



Identifying Syntagmatic and Paradigmatic Hallmark of Language in 'The Open Window' by Munro-Saki

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ABSTRACT

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The structure of literary language is refined and well woven as there is a deep connection between language and literature. This paper attempts to investigate the choices and chain relationship between paradigms and syntagms in the structure of this story. Saussure's (1916) paradigmatic and syntagmatic relation among signs has been used as a framework. The study is essentially qualitative and data has been collected by using purposive sampling technique from the short story 'The Open Window' by Munro-Saki. The findings of this study show the simple to complex linear grammatical relation among signs, presence of reported and reporting speech, independent and dependent clauses, verb, adjectives and adverbs that are used with title to highlight its central role and significance in the text. Besides, it also notifies the embedded structure of language as the reordering of syntagms in relation to grammar represents the writer's intention to convey important information at first hand. Furthermore, there is paradigmatic relation at all grammatical, semantic, phonological and lexical level. Moreover, Munro-Saki choice of words show the semantic rich and context-based vocabulary that evokes different sorts of images in the story as there is clear stances of moving from gothic to anti-gothic, psychological to real and from fictional to natural world. Consequently, it is explored that the structure of literary language, the position and substitution relations are perfectly used by author that contributes a lot to make the narrative meaningful and interlink at all levels of language and literature. In short, this research will help the future researchers and instructors to understand literal structure of language and bilateral aspect of signs efficiently.

Keywords

paradigmatic, syntagmatic, sign, linguistic structure, syntactic rules.

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Introduction

Language is the eminent trait of human beings. Sweet (2014) defines that language is used to express ideas, combines sounds into words, words into sentences and these leads to the thoughts. Moreover, he also opined that social groups use vocal symbols systematically to collaborate through language. In twentieth century, several schools of linguistics pinpointed their investigations on the underlying relational structure of language (Augustyn , 2020). This idea was further elaborated by a Swiss linguist Ferdinand de Saussure who gave his lectures on the structure of language and is considered a great work in Structural Linguistics (Duignan, 2009).

Saussure (1878) pointed out that language works on principle of difference and signs stand in opposition to one another. But there exists a relation among them named as syntagmatic and paradigmatic. Former is chain, systematic, essential and horizontal grammatical relation between constituent parts of a sentence and leads to construction of story, myth and a narrative. Conversely, later is vertical, choice, associative and clusters of signs in mind. This choice and chain relationship among signs refers to similarity and differences in structure of language. Therefore, this sort of relation opens the door of intra-linguistics up to structural linguistics.

Bradely (2016) opines that there is a close relationship between linguistics and literature. Lester (1969) made two claims about this relation. First is that the medium of literature is language and more information about medium, indirectly gives information about language so literary writers use language to express their narrative in literature. Secondly, there are options for the writer to choose language and the type of language chose by the writer consciously and unconsciously reveals different aspects. So, it gives insight into the work of writer as well as critics.

A lot of research have been done on the paradigmatic and syntagmatic structure of language but no one notices the unconventional and irregular arrangements of words to convey the meaning. This research aims to dissect the language structure and focuses on the implicit and explicit syntagmatic and paradigmatic relations between signs and their role in conveying the intentional message of the writer. This paper is significant as it helps the writers to choose proper structure of language that enables them to look at the grammatical, lexical and semantic level of words in the sentence that influence meanings.

Literature Review

Saussure (2006) proposed syntagmatic and paradigmatic terms along with the concept of sign. These two are essential and complementary relation between signs. Paradigmatic is substitution relation as it categorizes words into different categories like verb, noun, pronoun, adverb etc. This relation can be seen on phonological, semantic, lexical and at other levels. Likewise, syntagmatic is a linear systematic structure. Besides, there is a proper order in a sentence as this relation is present at all grammatical levels. Furthermore, both terms give linguistic identity and orders to words. So, syntagmatic relation is stronger as compared to paradigmatic relation (Farooq, 2012).

Chiu (2015) asserted that paradigmatic and syntagmatic relation coexist in English language. Namaziandost (2018) opines that syntagmatic relation provides the systematic sentence and paradigmatic provides clusters of words. Furthermore, it helps children to construct sentences through words association. Recent researches show that there is a close relation between vocabulary knowledge, paradigmatic, syntagmatic and academic readings. In the process of lexical choice, both paradigmatic and syntagmatic relation causes interference and it creates hindrance in the choice of words (Dell, 2008). Sun (2012) conducted a research on Chinese language and is of view that paradigmatic and syntagmatic relations are used for tagging parts of speech in that language. Moreover, it is revealed that Chinese language is devoid of formal devices and it proved to be a challenging task for the researcher to tag words. So, the systematic lexical categorization captured by cluster of words is identified explicitly in paradigmatic relation and implicitly in syntagmatic relation.

Research Methodology

The present study is essentially qualitative and placed within the interpretive paradigm to explore the relationship between paradigmatic and syntagmatic under the theory of Sign by Saussure (1916). Data of seven sentences have been collected from the short story through purposive sampling technique. The researcher uses this technique as it is more reliable way of collecting data for research.

Theoretical Framework

This explores three sorts of structure in computational linguistics for the syntagmatic representation. Ferdinand de Saussure (1916) proposed the theory of sign and there exist a two kind relationship between them known as ‘Paradigmatic and Syntagmatic’. It is a substitution and position relation as syntagmatic is essentially a horizontal chain like systematic sequence of signs together which creates meaning. Whereas paradigmatic is choice relation that replaces other sign vertically and changes meaning (Bradley, 2016).

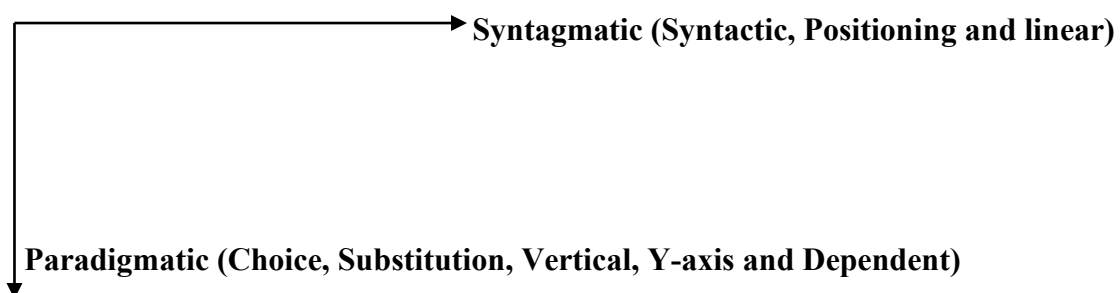


Figure: 1

Words are syntagms as they have specific order in a sentence. There is a systematic syntagmatic sequence between syntagms. This creates meaning but by the changing of this order meaning will get change. This is considered the essential structure of sentence and therefore, it is necessary for the existence of paradigmatic relation.

In Structural Linguistics these two are complementary terms. Paradigmatic contrasts at the phonological, semantic and lexical level. At phonological level this substitution relation can identify differences between different phonemes. Moreover, the technique of y-axis replacement of single phonemic sound creates stylistic rhyming scheme. But at lexical level paradigmatic shows relation of different words that belongs to same grammatical class. Further, at semantic level paradigmatic relation allows substitution of only those words that belong to the same semantic category. Hence, syntagmatic is a systematic syntactic relation between syntagms in linear order (Marshall, 2020).

In computational linguistics there are three models for the representation of syntagmatic relation. These models are as follows:

Dependency-Only Approaches

Tesniere (2015) originates the traditional representation of grammatical structure of language and proposes the theory of structural syntax. Furthermore, this approach views that sentences consist of lexicons (words) and these relates through dependencies. It considers words the only syntactic unit. Hence, there is absence of phrasal head in this lexicalization structure (Nivre, 2005). The dependency structure is as follows (Teich, 1998):

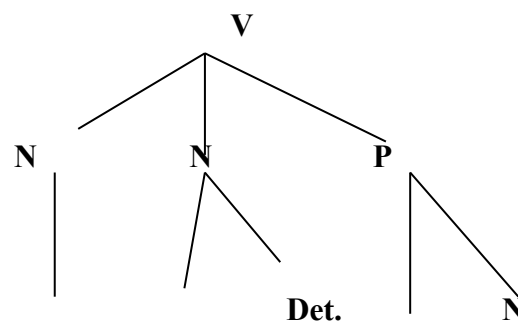
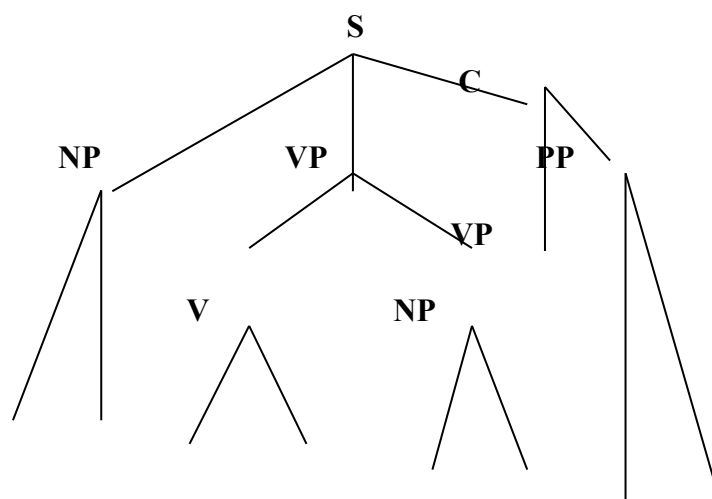
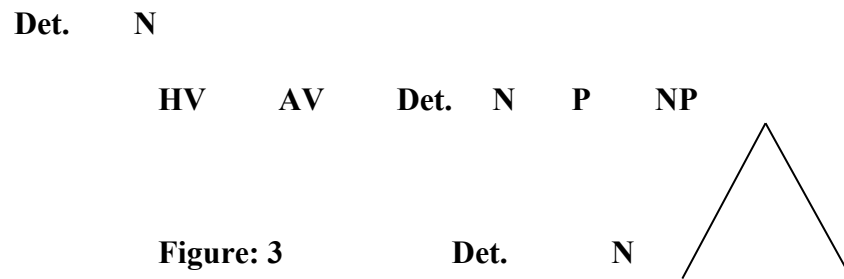


Figure: 2

Constituency-Only Approach

Zwicky (1985) proposed the concept of head in grammatical representation of sentence. It is not essential to assign head as a separate category. There are three head like notions distributional equivalent, obligatory element and lastly ruler. So, it is additional and completely different category. The grammatical structure representation through this approach is as follows:





Hybrid Constituency Approaches

Hudson (2019) gives opposite idea to the constituent-only approach. He viewed that semantic element should be taken into consideration for categorization. A more generalized term should be introduced that embraces all head like notions. So, the structure this approach follows is X-bar structure. This structure is as follows:

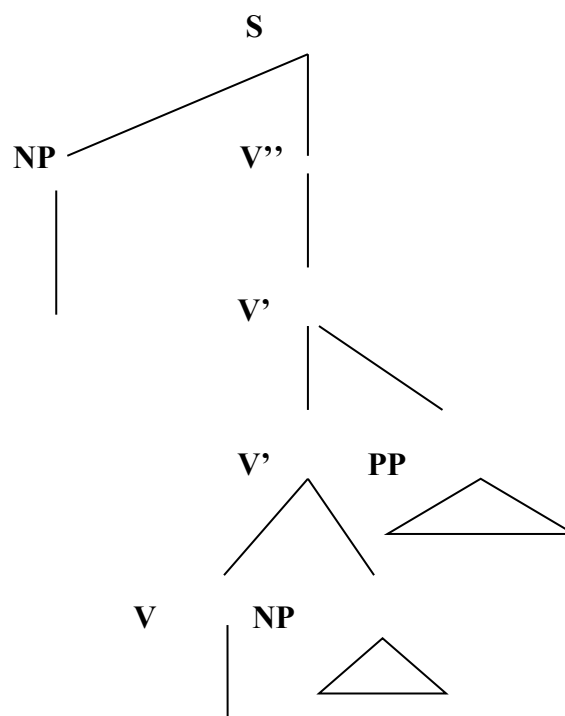


Figure: 4

In this section researcher analyse the data, reporting the finding based on the analysis, themes, conclusion, implications and references at the end.

Data Analysis: Researcher analyse data at two levels, first at the ‘Syntagmatic’ and second at the ‘Paradigmatic’ level. The reason has also been discussed behind the particular choice of words.

Syntagmatic Relations

Investigator takes some sentences and represents its structure through constituency approach and discusses the cause behind this Syntagmatic relation between Syntagms in a linear order.

1. (Sentence No.1, Passage No.1)

The diagram illustrates the syntactic structure of the sentence "My aunt will be down presently Mr. Nuttel said a very self-possessed young lady of fifteen". The tree is organized as follows:

- S** (Sentence) branches into **VP** and **CP**.
 - VP** branches into **NP** and **VP**.
 - NP** branches into **Det.** ("My") and **N** ("aunt").
 - VP** branches into **V** ("will be") and **NP**.
 - V** branches into **HV** ("down") and **AV** ("presently").
 - NP** branches into **Det.** ("Mr.") and **N** ("Nuttel").
 - CP** branches into **VP** and **PP**.
 - VP** branches into **V** ("said") and **NP**.
 - V** branches into **HV** ("a") and **AV** ("very").
 - NP** branches into **Det.** ("self-possessed") and **Adj.** ("young").
 - PP** branches into **P** ("of") and **NP**.
 - NP** branches into **Det.** ("fifteen") and **N** ("lady").

Key to the Figure: This key will help to understand the abbreviations used in the figures.

Interpretation of Figure: 5

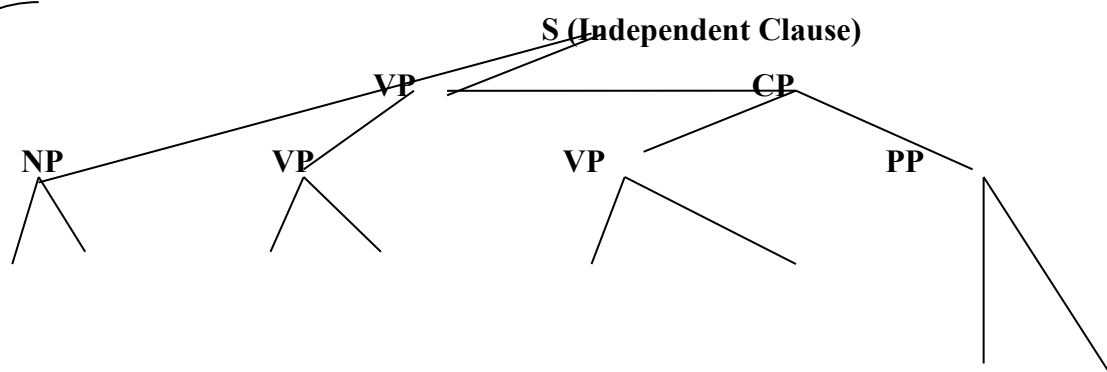
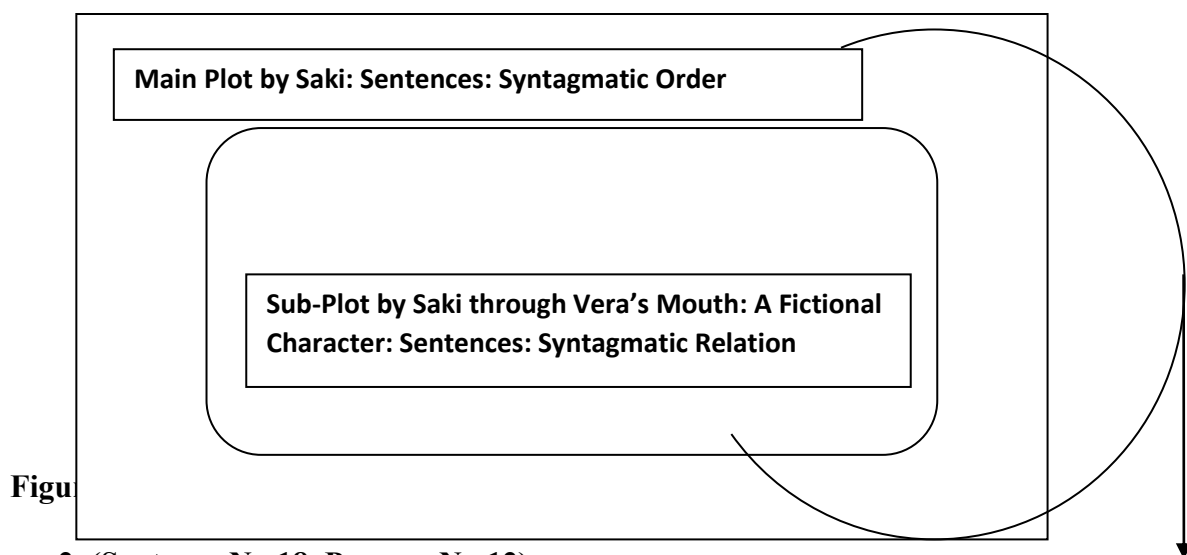
This figure presents a linear order between words in a sentence selected from the ‘The Open Widow by Saki’. There is a proper grammatical role associated with them based on their position in sentence structure. The structure of the sentence explicitly shows that it is complex sentence and there is complex syntagmatic relation between words. Furthermore, the linear order shows that it consists of a dialogue with other person. There is a communication between a fifteen years old girl with a man because everything she is saying is in inverted

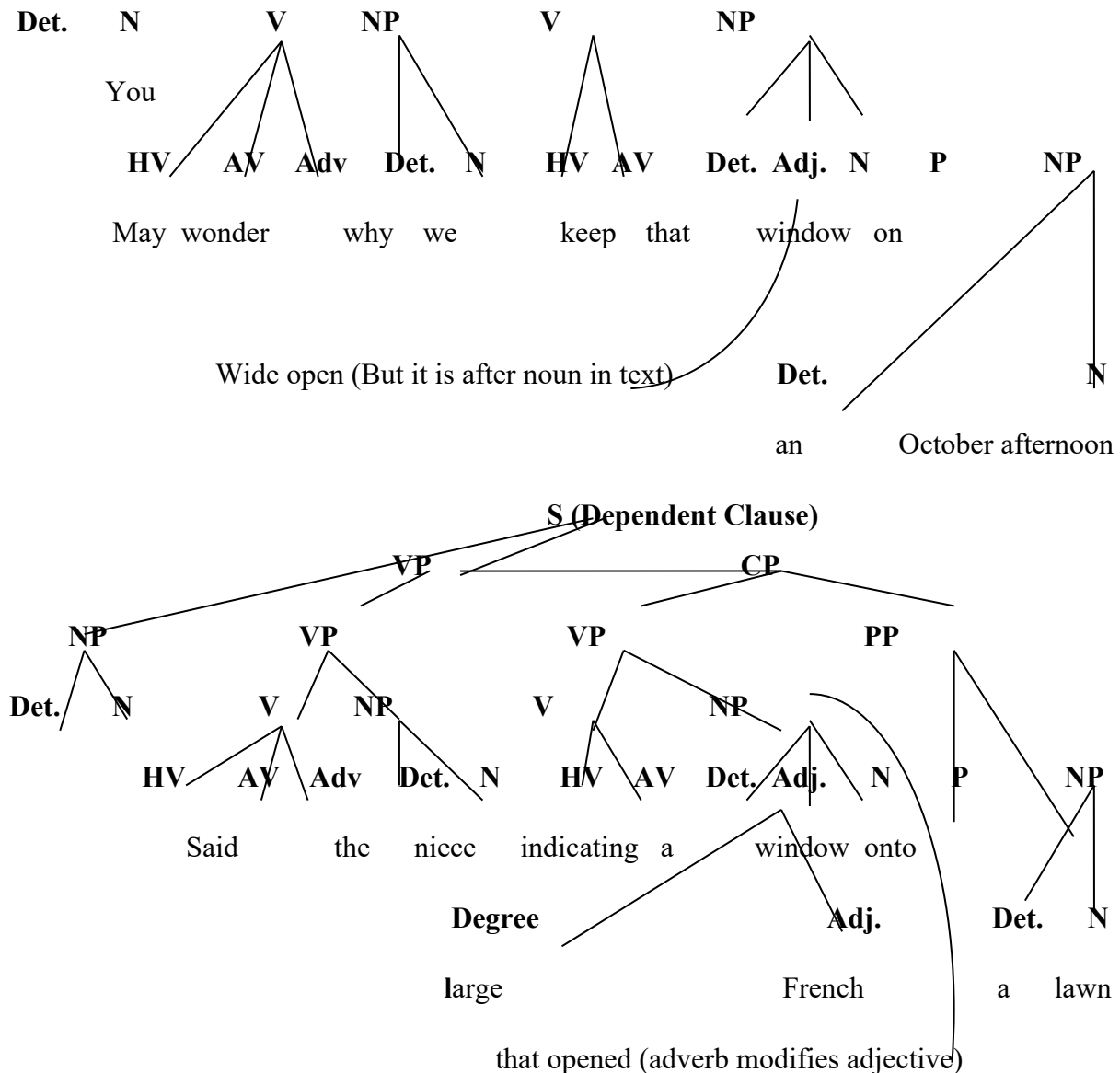
commas that is the independent clause. But the dependent clause starts with action verb although the linear order of word conveys some meaning not complete. Hence, the writer chooses this order intentionally.

The basic cause behind the writer's choice of this complex syntagmatic relation between words is that at conscious level in the brain of the writer there is running a story within story. This is very evident from the very first line of the story that Saki introduces Mr. Nuttel-the writer himself and Vera-a self-possessed girl. Therefore, from such type of narrative description writer wants to assert that there are going to be two narrators in this story. This is true that it is a nested narrative an embedded story. Hence, the structure of the narrative is not simple but complex. Writer tells a story within story through the mouth of the little girl of fifteen years old.

Writer constructs dialogue within fictional text, and narrates the main story alongside the sub-story. There is not only syntagmatic relation between words but the slight change in the position of words effects meaning of sentences at semantic level. Accordingly, writer maintains linear order between sentences in order to fulfil the demand of the complex structure of writing. Hence, the complex syntagmatic relation between syntagms and sentences convey the plot story at semantic level clearly.

The essential linear structural relation between lexicons in complex sentences and among sentences is the demand of this sort of narrative that tells story within story. Surprisingly, author constructed such type of complex linear relation more as compared to girl although, she uses complex syntagmatic relations but not much. Hence, this shows that writer has to construct a story within story and this he does very beautifully. This structure is as follows:

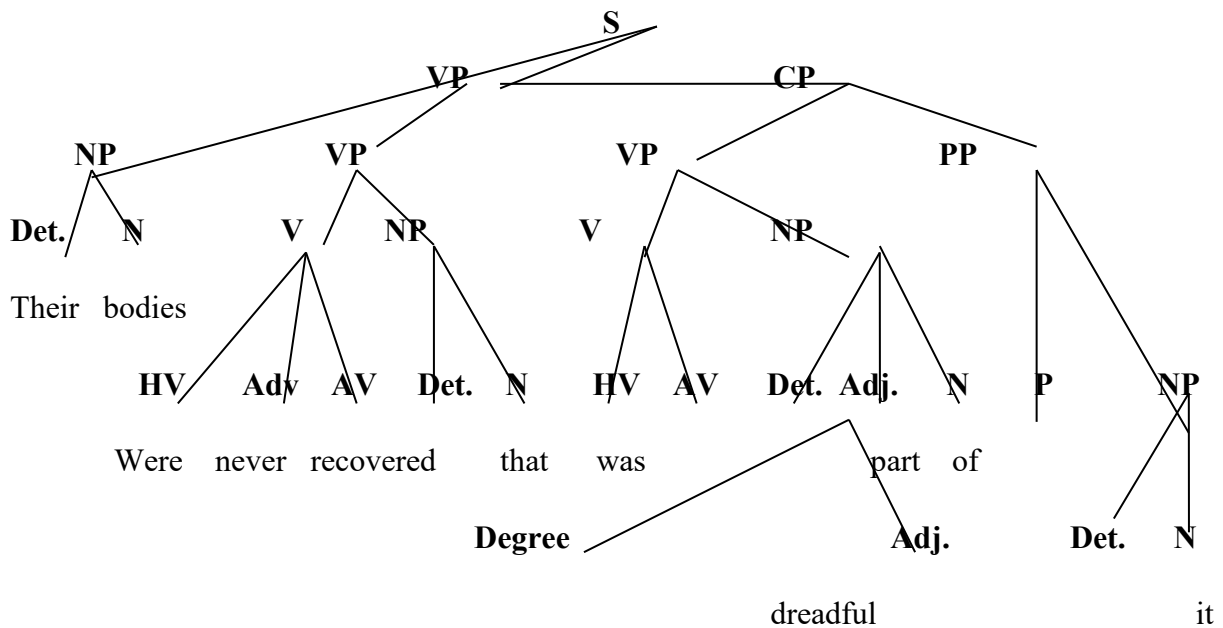




Complex Sentence: Figure: 7

Interpretation of Figure: 7

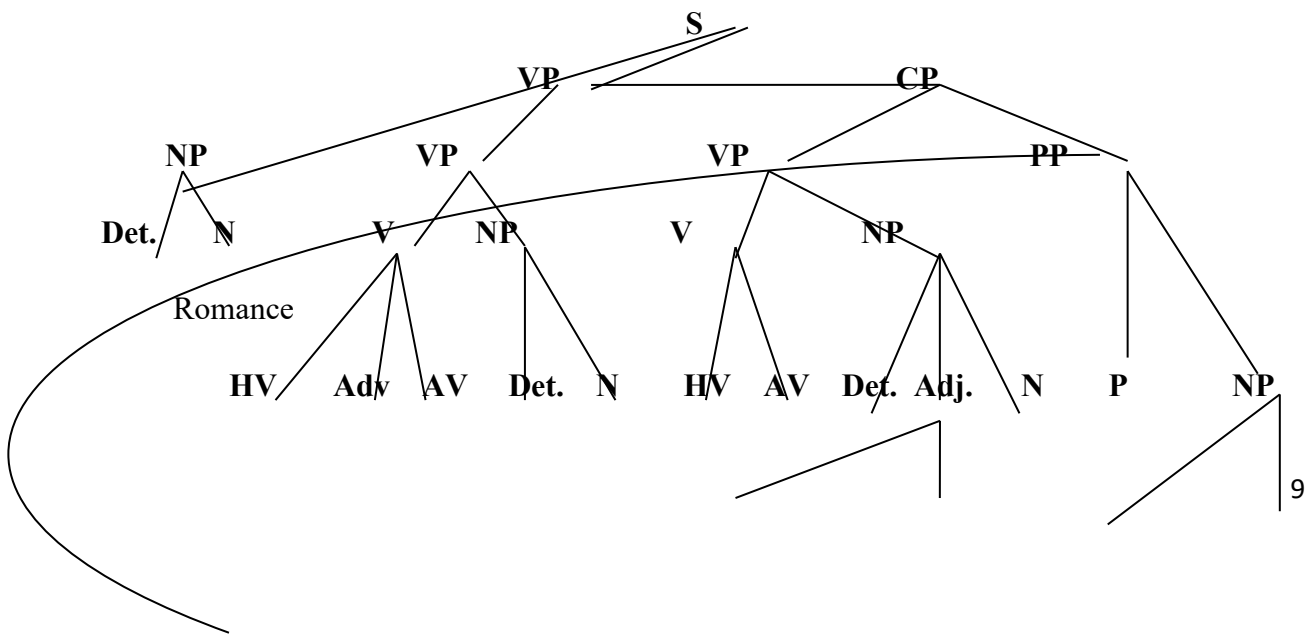
Saussure (1916), the syntagmatic relation between words occurs more frequently. This figure shows vividly that the structure of sentence is complex because it consists of two clauses independent and dependent clause. Furthermore, the author positioned words in linear but complex order. The most surprising aspect is that in figure: 7 in independent clause Saki change the adjective noun order. Usually, adjective comes before noun as per grammatical rule but here the situation is different. Moreover, he positioned adjective after noun. This syntagmatic relation shows that writer wants to emphasize the window and connects this with title. Because the writer wants to tell that the whole story revolves around the open window and this is the name of the narrative. Later on, adjective 'wide open' represents that the shape of window is very wide like a door. Hence, in dependent clause 'that opened' as an adverb modifies the adjective 'large French' to clarifies that the type of window. This predicts that plot of the story is revolves around the window.

3- (Sentence No.24 and 25, Passage No.15)**Complex Sentence: Figure: 8****Interpretation of Figure: 8**

Vera the fifteen years old girl is telling a story about the tragedy that has happened with her aunt in which she lost her family. This sentence represents the sub-plot in the main plot.

The structure of this sentence is complex because unconsciously in the mind of the author these horizontal associations among words forms and consciously writer draw them on the paper. Moreover, through the use of the word 'never' as an adverb before verb 'recovered'. Writer wants to emphasize that according to girl their bodies still cannot be found out by anybody else. They are still absent. Therefore, the change at semantic level is due to the different position of words in the sentence.

There is dependent clause in this complex structure of sentence. There is syntagmatic relation among syntagms in the sentence. Saki by using this order of syntagms tries to create a gothic atmosphere but actually it is anti-gothic story.

4. (Sentence No. last, Passage No. last)

was	her		at	
	Degree	Adj.	Det.	N
(Author positions PP before VP)		speciality	Short	notice

Simple Sentence: Figure: 9

Interpretation of Figure: 9

Saussure (1916) there is a proper order between word and this is present at all grammatical levels. The order of words in sentence shows that the structure of sentence is simple. This is the last sentence of short story and it is a compliment of author about this girl. This is not as simple as it seems but it has specific orders of words.

The structural representation of the sentence shows that writer uses prepositional phrase before verb phrase. The reason behind this is that through using this sort of linear position among syntagms, Saki wants to show that this girl has the talent like the writer. Hence, in order to emphasize on this aspect author places prepositional phrase to provide the readers first-hand knowledge about Vera.

Paradigmatic Relations

Researcher takes some sentences and analyse the clusters of words in these sentences. It also provides the cause behind the choice of the particular words in these sentences through the representation of paradigmatic relation.

1.(Sentence No. last, Passage No. last)

This is the last line Nuttel says about the little girl. He compliments this about her after he leaves the meeting with Vera.

Romance	At	A	Short	Notice	Was	Her	Speciality
Love	In	An	Long	Note	Were	She	Quality
Enchantment	Of	The	Small	Consideration	Did	Herself	Specific

Table: 2

Interpretation of Table: 2

This table shows the clusters of words. There exists a paradigmatic relation among these words. The selected sentence and the choice of words here represent that writer try to create a gothic scene. Additionally, the little girl tells him a story about the dead bodies. She explains that her aunt believes one day they will come through this open window. Furthermore, after a while author sees three figure walking. This entire scene is strange to writer and through the careful choice of words he narrates it to reader. Hence, writer uses 'twilight' because darkness is associated with ghosts so, he uses this word. It means the time when there is little light.

Saki uses another word ‘figure’ he can choose some other paradigms in place of this word but he uses this particular word to create gothic scene. Readers know at the end that all these stories are false. Vera is just making fool of Nuttel. She is playing with his nerves. This is an anti-gothic narrative. Hence, the word ‘window’ in the sentence used by Saki shows that the sub-plot and title of main story these three are interlinked with ‘window’. So, this is the reason behind the use of this word.

1. (Sentence No. 26, Passage No. 15)

There is a communication between writer and girl and after telling him story her voice starts to shake.

Here	The	child’s	voice	lost	its	Self- possessed	note	and	became	falteringly	human
Where	A	Baby	Vocal	Stray	Own	Narcissist	Notice	But	Come	Haltingly	Sapiens
There	An	Toddler	View	Past	it	Credible	account	Yet	Go	tentatively	Man

Table: 3

Interpretation of Table: 3

In this selected sentence the lexicons writer chooses among clusters of words shows that Saki creates a picture of goodness in child. Like the use of word ‘child’ and ‘self-possessed’ writers is emphasizing the gender, age and her manner of communication. By using all these lexicons author wants to assure one thing among the readers and that is the girl is child, innocent and credible character. Furthermore, ‘falteringly’ through the use of this word writer express, the grief girl feel on her aunt’s tragedy. Hence, ‘human’ this lexicon at semantic level shows that emotions are associated with human soul. So, Saki uses this word here instead of others.

Findings

The researcher after analysis of data finds out the structure of literary writing. The sentence construction of the story, most of the time, is complex. The syntagmatic relation between words in the selected sentences is linear but it is complex and rarely simple. Furthermore, there is sometimes unconventional position of syntagms. Like in figure: 4 writer places prepositional phrase before verb phrase. The basic reason behind this is to convey the important information first.

There are two plots in the story one is main plot and second is sub-plot. This can be the reason that the most part of the structure of narrative consists of reported and reporting speech. There are dialogues in this story. Moreover, structure of sentences is from simple to complex. Hence, author maintains the whole framework of the story by creating a linear order between both plots.

There is paradigmatic relation among paradigms in selected sentences from the story. Saki uses refine and meaning rich lexicons in his narrative like self-possessed, figure, twilight, romance and at a short notice. This shows the critical mind of writer and the careful choice of words according to the situation. However, there are some words that directly relates from the context of the life of author. Likes 'Ganges' it's a river in Southeast Asia in India and Munro-Saki spent a part of his life there. So, some of the words gives a reflection of author's past life. Hence, the structure of story is beautifully constructed by using paradigmatic and syntagmatic relation.

Themes Emerge From This Analysis

There are some major themes emerges based on the analysis. A brief overview is discussed as follows:

- **Embedded/Nested Narrative**

The structure of story is embedded. There is a story within story. But both plot support one another. There is a linear relation between them. There is one fiction told by Vera to Nuttel alongside writer tells his story as well as this little girls story. story within story is complex but clear link.

- **Complex Structure**

The relation between words is paradigmatic. This is from simple, clear to complex. The structure of the language of this artistic piece of work is complicated. Writer employ independent and dependent clause in structure of language because it justifies the demand of the story. So, writer dextrously handles this structure in 'The Open Window by Saki'.

- **Anti-Gothic**

There is story is anti-gothic although author tries to create a picture of horror by choosing the paradigms that belongs to gothic imagery. The Syntagmatic relation among the syntagms, their grammatical positioning and order in sentences contributes a lot at all levels. So, this enhances different imageries gothic and at the end of story anti-gothic.

- **Semantic Rich Diction**

The diction author chooses in this narrative is semantic rich because each word carries deep meaning in sentence. These lexicons create different imagery in the narrative. Like the selected paradigm 'romance' by author refers to imaginative power of Vera. Hence, the diction writer employ in story describes different meaning at contextual, psychological and structural level.

- **Reported and Reporting Speech**

There is reported and reporting speech in story because there are dialogues between Vera and Nuttel. She tells him a self-woven fiction about her aunt and at the end she again creates a story to explain in front of her uncle and aunt that why this man run out

the place without saying anything. Hence, author chooses this structure to narrate a story within story.

- **Simple Sentences**

There are simple sentences in story. These are most of the time used by little girl. This refers to that writer intentionally uses simple sentences for girl. Because she is too young and she has to tell a single story but writer for himself like Nuttel uses complex sentences as he has to tell both of the tales.

Conclusion

In a nut shell that researcher has found that the structure of this narrative is dexterously well woven. There exists paradigmatic relations among clusters of words and the writer chooses different paradigms very carefully. This shows that there is a proper meaning and context in this selection process. The words selected by author in sentences convey different meanings according to context and demand of the story.

There is a proper position of syntagms on horizontal axis. There is a syntagmatic relation among words as this relation is from simple to complex. The syntagms are associated with grammatical status according to their position in linear structure of sentences. Hence, the main reason behind the use of unconventional words and reordering of grammatical structure is that writer wants to convey the important message first. So, the structure of story follows the paradigmatic and syntagmatic relation among signs and woven a very compact and whole structure in language of literature. This research will help future researchers and instructors to understand literal structure of language and bilateral aspect of signs efficiently.

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