JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE STUDIES

Discoursal Functions of Minor Sentences in Selected Disney Children's Stories

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Abstract

This study is intended to investigate the discoursal functions of minor sentences in Disney children's stories. These sentences do not follow the regular clause structure patterns or the variants of those structures. Minor sentences are of two types: irregular sentences (henceforth IrrSs) and nonsentences (henceforth NonSs). The study aims at (i) identifying the discoursal functions of of IrrSs and NonSs in Disney stories, and (ii) investigating the most frequent discoursal functions of minor sentences in the selected data. Fulfilling the above aims, the study hypothesizes that the most discoursal functions of IrrSs and NonSs are used in Disney children's stories. It is also hypothesized that surprise and summoning are the most frequent functions of those minor sentences in Disney children's stories. The study examines the discoursal functions of irregular sentences and nonsentences in fifteen Disney children's stories. The data are analyzed according to Quirk et al.'s (1985) model. The results show that (15) discoursal functions appear through using IrrSs, while (41) discoursal functions appear through using NonSs. The results also show that surprise and summoning are the most frequent functions of minor sentences that represent (11.25%) and (8.76%) respectively of the total number of minor sentences. The study concludes that the most discoursal functions of IrrSs and NonSs are used in Disney children's stories. It is also

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concluded that surprise and summoning are the most frequent functions of minor sentences.

<u>**Keywords:**</u> Major sentence, Minor sentence, Irregular sentence, Nonsentence, Discoursal functions.

الوظائف الخطابية للجمل الثانوية في قصص دزني للأطفال مختارة

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<u>**الملخص**</u>

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى استقصاء الوظائف الخطابية للجمل الثانوية في قصص دزني للأطفال. لا تتبع هذه الجمل أنماط بنية الجملة القياسية أو متغيراتها المختلفة. تنقسم الجمل الثانوية الى نوعين: الجمل الغير قياسية و اللاجمل. تهدف الدراسة إلى (1) تحديد الوظائف الخطابية للجمل الغير قياسية و اللاجمل في قصص ديزني ، و (2) تحديد أكثر الوظائف الخطابية للجمل الثانوية شيوعًا في قصص أطفال ديزني. تحقيقًا للأهداف المذكورة أعلاه ، تفترض الدراسة أن معظم الوظائف الخطابية للجمل الغير قياسية و اللاجمل تستخدم في قصص أطفال ديزني. كما تفترض الدراسة ان المفاجأة والاستدعاء هي الوظائف الخطابية الأكثر شيوعًا للجمل الثانوية في قصص أطفال ديزني. تبحث الدراسة في استقصاء الوظائف الخطابية للجمل الغير قياسية و اللاجمل في خمسة عشر قصة أطفال من ديزني. تعتمد الدراسة نموذج كويرك وآخرون (1985) لتحليل البيانات المختارة. أظهرت النتائج أن (15) وظيفة خطابية ظهرت من خلال استخدام الجمل الغير قياسية ، بينما ظهرت (41) وظيفة خطابية من خلال استخدام اللاجمل. كما بينت النتائج أن المفاجأة والاستدعاء هما أكثر وظائف الجمل الثانوية شيوعًا والتي تمثل (٪11.25) و (٪8.76) على التوالي من إجمالي عدد الجمل الثانوية. استنتجت الدراسة أن معظم الوظائف الخطابية للجمل الغير قياسية و اللاجمل تُستخدم في قصص أطفال ديزني. خلصت الدراسة ايضا أن المفاجأة والاستدعاء هي الوظائف الخطابية الأكثر شيوعًا للجمل البسيطة في قصص أطفال ديزني.

الكلمات الدالة: الجمل الرئيسية ، الجمل الثانوية ، الجمل الغير قياسية ، اللاجمل ، الوظائف الخطابية.

1. Introduction

Several types of sentences in English grammar do not follow the regular clause structure patterns or the variants of those structures. Many linguists such as Bloomfield (1933), Quirk et al. (1985), Crystal & Davy (2013), and others studied such types of English sentences and used different terms for classifying them. Minor sentences are the terms most grammarians use to describe such sentences. Minor sentences are divided into two main types IrrSs and NonSs. IrrSs deviate from the regular clause structures in the order of the structure elements, lacking obligatory elements, or using subordinate clauses as independent sentences. NonSs are free-standing utterances that do not have clause structure and convey complete thoughts (Bryant & Aiken, 1962, p. 33; Greenbaum & Nelson, 2002, p. 14; Quirk et al., 1985, p. 838; Progovac, 2013, p. 597).

IrrSs and NonSs are used in various discourses to perform many functions. These functions are triggered either by linguistic or extra-linguistic context. The relationship between the structures and the discoursal functions of the minor sentences represents the relationship among three main branches of linguistics, namely, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. Quirk et al. (1985, p. 803-804) clarify the general associations between syntactic types and semantic classes of English sentences. The statement, the semantic class of the sentence that is used to convey information correlates with declarative, the syntactic type. Similarly, the following semantic classes: question (that is used to look for information on a certain point), directive (that is used to issue orders or instructions), and exclamation (that is used to express the extent of the speaker's impression of something) are associated with the following syntactic type of the sentence respectively: interrogative, imperative, and exclamative. Furthermore, the semantic classes of English sentences can make more refined pragmatic distinctions. Among other pragmatic distinctions, a statement can be used, for example, to express an assertion, an apology, or to make a prediction. The directive is used also to express a wide range of discoursal functions, for instance, but not exclusively it expresses a prohibition, a request, a warning, and an offer.

Despite the wide use of minor sentences in various linguistic contexts, the EFL learners and researchers often face a problem in identifying these forms because of their structures that are deviated from the standard forms they knew and studied before. The previous studies about such types of sentences deal mainly with the syntactic side and neglect the functional aspect. Therefore, this study aims to shed light on the structures and the discoursal functions of these two types of sentences in selected comics from Disney children's stories. The study questions are (i) What are the main discoursal functions of IrrSs and NonSs used in Disney children's stories? (ii) What are the most frequent discoursal functions of minor sentences used in Disney children's stories?

The researchers intend in this study to provide students and researchers with useful results that open the door to broader studies of the discoursal functions of these types of sentences in other genres of the English language.

2. Classification of English Sentence

Crystal & Davy (2013, p. 45) divide formally complete English sentences (incomplete sentences: the sentence in which the speaker never comes to the end of what he was about to say due to whatever reason, possibly interruption) into major and minor types. This division is based on whether they are formed in a regular or irregular pattern. Major sentences are regular while minor ones are irregular (Crystal, 2018, p. 228).

2.1 Major English Sentences

Major sentences are those that follow the regular patterns of clause structures in the major syntactic classes or derivatives of those forms. They are syntactically regular and identical to those found in the language's neutral sphere. Although perspectives differ on what defines a sentence as regular or irregular, the inclusion of both a subject and a finite-verb predicate in a complete sentence structure is the most commonly accepted criterion of a regular sentence (Greenbaum and Nelson, 2002, p. 14; Mala, 2000, p. 80, 2001, p. 24; Quirk et al., 1985, p. 838).

2.1.1 Discoursal Functions of Major English Sentences

Written and spoken language is used for many different purposes in different discourses. The major purposes of language are conveying or seeking information, instructing others to do something, or showing the impression by something. These purposes are the main discoursal functions of the sentence (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 803-804). Major sentences are classified into four primary syntactic types based on their form that usage is generally correlated to four classes of discourse functions.

(i) Declaratives: They are sentences in which the subject comes usually before the verb. This form of the sentence is generally correlated to statement-making, which is typically used to convey information, e.g.

(1) Simon bought a new house.

(Nelson, 2001, p. 25; Quirk et al., 1972, p. 386, 1985, p. 803-804; Quirk & Greenbaum, 1976, p. 191).

(ii) Interrogatives: They are sentences that have two formal structures: *yes-no* and *wh*-interrogatives. In *yes-no* interrogatives, the operator precedes the subject. In *wh*-interrogatives, the interrogative *wh*-element is placed initially. For example:

(2) Did Pauline give Tom a digital watch for his birthday?

(3) What did Pauline give Tom for his birthday?

Interrogatives are generally associated with questions used to look for information on a certain point (Nelson, 2001, p. 25-26; Quirk et al., 1972, p. 386, 1985, p. 803-804; Quirk & Greenbaum, 1976, p. 191).

(iii) Imperatives: They are sentences in which the verb has the base form and there is no overt grammatical subject. Imperatives are correlated primarily with directives that are used to issue orders or instructions (ibid).

(4) Release the handbrake.

(iv) Exclamatives: They are sentences in which *what* or *how* is placed initially, usually with subject-verb order. The exclamations are used to express the extent of the speaker's impression of something (Nelson, 2001, p. 25-26; Quirk et al., 1972, p. 386, 1985, p. 803-804; Quirk & Greenbaum, 1976, p. 191). For example:

(5) What a lovely garden you have!

Quirk et al. (1985, p. 804) state that statement, question, directive, and exclamation are a close semantic class of the sentence, but it is possible to make more refined distinctions. A statement can be used, for example, as an apology, or to make a prediction. For example:

(6) I'm sorry about the delay.

The directive is used also to express a wide range of discoursal functions, for instance, but not exclusively it expresses a prohibition or a request. For example:

(7) Don't touch.

These refined distinctions are pragmatic categories that show how semantic classes of the sentence are employed in actual utterances. When a speaker utters a sentence or sentences in a specific situation, s/he performs, in addition to conveying meaning, one or more of many acts, such as making statements, giving orders, apologizing, asking

questions, describing, explaining, thanking, etc. These actions are called illocutionary acts, whose intended effects are called illocutionary forces (Levinson, 1991, p. 236; Quirk et al.,1985, p. 804).

2.2 Minor English Sentence and Their Discoursal Functions

Crystal & Davy (2013, p. 49-50) define a minor sentence as any structure other than the major sentence structure, that has functional characteristics of a major sentence, particularly non-dependence and graphological or prosodic features sentence-ness. Quirk et al. (1985, p. 838-339) analyze minor structures in terms of basic regular clause elements and adopt this criterion to classify these irregularities into two types IrrSs and NonSs. The structures of IrrSs can be analyzed by comparing them with regular structures, while this is not possible with NonSs. According to their forms, these two types of minor sentences are subdivided into more types. Furthermore, Quirk et al. (1985, p. 839-853) clarify the illocutionary forces of each one of these structures.

2.2.1 Irregular English Sentence

IrrSs do not follow the regular clause structure patterns or the variants of those structures seen in the major syntactic classes. This type of sentence deviates from the regular clause structures in many ways; they have a different pattern such as structures with subject-verb inversion or with omitted obligatory elements they come also as independent subordinate (Greenbaum & Nelson, 2002, p. 14; Quirk et al., 1985, p. 838). In the following sections, the subtypes of IrrS are elaborated with their illocutionary forces.

(1) Sentences with Optative Subjunctive: The IrrS of this type is called formulaic subjunctive or optative subjunctive that survives in a few fairly fixed expressions, used to express a wish. The IrrSs are realized by the base form of the verb regardless of the number of subjects, plural or singular (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 155, 839; Fergusson & Manser, 2011). For example:

(8) God save the Queen!

(2) Irregular Wh-Questions: There are different irregular forms of wh-questions. Quirk et al. (1985, p. 839) and Mala (2000, p. 82) present many types of irregular *wh-*questions that are used generally in daily conversation, such as *what about*, *irregular why-question,* and *wh-word* plus *to-infinitive construction.* For example:

(9) What about following us in your car?

(3) Subordinate Clauses: Quirk et. al. (1985, p. 841-842) treat independent subordinate clauses as IrrSs. These subordinate clauses are used independently without main clauses to covey exclamation. There are several types of these constructions that are used to convey many discoursal functions such as approval, disapproval, regret, relief, wish, and surprise. For example:

(10) If only I'd listened to my parents!

(4) Adverbials as Directives: In English, there is a special use of adverbials that have discernible predicative power. These verbless adverbial particles that have a meaning of their own are used to give commands as directives. Such minor types of commands have implied verb of motion and are found in the language of the military, so they are quite forceful and presuppose immediate compliance. This type of IrrSs consist of adverbials without a noun phrase, adverbials with a noun phrase, or adverbials with *with-phrase.* For example:

(11) Off with your jacket!

(5) Aphoristic Sentences: According to Quirk et al. (1985, p. 843-844), there are certain types of IrrSs that are found in proverbs. These types have syntactic devices such as parallelism, parataxis, and multiple instances of inverted word order. English

proverbs are grouped according to similar syntactic structures that express different conditional relations. For example:

(12) Spare the rod, and spoil the child.

(6) Subject - Plus - Complement Construction: Quirk et al., (1985, p. 844, 996) deal with the constructions of this type which are verbless as irregular. They consist of either subject plus subject complement or just complement. Verbless clauses, in general, are syntactically compressed and may be also subjectless. They miss the form of the verb *be* which with the possible missing subject are recovered from the context. There are several verbless clauses of such constructions that are used to express logical relationships or to comment on the preceding clause (ibid, 1985, p. 844-845). For example:

(13) They are thick as thieves, and that is no mistake.

(7) Block Language: It is the language of newspaper headings, notices, titles, labels, and advertisements that is characterized by being reduced or compacted in order to convey a message economically (Aarts et al., 2014, p. 50). The block language with recognizable clause structures appears mainly in newspaper headings, personal letters, postcards, and dairies. For example:

(14) Weather marvellous.

(8) Abbreviated Sentences in Instructional Writing: Instructional texts include instructional labels on products, technical manuals, recipes, and consumer leaflets on assembling or using products. They are characterized mostly by simple surface structures such as imperative sentences which normally instruct, command, or warn the user of a given product. They have abbreviated structures with the frequent omission of certain elements. Articles as in newspaper headlines are often omitted (Massam & Roberge, 1989, p. 134, 135; Weir, 2018, p. 158). For example:

(15) Makes four servings, one cupful each.

(9) Abbreviated Sentences in Informal Conversation: In informal spoken English, the initial ellipsis occurs at the beginning of a turn or clause. The initial omitted words are characterized to be unstressed and have low information value. The omitted pronouns and auxiliaries are recoverable either from linguistic context, depending on initial words in the sentence, or from the situational context in case of ambiguity (Biber et al., 1999, p. 157-158, 1104; Quirk et al., 1985, p. 848, 895-896). They are either declarative or interrogative, for example:

(16) Know what I mean? (Do you is omitted).

(10) Abbreviated Sentences in Broadcast Commentaries: During fast action, extralinguistic limitations (events time and rhythm) force the commentator to use very brief utterances with a non-standard structure in order to keep up with the event. Many studies that deal with the syntactic structure of sports commentaries conclude that grammatically incomplete and deviated sentences are used in this genre (Augendre et al., 2018, p. 197; Greenbaum & Nelson, 2002, p. 219, 221). For example:

(17) Another batsman out.

(11) Elliptical Sentences in Dialogue: Clark & Krych (2004, p. 63) and Colman et al. (2008, p. 96) state that as mutual understanding between the two parties increases, dialogue contributions become shorter as referring terms become part of the common ground. As result, elliptical phrases can be used to establish this shared knowledge. The omitted words or phrases in a contribution can be inferred or extracted from previous contributions. These sentences can be analyzed through a reconstruction, based on preceding sentences. For example:

(18) A: I'm leaving.
    B: Why?

(12) Elliptical Sentences without Change of Speaker: The last type of IrrSs is found in a single contribution of the speaker or writer. Quirk et al. (1985, p. 849) state that this type appears in written form, especially in fiction and advertisements. By using ellipsis, the advertiser achieves many commercially desirable effects: to decrease the advertisement space where words cost money, and to avoid calling attention to aspects of the message that are not beneficial to the advertiser. In fictional description and narration, elliptical sentences are also common and appropriate (Greenbaum & Nelson, 2002, p. 185). For example:

(19) Cascade. Because you don't have time for spots.

2.2.2 Nonsentences

Progovac (2013, p. 597) defines NonSs as "free standing utterances, which are, or at least appear to be, smaller than a sentence". According to Bryant & Aiken (1962, p. 33), NonS is "[a] complete thought lacking formal subject and predicate". These independent units have no sentence structure and may have some grammar at the phrase level. (Aart et al., 2014, p. 272; Berry, 2012, p. 54; Nelson, 2001, p. 165). According to Stainton (2004, p. 283) subsentential expressions, such as nouns, noun phrases, prepositional phrases have fully propositional speech acts since the hearer can understand the proposition meant by the speaker. Quirk et al. (1985, p. 849) present four subtypes of NonSs in English:

(1) Simple Block Language: The second group of block language which includes (titles, headings, labels, notices, and advertisements) is simple and does not have recognizable clause structures. Instead, these types of block language consist of a noun or noun phrase or nominal clause in isolation and there is no need for verbs because they are understood from the context (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 845). They use abbreviated structures, especially words or phrases in a restricted communicative context (Crystal, 2018, p. 509). Wilson (2014, p. 79) argues that although these structures occur in isolation, they are generally unambiguous because their interpretations are conventionalized within a specific context of situation. For example:

(20) Danger: falling rocks

(2) Independent Phrases: The second type of NonSs includes independent noun, adjective, and prepositional phrases. They are used independently to express many discoursal functions such as (command, request, offer, invitation, conveying information, warning, prohibition, etc). For example

(21) The door!

The situational context is important to understand some of these directives, example (21) above has more than one meaning depending on its situation. It may mean *Shut the door*!, Open the door!, *Watch the door!*, or *Leave the door* (Aikhenvald, 2010, p. 280; Quirk et al, 1985, p. 850; Nuyts & Van Der Auwera, 2016, p. 162).

(3) Formulae: Formulaic utterances are fixed expressions that are conventionally associated with particular speech acts, such as apologizing, making requests, giving directions, complaining, and others. These expressions are taught first as units without an understanding of their internal structure (Crystal, 2018, p. 514; Richards & Schmidt, 2010, p. 229). Wray & Perkins (2000, p.1) argue that the formulae are "stored and retrieved whole from memory at the time of use, rather than being subject to generation or analysis by the language grammar". Formulae have many discoursal functions such as (greetings, thanks, warnings, congratulations, etc…). For example:

(22) Good morning.

(4) Interjections: Ameka (1992, p. 101) defines interjections as "those little words, or non-words, which can constitute utterances by themselves". They have exclamatory functions that express the speaker's emotion or attitude including delight, grief, surprise,

shock, disgust, dislike, approbation, etc., such as *ah, hey, oh, oops, ouch, sh, ugh, wow,* and others (Biber et al., 1999, p. 1083; Richards & Schmidt, 2010, p. 293; Sweet, 2014, p. 151).

3. Methodology

The methodology of this research presents a brief description of the data collection, its size, the model adopted, and the procedures of analysis. In addition, the researchers give their justifications for choosing the genre of Disney children's stories as data for this work.

3.1 Data Description

The data that the researchers select for analysis in the present study is a collection of children's stories produced by The Walt Disney Company. This company, commonly known as Disney, is an American multinational entertainment and media conglomerate that has a wide range of children's publications among other divisions. These divisions are dedicated to adult and children's entertainment, including broadcasting, streaming media, theme park resorts, and consumer products. From a different number of printed genres, the researchers choose Disney comics, which are comic books and strips featuring characters from the company's films and shorts.

3.2 Sampling and Data Collection

The researchers select fifteen Disney strips as a sample for the present study. The selected comic strips represent the most famous stories of Disney. These stories are *Beauty and the Beast, Brave, Cinderella, Frozen, Monster University, Mulan, Pinocchio, Pocahontas, Ratatouille, Sleeping Beauty, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Tangled, The Lion King, The Little Mermaid,* and *The Princess and the Frog.*

3.3 Why Disney Comics?

The researchers in the present study select publications from the Disney comics for several reasons: (i) the long history of this company, which extends for nearly a hundred years, and the fame gained throughout this time make it a reliable source for study, (ii) these years of working in children's media and literature have given it certainly accumulated experience in this field, (iii) the small number of previous studies that dealt with Disney's printed products makes it a rich linguistic material that needs more studies to explore its various aspects, (iv) comics represent an ideal model for this literary genre, through which events revolve in the form of exchanged dialogues between the characters of the story in a way that simulates the daily realistic dialogue, and finally (v) defining the discoursal functions of this type of structure often requires knowledge of the extra-linguistic context. Visual representation in the genre of comics helps the researchers a lot in understanding the context of the speech and thus determining its function within that context.

3.4 The Adopted Model

The researchers adopt the model of Quirk et al.'s *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* (hereafter CGEL), which is considered the most appropriate model for the current study for three reasons: (i) Quirk et al.'s (1985) CGEL deals with IrrSs and NonSs as minor sentences in more detail, by grouping them according to their structures, (ii) it associates the structure of each type and sub-type of IrrSs and NonSs with its discoursal function, which enables the researchers to analyze them on two levels: syntactic level on the one hand and semantic and pragmatic level in another hand, and (iii) because of its comprehension, it represents one of the main and famous references for researchers.

3.5 Procedures of the Analysis

In analyzing IrrSs and NonSs in the selected stories, the researchers follow three steps: (i) distinguishing the minor sentences in each story, (ii) identifying the type of

these minor sentences as IrrSs and NonSs, (iii) identifying the discoursal functions of each subtype of IrrSs and NonSs by analyzing the linguistic context or by using the attached images as an extra-linguistic context.

After completing the linguistic analysis by using the steps above, the researchers conduct the statistical analysis by determining the frequency, percentage, the most and the least frequent discoursal functions of IrrSs and NonSs.

4. Data Analysis and Results

In this section, the discoursal functions of all the subtypes of IrrSs and NonSs are discussed. Concerning IrrSs, the eight subtypes have a total of (15) discoursal functions. The discoursal function(s) of each subtype in the Disney stories are ranged from one to three functions as it is presented in table (1) below:

Table (1) Discoursal Functions of IrrSs in Disney Children's Stories

No.	Subtype of IrrS	Number of discoursal functions used	Percentage of discoursal functions used	Number of unused discoursal functions	Percentage of unused discoursal functions
1	Sentences with optative subjunctive	1	3.84%	0	0%
2	Irregular wh-questions	3	11.53%	2	7.69%
3	Subordinate clauses	2	7.69%	6	23.07%
4	Adverbials as directives	1	3.84%	0	0%
5	Subject - plus - complement construction	1	3.84%	3	11.53%
6	Abbreviated sentences in informal conversation	2	7.69%	0	0%
7	Elliptical sentences in dialogue	3	11.53%	0	0%
8	Elliptical sentences without change of speaker	2	7.69%	0	0%
Total		15	57.65%	11	42.29%
		26 (99.94%)			

Sentences with optative subjunctive have just one function. *Irregular wh-questions* have three functions. *Subordinate clauses* appear in two functions. Each *adverbials as directives* and *subject -plus- complement construction* has just one function. *Abbreviated sentences in informal conversation* occur in two functions. *Elliptical sentences in dialogue* have three functions. Finally, *elliptical sentences without change of speaker* occur in two functions. The total number of the unused discoursal functions of IrrSs is (11). See figure (1) below:
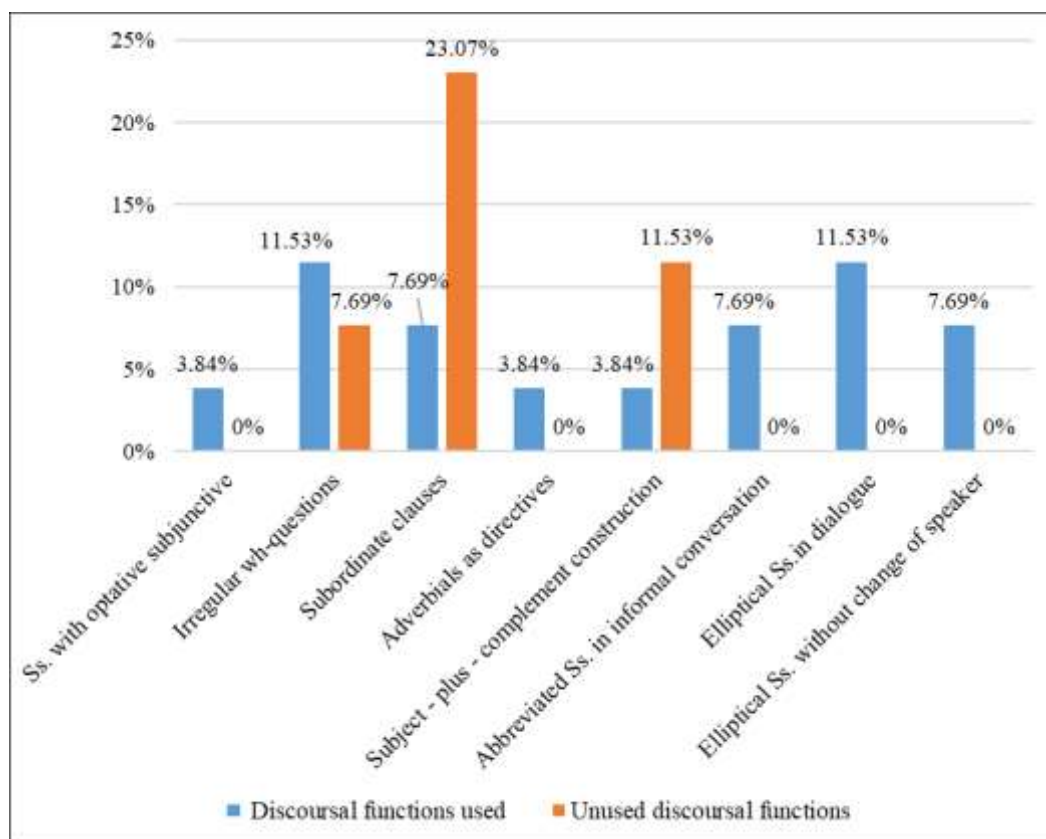
Figure (1) Rates of Discoursal Functions of IrrS
in Disney Children's Stories

Regarding NonSs, the total number of the discoursal functions of all the subtypes is (41). See table (2) below:

Table (2) Discoursal Functions of NonSs in Disney Children's Stories

No.	Subtype of NonS	Number of discoursal functions used	Percentage of discoursal functions used	Number of unused discoursal functions	Percentage of unused discoursal functions
1	Simple block language	1	1.63%	4	6.55%
2	Independent phrases	14	22.95%	3	4.91%
3	Formulae	16	26.22%	3	4.91%
4	Interjections	10	16.39%	10	16.39%
Total		41	67.19%	20	32.76%
		61 (99.95%)			

Each subtype of the four is used to perform many discoursal functions except for *simple block language* that has only one function. The subtype of *independent phrases* has (14) functions. The subtype of *formulae* has (16) functions. The last subtype is *interjections*, which has (10) functions. Twenty discoursal functions of NonSs are not used. See figure (2) below:
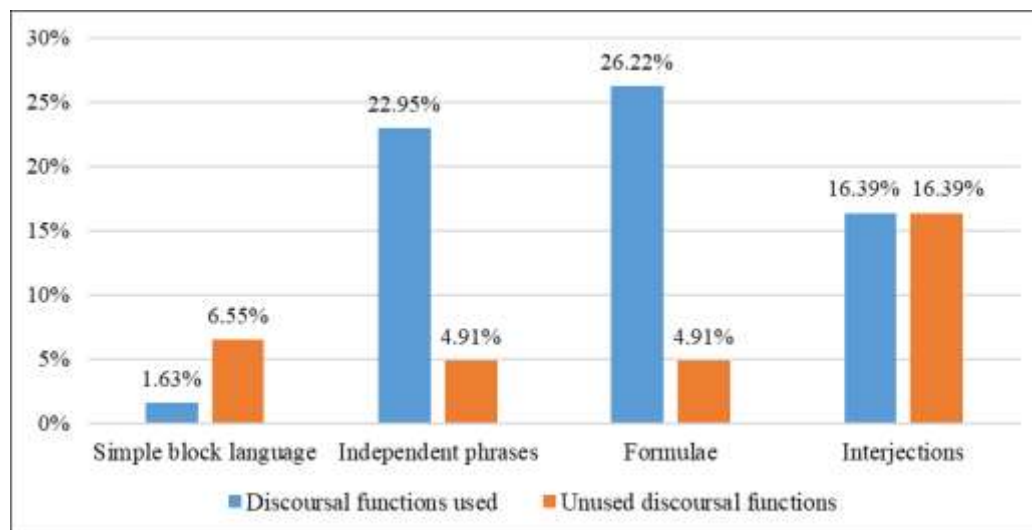

Figure (2) Rates of Discoursal Functions of NonSs in Disney Children's Stories

The summation of the discoursal functions of all the subtypes of IrrSs and NonSs, shows that there are (45) discoursal functions of all the minor sentences in the fifteen Disney stories. The occurrences of some functions are in varying proportions, while other functions share the same frequency rates.

Surprise is the most frequent one amounting to (113, 11.25%). Next *summoning* comes with (88) cases that represent (8.76%). *Statement* occupies the third rank of the frequency scale, this function appears (79) times with a percentage of (7.86%). *Disapproval* comes fourth that occurs (58) times with a percentage amounting to (5.77%). With a difference of one number, the discoursal functions of *responding to previous sentence* and *questioning previous sentence* come next amounting to (51, 5.07%) and (50, 4.98%) respectively. The discoursal functions of *apology* and *shock* on one hand and *command* and *thanks,* on the other hand come next in succession by sharing the same frequency rates, amounting to (47, 4.68%) and (43, 4.28%) respectively.

The following discoursal functions then occupy successive positions in the frequency scale with close occurrences rates: *approval* (35, 3.48%), *greeting* (32, 3.18%), *inquiry* (30, 2.98%), *warning* (27, 2.68%), *commenting on previous sentence* (25, 2.49%), *agreement* (24, 2.39%), *question* (21, 2.09%), *farewell* (18, 1.79%), *horror* (17, 1.69%), *joy* (14, 1.39%), and *introducing people to each other* (12, 1.19%). Then three discoursal functions share the same frequency rate (11, 1.09%) which are *alarm call*,

call for attention, and *great surprise*. *Expletive* comes next that occurs (10) times with a percentage of (0.99%).

The following discoursal functions come after that sequentially, the large part of them share the same ranks with identical frequency rates: *pain* and *wish* occur (9) times with a percentage of (0.89%); *conveying information*, *disagreement*, *emphasis*, and *request for silence* appear (7) times with a percentage of (0.69%); *congratulation* and *prohibition* recur (6) times with a percentage of (0.59%); *denial* occurs (5) times with a percentage of (0.49%); *alarm after a period of forgetfulness*, *introduction*, *rebuke*, *seasonal greeting*, and *suggestion,* all of them appear (3) times with a percentage of (0.29%).

In the pre-final rank, three functions share the same occurrence with a frequency rate amounting to (2, 0.19%) which are *anger*, *disgust*, and *reason question*, while three others come jointly at the bottom of the frequency scale with just one occurrence with a percentage of (0.09%), namely *offer*, *strong disapproval*, and *title.* Consider table (3) and figure (3) below:

Table (3) Frequency of Discoursal Functions of Minor Sentences
in Disney Children's Stories

No.	Discoursal Function	Frequency	Percentage
1	Surprise	113	11.25%
2	Summoning	88	8.76%
3	Statement	79	7.86%
4	Disapproval	58	5.77%
5	Responding to previous sentence	51	5.07%
6	Questioning previous sentence	50	4.98%
7	Apology	47	4.68%
8	Shock	47	4.68%
9	Command	43	4.28%
10	Thanks	43	4.28%
11	Approval	35	3.48%
12	Greeting	32	3.18%
13	Inquiry	30	2.98%
14	Warning	27	2.68%
15	Commenting on previous sentence	25	2.49%
16	Agreement	24	2.39%
17	Question	21	2.09%
18	Farewell	18	1.79%
19	Horror	17	1.69%
20	Joy	14	1.39%
21	Introducing people to each other	12	1.19%
22	Alarm call	11	1.09%
23	Call for attention	11	1.09%
24	Great surprise	11	1.09%
25	Expletive	10	0.99%
26	Pain	9	0.89%
27	Wish	9	0.89%
28	Conveying information	7	0.69%

29	Disagreement	7	0.69%
30	Emphasis	7	0.69%
31	Request for silence	7	0.69%
32	Congratulation	6	0.59%
33	Prohibition	6	0.59%
34	Denial	5	0.49%
35	Alarm after a period of forgetfulness	3	0.29%
36	Introduction	3	0.29%
37	Rebuke	3	0.29%
38	Seasonal greeting	3	0.29%
39	Suggestion	3	0.29%
40	Anger	2	0.19%
41	Disgust	2	0.19%
42	Reason question	2	0.19%
43	Offer	1	0.09%
44	Strong disapproval	1	0.09%
45	Title	1	0.09%
	Total	1004	99.72%

Figure (3) Rates of Discoursal Functions of Minor Sentences
in Disney Children's Stories
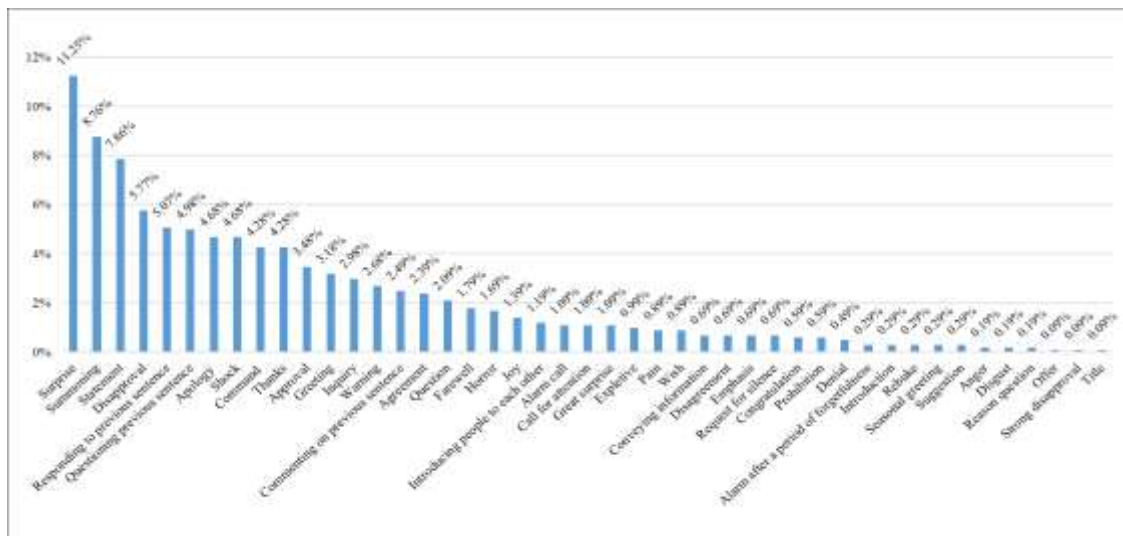
5. Conclusions

Minor sentences are commonly used in Disney comics for children, there are (1004) minor sentences in fifteen stories. The total number of discoursal functions of of IrrSs and NonSs without repetition is (45). Fifteen discoursal functions appear through using IrrSs, while eleven others do not appear. Forty-one discoursal functions appear through using NonSs, while twenty others do not appear, these results supports the first hypothesis of the study. *Surprise* and *summoning* are the most frequent functions of minor sentences that represent (11.25%) and (8.76%) respectively of the total number of minor sentences. This supports the second hypothesis of the study. Three functions are the least frequent in the Disney stories which are *offer, strong disapproval*, and *title*. Each of these functions appears once only.

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