

JANE HIRSHFIELD'S MY LIFE WAS THE SIZE OF MY LIFE: MORPHO-SYNTACTIC STRUCTURATION

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ABSTRACT

Using morphemic structure, tree diagramming, and immediate constitute analysis, including phrase structuration, to examine Jane Hirshfield's representative poem. Through textual analysis, the study investigates morphemic structure, phrase structuration, and instantaneous constitute analysis. Almost all of the terms in the study had plural suffixes, followed by verb suffixes, particularly in the past tense form of a word or term and gerund –ing. Comparative adjectives are also given the suffix –er. Almost every word has a plural suffix, which is followed by verb suffixes, particularly in the past tense form of a word or term and gerund –ing. Comparative adjectives are also given the suffix –er. Because there are more nouns and pronouns used in the noun phrase, it is more dominant. The poem is made up of fifteen idealized sentences, the majority of which are noun and verb phrases, followed by prepositional phrases, adjectival phrases, and adverbial phrases. Because such descriptions are not required to explain the thoughts, the poet may use less adjectives and modifiers in the poem. It is noticeable that the poet uses simple language and word choices in the poem in order for the listener to understand it more easily.

Keywords: Immediate constitute analysis, Morphemic structuration, Phrase structuration, Textual analysis, Tree diagramming.

INTRODUCTION

1. Jane Hirshfield's Biography

Jane Hirshfield was born on February 24, 1953, in New York City. She was a poet, translator, essayist, and editor who obtained her BA from Princeton University in the first female graduating class and went on to study at the San Francisco Zen Center (Paterson, 2014).

Ledger (Alfred A. Knopf, 2020), *The Beauty: Poems* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2015), which was longlisted for the National Book Award, and *Given Sugar, Given Salt* (HarperCollins, 2001), which was a nominee for the National Book Critics Circle Award, are among her poetry collections.

"She is a true person of letters in contemporary American society, an eloquent and exacting poet first and foremost, but also the author of enduring essays and major translations and anthologies. Add in a life on the campaign trail, spreading the word about poetry to practically every state in the union. When you throw in her graceful ambassadorship for poetry around the world (think Japan, Poland, and China), you have something that satisfies the traditional idea of a person of letters—a writer who proves in every way that this life counts." - Poet Kay Ryan
Hirshfield has taught at Stanford University and U.C. Berkeley in addition to working as a freelance writer, editor, and translator. Berkeley, the University of San Francisco, and the Bennington MFA Writing Seminars. She's been a Poet-in-Residence at Duke University, the University of Alaska, the University of Virginia, and other institutions, as well as the Elliston Visiting Poet at the University of Cincinnati. She is a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets from 2012 to 2017, and in April 2021, she is the guest editor for Poem-a-Day (National Poetry Month). Hirshfield is a San Francisco Bay Area resident (Britannica.com, 2022).

2. My Life Was the Size Of My Life: A Brief Discussion

A brief poetry about life can be found in the poem *My Life Was the Size of My Life*. The person asserts in the poem that life is her life and that she loves it, as well as the decisions she makes in her daily existence. The poem argues that people's lives differ from one another, and that there's nothing wrong with your existence if it doesn't go beyond humanity's definition of 'life.' The poem also acts as an encouragement and a reminder to love and cherish our short lives and to share them with those we care about.

The morpho-syntactic structuring of textuality in Jane Hirshfield's *My Life Was The Size Of My Life* is investigated in this study. It examines the following components of each sentence in particular: immediate constituents, phrase structuration, and morphemic structuring of content words.

3. Theoretical Background of the Study

This study theorizes that morpho-syntactic structuration is revealed in Jane Hirshfield's *My Life Was The Size Of My Life*.

Linguistic theory of linear grammar (Corder 179) and phrase structure grammar corroborate this claim (Chomsky 32). Linear Grammar Linguistic Theory Linear grammar regards a language's sentences as a "string" of grammatical theories, similar to a bead in a necklace, or as a sequence of slots to be filled by words from the category that corresponds to each slot. Parkey and Riley (91-93) define this linearity in a language's word structure, which focuses on

word production and structure. Bound morphemes can only be meaningful when coupled to free morphemes, but free morphemes can stand alone as a word (94). According to linguist Matthews, their forms can be compound or complex (194). The study focuses on a linear morphologic analysis of segmentation in the textualities of Miriam Santiago's selected works. Direct components. Each word in a sentence serves a purpose and contributes to the overall meaning of the sentence. This analysis determines what part of speech each word in the sentence belongs to and how it works in the sentence. Grammar of Phrase Structure After defining the sentence constituents, this grammatical description gathers together those aspects of a sentence that act as meaningful units. Each act of segmentation separates a single building into two components: 1. Noun phrase that matches the complement of a sentence; 2. The predicate of the sentence relates to the verb phrase. The linguistic analysis of the sentence using phrase structure grammar is best illustrated by Noam Chomsky's tree diagram (qtd. in Nelson 25), which follows these steps: first, identify each immediate constituent, second, group the constituent into phrase, third, group the phrase into noun and verb phrases, fourth, group the phrases into sentences again, and finally, make a rewrite rule description. Structures that morph. The smallest units of meaning or grammatical function in a language are called morphemes. Each of the two primary types, free and bound morphemes, have two subcategories. There are two types of free morphemes: lexical morphemes and functional morphemes. Lexical morphemes are morphemes that carry the meaning or content of the message being conveyed. Functional morphemes, on the other hand, are morphemes that make the grammar of the sentence work rather than carrying the message's content. These morphemes should be highlighted in the analysis of spoken speech into an individual's consciousness in order to raise awareness of their specialized function.

METHODOLOGY

This study employs descriptive qualitative research. This strategy combines data and data analysis in an exciting but practical way. This technique makes use of instant constituent analysis and phrase structure. Immediate constituent analysis is a grammatical analysis approach that divides sentences into layers, or constituents, to the final layer, with each constituent containing only a word or a meaningful fragment of a word. This study, on the other hand, makes use of phrase structure. After defining the sentence constituents, this grammatical description gathers together those aspects of a sentence that act as meaningful units. Each segmentation act separates a single building into two parts: 1. Noun phrases that match the complement of a sentence; 2. The predicate of the sentence is represented by verb phrases. Textual analysis is one of the most widely used types of analysis in qualitative research, such as examining Jane Hirshfield's poetry in terms of syntactic, phrase, and morphemic structuration.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Immediate constituent refers to a method of sentence analysis proposed by Leonard Bloomfield and subsequently developed by Rulon Wells. The approach culminated in a full-fledged strategy for studying sentence structure in Noam Chomsky's early publications, which can be found on the following page.

My Life Was the Size of My Life is composed of 15 idealized sentences which consist of noun and verb phrases. The phrase in the poem is composed of the adjectival, prepositional phrase and an adverbial phrase.

Noun Phrase	Verb Phrase	Adjectival Phrase	Adverbial Phrase	Prepositional Phrase
35	24	3	2	8

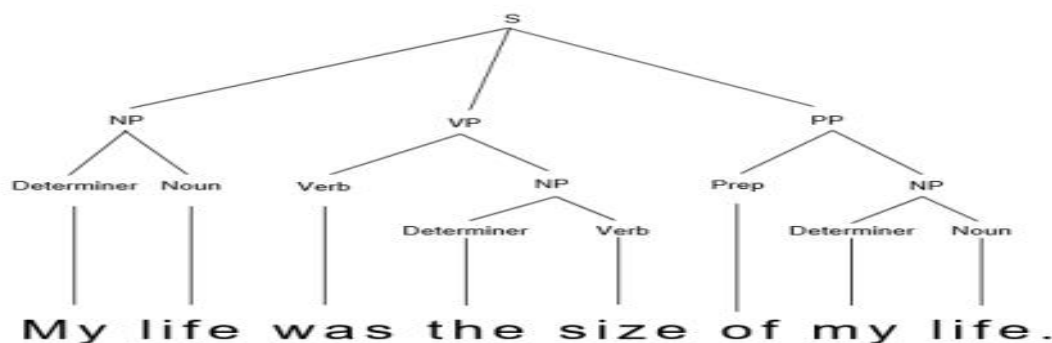
The noun phrase is dominant because there are more nouns and pronouns in the poetry, followed by the verb phrase since verbs are employed to complete the idea of the sentence in appropriate sentence structure.

Number of Sentences	Immediate Constituent Analysis
15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. D + N + V + D + N + PREP + D + N → S 2. D + N + V + ADJ + D + N + V + D + N + PREP + D + N → S 3. PREP + D + N + N + V + PREP + PRON + N + N + N + D + N + PREP + N + CONJ + N → S 4. PRON + V + N + N + N + ADJ + N + D + N → S 5. PRON + V + N + N + D + ADJ + N + ADV + N → S 6. PRON + V + PRON + V + PRON + V + CONJ + V + D + N + D + N → S 7. N + PRON + V + V + N + ADJ → S 8. N + PRON + V + V + N + ADJ → S 9. D + N + PREP + N + ADV + V + ADJ → S 10. PRON + V + N + D + N + CONJ + PRON + V + N + ADV → S 11. PRON + V + N + PRON + V + N → S 12. ADV + PRON + V + ADJ + CONJ + ADJ → S 13. PRON + V + D + N + PRON + V + V + D + N + PRON + V + V + PREP + V + V + N → S 14. PREP + D + N + D + ADJ + N + CONJ + PRON + V → S 15. PRON + N + ADJ + CONJ + CONJ + D + N + D + N + ADV + V + ADJ + PRON + V + ADV + V + D + N + PREP + D + N + PREP + D + N + PREP → S

Almost every word have a plural suffix, which is followed by verb suffixes, particularly in the past tense form of a word or term and gerund –ing. Comparative adjectives are also given the suffix –er.

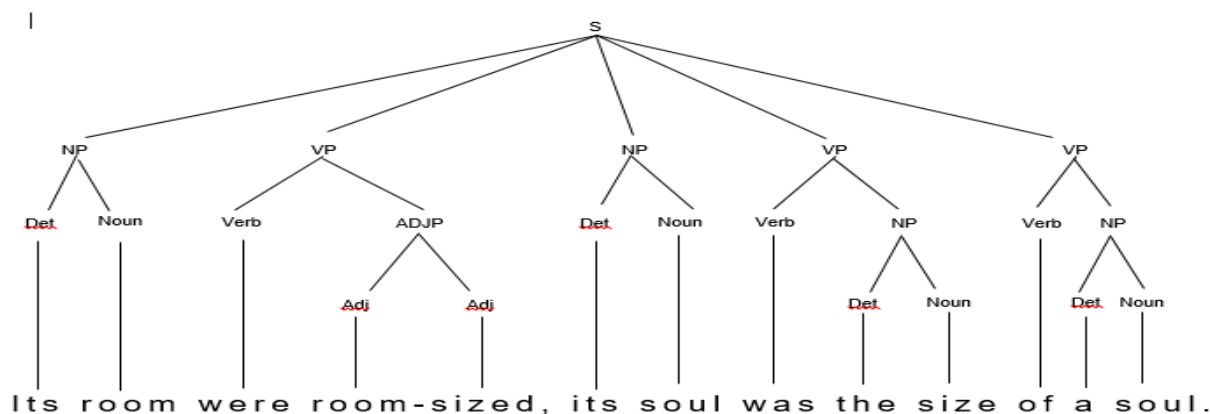
Phrase Structuration is a method for retrieving elliptical objects in sentences and grouping their immediate components into syntactic segments of noun phrase and verb phrase from idealized sentences.

Tree Diagramming: It refers to the process where phrases can be grouped together to form other phrases, and to form sentences.

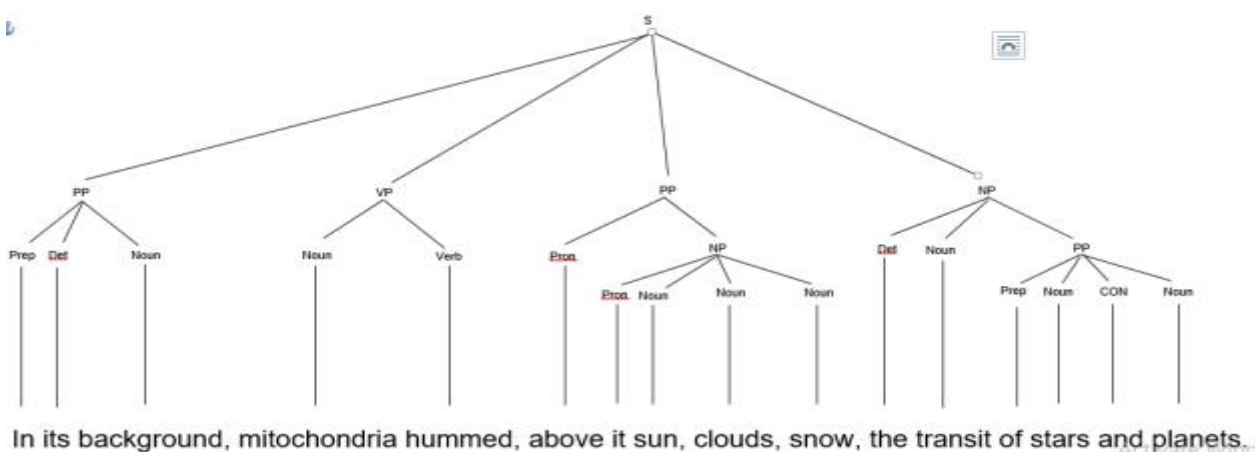


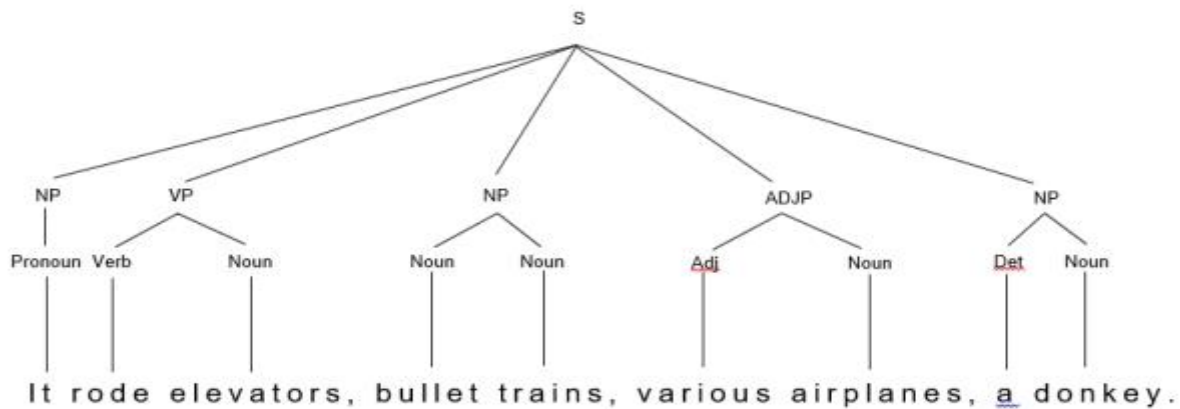
1. A noun phrase, a verb phrase, and a prepositional phrase make up this basic sentence. The verb phrase includes both a verb and a noun phrase, whereas the prepositional phrase includes both a preposition and a noun phrase, my life.

2. Two noun phrases, two verb phrases, and a prepositional phrase make up the following sentence. A verb and two adjectives appear under the first verb phrase. A verb, a determiner, and a noun are all found under the second verb. Finally, the prepositional phrase encapsulates both a preposition and a noun, namely, a soul.

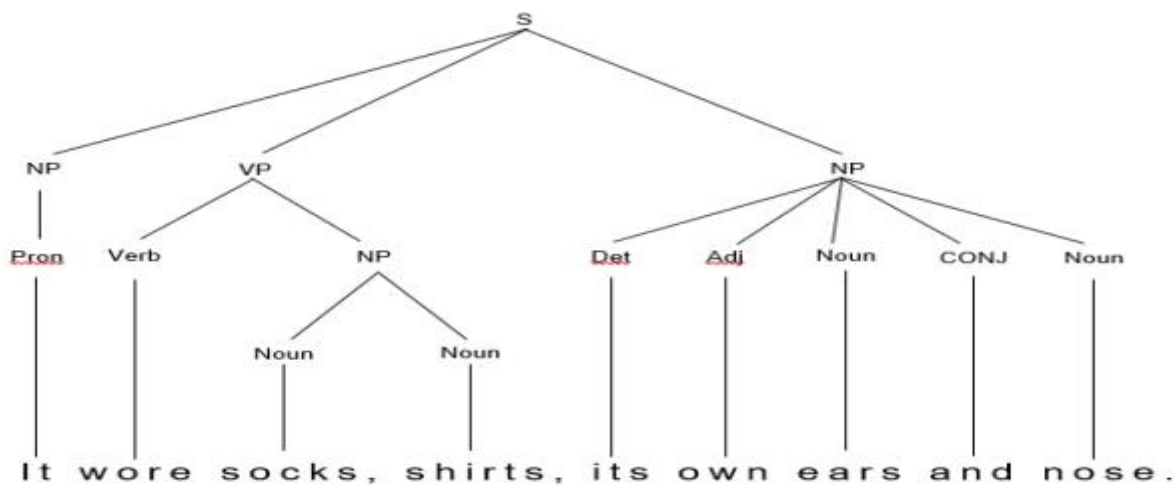


3. Two prepositional phrases, a verb phrase and a noun phrase, support the following sentence. A preposition, a pronoun, and three nouns make up the second prepositional phrase. Finally, there is a determiner, a noun, and a prepositional phrase with a preposition, a conjunction, and two nouns in the nounphrase.

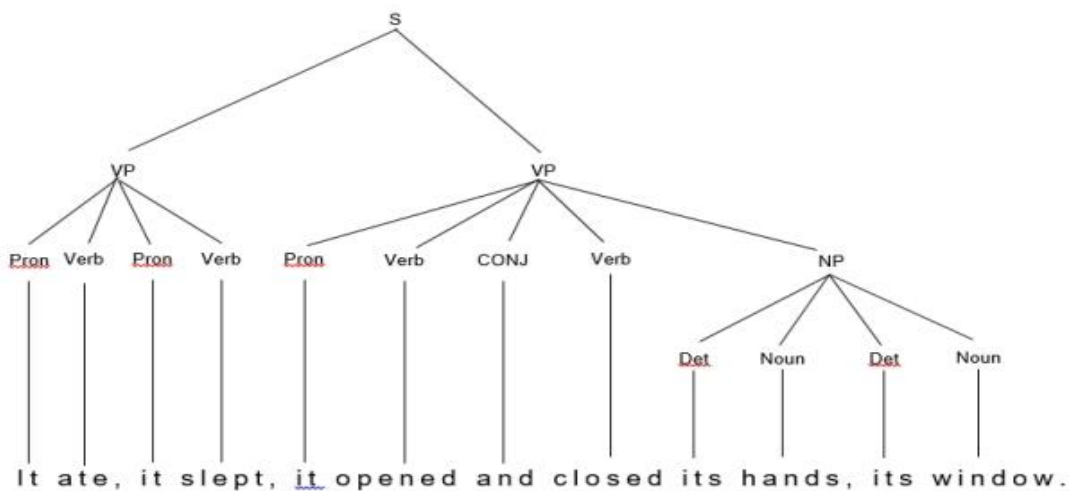




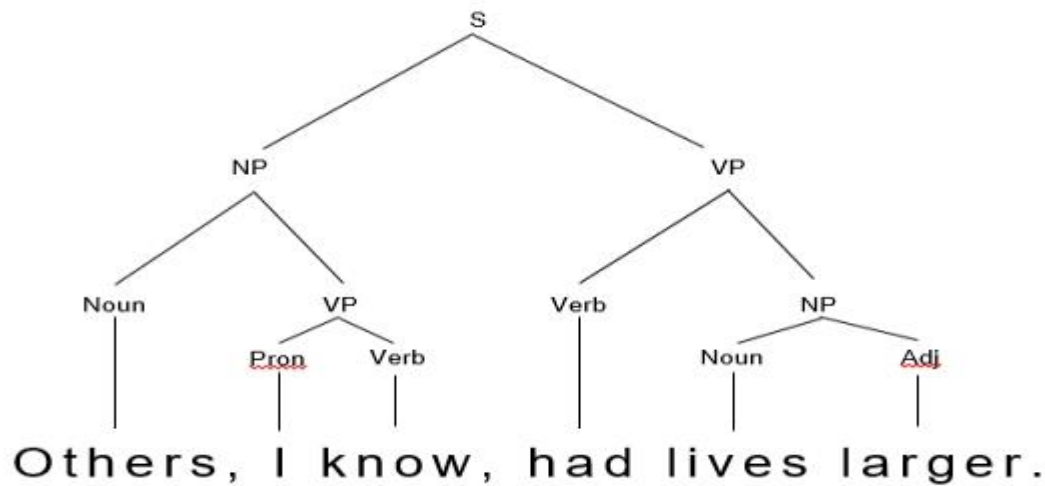
4. This sentence above is a simple sentence with a three noun phrases, a verb phrase and an adjectival phrase.



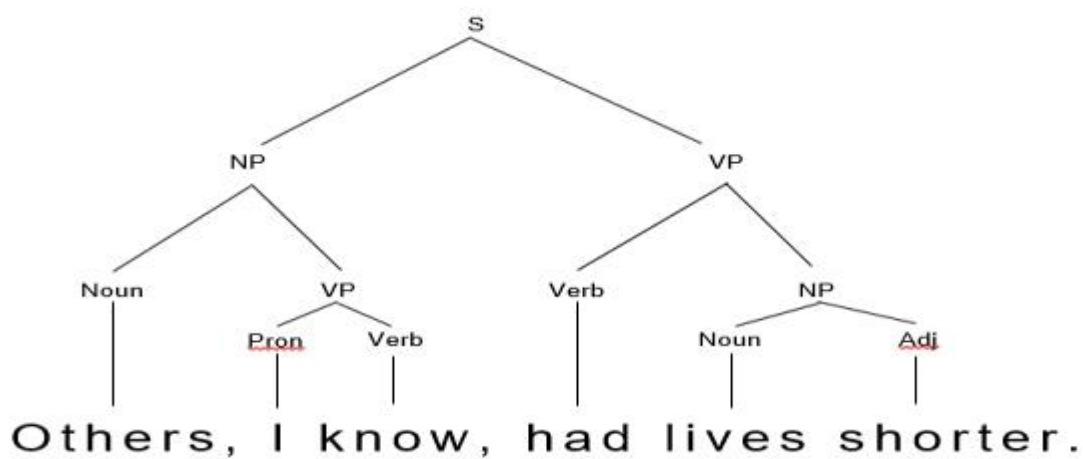
5. This sentence above has two noun phrases and a verb phrase. Under the verb phrase is a verb and a noun phrase socks, shirts.



6. This sentence above is composed of two verb phrases. The first verb phrase embodies two pronouns and two verbs. Meanwhile, the second verb phrase have pronoun, two verb, a conjunction and a noun phrase its hands, its window

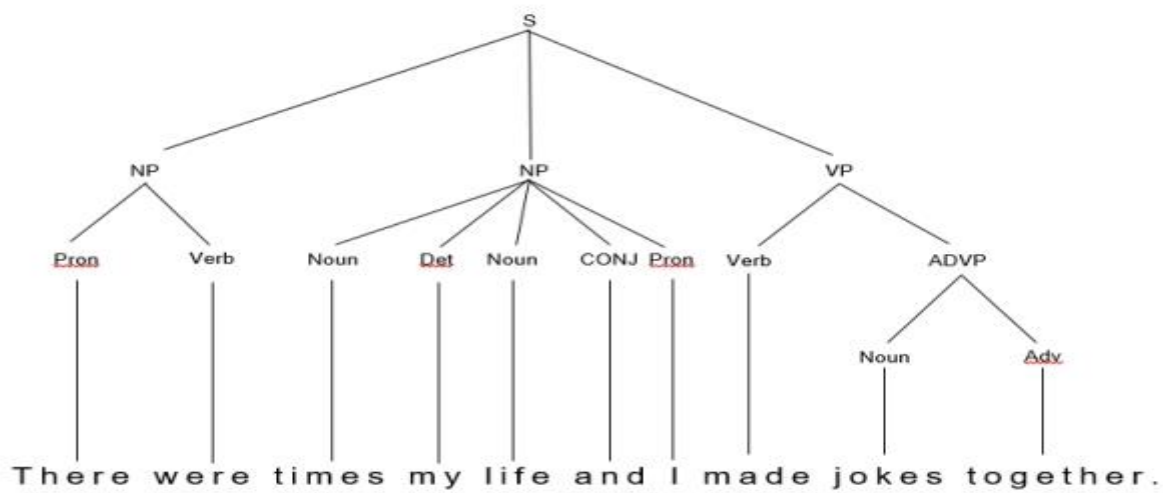
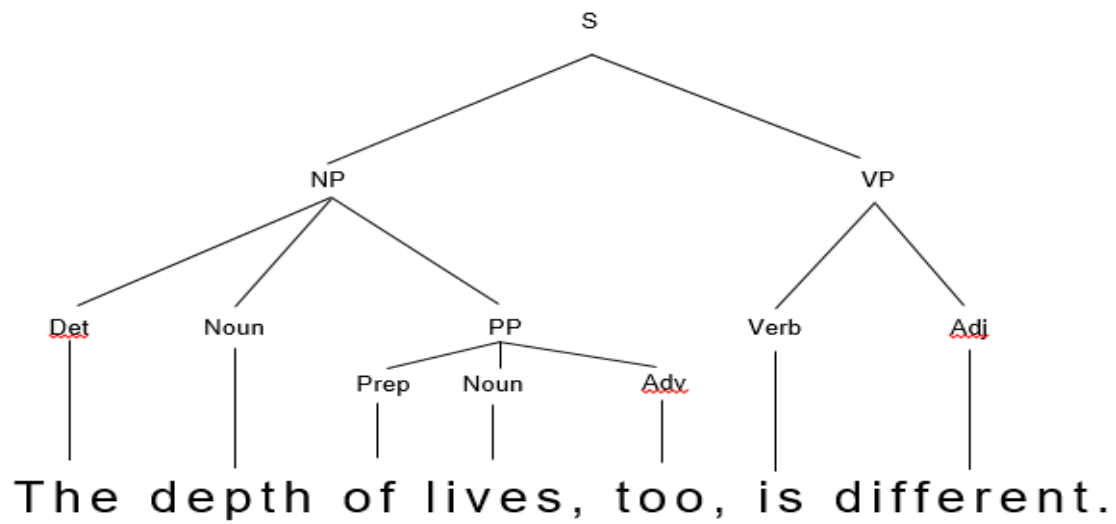


7. This is a straightforward statement with a noun phrase and a verb phrase. I know a noun and a verb phrase that support the noun phrase. Meanwhile, the verb phrase, which is made up of a verb plus a noun phrase, takes up more space.

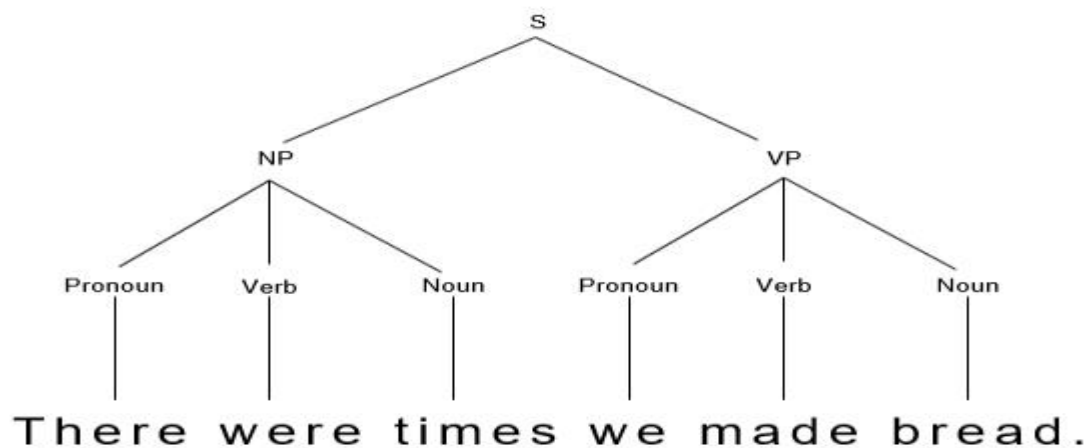


8. This is a straightforward statement with a noun phrase and a verb phrase. I know a noun and a verb phrase that support the noun phrase. Meanwhile, the verb phrase, which is made up of a verb and a noun phrase, have a shorter life span.

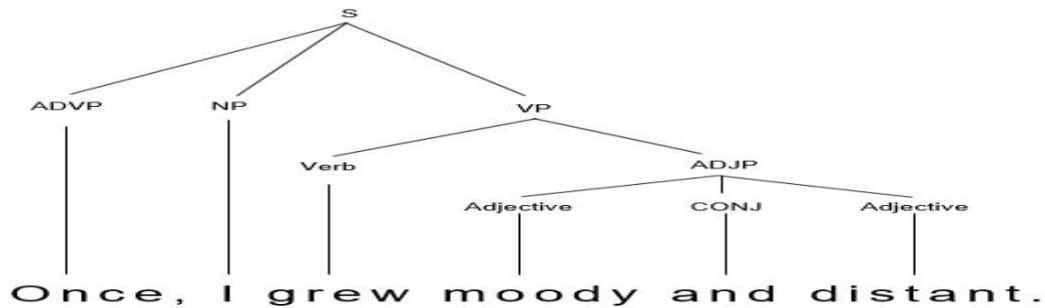
9. A basic sentence with a noun phrase and a verb phrase is shown below. Determiner, a noun and prepositional phrase of life, is also embodied by the noun phrase. Meanwhile, there is a verb and an adjective in the verb phrase.



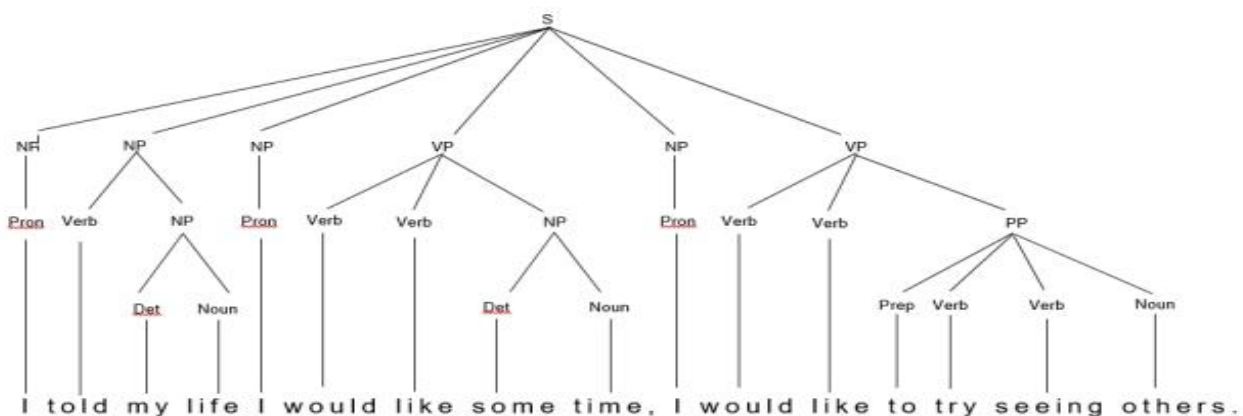
10. This sentence above have two noun phrases and a verb phrase. Under the verb phrase is a verb and an adverbial phrase with a noun and an adverb.



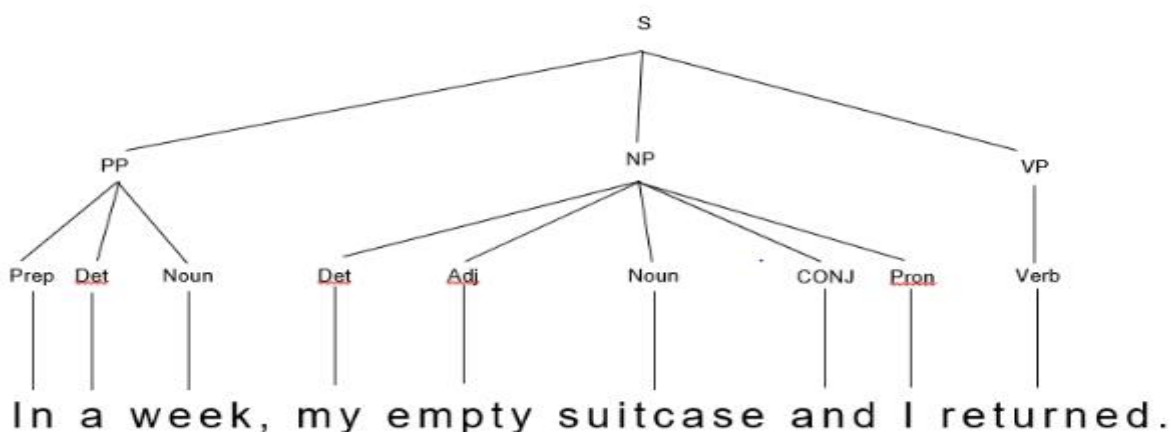
11. This sentence above is a simple sentence with a noun phrase and verb phrase. The noun phrase is composed of a pronoun, a verb and a noun. The verb phrase embodies a pronoun, a verb and a noun.



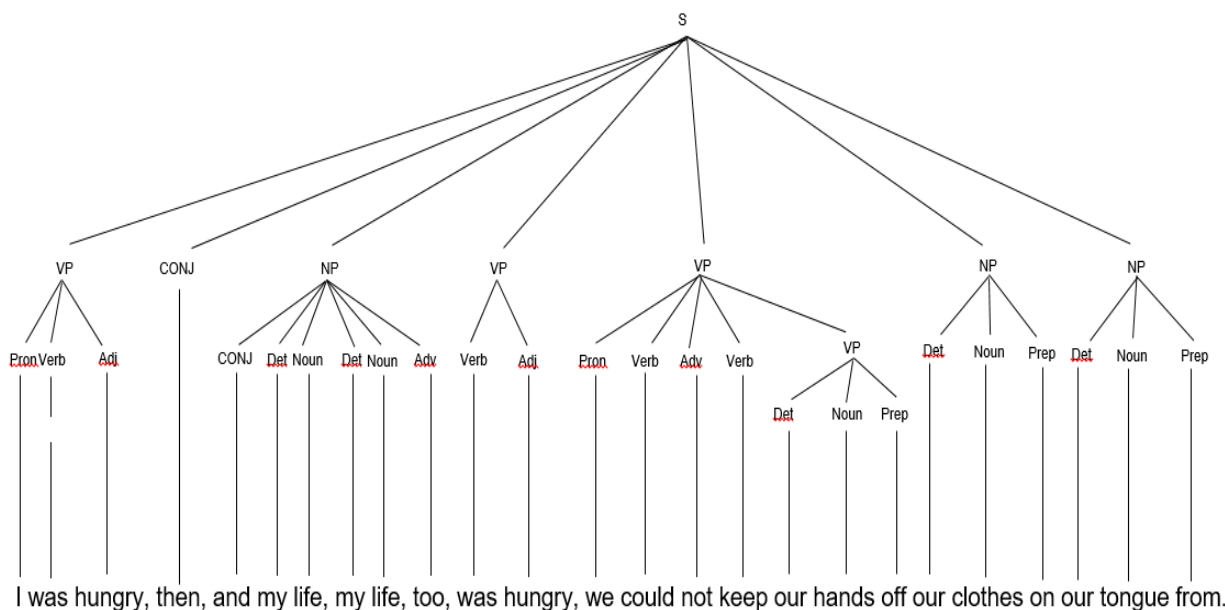
12. This is a straightforward sentence with an adverbial phrase, a noun phrase, and a verb phrase. The verb phrase is made up of a verb and an adjectival phrase, which consists of two adjectives joined by a conjunction.



13.. Three noun phrases and three verb phrases support the preceding statement. My life is a verb and a noun phrase in the first verb phrase. Two verbs plus a noun phrase make up the second verb phrase. To view others, the third verb phrase comprises two verbs and a prepositional phrase.



14. This sentence above is a simple sentence that have a prepositional phrase, a noun phrase and a verb phrase.



15. Three verb phrases, three noun phrases, and a conjunction make up the above sentence. A pronoun, two verbs, an adverb, and the noun phrase our hands off make up the third verb phrase.

Compounding: It refers to the process of combing two words or free morphemes to create a new word, commonly a noun, verb, or adjective, such as in:

Line 20: “In a week, my empty suitcase and I returned.”

Modification: It refers to a syntactic construction in which grammatical element called head is accompanied by another called modifier, such as in:

Line 4: “various airplanes, a donkey.”

Line 20: “In a week, my empty suitcase and I returned.”

Derivation: It refers to the process of creating a new word out of an old word, usually by adding a prefix or a suffix, such as in:

Free Morpheme	Affixes	Word
CLOUD	-s	CLOUDS
STAR	-s	STARS
PLANET	-s	PLANETS
ELEVATOR	-s	ELEVATORS
TRAIN	-s	TRAINS
AIRPLANE	-s	AIRPLANES
SOCK	-s	SOCKS
SHIRT	-s	SHIRTS
EAR	-s	EARS
OPEN	-ed	OPENED

CLOSE	-d	CLOSED
HAND	-s	HANDS
WINDOW	-s	WINDOWS
LIVE	-s	LIVE
LARGE	-r	LARGER
SHORT	-er	SHORTER
JOKE	-s	JOKES
MOOD	-y	MOODY
SEE	-ing	SEEING
RETURN	-ed	RETURNED
CLOTHE	-s	CLOTHES
TONGUE	-s	TONGUE

As you can see in the table, almost of the words use plural suffixes, and then followed by verb suffixes, especially in past tense form of a word or term and gerund –ing. There is also a use of –er for comparative adjectives.

Enjambment: It refers to the thought or clause that does not come to an end at a line break and moves over the next line such as in:

Line 10-11:

“It ate, it slept, it opened
and closed its hands, its windows.”

Line 22-24:

“my life, too, was hungry, we could not keep
our hands off our clothes on
our tongue from”

CONCLUSION

The poem is made up of fifteen idealized sentences, the majority of which are noun and verb phrases, followed by prepositional phrases, adjectival phrases, and adverbial phrases. Because such descriptions are not required to explain the thoughts, the poet may use less adjectives and modifiers in the poem. It is noticeable that the poet uses simple language and word choices in the poem in order for the listener to understand it more easily.

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