

THE USE OF NOMINAL AND VERBAL SENTENCES IN WRITING PARAGRAPHS

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Abstract

This article examines the strategic role of nominal and verbal sentences in writing English paragraphs. Nominal sentences serve to introduce the topic, convey the identity, circumstances, or nature of the subject in a concise and clear manner. Meanwhile, verbal sentences are used to describe the actions, activities, or processes carried out by the subject, making the paragraphs more dynamic and informative. The balanced use of these two types of sentences can increase variety, cohesion, and coherence of paragraphs, as well as make it easier for readers to understand the content of the writing. In addition, the combination of nominal and verbal sentences also helps the writer build a logical paragraph structure, clarify the message, and prevent misunderstandings. Thus, mastery and application of nominal and verbal sentences are very important for writers, especially in the context of academic writing and scientific communication.

Keywords: Nominal sentences, verbal sentences, writing structure, roles in paragraphs.

INTRODUCTION

Effective paragraphs are an important element in language acquisition, both in English and Indonesian. A well-constructed paragraph not only conveys ideas clearly, but also uses the right sentence structure, so that the message can be easily understood by the reader. This skill is crucial in a variety of contexts, from academic writing to everyday communication. Therefore, an understanding of how to draft effective paragraphs is an important foundation for anyone looking to improve their writing skills.

Knowledge of developing a paragraph is very important for students especially in academic writing. They need to make sure that the language used in developing the paragraph is correct, formal, systematic, and suitable with academic nature. Moreover, sentences should be arranged in such a way so that it results in good comprehension to the readers. Academic features such as citation and writing format are also important to be taken into consideration by the students to meet the academic requirements.

Although a paragraph only consists of one main idea, the development of a paragraph is sometimes difficult to achieve. Writers should consider some aspects of a paragraph to build them into a good paragraph. Vocabulary, grammar, sentence structure, cohesion, and coherence are among the aspects requiring attention in paragraph writing. The words used in paragraph should be correct and suitable to represent the idea. In addition, the paragraph should fulfill language rules in term of grammar. Moreover, authors have to make sure that each sentence is correctly constructed. The last, each sentence in a paragraph should be interconnected to other sentences and each paragraph should also connect to other paragraphs (Wirantaka, 2016).

In english, sentences categorized into two types based on their predicates: nominal and verbal sentences. A nominal sentence features a predicate composed of an adjective, noun, numeral, or another word serving as a noun (a nominal predicate). Both nominal and verbal sentences often utilize the linking verb “to be” (such as “is”, “am”, “are”, “was”, “were”) as the predicate or auxiliary verb (such as “can”, “may”, “must”, “shall”, “will”, etc.), which requires the addition of “be” in front of the auxiliary. Verbal sentences, however, differ in this aspect. In a verbal sentences, the predicate consists solely of verbs (Yani Lubis, 2025).

One of the crucial aspects of paragraph construction is the choice of sentence type, which includes nominal sentences and verbal sentences. Nominal sentences usually do not have a predicate in the form of a verb, but rather emphasize the subject or state. Examples are sentences that use nouns or adjectives as the core of the sentence. Verbal sentences, on the other hand, are sentences that use verbs as predicates, thus emphasizing more on the action or activity performed by the subject. Understanding these fundamental differences will help writers in crafting sentences that suit the purpose of their writing.

The use of nominal and verbal sentences in a paragraph have different roles but support each other. Nominal sentences are usually used to convey static facts, definitions, or conditions, while verbal sentences are more effective in describing activities, processes, or changes that take place.

The combination of these two sentence types allows writers to produce more dynamic and informative paragraphs. By utilizing the advantages of each sentence type, writers can create writing that is more interesting and easy to understand. This article takes in-depth investigate at the meaning, role, and application by using nominal and verbal sentences in paragraph writing. By understanding the differences and methods of using these two types of sentences, it is hoped that writers can improve the quality of their written, to make more interest and easy to understand by the audience. In addition, this article will also provide practical tips on how to recognize and utilize nominal and verbal sentences effectively in various forms in writing.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The literature study method is a research approach that involves collecting, analyzing, and evaluating various relevant literature sources, such as books, journals, scientific articles, research reports, and other documents. The purpose of this method is to gain an in-depth understanding of pre-existing theories, concepts, and findings related to the research topic. By conducting a systematic literature review, researchers can build a solid theoretical foundation as a basis for explaining and analyzing the problems under study.

Literature studies, also known as library research, involve researchers interacting directly with secondary data in the form of written texts or documents, rather than primary data obtained from the field. The data obtained through this method is static and ready to use, so researchers do not

need to collect field data directly. However, the success of this method is highly dependent on the researcher's ability to select, read, record, and process library materials critically and systematically to produce valid and relevant analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Understanding Nominal and Verbal Sentences

Nominal sentence is a sentence which used adjective/noun/adverb as the predicate. Then the nominal sentence should be inserted auxiliary verb. Nominal sentence is a sentence which predicate is not verb but to be. (Riyanto, 2012).

Nominal sentence is a sentence that has predicated not a verb, but can be an adjective, noun or adverb. Nominal sentence should be inserted auxiliary verb to be like „is, am, are, and were the resource persons/ was (which is used in the past) a sentence with a predicate lacking a finite verb. Nominal sentences are often used in everyday communication to convey facts, conditions, or the identity of someone or something.

a. Positive nominal sentence

This sentence is often also called affirmative sentence. Generally, this phrase is used for situation, position or rank.

(+) S + am/is/are + non verb

b. Negative nominal sentence

This will be negative sentences by adding “not” after to be.

(-) S + am/is/are + not + non verb

c. Interrogative nominal sentence

Interrogative nominal sentences are form by putting “to be” at the beginning of sentence

(?) am/is/are + S + been + non verb

Example:

- We are clever students.
- We are the champions.
- Mr. Joko is a doctor.

Verbal sentence is the sentence that the predicate consists of verb. If the sentence begins with “to”, it means infinitive or non- finite verb. Verbs describe what a person is doing or whether it is mentally or physically Verbs that indicate the action of the subject, for example: Drawing, Singing, Dancing and so on. While verbs that indicate the state of the subject, for example: Seeing, hearing, touching and so on. According, verbal sentences use a verb as a predicate (Azar, 2009).

a. Affirmative forms of verbal sentences are:

Subject (He/She/That/Me/You/We/Them + V1 (S/ES) +...

From the above form, it can be concluded that in affirmative sentences use verb 1 by adding s/es for singular subject

(She/ He/It), but for plural subject (You/We/ They) and First person (I) there is no addition s/es.

b. The negative forms of verbal sentences are:

Subject (He/She/That/I/You/We/They + Did/Does + No + (V1)+...

From the negative form above, it can be seen that there are Did and Do as symbols of simple forms in negative sentences.

Is used for the third singular subject (She/He/It), plural subject (You/We/ They), and the first person (I) using Do.

c. The interrogative form of verbal sentences is:

Is/Does + Subject (He/He/That/I/You/We/They) + Simple Form (V1) +..?

From the interrogative form above, it can be concluded that Do/Do is used in front of the sentence before the subject is used which puts a question mark at the end of the sentence. Is used for the third singular subject (She/He/It), plural subject (You/We/ They) and the first person (I) using Do.

Example:

- "She writes a letter."
- "They play football every Sunday."
- "I am reading a book."

Characteristics of Nominal and Verbal Sentence

1. Characteristics of Nominal Sentences

- The main characteristic of a nominal sentence is that its predicate is not a verb, but rather a noun, adjective, or adverb. This means that a nominal sentence does not describe an action or activity, but instead explains a condition, characteristic, identity, or location of the subject. For example, in the sentence "She is a teacher," the word "teacher" is a noun that functions as the predicate, not a verb. Another example is the sentence "The room is clean," where "clean" is an adjective describing the state of the room. Thus, nominal sentences serve to provide information about who, what, or how something is, without indicating any action.
- Uses "to be" (is, am, are, was, were) as a linking word. Because the predicate of a nominal sentence is not a verb, it requires a linking verb — typically a form of "to be" — to connect the subject to its predicate. The forms of "to be" include "is," "am," and "are" for present tense, and "was," "were" for past tense. The main function of "to be" is to link the subject with a noun, adjective, or adverb that serves as the predicate. For example, in the sentence "He is happy," the word "is" connects the subject "He" with the adjective "happy." Without the verb "to be," the nominal sentence would be incomplete and its meaning unclear. Therefore, the use of "to be" is essential for forming grammatically correct nominal sentences.
- Nominal sentences do not express actions or activities performed by the subject, but rather describe the subject's state, identity, characteristic, or location. In other words, nominal sentences are static and focus more on description or explanation. For example, the sentence "*The weather is sunny*" does not describe what the weather is doing, but simply states the current condition of the weather. Another example is "*She is at home*," which shows the subject's location without mentioning any specific activity. Hence, nominal sentences are very useful for providing basic information about something, such as who someone is, what their condition is, or where they are, without describing an action or ongoing activity.

2. Characteristics of Verbal Sentences

- The main characteristic of a verbal sentence is that its predicate is always a verb. This verb can indicate various types of activities, both physical and mental, performed by the subject. For example, in the sentence "*She writes a letter*," the word "*writes*" is a verb that serves as the main predicate. Verbs in verbal sentences can represent physical actions like "*run*," "*eat*," "*read*," or mental processes such as "*think*" and "*believe*." Thus, the presence of a verb as the predicate signals that the sentence is verbal, as the main focus is on an action or event taking place.
- Unlike nominal sentences, verbal sentences generally do not require the auxiliary verb "to be" (is, am, are, was, were) to link the subject and the predicate. In a verbal sentence, the verb follows the subject directly without an intervening word. However, there are exceptions — particularly in the continuous (progressive) tense and the passive voice, where forms of "to be" are used together with the main verb. For example, in the sentence "*She is reading a book*," the word "*is*" functions as an auxiliary verb forming the present continuous tense, while "*reading*" remains the main verb. In a passive sentence like "*The letter is written by her*," the word "*is*" is used with "*written*" to show that the subject is receiving the action. Outside of these forms, verbal sentences typically use the verb alone without needing an additional form of "to be".
- Verbal sentences always function to express actions, activities, or events carried out by the subject. In other words, they are dynamic, because they describe something that is happening, has happened, or will happen. For example, "*They play football every Sunday*" indicates a habitual action or routine activity. The sentence "*He studied English yesterday*" describes an event that has already occurred. Therefore, verbal sentences are crucial in communication for telling stories, describing experiences, events, or processes that the subject goes through whether in the active or passive form.

Basic Structure of Nominal and Verbal Sentences

1. Basic Structure of a Nominal Sentence:
S + to be + Noun/Adjective/Adverb
Example: "*Budi is a doctor.*"
(S = Budi, P = is a doctor)
 - a. Forms of Nominal Sentences:
 - b. Positive: S + am/is/are + non-verb (noun/adjective/adverb)
 - c. Negative: S + am/is/are + not + non-verb
 - d. Interrogative: Am/Is/Are + S + non-verb?
2. Basic Structure of a Verbal Sentence:
S + Verb + (Object) + (Adverb)
Example: "*They run in the park.*"
(S = They, P = run, A = in the park)
3. Forms of Verbal Sentences:
 - a. **Positive:** S + V1 (add **s/es** for singular subjects)
 - b. **Negative:** S + do/does/did + not + V1
 - c. **Interrogative:** Do/Does/Did + S + V1?

The Functions And Benefits Of Using Nominal And Verbal Sentences In A Paragraph

1. Role in Drafting Paragraph Ideas
Nominal sentences are used to introduce the topic briefly and clearly, while verbal sentences develop the idea by describing related actions or events. The combination of the two makes the paragraphs complete and structured.
2. Improving Coherence and Logic
Nominal sentences convey the main idea, while verbal sentences elaborate with explanations or examples. This creates a logical and easy-to-follow flow of thoughts in paragraphs.
3. Ease Readers' Understanding
Nominal sentences introduce the topic, and verbal sentences provide explanations or support. This structure makes the content of the paragraphs clearer and easier for readers to understand.
4. Effectiveness of Language Style
The choice of sentences according to the function helps to create the right language style, such as formal or casual, thus supporting the desired tone of writing.
5. Preventing Misunderstandings
Nominal sentences provide the main focus, while verbal sentences make their point clear. This structure minimizes the risk of misinterpretation by readers.

Application of Nominal and Verbal Sentences in Paragraph Writing

When composing an effective paragraph, it is important to balance the use of nominal and verbal sentences. Nominal sentences are typically used to convey definitions, describe characteristics, or introduce the main topic in a static way. In contrast, verbal sentences focus on actions, events, or processes carried out by the subject. The combination of both types of sentences helps create a more dynamic flow and improves clarity for the reader.

A well-structured paragraph often begins with a nominal sentence to introduce the central idea or topic. This is then followed by verbal sentences that provide supporting details, explanations, or examples by describing actions related to the topic.

Example Paragraph:

The internet is a global communication network that connects computers around the world. Through this technology, users can access information quickly and efficiently. Every day, people search for news, communicate through social media, and carry out financial transactions online.

Analysis:

1. The first sentence is a nominal sentence, as it defines or describes "the internet."
2. The second and third sentences are verbal sentences, because they describe actions performed by the subject.

The Role of Nominal and Verbal Sentences in Writing Paragraphs

1. Building a Clear Paragraph Structure

Nominal and verbal sentences are important elements in building well-structured paragraphs. Nominal sentences are usually used to state the subject's identity, circumstances, or traits, while verbal sentences convey actions or activities performed by subjects. By combining the two, the paragraphs become clear and easy for the reader to understand because the message is conveyed systematically.

2. Variety and Balance in Paragraphs

The alternating use of nominal and verbal sentences provides variation in the paragraphs so that it does not feel monotonous. Nominal sentences provide a description or identification, while verbal sentences express an action or activity. This variation makes the paragraphs more lively and interesting, while also showing the writer's ability to organize a good language style.

3. Explaining and Developing Ideas

Nominal sentences are often used to introduce a key topic or concept in a paragraph. After that, verbal sentences play a role in developing the idea by explaining related activities, processes, or actions. This helps the paragraphs to be more logical and systematic, so that ideas can be conveyed clearly and completely.

4. Helps Cohesion and Coherence

The alternating use of nominal and verbal sentences also helps maintain cohesion and coherence of paragraphs. Nominal sentences serve as topic sentences that introduce the main idea, while verbal sentences provide supporting details and explanations. This makes the flow of the paragraphs smooth and easy for readers to follow.

5. Improving Message Clarity and Accuracy

Nominal sentences help explain the "who" or "what" that is the focus of the discussion, while verbal sentences describe "what happened" or actions taken. With this combination, the message in the paragraph becomes clearer and more accurate, thus reducing the risk of confusion or misinterpretation by the reader.

CONCLUSION

Nominal sentences and verbal sentences have a very important role in building effective, clear, and easy-to-understand paragraphs. Nominal sentences are used to introduce the topic, stating the identity, circumstances, or nature of the subject, while verbal sentences serve to describe the actions, activities, or processes performed by the subject. By combining these two types of sentences, paragraphs become more varied, coherent, and informative. The balanced use of nominal and verbal sentences helps to maintain the structure, cohesion, and clarity of the message in the paragraph, so that the reader can better understand the content of the writing. Understanding and mastery of these two types of sentences is also very important in improving the quality of writing, especially in an academic context.

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