

# Sentence Structure of Interrogative Sentences in "After You" Novel

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#### Abstract

This study aims to analyse the types of interrogative sentences in "After You" Novel and to draw its sentence structure into tree diagram. Qualitative method is used to identify the problem and to explain the analysis descriptively. The data were taken from the interrogative sentences in "After You" Novel and analysed by using the theory from Quirk et al (1985). There are 565 interrogative sentences found in this novel and classified into two categories. The first category is Wh-question which consists of 227 sentences and the second category is Yes-no question which consists of 338 sentences. The Wh-question divided into two categories, there are 222 sentences categorized as positive Wh-question and 5 sentences as negative Wh-question. Yes-no question is divided into five categorized as declarative yes-no question, 48 sentences categorized as yes-no question with modal auxiliary, 30 sentences as tag question and 11 sentences as negative yes-no question. Brown and Miller (1991) as guidance theory to draw the tree diagram which need to attach the wh-question word or the auxiliary to the complementizer.

**Keywords:** *interrogative sentence, sentence structure, syntax* 

#### Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis jenis-jenis kalimat tanya pada novel "After You" dan menggambarkan diagram struktur kalimatnya. Untuk mengidentifikasi masalah penelitian digunakan metode kualitatif dan hasil analisis dijelaskan dengan deskriptif. Data diambil dari kalimat tanya yang terdapat pada novel "After You". Sesuai dengan teori dari Quirk et al (1985) ditemukan 565 kalimat tanya. Temuan tersebut digolongkan menjadi dua bagian yaitu 227 kalimat tanya tergolong kedalam kalimat tanya dengan 5W+1H (Wh-question) dan 338 kalimat tanya tergolong pertanyaan yang bisa dijawab dengan iya atau tidak (yes-no question). Kalimat tanya 5W+1H (Wh-question) dibagi menjadi dua yaitu 222 tergolong kalimat wh-question positif dan 5 kalimat tergolong wh-question negatif. Yes-no question dapat dibagi menjadi 5 jenis antara lain 157 kalimat tergolong Yes-no question positif, 92 kalimat termasuk kedalam Yes-no question dalam bentuk deklaratif, 48 kalimat menggunakan modal auxiliary, 30 kalimat termasuk tag question dan 11 kalimat Yes-no question negatif. Sebagai petunjunk dalam menjabarkan diagram dari struktur kalimat tanya digunakan teori dari Brown dan Miller (1991) dimana 5W+1H dan auxiliary perlu ditambahkan di complementizer pada awal kalimat.

Kata kunci: kalimat tanya, stuktur kalimat, sintaksis





#### Introduction

In worldwide communication people need to understand English, because it is an international language. When the society build a communication, they will produce many sentences. It is a set of word that arrange completely and interrogative sentence is used the most in conversation or dialogue to maintain communication in community. According to (Oshima & Hogue, 2007) in (Analisti, 2016) Sentences are defined as a group of words that aims to express a complete thought that contains at least one subject and one verb. This is not only happening in real life but also in every literary product such as novels, movies, and plays.

Interrogative sentence is the type of sentence to request or ordering something to someone. Based on Quirk *et al* (1985) there are two possibilities of the question: first, the interrogative or the question begin with WH-question word (*when, what, where, when, which, who, how...*) and well known as WH-question. The second one when the question starts with the auxiliary (*is, am, are, did, do, could, may...*) and commonly known as Yes-No question. Based on (Tribawa, 2018) an interrogative sentence is a type of sentence that asks a question. WH-question divided into two categories there are Positive WH-question and Negative WH-question. Yes-No question classified into five types, the first type is Positive Yes-No Question, Negative Yes-No Question. The third type is Tag question, Yes-No Question with Modal Auxiliary and a Declarative sentence also possible to be a question when it ended by question mark.

Based on the research from (Magpika H, 2019) at SMA Negeri 2 Samalantan Bengkayang Regency the students in class XI IPA and XI IPS commonly made errors in using auxiliary word which are not accordance with the yes-no question. As English learner in Indonesia we need to learn how to reduce the error and one of them is self-awareness that English pattern is different with Bahasa. According to (Umami) the language error can be avoided by knowledge, if the learner know English is different with Bahasa especially the form of interrogative sentence. It is an extraordinary effort to learn the English.

The sentence structure very important to be known because different structure will give an effect to the meaning. Based on Brown and Miller (1991) theory to make the sentence structure of interrogative sentence need auxiliary-inversion to put the auxiliary in the front of the subject and wh-movement to move the wh-question word at the beginning of the sentence. The sentence structure of wh-question usually needs both, however only auxiliary-inversion needed in yes-no question. Then the auxiliary and the wh-question word attached to complementizer.

There are many previous studies that analysed about the types of sentence, a research by Puspita (2017) focused on the types of sentence such as simple sentence, complex sentence and compound sentence. The other research by Christianto (2018) focused to analyse the types of sentence pattern and the last is the research by Putri

(2020) focused to analyse the types of interrogative sentences. However, this study focused with the types of interrogative sentence in "After You" novel.

It is very important for English learners to know about the types of sentence especially interrogative sentence and its sentence structure in order to give correct response when somebody asked. Beside that knowledge about sentence and its structure will help them to understand the meaning of the sentence. They can reduce misunderstanding, error and mistake when they maintain communication. Hopefully this study can be a guidance for those who want to learn about the interrogative sentence and its sentence structure.

# Method

The data of this study taken from the text in "After You" novel written by popular romance novelist Jojo Moyes. However, this study used 15 chapters that consists of many interrogative sentences from 30 chapters that exists in the novel. Documentation method used to collecting the data in this study with several types such as: reading "After You" novel by Jojo Moyes, giving a mark on every interrogative sentence, taking a note of every interrogative sentence then the sentence classified based on the theory propose by Quirk *et al* (1985). The sentence structure of the interrogative sentences drew into tree diagram based on the theory from Brown and Miller (1991). The finding of this study presented with formal and informal. Formal way for the diagram or table and informal way for their description.

# **Result and Discussion**

This study found 565 interrogative sentences, which are divided into two: 227 interrogative sentences are belonged to Wh-question and 338 interrogative sentences are categorized as Yes-no question.

	Table 1 <b>Wh-questions</b>				
No.	Types of Wh-question	Occurrence	Percentage		
1	Positive Wh-Questions	222	97,8%		
2	Negative Wh-Questions	5	2,2%		
	Total Data	227	100%		

The table 1 presented the tabulation of the finding for Wh-question found in "After You" novel by Jojo Moyes. From 227 Wh-questions, 222 sentences or 97,8% are belonged to Positive Wh-question and 5 sentences or 2,2% are categorized as

Negative Wh-question. It can be seen clearly Positive Wh-questions are used dominantly with very high ratio.

No.	Types of Yes-no question	Occurrence	Percentage
1	Positive Yes-No Questions	157	46,4%
2	Negative Yes-No Questions	11	3,3%
3	Tag Questions	30	8,9%
4	Yes-no questions with modal auxiliaries	48	14,2%
5	Declarative Yes-No Questions	92	27,2%
Total Data		338	100%

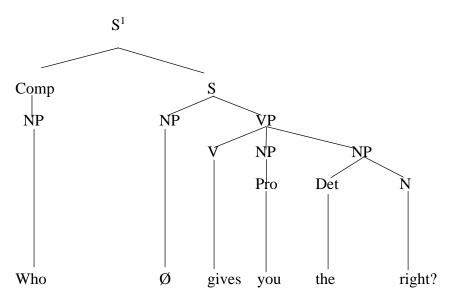
Table 2 Yes-no questions

The table 2 presented the finding for Yes-no question found in "After You" novel by Jojo Moyes. It can be seen clearly on the table 2 that Positive yes-no question are dominant with 157 sentences or 46,4%. The second dominant is Declarative Yes-no question with 92 sentences or 27,2%, followed by Yes-no question with modal auxiliary 48 sentences or 14,2% and 30 sentences or 8,9% are Tag question. The least one is Negative Yes-no question with 11 sentences or 3,3%. It can be seen clearly from table 1 and table 2 that "After You" Novel used more Yes-no question then Wh-question. Positive Wh-question is the dominant interrogative sentences and Negative Wh-question is the least, if comparing the finding of each category from Wh-question and Yes-no question,

1. Positive Wh-question Datum 1

Who gives you the right? (Chapter 14:199)

The sentence on datum 1 put Wh-question word *Who* in initial position which followed by positive form. This condition made this interrogative sentence categorized as Positive Wh-question. This question expects NP answer as the subject that gives the hearer right. However, the interrogative sentence in datum 1 only need wh-movement to make the Wh-question word *Who* at the beginning of the sentence and attach it into complementizer. The Positive Wh-question in datum 1 is demonstrated by tree diagram below:

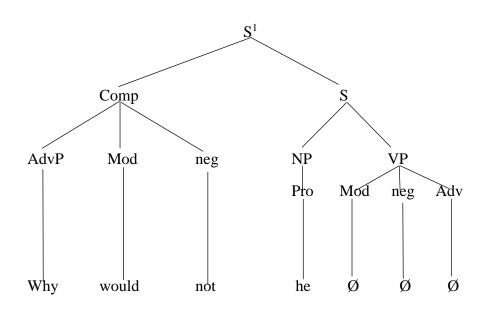


The tree diagram of the datum 1 illustrates an interrogative sentence which symbolized by S<sup>1</sup> as the mother node. It has two branches namely Complementizer (Comp) *Who* and S  $\emptyset$  gives you the right. The complementizer has only one daughter called NP *Who* and S has two branches namely NP  $\emptyset$  and VP gives you the right. The immediate constituent of NP is elided and its sister VP has three branches namely V gives, NP $\rightarrow$ Pro you and NP. The immediate constituents of NP as the third daughter of VP are Det *the* and N *right*. It can be seen clearly from the diagram for datum 1 that Wh-question word *Who* in initial position, thus this sentence is categorized as Positive Wh-question.

2. Negative Wh-question Datum 2

Why wouldn't he? (Chapter 9:112)

The interrogative sentence on datum 2 belongs to Negative Wh-question because the front position of Wh-question word *Why* followed by negative form. This question asked for the AdvP as the reason would not he. This interrogative sentence needs two times of movements, such as auxiliary inversion to move the word *would* follow by negative *not* in front of the subject and Wh-movement to put Wh-question *Why* in initial position. The Negative Wh-question on data 2 above is demonstrated by tree diagram below:

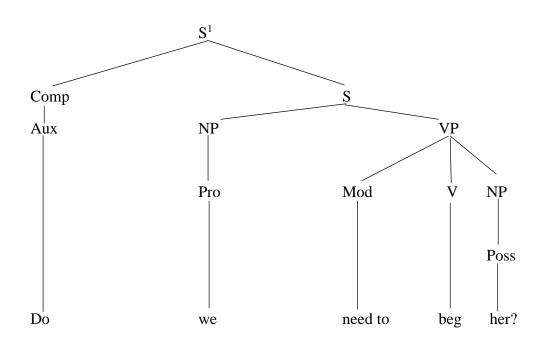


The tree diagram of datum 2 represents an interrogative sentence with S<sup>1</sup> as the mother node. It has two daughters Complementizer (Comp) *Why would not* and S *he would not AdvP*. Complementizer has three branches namely AdvP *Why*, Mod *would*, neg *not* and it is equal with S *he*  $\emptyset \ \emptyset \ \emptyset$ . The immediate constituents of S are NP $\rightarrow$ Pro *he* and VP which has three daughters there are Mod  $\emptyset$ , neg  $\emptyset$  and AdvP  $\emptyset$ . The VP in this sentence elided and move to the front attached on Complementizer. It can be seen clearly on tree diagram of datum 2 the front position of Wh-question word *Why* followed by negative form *wouldn't*, therefore the interrogative sentence on datum 2 is categorized as Negative Wh-question.

3. Positive Yes-no question Datum 3

Do we need to beg her? (Chapter 2:10)

The sentence on datum 3 put the auxiliary Do in initial position which is accompanied by positive form and can be answered by yes or no without explain further answer. This situation made the interrogative sentence on datum 3 categorized as Positive Yes-no question. This interrogative sentence needs auxiliary inversion to put the auxiliary Do in front of the sentence. The interrogative sentence on datum 3 is demonstrated by tree diagram below:

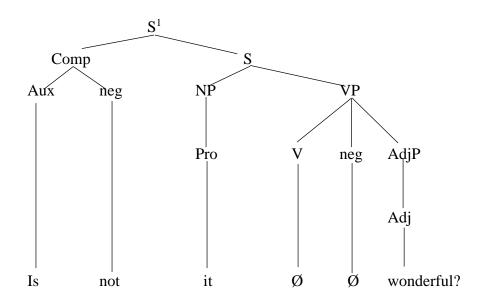


The tree diagram of datum 3 illustrates an interrogative sentence with  $S^1$  as the mother node. It has two branches Complementizer (Comp) *Do* and *S* we need to beg *her*. Complementizer has only one daughter Aux *Do* and *S* which in similar position has two branches called NP $\rightarrow$ Pro we and VP need to beg her. The immediate constituents of VP are Mod need to, V beg and NP $\rightarrow$ Poss her. It can be seen clearly on tree diagram of datum 3 the auxiliary *Do* in initial position and followed by positive form. Therefore, this sentence is classified as Positive Yes-no question.

4. Negative Yes-no question Datum 4

Isn't it wonderful? (Chapter 23:318)

The interrogative sentence on datum 4 above is categorized as Negative Yes-no question because it started with the auxiliary *Is* and followed by negative form. This interrogative sentence can be answer by yes or no answer because the speaker does not expect wide range of answer. Auxiliary inversion needed when made this sentence to move the auxiliary *Is* followed by negative *not* to the front of the sentence. Negative Yes-no question of datum 4 is demonstrated by tree diagram below:

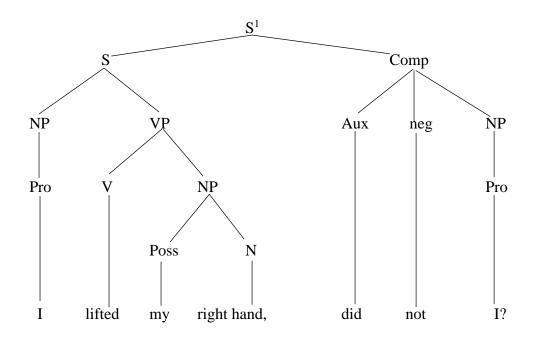


The tree diagram of datum 4 represents an interrogative sentence which symbolized by S<sup>1</sup> as the mother node. It has two branches namely Complementizer (Comp) *Is not* and S *it (is not) wonderful.* Complementizer has two daughters there are Aux *Is*, neg *not* and it is equal with S. The immediate constituents of S are NP $\rightarrow$ Pro *you* and VP which has tree branches namely V *is* that elided and move to the front attached on Complementizer to make an interrogative sentence. The second branch is neg *not* that elided and followed the auxiliary. The last branch namely AdjP $\rightarrow$ Adj *wonderful.* It can be seen clearly on the diagram the auxiliary *Is* in initial position followed by neg *not*, thus this sentence belongs to Negative Yes-no question.

5. Tag question Datum 5

I lifted my right hand, didn't I? (Chapter 2:12)

A small question *didn't I* that tag on the sentence *I lifted my right hand* on datum 5 can be answer by yes or no answer because the speaker asked for the negation or affirmation. This situation made this sentence categorized as Tag question. The tag question in datum 5 has positive statement and negative tag. This tag question needs auxiliary inversion to swap the position of auxiliary *did* followed by negative *not* with subject *I* in the small tag after the comma. Tag question on datum 5 above is demonstrated by tree diagram below:

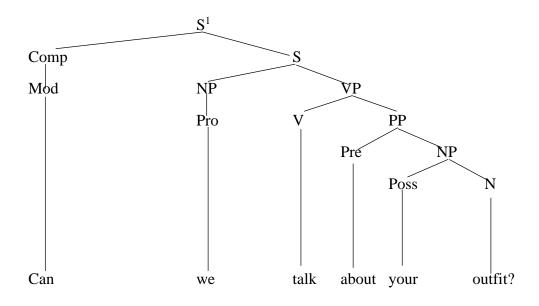


The tree diagram above illustrates an interrogative sentence which symbolized by  $S^1$  as the mother node. It has two branches namely S *I lifted my right hand* and Complementizer *did not I*. The immediate constituents of S are NP $\rightarrow$ Pro *I*, VP *lifted my right hand* and it is in the same position with Complementizer *did not I*. The immediate constituents of Complementizer are Aux *did*, neg *not*, and NP $\rightarrow$ Pro *I*. The VP as daughter of S has two daughters there are V *lifted* and NP with two branches namely Poss *my* and Noun *right hand*. It is seen clearly that on the tag question in tree diagram of datum 5 that the auxiliary *did* followed by neg *not* swap their position with subject *I*, the sentence also started with the positive statement followed by negative tag. Thus, this sentence categorized as Tag Question.

# 6. Yes-no question with modal auxiliary Datum 6

Can we talk about your outfit? (Chapter 6:74)

Front position of modal auxiliary *Can* on datum 6 as the main reason this interrogative sentence is classified as Yes-no question with modal auxiliary. This sentence can be answer by short yes or no answer because the speaker asked the affirmation or negation can the speaker talk about the hearer outfit. The auxiliary inversion needed when made this sentence to move modal auxiliary *Can* in front of subject *we*. Yes-no question with modal auxiliary in datum 6 is demonstrated by tree diagram below:

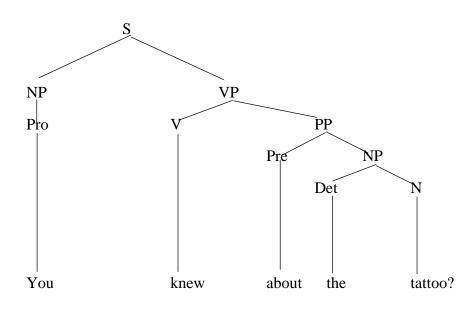


The tree diagram of datum 6 represents an interrogative sentence with S<sup>1</sup> as the mother node. It has two branches namely Complementizer (Comp) *Can* an S *we talk about your outfit*. The Complementizer has only one daughter called Mod *Can* and it is in the same position with S. The immediate constituents of S are NP $\rightarrow$ Pro *we* and VP *talk about your outfit*. VP as daughter of S has two branches namely V *talk* and PP *about your outfit*, PP in here has two daughters Pre *about* and NP with two branches namely Poss *your* and N *outfit*. It can be seen clearly on the diagram of datum 6 modal auxiliary *Can* in initial position, thus this sentence is classified as Yes-no question with modal auxiliary.

 Declarative Yes-no question Datum 7

You knew about the tattoo? (Chapter 8:95)

Declarative sentence on datum 7 is categorized as Declarative Yes-no question because the declarative ended by question mark and possible to be answered by yes or no. This type of interrogative sentence does not need movement because its pattern same with declarative sentence. In written text this question can be seen by the question mark at the end of the sentence and in spoken can be recognise by high intonation at the end of the sentence. The Declarative Yes-no question above is demonstrated by tree diagram below:



The tree diagram of datum 7 represents an interrogative sentence which symbolized by S as the mother node. It has two daughters called NP $\rightarrow$ Pro You and VP knew about the tattoo. The immediate constituents of VP are V knew, PP which has two branches namely Pre *about* and NP with two daughters called Det *the* and N tattoo. Even if its structure same as declarative but the question on datum 7 is categorized as Declarative Yes-no question.

# Conclusion

This study found 227 interrogative sentences belonged to Wh-question and 338 interrogative sentences are classified as Yes-no question. In total this study found 565 interrogative sentences in 15 chapters which consist of most interrogative sentences in "After You" novel by Jojo Moyes. Wh-question divided into two categories 222 sentences categorized as positive Wh-question and 5 sentences belonged to negative Wh-question. Yes-no question divided into five there are 157 sentences categorized as positive yes-no question, 92 sentences categorized as declarative yes-no question, 48 sentences categorized as yes-no question. Brown and Miller (1991) as guidance theory to draw the tree diagram which need to attach the wh-question word or the auxiliary to the Complementizer. The most important part when we make an interrogative sentence are auxiliary-inversion to swap the position of the auxiliary with the subject and Wh-movement to put Wh-question word in initial position.

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