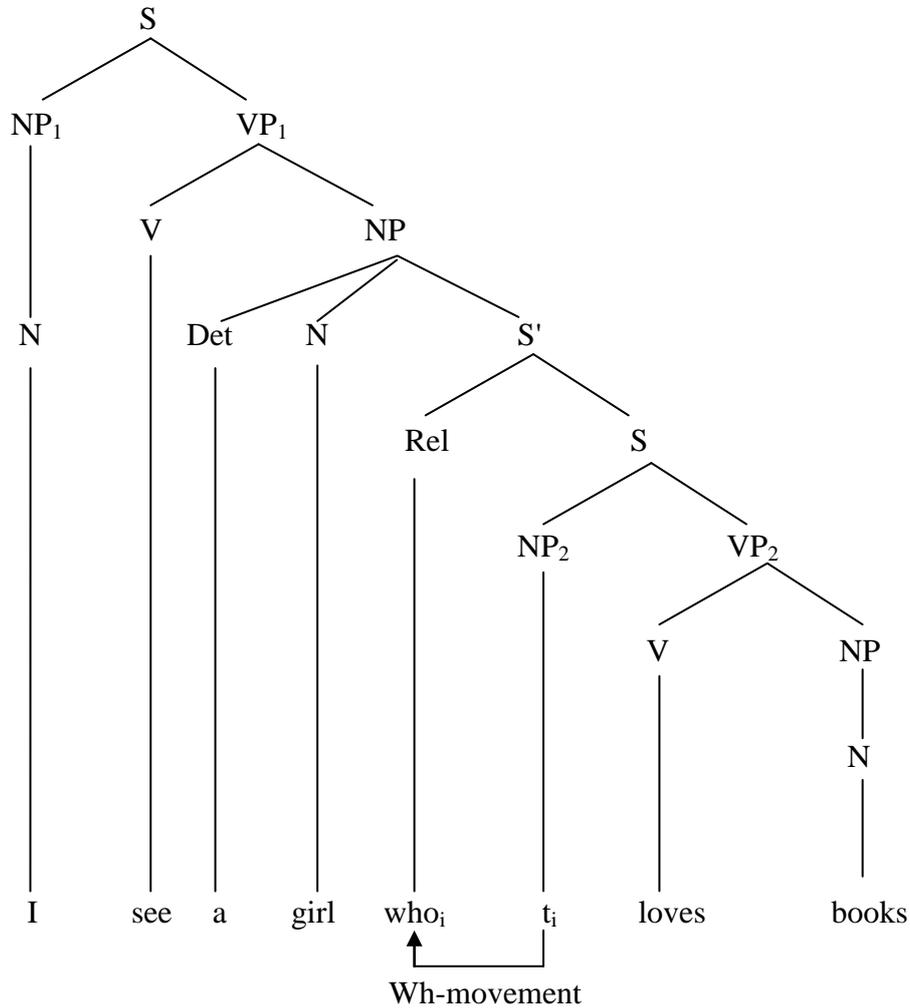
S → NP<sub>2</sub> VP<sub>2</sub>

NP<sub>2</sub> → t<sub>i</sub>

VP<sub>2</sub> → V NP

NP → N

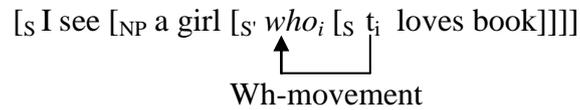
Based on the structure above the tree diagram of the example 4 is as follows:



From the tree diagram above it can be seen that the relative clause which is embedded to its antecedent *a girl who loves books* is clearly an NP which is filled by *a girl* modified by a relative clause *who loves books*. It also can be seen that there is a wh-movement applied in that sentence since the wh-pronoun *who* which must originate within S of the S' moves outside S to leftmost constituent S-bar (S'):

[<sub>S</sub> I see [<sub>NP</sub> a girl [<sub>S'</sub> *who* [<sub>S</sub> — loves books]]]]

The relative wh-pronoun *who* is moved from its original position marked by — to its superficial position and leaving a coindex trace in its original position ( $t_i$ ). The movement is indicated schematically below:



The sentence above *I see a girl who loves books* consists of two clause: *I see a girl* as the main clause, and the subordinate clause *a girl loves books*, however the subject of the subordinate clause *a girl* is moved from its original position [NP, S of S'] to the higher position [Rel, S'] and changed into a wh-pronoun *who*.

## 6. Conclusion

A relative clause is an embedded clause which is added in a free clause or a sentence. It is embedded to the noun or noun phrase that has a function as subject or object. Moreover, from the structure analysis of relative clauses in this study, it is found that wh-movement is applied in the structure of relative clause. It is applied when the relative wh-pronoun is moved out from its original position within the S of S-bar (S') into its superficial position Rel of S-bar (S').

Based on the types, according to the theory used by Quirk *et al.* (1985) based on their semantic relation between the relative clause and its antecedent, there are two types of relative clauses, and both of those types were found in John Green's novel *Looking for Alaska*, those are: restrictive relative clause and non-restrictive relative clause. Restrictive relative clause is the type of relative clause that aims to modify the meaning of its antecedent whereas non-restrictive relative clause is type of relative clause that only aims to give additional information.

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