Syntactic Structure Formations in the English Translation of 'Surah Al-Fatihah'

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Abstract

The aim of the study was to investigate the process of syntax analysis and types of sentences found in the translation of surah Al-Fatihah. This research applied descriptive qualitative design by applying the syntax theory supported by theory of Tree Diagram proposed by Diane Bornstein (1977). The instruments were the researchers as the primary instrument of the study. The data were indentified into types of structures' formation within the English translation ,then were classified, were displayed, and were described. The findings show that there were five categories syntactic formations in the process of syntax analysis towards the English translation of surah Al-Fatihah based on the tree diagram theory namely: (1) a preposition phrase, (2) a nominal clause, (3) noun phrase forms, (4) a clause with an object and (5) an imperative clause. Meanwhile, there were three types of sentences in the English translation of surah Al-Fatihah called: (1) a nominal clause by having no verb, (2) a clause with an object, and (3) an imperative clause.

Keywords: syntactic analysis, structure formation, translation

INTRODUCTION

Syntax as one of linguistics branches has essential role in attempting sentence and its features in regard to analysis process. In syntactic analysis, there are two approaches can be used to analyze the sentences called tree diagrams and Chinese boxes covering the two ways of structure formations involving surface structure and deep structure. Those can be defended as strategies used to construct the sentences. First, the three diagrams is known as a sentence analysis by means of the usage of internal categorized structure of sentences as generates by set of regulations proposed by Diane Bornstein. Then, Chinese boxes is the explanation unit of analyzing by means of sentences formation in a larger unit proposed by Nelson Francis.

Concerning to structures formed in the sentence, there are two classification of structure namely (1) surface structure and (2) deep structure. Surface structure is actually produced structure referring to the sentence as it is pronounced or written. It focuses on the construction of a sentence as it is directly accessible. Deep structure is the abstract

structure that allows the listener to know what the sentence means. It may then be said that the deep structure expresses the semantic contents of a sentence, whereas the surface structure of a sentence determines its phonetics form. Moreover, surface structure is one of the ways to analyze a sentence primarily based on the form built meanwhile the other ways, deep structure, to analyze a sentence primarily based on the means or the content constructed (Chomsky, 2002).

Furthermore, Syntax is essentially concerned to the study about the sentence. In line with Yule (2010, p. 97) states "Syntax as the standard of arrangement of the sentences formation by using the method in the process of derivation and inflection (word) into large constructions of more than a view kind". Additionally, it is argued that syntax is concerned with the way in which words can be combined together to form phrases and sentences. Chomsky (2002) states "Syntax is the study of the concepts and process by means of which sentences are constructed in unique languages". Concerning to the definition of syntax mentioned, it can be argued syntax is the arrangement and relationship among words, phrases, and clauses forming sentences primarily based on grammatical rules. In this case, studying syntax is essential since it focuses on how sentences are formed and organized based on the grammatical rule due to the fact it is suited and understandable the syntactic patterns of the sentence and know the class of words (noun, adjective, adverb, etc.) of the sentences.

In this study, the researcher applied theory of tree diagrams to analyze sentences by using internal hierarchical structure of sentences as generated by set of rules, there are some advantages of using tree diagrams. Bornstein (1997, p. 48) states "A sentence is the fundamental unit of syntactic analysis which is less complicated to see the part of phrases and subparts of the sentence, known as parts of speech, in a tree diagram". The researcher selected the first chapter (surah) of the Qur'an as the object of this study. The researcher wanted to comprehend the structure of the sentences of surah Al-Fatihah because this chapter has an essential role in Islamic prayer (salat) (Mediapro, 2018). The primary literal meaning of the expression 'Al-Fatihah' is 'The Opener'. The researcher chooses surah Al-Fatihah since this surah is being the first surah recited in full in every prayer cycle (rak'ah) and the verses within this surah contain of simple sentences.

There are many English translation of Qur'an, but the researcher chooses (Translation of the Noble Qur'an in the English Language by Ali Muhammad Fazil

Chinoy) because his translation is simpler and more comprehensible. The procedure of analysis concerns to how the form of evaluation in a syntactic analysis on the English translation of surah Al-Fatihah using theory of tree diagrams is, due to the fact a lot of translation can't read easily. Analysis of a syntactic on the English translation of surah Al-Fatihah using tree diagram is a balanced relationship between researchers and readers in order to build understanding through the formation constructed among the verses of surah Al-Fatihah. The researcher is interested to gain the study under the title '*A Syntactic Analysis of Structure Formation in the English Translation of 'Surah Al-Fatihah'*.

Bornstein, (1997, p. 39) explains "A tree diagram displays the hierarchical structure of the sentences which considered as the basic of the syntactic system of analysis in which the rules should be interpreted as the instruction to rewrite or expand on the left of arrows as the sequence on the right". As in S → NP + VP, means that 'S' stands for sentence, 'NP' (Noun Phrase) and 'VP' (Verb Phrase). This process is called derivational in the sentence. The steps as the follows:
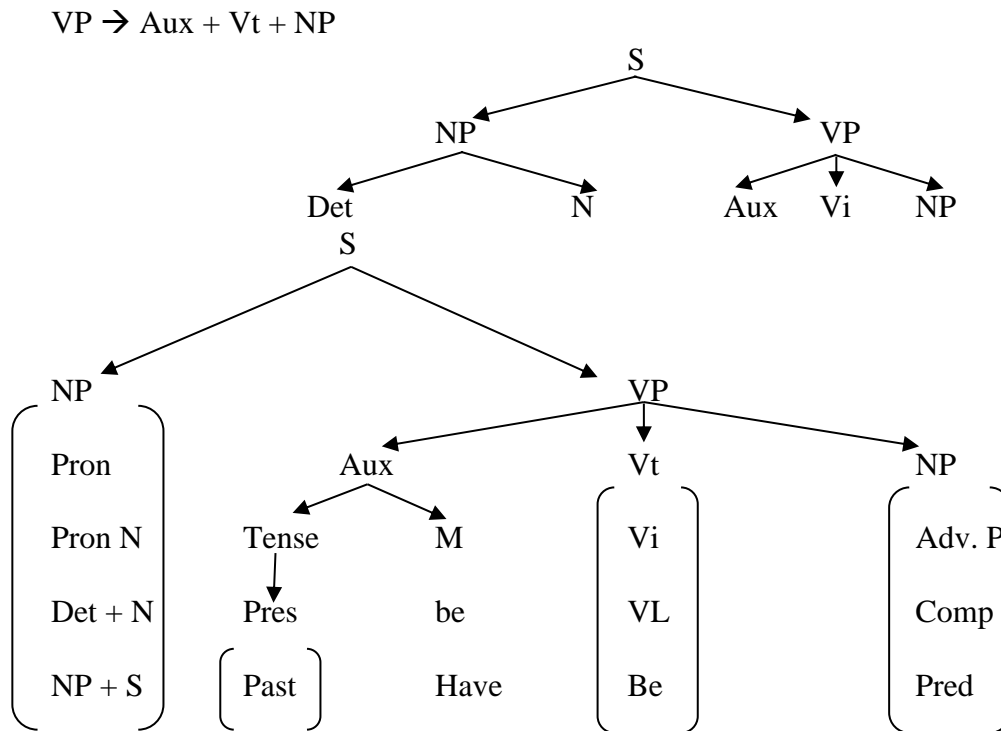
S → NP + VP

NP → Det + N

VP → Aux + Vt + NP
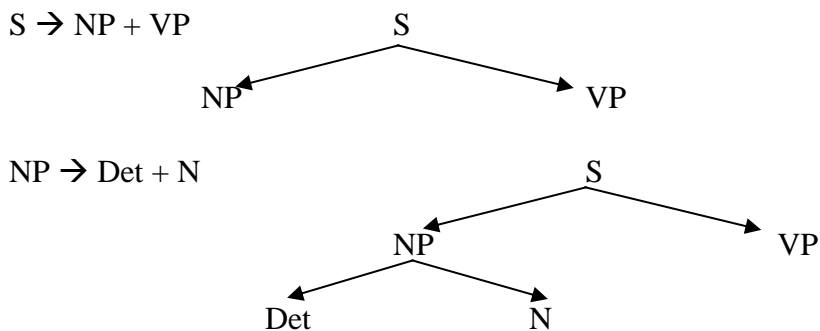
Figure 1. Process of the Tree Diagram

Concerning to the figure 1, it can be illustrated by means of tree diagrams called phrasemakers which show the hierarchical structure of sentence. Bornstein symbolizes them as follows:

S	: sentence	Prop N	: proper name	Comp	: complement
NP	: noun phrase	Pred	: predicate	Prep	: preposition
VP	: verb phrase	M	: modal	Pres	: present
N	: noun	Be	: the verb 'be'	PP	: prepositional
V	: noun	Vt	: transitive verb	phrase	
Det	: determiner	Vi	: intransitive verb	Adv. P : adverb phrase	
Pron	: pronoun	VL	: linking verb	Adj. P : adjective phrase	

Moreover, surah AL-Fatihah is due to the subject-matter of the surah (Mediapro, 2018). That means surah Al-Fatihah is the summary of the whole Quran. The English translation of surah Al-Fatihah consisting 7 verses as viewed below:

1. In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.
2. All Praise be to Allah, the Lord of all creation.

3. The Merciful, the Compassionate.

4. Master of the Day of Judgment.

5. To You do we worship and from You do we seek help.

6. Show us the straightway.

7. The way of those whom Thou hast blessed, those whose portion is not wrath, and who go not astray.

Concerning to the description mentioned, the researchers formulated the problems of the study as followed: (1) How the process of syntax analysis on the English translation of surah Al-Fatihah? And (2) What types of sentences on the English translation of surah Al-Fatihah?

The researchers applied descriptive qualitative research for completing this study because this study is intended to investigate the process of syntax analysis and types of sentences found in the translation of surah Al-Fatihah. Creswell (1994, p. 161) argued "The qualitative research in an investigating process where the researcher gradually makes a sense of social phenomenon by contrasting, comparing, replicating, cataloguing and classifying the object of the study". Regarding to the statement mentioned, this study is descriptively describing the syntactic structures on the translation of surah Al-Fatihah.

The data of the study are the English translation of surah Al-Fatihah. The English translation is supported by translation of the Noble Qur'an in the English Language by Ali Muhammad Fazil Chinoy (https://www.al-islam.org/glorious-quran-translated-commentary-divine-lights-set-1-ali-muhammad-fazil-chinoy/surah-al-fatihah). Furthermore, Creswell (1994, p. 145) claims the researcher becomes the primary instrument of the research in qualitative study for data collection and analysis. Means that in this study the researchers are the key instrument of the study.

To collect the data, browsing and downloading the English translation of surah Al-Fatihah in Google was the first step done by the researchers. The second step, the researchers read the translation to make effective in analyzing the data. The third step, the researchers identified all the data by giving highlight and underline in the data examined. The fourth step, the researchers made a list in every translation in order classify the structure formation by using the tree diagram.

After collecting the data, identifying and classifying through the data examined became the first step done by the researchers. The second step, the researchers explained the types of sentences found in the data as the findings. Then, to analyze the types of sentences found in the English translation of surah Al-Fatihah, the researchers used the theory of tree diagram

proposed by Diana D. Bornstein (1997). The last step, the researchers drew the conclusion of the finding concerning to the syntax analysis and types of sentences formed in the English translation of surah Al-Fatihah.

DISCUSSION

This part explained the research finding and discussion by the aim to answer the formulated problems stated. The problem statements of this study containing the process of syntactic analysis and the types of sentences found in the English translation of surah Al-Fatihah. All of the data were identified and classified based on each English translation within the 7 verses. Then, all of them would have been analyzed by using the tree diagram as proposed by Bornstein (1997). All of the English translations within surah Al-Fatihah are presented below:

"In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful" (Verse 1)
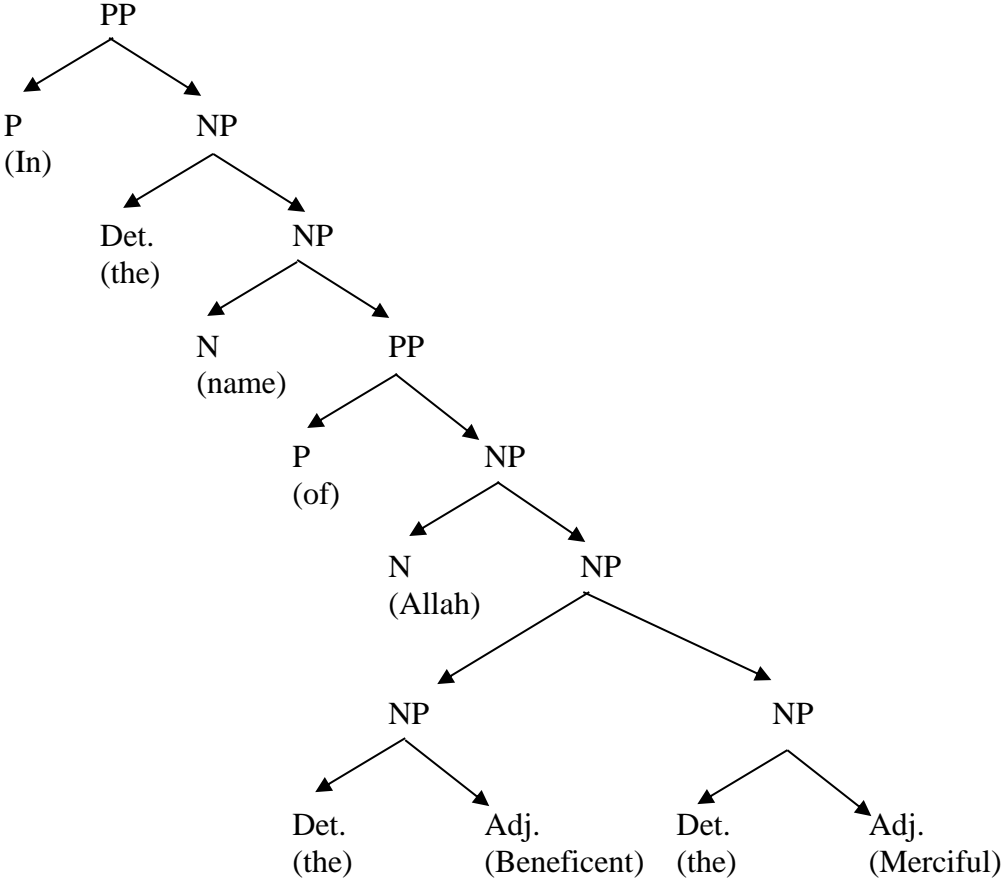
In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

"All Praise be to Allah, the Lord of all creation." (Verse 2)

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                                S
                    ┌───────────┴───────────┐
                   NP                        VP
              ┌─────┴─────┐          ┌────────┴────────┐
            Det.          N          V                 PP
            (All)      (praise)     (be)        ┌───────┴───────┐
                                                P               NP
                                               (to)      ┌──────┴──────┐
                                                          N            NP
                                                        (Allah)   ┌─────┴─────┐
                                                                Det.         NP
                                                                (the)   (Lord of all creation)
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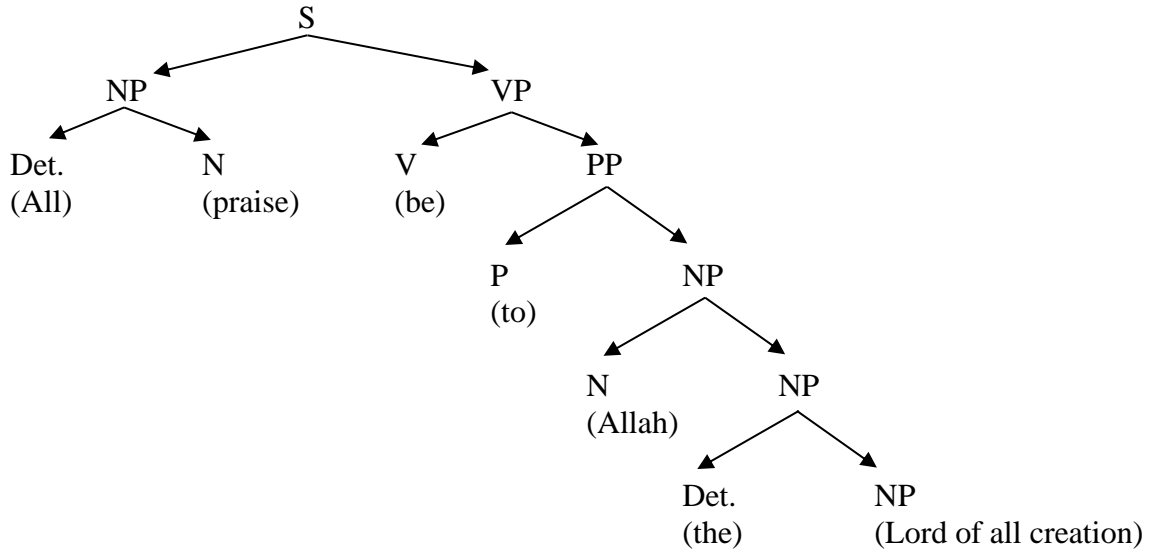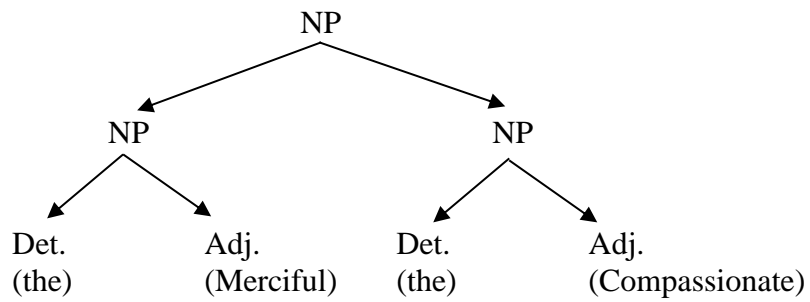
All Praise be to Allah, the Lord of all creation

"The Merciful, the Compassionate" (verse 3)

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                         NP
              ┌──────────┴──────────┐
             NP                      NP
         ┌────┴────┐            ┌─────┴─────┐
       Det.        Adj.       Det.         Adj.
       (the)    (Merciful)    (the)    (Compassionate)
```

The Merciful, the Compassionate

"Master of the Day of Judgment" (Verse 4)

NP
├── NP (Master)
└── PP
    ├── P (of)
    └── NP
        ├── Det. (the)
        └── NP
            ├── N (Day)
            └── PP
                ├── P (of)
                └── N (Judgment)
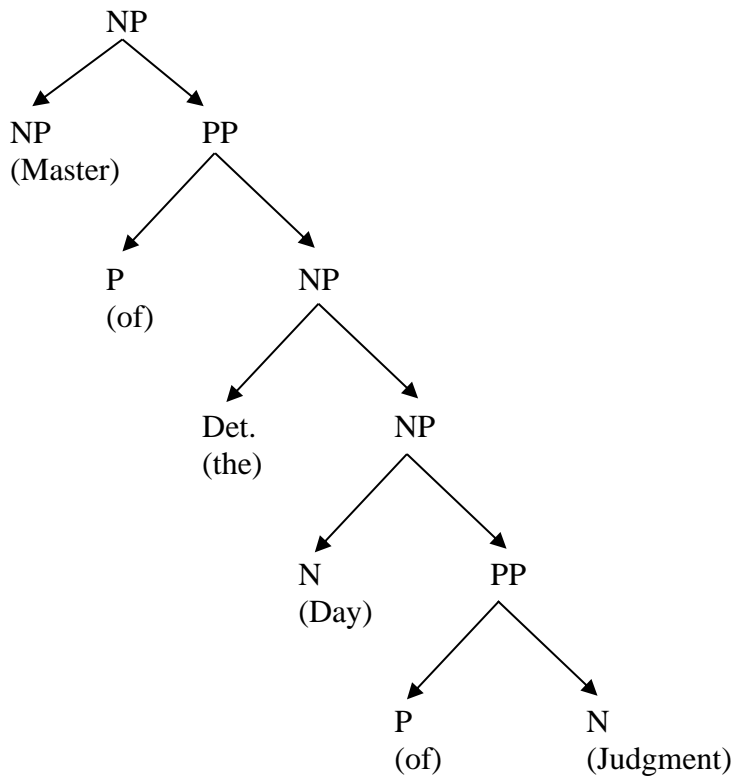
Master of the Day of Judgment

"To You do we worship and from You do we seek help." (Verse 5)

S
├── S
│   ├── NP — Pro (we) — To You
│   └── VP — Aux (do) / V (worship) / PP — Front-shifting
├── Conj. (and)
└── S
    ├── NP — Pro (we) / Aux (do) — from You
    └── VP — V (seek) / N (help) / PP — Front-shifting
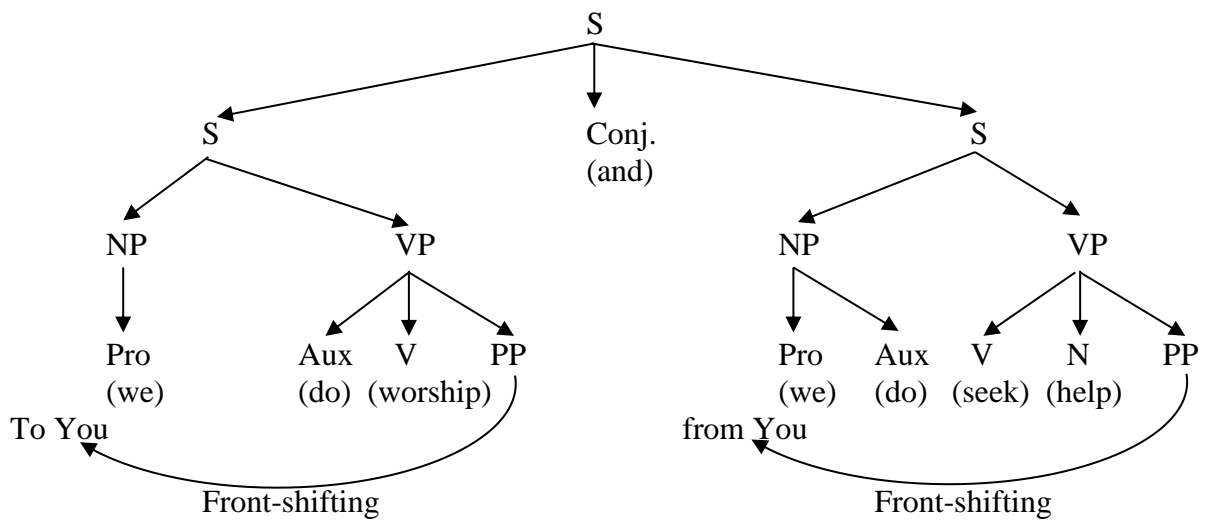
To You do we worship and from You do we seek help

"Show us the straightway" (Verse 6)

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                          S
           ┌──────────────┴──────────────┐
          NP                            VP
           │                  ┌──────────┼──────────┐
          Pro                 V          N          NP
         (You)             (Show)      (Us)    ┌─────┴─────┐
                                             Det.          N
                                            (the)     (straightway)
```
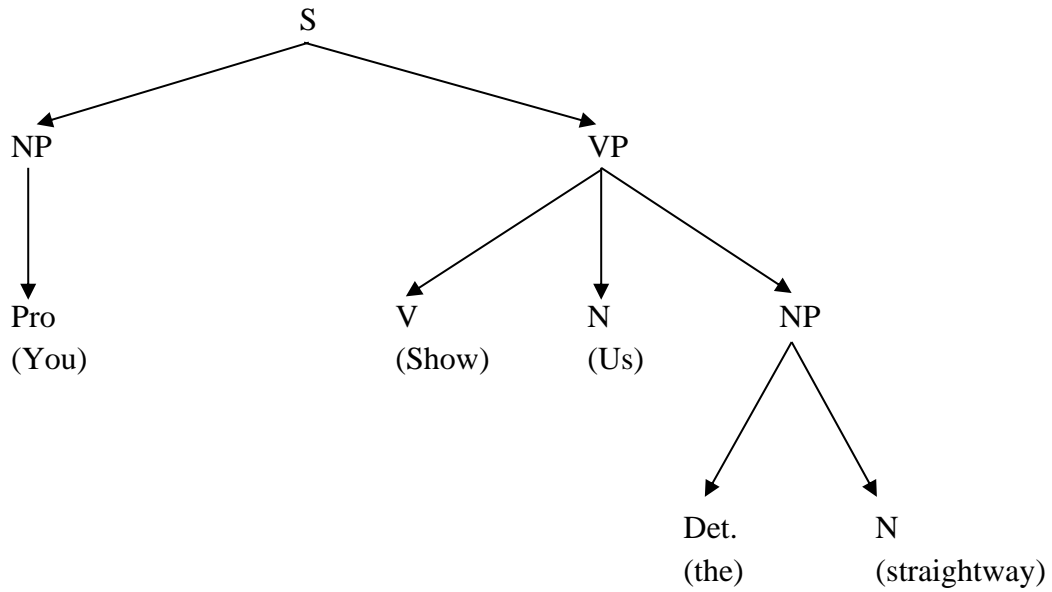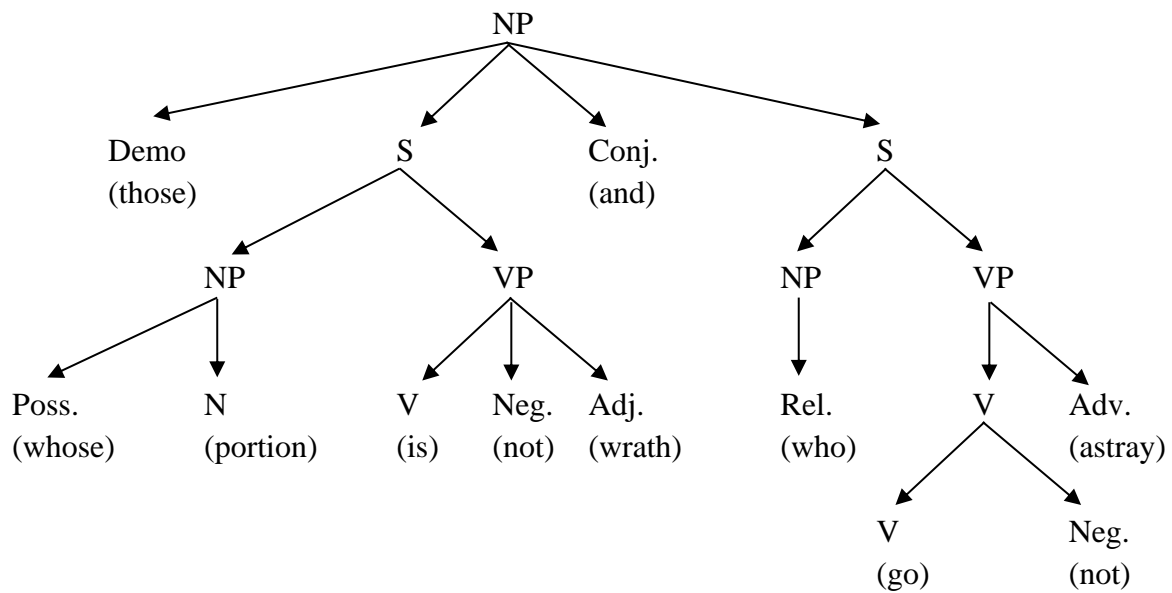
Show us the straightway

"The way of those whom Thou hast blessed, those whose portion is not wrath, and who go not astray." (Verse 7)
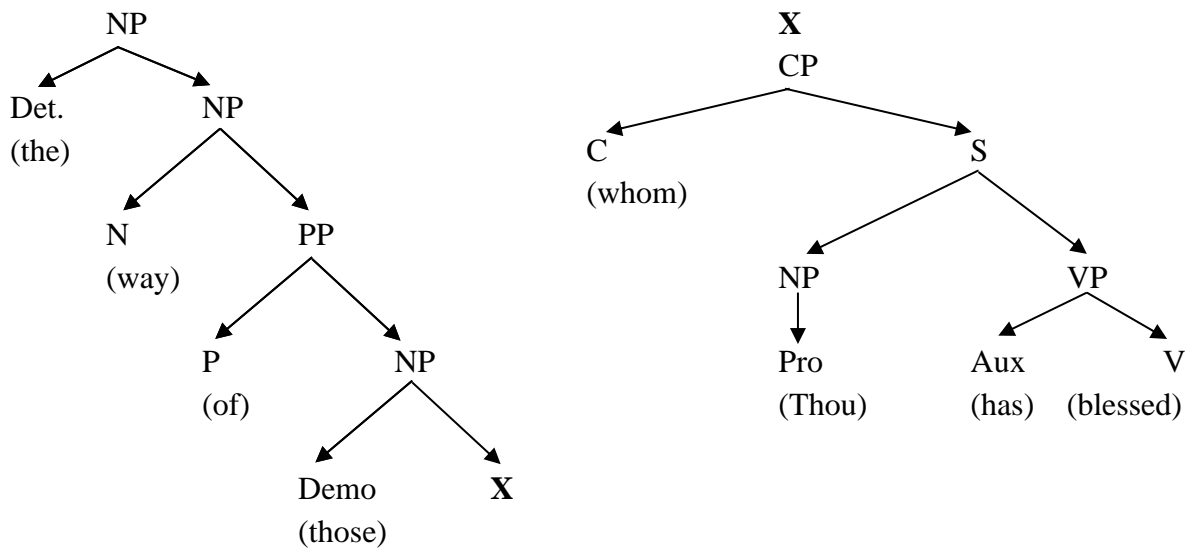
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           NP                              X
     ┌─────┴─────┐                         CP
   Det.          NP                ┌────────┴────────┐
  (the)     ┌────┴────┐            C                 S
            N         PP        (whom)        ┌───────┴───────┐
          (way)   ┌────┴────┐                NP               VP
                  P         NP              Pro          ┌─────┴─────┐
                (of)    ┌────┴────┐        (Thou)       Aux          V
                      Demo        X                    (has)     (blessed)
                     (those)
```

NP

Demo (those) S Conj. (and) S

S → NP VP

NP → Poss. (whose) N (portion)

VP → V (is) Neg. (not) Adj. (wrath)

S → NP VP

NP → Rel. (who)

VP → V Adv. (astray)

V → V (go) Neg. (not)

The way of those whom Thou hast blessed, those whose portion is not wrath, and who go not astray.

Answering to the first research problem, it can be concluded that there are five types in the process of syntax analysis towards the English translation of surah Al-Fatihah based on the tree diagram theory. They are: a preposition phrase form viewed in the first verse, a nominal clause seen in the second verse, noun phrase forms viewed in the third verse, fourth verse and seventh verse, a clause with an object seen in the fifth verse and an imperative clause seen in the sixth verse.

Qur'anic translation is different from any other type of translation. Which means that the translators are mostly seeking to maintain the same surface structure of the source text (Arabic) regardless of the different structure of the target language (English) (Rahim & Jameel, 2017 , p. 78). In addition, syntactic structure is the main means identifying the intended meaning of the message which is deep in the Qur'anic text. In the first verse, the Qur'anic clause is translated into *a prepositional phrase*. Then, verse 2 is syntactically recognized as *a nominal clause categorized by having no verb*. Such a phenomenon of characterizes the nature of the Qur'anic (i.e. Arabic) nominal clause, unlike English which always has a verb (Rahim & Jameel, 2017). Consequently, they differed in translating it into either a finite or a non-finite clause by using the non-finite verb be. Meanwhile, Verses 3 is categorized into phrase. In additional, verse 4 is translated into a noun phrase. Next, verse 5 and verse 6 are translated regularly into the same source type of clause covering *a clause with an object*, and *an imperative clause* with differences in the parsing analysis of these main categories. Finally, Verse 7 is the most complicated noun phrase which is also translated into *a noun phrase*, but

with a lot of differences in the sub-categorization of the phrase. Answering the second formulated problem in this study, it can be said that there are three types of sentences in the English translation of surah Al-Fatihah consisting *a nominal clause by having no verb, a clause with an object,* and *an imperative clause.*

CONCLUSION

There are five categories syntactic formations in the process of syntax analysis towards the English translation of surah Al-Fatihah based on the tree diagram theory namely: (1) a preposition phrase form viewed in the first verse, (2) a nominal clause seen in the second verse, (3) noun phrase forms viewed in the third verse, fourth verse and seventh verse, (4) a clause with an object seen in the fifth verse and (5) an imperative clause seen in the sixth verse. There are three types of sentences in the English translation of surah Al-Fatihah called: (1) a nominal clause by having no verb which is viewed in the second verse of surah Al-Fatihah, (2) a clause with an object which is seen in the fifth verse, and (3) an imperative clause which is found in the sixth verse.

Based on results of the study conducted, it is suggested to other researchers who want to analyze the English translation of Quran concerning to the process and the types of sentence structure formations by using tree diagram theory can give detail understanding especially in the surah Al-Fatihah. This study can support the readers to comprehend more about the process of analyzing within the English translation of surah Al-Fatihah and also types of sentences found. Lastly, it would be valuable for those who want to conduct similar research in the same field. The discussion in this research is limited, thus, it is also suggested to other researchers to conduct the similar research by applying the structure formation in the Qur'anic text.

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