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AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF CLEFT SENTENCES WITH REFERENCE TO BRITISH, AMERICAN, AND INDIAN NEWSPAPERS



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ABSTRACT

Each sentence, regardless of its type , consists of general constituents . Every constituent carries some information. A combination of these constituents' meanings gives the complete meaning of the sentence or the idea behind an utterance . Not all the sentence constituents have the same importance in relation to the whole meaning of the sentence . Almost every sentence can be organized in several ways to give a special attention to a particular element. Thus Fronting, extraposition, existential, inversion and clefting are styles of sentence structure to introduce the sentence with a different meaning.

The present essay attempts an analytical study of English cleft sentence. The sentence to be cleft should be organized in a way that emphasizes one of its elements . Punctuation marks would be a helpful factor in this respect . This is so if it is written language ; for the spoken one, intonation, stress, pause, and prominence are significant features that reflect the importance of an utterance . The various sections here deal in detail with cleft sentences and the related aspect. It is important to



mention that the word ' cleft ' relates to Gaelic influence on English sentence. Others claim that this term was coined by Jespersen in 1927. The study is conducted with reference to the language used in British, American and Indian dailies. International and national daily newspapers are taken as samples. Articles in print and online on various fields are also consulted.

KEYWORDS : *Cleft sentence, constituent, construction, style.*

INTRODUCTION:-

The study consists of three sections: The first section gives a theoretical concept of cleft sentence. Opinions of various linguists are consulted. The types of such constructions are mentioned with examples. The second section shows samples of British, American, and Indian daily newspapers. This is mainly to see whether press language uses or misuses this type of constructions . The third section is devoted to discussing the results of the study.

It is well- known that language is a means of communication. It is, indeed, the best means. The

linguistic as well the non- linguistic ones convey meanings of these properties, of course, cannot be expressed by other means of communication. The largest linguistic unit of any language is the sentence. The sentence, in turn, is a means to express a person's needs, desires, etc

is a type of sentence when the description is about its construction rather than meaning. This structure affects directly or indirectly the meaning conveyed. Any clause can be changed into a cleft sentence, if it is divided into two separate sections. These new clauses have their own verbs. In Crystal's definition (1997 :63) the linguist does not refer to reasons behind or purpose for adopting such type of sentence construction .

Other linguists try to connect the construction of cleft sentence with its influence on the total meaning of the sentence. Leech and Svartvick (1994 : 204) state this when they define a sentence:" The cleft sentence construction with introductory it is useful for fronting an element as topic and also for putting focus on the topic element. It does this by splitting the sentence into two halves, highlighting the topic by making it the complement of it + be."

Though Leech and Svartvick show the interrelation between structure and meaning, their definition has a shortage. This shortage springs as if there is only one type of cleft sentence.

Biber, et al (2000 : 958) support the last two linguists when they discuss the word order and related syntactic choice. Biber, et al emphasize that the information that could be given in a single clause is broken up. The resulting double clauses, each has its own verb. They mention that there are several types of cleft sentences.

Aarts (2001 : 226) believes the language flexibility when he states that constructions like cleft sentences enable language users to highlight a particular element in a sentence. To Aarts the position that the sentence element occupies and limits its importance. He states that the element in the focus position* receives special prominence. Therefore, a clause has more than one cleft sentence since different elements can occupy the focus position.

Crystal (2003 : 231) returns to show how a cleft sentence is generated and what for it is generated. He says " Another way of altering the normal emphasis in a simple sentence is to split (cleave) the sentence into two clauses, giving each its own verb ". Then, he adds in details, how each of the new clauses is organized, declaring "the first clause consists of pronoun it and a form of the verb be. The second clause begins with a pronoun such as that or who ".

Structurally, English cleft sentence has the same normal order of sentence constituents that is subject, verb, object; or subject, verb, subject complement. What distinguishes is the interruption of some words between any two of the constituents. This is actually to spotlight one of the sentence elements (Peters, 2004:108).

(* focus is the "new" not the "given " information in the sentence which is not already supplied by the previous context.)

All cleft sentences types aim to front an element as a topic. Putting an element as a topic (focus) is sometimes to show contrast. Most sentence elements can be fronted and take subject position; some linguists consider this process as creation of a subject, where this position can be occupied by other parts of speech rather than the nominal. In fact, it is a process of creating subject and object at the same time; since the new sentence word order will be moved upside down. Thus, the object position will also be occupied by another element (Langendoen, 1970:193). Anyhow, there is a kind of agreement that there are two basic kinds of cleft sentences. This agreement often includes sub-kinds.

A- It-type:This type has rearrangement of the normal sentence structure which can be describe as: It (cleft pronoun)+copula+cleft constituent+cleft clause. So the following simple sentence

Paul wrote the letter.

Can be clefted into:

It was Paul who wrote the letter.

The cleft sentence start with expletive 'it', but it has a semantic function. Tense of copula can, also, be changed according to the tense of the original sentence. Even the cleft clause can have various structures as follows:

It was Roney who won.

It was Martin (that) Ann loved.

It was Sue whose mother cheered. (Han and Hedberg , 2000:1)

Lets take a clause with different elements to apply clefting, for example:

My friend enjoyed dancing in Paris last month.

Leech et.al. (2001:252) show a very interesting structure for the original sentence before and after dividing it into a cleft one. To them it should have the following pattern:

It + be + Focus + that, who (m) + rest of the relative clause

According to this pattern, sentence (1) should have four cleft sentences. In each sentence the attention will be focused on one part, leaving the other part of the same sentence in a separate clause. So if the subject to be emphasized, then it has the following form:

It + be + subject + that, who (m) + rest of the clause

a- It was my friend that (who) enjoyed dancing in Paris last month .

Since the subject is a person, both that and who may be used, though who is preferable. Also it is not necessary to put be in the present form. In a -be was transferred into was for the sentence tense was in the past.

If the emphasis was on the object, then the second cleft form would be:

It + be + object + that + rest of the clause

b- It was dancing that my friend enjoyed in Paris last month.

It is clear that only that can be used, since the focus is something which is not a person.

If the focus is an adverbial, then this in particular would have two cleft sentences, for there are two adverbials, the first is spatial and the second is temporal. Other sentences that have one adverbial, of course, have one cleft sentence if the adverb is in question. However, the sentence has on form, represented by two ways:

c- It was in Paris that my friend enjoyed dancing last month.

d- It was last month that my friend enjoyed dancing in Paris.

Again when the focus is not a person which an adverbial as in 1-c and 1-d, only that is possible to

be used. It is noticeable that the second part of the cleft sentence is similar to a relative clause. The cleft sentence has the same propositional meaning as its simple sentence paraphrase.

In this type, that is it-type, all parts of the sentence can be emphasized except the verb. The following cleft sentence is not correct if we want to focus the verb in the sentence:

Robert threw an egg at the boss yesterday.

* It was threw that my Robert did at the boss yesterday.

Concerning this type also, both the subjective and the objective forms of a personal pronoun may be used when the emphasized is the subject (Mieres 2005 : 1), as in the example below :

He made that a great decision.

Which can be clefted into:

a- It was he that made a great decision.

b- It was him that made a great decision.

This possibility according to Peters (2004 :108)is restricted to the type of style used. If the styles is formal, then, the subject form of pronouns are used, as in:

It is I who am uncertain

But if the style is informal, then the object form of pronouns will be used, as in :

It is me who is uncertain

Biber et.al.(2000:959)state that a relative like dependent clause introduced by that/who/which or zero, which means, the possibility of omitting these markers. In other words, these markers may be considered optional. So, a sentence like:

I hate onions.

Can be clefted into

It is onions (that /which) I hate.

In fact, Yule (2006:217) and some other linguists support Biber's point of view .

B - Wh- type

This type has the same two functions of it-type, that is to show importance of a sentence element rather than others, and also to show contrast It is worthy to mention that Acobs and Rosenbaum (1968:39) consider this type as a way to test unity of the noun phrase-with some exceptions- beside other types such as passive test and reflexive test. This type is used to emphasize only the subject or the object. Wh-type of cleft sentences also has subtypes

Aarts (2001 : 226) calls this type as pseudo cleft, making the following as a framework for all cleft sentences generated by this type :

Wh- item + + be + focus

This framework can be exemplified in this sentence:

I want a cup of tea .

What I want is a cup of tea.

Aarts does not use " what ", instead he uses wh- item which means that other elements starting with wh- may be used, nevertheless, he does not give examples to prove his opinion, such as ; when, where, etc.

In fact, Leech and Svartvick (1994 : 205) mention examples to support Aarts' point of view through the examples :

Where she first met her husband was in that huge college.

When the countryside is most beautiful is autumn.

Yule (2006 : 217) puts this rule somehow a different way. It is as follows:

A what – clause + be + an emphasized part

Here the emphasized part not only a noun phrase represented by the subject, but also the verb phrase. However, wh- cleft has two main patterns:

First: a what – clause + be + focus

Applying this pattern on the following sentence, would be:

The mechanic repaired two cars in the garage yesterday.

a - What the mechanic repaired yesterday in the garage was two cars. (when the object is focused)

b- What the mechanic did in the garage yesterday was repaired two cars.(when the verb is focused)

c-When the mechanic repaired two cars in the garage was yesterday.(when the adverbial of time is focused)

d-Where the mechanic repaired two cars yesterday was in the garage.(when the adverbial of place is focused)

Second Focus + be + what clause

Again applying this pattern on the following sentence, would be:

Barbara put a letter in the pigeon hole last night.

a - A letter was what Barbara put in the pigeon hole last night. (when the object is focused)

b- Put a letter in the pigeon hole was what Barbara did last night. (when the verb is focused)

c Last night was when Barbara put a letter in the pigeon hole. (when the adverbial of time is focused)

d- In the pigeon hole was where Barbara put a letter last night.(when the adverbial of place is focused)

Quirk et.al. (1985 : 1385) confirm that in It – type, it is possible to high light the subject, object, adverbials (place , time), complement (subject , object), but the verb element does not occur at all as focus, just as it does not occur as wh- element.

Generally, there are many similarities between the above two types .What differentiate cleft

sentence from pseudo-cleft is that, the relationship between the two generated clauses parts is a main clause – subordinate clause (Crystal, 1997: 317). Applying this on the following sentence:

She is an intelligent student.

As a cleft sentence, we'll have:

What she is an intelligent student.

But as pseudo-cleft, it will be as

An intelligent student is what she is.

C- Some other cleft sentences

In addition to it-type and what-type cleft sentences, there are some other types:

1- The (only) one \ person who met us was the ambassador

2- Demonstrative (that) wh-cleft :

This type is mentioned by Biber and some other linguists (Biber, et.al. 2000 : 961). To them, this type is very common structure. This type depends to a great extent on the demonstrative that in its construction, examples of this type like:

That's how I spent my extra money.

That's what she believed.

That's why we asked for the permission.

According to these examples, a pattern for this type can be given:

That + Be + wh- word relative clause

3- All :This word sometimes, replaces ' what' in cleft sentences without any mentioned changed whether in form

or in meaning as in:

What I need is a new marker.

All I need is a new marker.

In the current section, samples of cleft sentences are going to be analysed. These samples are all from press language, in particular, from various daily newspapers. British and American Online newspapers are investigated, while Indian printed ones are taken as examples – for the ease of availability. These papers will, to some extent, reflect the type of the language used in press. At any rate, the published papers are almost in the same period, but, of course, in different linguistic environments. It is worthy to mention that some articles are without identified writers. Also some articles belong to correspondences of the mentioned paper. Since that one idea can sometimes be expressed in more than one sentence, so it is possible for one cleft sentence to have more than one original sentence.

It is preferable to start with British newspapers where English was established. In The Independent, issue of 28 June, 2012, and in his article entitled "No golden Swansong for Golden balls as outrage greets Beckham Team GB decision", Tom Peck mentions this sentence :

What I don't understand though, is why string him along by including him in short list ?

The original sentence may be:

I don't understand though why string him along by including him in a short list.

Such a structure, though seems strange, it is fashionable in press language. The sport article's

writer wants to emphasize the object (why string him along by including him in a short list), therefore, he transfers this part to the end of sentence, starting the sentence with a cleft marker what. To Peck the inability of understanding is less important than the other information in the sentence.

In the same paper but in a different date, that is 30 of June, 2012, Owen Jones mentions this sentence in his untitled article:

It is not the school you go to that determines how well you do – it's the class system, Stupid .

This sentence before clefting is:

The class system, stupid not the school you go to determines how well you do

This sentence has double cleft clauses. Subject of the original sentences consists of two noun phrases 'the class system ,stupid' and ' not the school'. In the first clause, Jones highlights the second part of the subject. While he highlights the first part of the subject. The writer puts ' the school ' preceded by the negative marker not at the sentence beginning to show its irresponsibility for doing well or not. It is the ' The class system, stupid ' which is in charge of type of achievement in the writer's account .Clefting the original sentence shows clearly 'school irresponsibility '.

Under the title " How Tony Blair came out of the wilderness to save the nation ", Andy Mc Smith in 30 June, 2012 mentions the following sentence :

It was not the inter-party rivalries that finally projected Tony Blair back into Downing Street

This sentence , in fact, was inflected from the original one , that is

Not the inter-party rivalries finally projected Tony Blair back into Downing Street

This sentence, in particular has two points that may be taken in consideration:

a- Though it is press language where almost always the tense used in present, here the past tense is used for both parts of the cleft sentence 'be' part and 'the main verb - project' part. This is simply so, because the original sentence was most likely in the past.

b- The sentence is in negative, and presumably the original was so. Negative of the sentence before clefting was for the subject. In other words, negative marker not lies before the auxiliary verb and not after. It is clearly noticeable that the subject is the element which was focused.

The second British newspaper which taken as an example is The Telegraph . In its issue in the first of June, 2012 , there is a cleft sentence under the title " British pays tribute to servicemen For Armed day". The sentence is :

What I remember most of all about Dunkirk was the first experience of smelling death
Extending the subject into a dependent clause, this way was described by Aarts (2001:226)as a pseudo cleft sentence , where a particular element is emphasized. Originally the sentence was:

I remember the first experience of smelling death most of all about Dunkirk.

Again the cleft sentence time is in the past, since its origin mostly was also, in the past. Another cleft sentence in the same article is:

It was only if someone got injured that my role changed .

This sentence may be derived from

My role changed only if someone got injured

Here, the second part of the conditional sentence (if-clause)is highlighted. The writer clefted the sentence in this way is to show emphasis of the (if-clause). So, different types of cleft sentences are used by the same writer in one article.

In the same issue of this newspaper, but by another writer, a cleft sentence is mentioned. Graham Norton in his article " My wife's family won't accept me ", writes this sentence in the social

news page :

The only difficulty with this situation is that it is new

This cleft sentence supposed to be derived from

The newness of the situation is a difficulty Biber et.al.(2000 : 961) mention that this structure is common where it emphasizes certain element of the sentence ' the newness ' which is preceded by ' the only '.With a bit difference, here Norton uses this form of cleft sentences as the above mentioned unknown writer of the article " British pays tribute to servicemen for Armed Forces Day ".

Cole Moreton, in the same issue, in his article " Joan Bakewell : I won't leave my house to my children, it's weird and wrong ", mentions this sentence

That is what it is like for women now

In this sentence, the pronoun ' that ' replaces an elliptical expression. Therefore, this sentence may be derived from a sentence like

That is like for women now.

For brevity principle of press language, an expression was deleted and replaced by ' that'. Readers can easily discover it through the context where Moreton avoided repetition.

The last British newspaper is The Guardian . In its issue in the first of June, 2012 , Daniel Boffey wrote in his article "Tony Blair insists that he does not avoid paying tax ", the following sentence :

It is when there are big issues that you want to be there

The emphasis, here is on time. Thus time adverbial is focused in the cleft sentence which is derived from You want to be there when there are big issues

Since all the dependent clause ' when there are big issues ' expresses time adverbial expression, so this clause transferred into initial position preceded by ' it is ' and followed by time marker ' when '. Boffey wants to say that timing of the event is more important than the event itself. Boffey postponed the subject where there is another sentence element that has more significance and should be focused in the sentence beginning.

Boffey's colleague, Julie Powell of the same newspaper and in the same day writes in his article "Nora Ephron : tossing pies in the face of life's cruelties ", the coming sentence

It is the privilege of those who tell the stories.

This sentence is perhaps clefted from

the privilege of those tell the stories

Powell wants to focus on the subject role and importance when she highlighted. Though the head word of the subject construction (privilege) is a singular, the writer uses who not that, following the proximity principle, for those is the last item of the subject expression .

John Naughton from the same paper wrote:

What gets lost in the reality distortion field that surrounds these technology Moguls is that, in the end, they are fanatically ambitious, competitive Capitalists.

This complex compound sentence is found in the article " new-tech moguls: the modern robber barons ?" To control over length and ambiguity of this sentence, it is basically can be framed into: What.....is that, (), subject + verb,

However, this complexity does not prevent showing that this sentence is derived from another sentence. What is abnormal of this sentence structure is that, following 'what' with infinitive which not common as a cleft sentence. Perhaps, press linguistic style might have allowed Naughton to use such form. Anyhow, if it is not syntactically well-formed and may syntactically sound awkward, it is at least

acceptable and understood by readers.

By an observer editorial, an article "A great day for the modern American welfare state "was written in the current paper. This article contained this complex cleft sentence:

What this means among other things is that the United States has created a brand new middle-class entitlement

But this time, the sentence is well-formed, which in turn, generated from the following original sentence

This among other things means the United States has created a brand new middle-class entitlement

The emphasis lies on the subject, therefore, it is focused in the cleft sentence. The writer here follows the perfect syntactic form of the familiar style to convey the idea behind the item of the news.

The above were actually samples of British newspapers. Having such type of sentences, surely reflects people consent to read and understand such language, otherwise writers wouldn't imply these structures in their daily articles. However, it is time to move to another group of newspapers that belong to another society. This is to investigate their writings concerning structure of the cleft sentences.

It is better to start with one of the most popular newspaper in the United states, that is The New York Times. In the issue of the second of July, 2012, Michael D. Shear mentions in his article " Romney Campaign at odds with G.O.P. on Health Care 'tax' "two cleft sentences . The first is

It is a penalty that comes under the tax code for the 1 percent

This sentence simply derived from the sentence:

A penalty comes under the tax code for the 1 percent

But for the purpose of emphasis, it is clefted into two sentences, where the subject noun phrase ' a penalty' is focused. It is a typical cleft sentence where complexity and ambiguity are both absent.

The second cleft sentence in the same article is:

What we did works in Massachusetts, it was never meant to be a one-size-fits-all for the entire nation which might have been derived from the sentence

We did not mean in Massachusetts works to be a one-size-fits- all for the entire nation

Following the regular cleft sentence patterns save using anticipatory it in the second part of the cleft sentence, Shear wants to show importance of a particular sentence elements among others .Thus he uses this style for such a purpose .To the contrary of the verb tense (past) in the article, the writer uses simple present for the title .

The second American newspaper is The Washington Post. In the second of July, 2012, Chris Cilliza mentions in his article " On' fast and furious 'vote, congress affirms all the bad things people already think of them "two cleft sentences. The first is

What those members mean is that people are ready and willing to believe the worst about congress and its motives

The original sentence could be:

Those members mean that people are ready and willing to believe the worst about congress and its motives.

Again to reflect and emphasize the members' intention, Cilliza ends the cleft sentence with this part. Without clefting the original sentence, all constituents may have the same value and readers wouldn't realize that ' people are ready and willing to believe the worst about congress and its motives '

is what the writer wants to focus. After some lines, Cilliza returns to write another cleft sentence which is:

What is remarkable is that less than a year removed from such politically scarring experience.....

Here, Cilliza follows the same previous style. Therefore this cleft sentence may be derived from:

less than a year removed from such politically scarring experience is remarkable

The attributive adjective 'remarkable' which functions as subject complement for the nominal clause 'less than a year removed from such politically scarring experience' is introduced and the nominal clause is postponed to be emphasized as the most significant items in the sentence for such type of cleft sentence, the emphasis lies on the second part. Without this clefting readers may look equally to all the sentence elements.

In the sixth of July, 2012 a writer in a sports article entitled "Wimbledon : Andy Murray vs. Jo-Wilfried Tsonga" mentions this sentence in his sport article :

It is an ideal start for the Scotsman, who holds to claim an early 3-0 lead .

It seems that this sentence was generated from:

The Scotsman holds an ideal start to claim an early 3-0 lead.

The writer wants to focus the nominal object 'an ideal start'. It is like changing the sentence in the passive where the object importance is higher than of the subject. Since the speech is about 'The Scotsman', so the writer initiates the second part of the cleft sentence with 'who'. This is, of course, to adopt an acceptable and well-formed linguistic style.

USA Today newspaper is the last American newspaper to be taken as example. Several writers published articles in different topics. Each article implies more than one cleft sentence. Regardless of the number, one example only will be taken from each article.

In the third of July, 2012, Douglas Stanglin writes an article entitled "Miami Police chief raps 36 officers for off-duty speeding", In this article the following sentence is found :

What the Sentinel has done is a service to all police agencies

Here, Stanglin tries to exploits language flexibility when he derived the above cleft sentence from the original one :

The Sentinel has served to all police agencies.

Stanglin uses wh-cleft type to highlight the action verb by transferring the verb into a noun (service) replacing it in the second part of the sentence. Thus, he uses the present perfect to express the action which is a common tense used in press and media language .

The second writer, who is Micheal Winter published an article in the same date under the title "At least one dead in crash of c-130 battling S-D wildfire". In his article Winter mentions this sentence:

What caused the plane to crash is still unknown

Winter might have derived this sentence from two or three sentences like:

The cause of the plane crash is still unknown.

Unknown cause made the plane crash.

Still unknown the cause why the plane crashed.

Where one idea can be represented in different sentence structures. In other words, various sentences may give almost the same meaning, (Crystal, 1997: 63) Regardless of the original sentence

structure, the focus in all cases is on the real cause of plane crash. Thus it is put at the end of the sentence to be emphasized. The third writer, Andrea Mandell, mentions a cleft sentence in her article "Tom Cruise at 50: what's next for the star?". This sentence is:

Whatever my wife wants me to wear, I wear.

Indeed, it is an attempt from Mandell to juxtapose the last part of the original sentence (object) to the beginning as in:

I wear whatever my wife wants me to wear.

It also has cleft sentence conditions, where the original sentence is divided into two clauses, each with its own subject and verb. 'whatever' does not violate cleft sentence structure. It has double emphasis, for expressions like; whatever and whichever themselves express emphasis. In addition to this feature, using it in cleft sentences adds more emphasis, for it is possible to delete 'ever' without influence on the sentence meaning and structure (Mieres.2005 :3).

The fourth writer is Susan Page. In a different topic, she mentions in her article "Today co-host Ann Curry bids farewell", a cleft sentence. This sentence is

That's what makes me more emotional than anything.

This sentence which has the construction pattern:

That + be + wh-word + relative clause

Depends on the demonstrative 'that', to initiate the sentence with the most important element of the sentence. In the current sentence 'that' functions as a pronoun replacing an elliptical construction. Clefting the sentence by this way or by others as Reeve :1) claims " has the same propositional meaning as its simple sentence paraphrase, but typically makes the clefted xp prominent in some way ". Therefore readers know what is meant this 'that'.

The last example of cleft construction is from an article written by Robert Bianca. Under the title "A low-key debut for savannah alongside Matt on 'today' ", Bianca mentions this sentence:

It's not her fault that Curry was pushed out.

Here, Bianca uses the most common type of cleft sentences. It may be derived from either;
Curry was pushed out not because her fault.

Or;

Curry was not pushed out because of her fault.

Right, the two sentences have two different structures, but at they have the same meaning. Generally, neither the 'new' subject (Curry) nor the passive verb ' was pushed out ' is emphasized. The focus lies on the complement (not because her fault).

The above writers published in different fields; politics, economy, sports, entertainment, etc. Five writers in five various articles use this type of structure. This surely indicates that it is natural daily style. It is understood or at least acceptable by the majority of readers in this society.

2.3. Indian Newspapers

The last group of newspapers is Indian. Three Indian daily printed papers are going to be investigated. They were published in a convergent period, in particular, in the same month. The first paper is called The Hans India. In its issue of 27 June 2012, there are a lot of cleft sentences. For brevity, only some of them will be mentioned.

Under the title "Pranab Quits", Anita Saluja writes an article with two cleft sentences. The first is on page one :

It was only January 2009 that the charge of Finance Ministry was handed over to Muckerjee. It seems that this sentence is a mixture of two forms: 'It-type' and 'the only' type. However, the original sentence can be like:

The charge of Finance Ministry was handed over to Muckerjee in January 2009.

So, Saluja wants to focus on the adverbial, giving it more importance and initiate the sentence with. Later, in the complement of the same article, exactly on page four, Saluja mentions this sentence:

It was this quality of his that endeared him to media persons.

Since the action is in the past, so saluja transferred the original form which is:

His quality endeared him to media persons.

into a cleft sentence in past tense form, also, where the nominal subject 'His quality' is highlighted.

On page eight, S. madhusudhana Rao writes an article entitled "The rise of Brotherhood", where he mentions this sentence:

What kind of democracy the country will have and how it is run will be keenly watched by other Mideast countries

Rao wanted to make two linguistic processes at the same time; changing the sentence from active to passive and clefting it. However, the basic sentence could be:

Other Mideast countries will keenly watch kind of democracy the country will have and how it is run.

Rao wants to throw two birds in one stone. To change the sentence into passive means to show importance of the result of the action rather than the action itself, and to precede this part with 'what' cleft marker is to emphasize this particular element's significance.

Tushar Pandit writes on page eight an article entitled "Political turmoil on eve of Presidential poll". The following cleft sentence is mentioned in this article:

The only other candidate that the BJP may settle for as its prime ministerial Candidate is the 'Loh Purush' L.K. Advani

This type of cleft sentences 'the only', though it is not a main type, it is used and common among many press writer and also acceptable by readers. Here, Pandit initiates the cleft sentence with the long subject complement of the original sentence for emphasis which is:

Loh Purush L.K. Advani is other candidate that the BJP may settle for as its prime ministerial Candidate

There is actually, a large number of other cleft sentences in this newspaper by other Indian writers as V. gangadhar, but it is better to have another Indian paper.

The second paper is Deccan Chronicle. In vol.12, no.24, page 11, twentieth of June, 2012, Jame Atlas in his article 'Newddhists' seek balance' mentions this sentence:

What is affecting the world is the unhealthy state of mind-culture environment, and society.

Atlas wants to focus the subject (the unhealthy state of mind-culture Environment, and society) of the original sentence which is:

The unhealthy state of mind-culture, environment, and society is affecting the world.

Generally using the present continuous in the cleft sentence is not common, but it is very common in press language even if it describes past events and accidents.

Barnaby Chesterman writes in his sports article "Mario delivers telling blow" in the same issue,

on page fourteen these two sentences :

1-It is only his second goal in 11 international appearances and sent Italy to the quarter finals

2-What he said he said in English and I didn't understand it

In one article , Chesterman uses two main types of cleft sentences. This is, of course, to show importance of some sentence constituents rather than others. In the first, he emphasizes the subject ' his second goal' while in the second he emphasizes the object ' saying'. Though, the article's title is in present, the details are in the past (using past tense).

The last Indian paper is The Hindu, 27 of June, 2012. Among many examples of cleft sentences, only the following will be tackled .

Under the title "FDI proposal of Shriram Fin goes to CCEA " a special correspondent on page sixteen writes the coming sentence:

The only significant proposal by way of investment in flow was that of Haryana Based Zooropa Foods Private Limited .

Here, the writer emphasizes the subject complement of the original sentence:

Haryana Based Zooropa Foods Private Limited was the significant proposal by way of investment in flow .

R.K.Radhakrishnan on page twenty writes an article entitled "Tagore's birth anniversary celebrations conclude ". In this article, the writer mentions the following sentence :

What has really touched us is the genuine interest in , and affection for Tagore in Sri Lanka

Radhakrishnan wants to emphasize the subject (the genuine interest in, and affection for Tagore in Sri Lanka) of the original sentence which is:

The genuine interest in, and affection for Tagore in Sri Lanka has really touched us.

On page sixteen there is an article for unknown writer. The title is "Hyderabad support team behind Chaos at Nat west? ". In this article the following cleft sentence is found:

It was only on Friday when the bank staff realised the full scale of the crisis .

The emphasis here is on the adverb of time (on Friday) which has the subject complement of the original sentence. So , it is predictable that this sentence originally was :

The bank staff who realised the full scale of the crisis was on Friday .

The writer wants to show that time of action is more important than the action itself. Therefore, it is transferred to the beginning of the sentence in form of cleft sentence to draw the readers' attention .

Taking the above samples of newspapers which were written in English doesn't mean that this phenomenon is found only in English. Cleft sentence construction have been and still studying widely in many languages theoretically and practically; but for the purpose of the study, only those English language papers were chosen (Bouma and et.al.:3585).

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the foregoing discussion the following conclusions can be drawn :

1-Most writers could successfully use cleft sentences in their articles to show a prominent element in the sentence. This is, in fact, to call readers to pay much attention to that part which carries the main idea .

2-Some writers use such constructions to reveal a contrast between two concepts, ideas, thoughts, events etc. This invites their readers to evaluate and assess these two extremes.

3-In spite of the absence of phonetic aspects such as intonation and stress in written language, the writers replace them with some punctuation marks to reflect the cleft sentences aims.

4-Cleft sentences were found in all newspapers which belong to different countries. In other words, such constructions were found and used in those societies with different percentages.

5-Availability of these constructions in the press refers, undoubtedly, to reader's acceptability and understanding for them. Readers with their different linguistic levels know that there is a special message beyond adopting such patterns.

6-Using such syntactic structures in press language clarifies that such field uses all the grammatical constructions to express thoughts, report news, and show comments, regarding the type and nature of the article.

7- It is noticeable that all types of cleft sentences are used with different frequency. They are not restricted in a particular type of articles. To the contrary, they are found in all types such as politics, social life, sports, etc.

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