

Sentence Patterns in Motivation Mafia in Instagram: Syntactic Analysis

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Abstract

The research aims to analyze the sentence patterns and describe the categories of phrase found in Motivation Mafia's motivational quotes. The method used in the research was qualitative method which based on non-numerical elements. This research examined 18 motivational quotes which available online. The data in this research were taken from Motivation Mafia Instagram account. The theories for the research refer to: Greenbaum, S. & Nelson, G. (2002) on sentence patterns and phrase categories theories, Radford (2009) on syntactic categories theory, and Aarts (2001) on syntactic functions theory. The results of the research show that there are 4 sentence patterns: 22% of S+V+C, 50% of (S)+V+O+V+O, 11% of S+V+O+Conj+V+O, and 17% of S+V+A+Conj+S+V+O+V+O. Meanwhile, there are 4 categories of phrase found in motivational quotes: 46 % of noun phrases, 28% of verb phrases, 16% of prepositional phrases, and 10% of adjective phrases.

Keywords

syntax; sentence patterns; motivational quotes; motivation mafia



I. Introduction

Social media applications are often used nowadays. Young and old, both of them know how to use the application, even though many old people still need help from young people. Social media is media for social interaction as a complete set beyond social communication (Baruah, 2012). Instagram is one of social media applications which is often used, besides Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp, and many others. Many contents that are created by users can be accessed widely by other users in Instagram. From funny videos, learning contents, pictures from people life, and even motivational quotes. Soekanto in Ismail (2019) social change refers to changes in social aspects, community governance, and group behavior patterns. One example of social change is the increasing number of formal community institutions. For example, various organizations ranging from government organizations, to social gathering organizations, are now becoming more formal, with a more rational pattern of relations. This is different from social organizations in the past, which are more informal by using emotional relationships.

There is one account from Instagram which provides many motivational quotes. Motivation Mafia is an Instagram account that already have a blue tick. A blue tick beside a username on Instagram indicating that the account is verified. Motivation Mafia has more than 2.3 million followers. In addition, the user of the account has been posting more than 5 thousand motivational quotes.

Motivational quotes are sentences which can make readers feel more motivated after reading it. Usually, the authors of motivational quotes are from inspirational figures. However, ordinary person who have passed through the process of their life can share their words of wisdom by making a motivational quote. According to Hapsari & Setiawan

(2018), quotes are approximately simple dictionaries that can give strength to people who listen or read.

Syntax is the study of the form, positioning, and grouping of the elements which go to make up sentence (Burton-Roberts, 2011: 3). In short, syntax is a study who studies sentence structures or patterns. Hence, in order to write a motivational quote, the writer needs to follow a certain structure or pattern so the readers can understand the quotes (Andriani & Bram, 2021). When the reader reads a motivational quote, the words of quote need to be well structured. This is intended to make the reader figures out what the writer tries to deliver. Aitchison (2010: 83) stated that sentences are not simply random words strung together, English has a limited number of recurring sentence patterns instead. Thus, motivational quotes must follow a structure or pattern of sentence.

Lasmini (2021) in her research entitled “A Syntactical Analysis in The English Song Lyric of ‘Thank You Allah’ by Maher Zain” had the results S+V+C and S+V+O+A were the most dominant sentence patterns. Each of them covered five lyrics. In others research entitled “Syntactic Analysis of Sentence Patterns and Types of BBC News Articles”, Andriani and Bram (2021) had the results S+V+O was the most dominant sentence pattern and the most dominant sentence type was the complex sentence.

Therefore, this research aims to discuss the sentence patterns and the function in motivational quotes from Motivation Mafia Instagram account. The problems discussed in this research are formulated into the following questions: 1) What are the sentence patterns found in motivational quotes from Motivation Mafia? 2) What are the categories of phrase found in every quotes?

II. Review of Literature

2.1 Syntax

Syntax is the course of the way in which phrases and sentences are organized out of words (Radford, 2004: 257). According to Puspita (2018), syntax is the branch of grammar which deals with: word syntactic structure, phrase syntactic structure, clause syntactic structure, and sentence syntactic structure. Simatupang & Aulia (2019) argues that, syntax is a branch of linguistics that studies the relationships between words and how words are arranged or arranged so as to form a larger structure that is, phrases, clauses, and sentences. On the other hand, Junaid (2018) stated that syntax is frequently considered as a mathematic subject because it contains analyses. From four definitions above, it can be concluded that syntax studies the structure of sentence by doing analysis.

2.2 Syntax Categories

A syntax category is the category in which an element is placed, depending on the type of meaning the element represents, the type of affix required, and the type of structure in which the element is placed. According to Radford (2009: 129), there are two kinds of syntactic categories: lexical and functional categories. The lexical category consists of five types:

- Noun (N): Joshua, shark, man, chocolate
- Verb (V): say, ask, see, kick
- Adjective (Adj): handsome, kind, cheap, young
- Preposition (Prep): on, in, at, to, by
- Adverb (Adv): now, namely, beautifully, specially

The functional category consists of four types:

- Determiner (Det): the, a, an, this, that

- Degree word (Deg): too, very, so
- Auxiliary (Aux): will, can, be, have
- Conjunction (Con): and, but, or

2.3 Syntactic Functions

There are the syntactic functions are related to subject, verb, and object problem:

- **The subject**

Aarts (2001: 8) stated the subject in a sentence is a constituent who tells who is doing the action. In the active sentence, a subject usually located in the first word.

Example in the sentence: Ray asked Hans.

The word 'Ray' in the sentence functions as a subject.

- **The verb**

Verb is a word used to describe an action, state, or occurrence, and are usually placed in the second of a sentence.

Example in the sentence: Jordan paints his fence.

The word 'paints' is a simple past form from the word 'paint'. It has a function as a verb in the sentence. It means cover a surface with paint. However, verbs can also be verb phrases. A verb phrase consists of auxiliary verb and main verb (Simatupang & Aulia, 2019).

- **The object**

Object is a clause function realized by a noun phrase or certain kinds of clauses (Meyer, 2009: 231). *"The object can be nouns, noun phrases, noun clauses, or pronominal which existence is resolved by verbs in the form of transitive verbs."*, Simatupang and Aulia (2019). There two kinds of objects, direct object and indirect object. Direct object is the result of action (verb).

Example in the sentence:

George wrote a novel.

The phrase 'a novel' is a direct object.

Indirect object always goes before direct object. Indirect object is the one who respond or receive to the reaction of an action.

Example in the sentence:

My father gave me a bicycle.

The word 'me' is an indirect object. Meanwhile, the phrase 'a bicycle' is a direct object.

- **Complement**

Radford (2004:329) stated that a complement is an expression that is directly combined with a head word, thus expanding the head into a wider structure of essentially the same kind.

Example:

We all know that my big brother is the most brilliant in the house.

The phrase 'the most brilliant' is a complement. For exact, it is subject complement, because it explains the subject).

2.4 Phrase Categories

In a sentence, there are the internal structure of the elements, namely phrases. Phrases are groups of words and smaller units that define each component. There are five types of categories of phrases (Greenbaum, S. & Nelson, G., 2002: 46):

1. Noun phrase

a peaceful world

- (The main word is *world* which is a noun)
2. Verb phrase
can be shared
(The main word is *shared* which is a verb)
 3. Adjective phrase
very handsome
(The main word is *handsome* which is an adjective)
 4. Adverb phrase
very anxiously
(The main word is *anxiously* which is an adverb)
 5. Prepositional phrase
in the forest
(The main word is *in* which is a preposition)

2.5 Types of Sentences

1. Simple sentence
According to Greenbaum & Nelson (2002: 16), simple sentence is a sentence which does not contain another clause within it.
Example: Alexander gave her mother a house.
2. Compound sentence
“A multiple sentence is a sentence that contains one or more clauses; if the multiple sentences consist of two or more coordinated clauses, it is a compound sentence.”, Greenbaum & Nelson (2002:125).
Example: He is a great leader and everybody knows that.

2.6 Sentence Patterns

Jaya (2017) stated that in many varieties of text that frequently found by the readers, the writers typically used numerous ways to combine sentences to make it more engaging to be read. There are some basic sentence patterns to construct a simple sentence (Greenbaum, S. & Nelson, G., 2002: 33):

1. S + V = Subject + intransitive Verb
Rosa (S) is talking (V).
2. S + V + A = Subject + Verb + Adverbial complement
My grandparents (S) are living (V) in Bali (A).
3. S + V + C = Subject + Verb + subject Complement
I (S) feel (V) sick (C)
4. S + V + O = Subject + Verb + direct Object
Finance team (S) has finished (V) their work (dO).
5. S + V + O + O = Subject + Verb + indirect Object + direct Object
Mark (S) gave (V) his girlfriend (iO) a big bouquet (dO).
6. S + V + O + A = Subject + transitive Verb + direct Object + adverbial Complement
The guest (S) can choose (V) the game (dO) in Elena's party (aC)
7. S + V + O + C = Subject + Verb + direct Object + object Complement
She (S) has made (V) him (dO) very angry (oC).

III. Research Method

The method used in this research was qualitative research. Qualitative research relies on non-numerical components. Qualitative research involves assembling and/or working with text, images, or sounds. According to Creswell & Creswell (2018: 41), qualitative research is an approach to check objective theories by examining the connection among variables. In this research of “*Sentence Patterns in Motivation Mafia at Instagram: Syntactic Analysis*”, the data were collected from Motivation Mafia Instagram account by taking several steps: collecting data from Instagram, choosing five data of motivational quotes, analyzing the sentence patterns and the phrase categories. The selected data was posted between January, 15th, 2022 and March, 25th, 2022. This research was aimed to describe the data about the syntactic analysis of the motivational quotes.

IV. Result and Discussion

In this section, the answers of the research questions are presented. The data are presented in tabular form. In the data table, there are the sentence patterns and the syntax categories or the categories of phrase analysis.

Data 1

Discipline is the strongest form of self-love. (posted: February, 19th, 2022)

Table 1

Discipline	is	the strongest	form	of self-love.
Subject	Verb	Complement		
Noun	Verb	Adjective phrase	Noun	Prepositional phrase

The table 1 above shows the sentence pattern, syntax functions, syntax categories, and phrase categories of first data. The first data is a simple sentence. In terms of syntax functions, the word *discipline* has a function as a subject as it tells “what” about the verb (*is*) in the sentence. The word *is* functions as a main verb, it is not an auxiliary verb, because an auxiliary verb must accompany another verb (main verb). The phrase *the strongest form of self-love* functions as a complement as it explains “what” about the subject (*discipline*). It can be asked “what is discipline?” and the answer is “Discipline is the strongest form of self-love”. Therefore, the sentence pattern of first data is Subject + Verb + Complement.

In terms of syntax categories and phrase categories, the word *discipline* belongs to noun category and the word *is* belongs to verb category. Both words are not a phrase as they only have one word. The phrase *the strongest* belongs to adjective phrase as the head of the phrase is *strongest*. The word *form* belongs to noun category. The word *of self-love* belongs to prepositional phrase as the head of the phrase is *of*.

Data 2

Happiness is a state of mind. (posted: March, 24th, 2022)

Table 2

Happiness	is	a state	of mind.
Subject	Verb	Complement	
Noun	Verb	Noun phrase	Prepositional phrase

The table 2 above shows the sentence pattern, syntax functions, syntax categories, and phrase categories of second data. The second data is a simple sentence. In terms of syntax functions, the word *happiness* functions as a subject as it tells “what” about the verb (*is*) in the sentence. In the data 2, the word which functions as main verb is the word *is*. The word *a state of mind* has a function as a complement as it tells “what” about the subject *happiness*. Thus, the sentence pattern of the second data is Subject + Verb + Complement.

In terms of syntax categories and phrase categories, the word *happiness* belongs to noun category as it is the name of thing. The word *is* belongs to verb category. A *state* phrase belongs to noun phrase as the head of the phrase is *state*. The phrase *of mind* belongs to prepositional phrase as the head of the phrase is *of*.

Data 3

Do not let the behavior of others destroy your inner peace. (posted: March, 11th, 2022)

Table 3

(You)	Do not let	the behavior	of others	destroy	your inner peace.
(Subject)	Verb	Object		Infinitive verb	Object
	Verb phrase	Noun phrase	Prepositional phrase	Verb	Noun phrase

The table 3 above shows the sentence pattern, syntax functions, syntax categories, and phrase categories of third data. The third data is a simple sentence with causative verb. There is no subject mentioned in the third data. However, it can be concluded that the subject is *you* as there is a phrase *your inner peace*. In terms of syntax functions, the phrase *do not let* has a function as a verb. It has negative particle (*not*) which attach to an auxiliary verb (*do*). The causative verb in the data is the verb *let*. The phrase *the behavior of others* functions as an object as it tells “what” about the unmentioned subject (*you*). The word *destroy* functions as an infinitive verb as it tells about “what” about the subject (*the behavior of others*). The phrase *your inner peace* functions as an object as it tells “what” about the verb (*destroy*). Thus, the sentence pattern of the third data is (Subject) + Verb + Object + Verb + Object.

In terms of syntax categories and phrase categories, the phrase *do not let* belongs to verb phrase as the head of the phrase is *let*. The object *the behavior of others* is divided into two phrase, noun phrase for *the behavior* and prepositional phrase for *of others*. The verb *destroy* belongs to verb category. The phrase *your inner peace* belongs to noun phrase as the head of the phrase is *inner peace*.

Data 4

Train your mind to see something good in everything. (posted: January, 15th, 2022)

Table 4

(You)	Train	your mind	to see	something good	in everything.
(Subject)	Verb	Object	Verb	Object	
	Verb	Noun phrase	Verb phrase	Adjective phrase	Prepositional phrase

The table 4 above shows the sentence pattern, syntax functions, syntax categories, and phrase categories of fourth data. The fourth data is a simple sentence with to-infinitive verb. Data 4 does not mention a subject. However, from the phrase *your mind*, it can be said that the subject of data 4 is *you*. In the terms of syntax functions, the word *train* functions as a verb. The function of the phrase *your mind* is an object. The phrase *to see* has a function as a to-infinitive verb. The phrase *something good in everything* functions as an object in the sentence. Hence, the sentence pattern of data 4 is (Subject) + Verb + Object + Verb + Object.

In terms of syntax categories and phrase categories, the word *train* belongs to verb category. The phrase *your mind* belongs to noun phrase as the head of the phrase is *mind*. The second verb of data 4 *to see* belongs to verb phrase as the head of the phrase is *see*. The second object of the sentence is divided into two parts. The phrase *something good* belongs to adjective phrase as the head of the phrase is *good*. The last phrase of the sentence *in everything* belongs to prepositional phrase as the head of the phrase is *in*.

Data 5

Not everyone is built like you, so never expect the same in return. (posted: March, 12th, 2022)

Table 5

Not everyone	is built like	you,	so,	never expect	the same	in return.
Subject	Verb	Direct Object	Conjunction	Verb	Object	
Noun phrase	Verb phrase	Noun		Verb phrase	Noun phrase	Prepositional phrase

The table 5 above shows the sentence pattern, syntax functions, syntax categories, and phrase categories of fifth data. The fifth data is a compound sentence with coordinating conjunction. In the terms of syntax functions, the phrase *not everyone* has a function as a subject. The phrase *is built like* functions as a verb. The verb was passive voice because there is be (*is*) + past participle (*built*). The word *you* has a function as a direct object. There are two clauses in data 5, “*Not everyone is built like you*” and “*never expect the same in return*”. Hence, there is the coordinating conjunction *so* in data 5 as it blends two clauses become one. The phrase *never expect* functions as a verb. The phrase *the same in return* has a function as an object as it tells “what” about the verb *never expect*. Therefore, the sentence pattern of fifth data is Subject + Verb + direct Object + Conjunction + Verb + Object.

In terms of syntax categories and phrase categories, the subject of the data *not everyone* belongs to noun phrase as the head of the phrase is *everyone*. The first verb of the data *is built like* belongs to verb phrase as the head of the phrase is *built*. The word *you* belongs to noun category. The second verb of the data *never expect* belongs to verb phrase as the head of the phrase is *expect*. The phrase *the same in return* is divided into two categories of phrase, *the same* belongs to noun phrase and *in return* belongs to prepositional phrase.

Data 6

All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them. (posted: March, 25th, 2022)

Table 6

All our dreams	can come	true,	if	we	have	the courage	to pursue	them.
Subject	Verb	Adjective	Conjunction	Subject	Verb	Object	Verb	Object
Noun phrase	Verb phrase	Adjective		Noun	Verb	Noun phrase	Verb phrase	Noun

The table 6 above shows the sentence pattern, syntax functions, syntax categories, and phrase categories of sixth data. The sixth data is complex sentence with subordinating conjunction. In the terms of syntax functions, the first phrase of data 6 *all our dreams* has a function as a subject. The phrase *can come* functions as a verb. It is followed by modal (*can*) and base form (*come*). The word *true* has a function as an adjective. In data 6, there are 2 clauses that combined with conjunction, the main clause “*All our dreams can come true*” and the if-clause “*if we have the courage to pursue them*”. The conjunction used in the sentence is the subordinating conjunction *if*. The word *we* functions as a subject for the if-clause. As for the verb function in the if-clause, there is the word *have*. The phrase *the courage* has a function as an object as it tells “what” about the verb *have*. The phrase *to pursue* functions as to-infinitive verb. The word *them* has a function as an object. It refers to *all our dreams* phrase. Therefore, the sentence pattern of the sixth data is Subject + Verb + Adjective + Conjunction + Subject + Verb + Object + Verb + Object.

In terms of syntax categories and phrase categories, the subject of the main clause belongs to noun phrase as the head of the phrase is *dreams*. The verb of the main clause belongs to verb phrase as the head of the phrase is *come*. The word *true* belongs to adjective category. The subject of the if-clause belongs to noun category as it is a pronoun. The verb *have* belongs to verb category. The phrase *the courage* belongs to noun phrase as the head of the phrase is *courage*. The to-infinitive verb *to pursue* belongs to verb phrase as the head of the phrase is *pursue*. The object *them* belongs to noun categories as it is object pronoun.

V. Conclusion

According to the data analysis, it can be concluded that the data of motivational quotes from Motivation Mafia consist of:

1. There are four sentence patterns found from 18 data analyzed in motivational quotes in Motivation Mafia. They are 4 data (22%) of S+V+C sentence pattern, 9 data (50%) of (S)+V+O+V+O sentence pattern, 2 data (11%) of S+V+O+Conj+V+O sentence pattern, and 3 data (17%) of S+V+A+Conj+S+V+O+V+O sentence pattern.

The most frequently sentence pattern used in motivational quotes is (S)+V+O+V+O sentence pattern.

Table 7. Frequency of sentence pattern

Sentence Pattern	Frequency	Percentage
S + V + C	4	22%
(S) + V + O + V + O	9	50%
S + V + O + Conj + V + O	2	11%
S + V + Adj + Conj + S + V + O + V + O	3	17%
TOTAL	18	100%

2. The categories of phrase found in this research consist of 24 noun phrases (46%), 14 verb phrases (28%), 8 prepositional phrases (16%), and 4 adjective phrases (10%).
The most dominant phrase category in motivational quotes is noun phrase.

Table 8. Frequency of phrase categories

Phrase Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Noun phrase	23	46%
Verb phrase	14	28%
Prepositional phrase	8	16%
Adjective phrase	5	10%
TOTAL	50	100%

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