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The Syntax of Verbal Clauses in Taufiq al-Hakim's Imraatun Ghalabat al-Syaithan: A Structural and Functional Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Background: Human communication, whether spoken or written, is fundamentally structured around clauses, with verbal clauses holding particular significance. This is equally true in literary works, where the complexities of verbal clauses given their varied types and functions are prominently displayed. Consequently, investigating these clauses is essential for a deeper comprehension of syntactic structures.

Aims: This study aims to identify the types of verbal clauses based on their internal structure and their position within sentences, and to determine their functions in the source text.

Methods: Employing a qualitative content analysis method, this research focuses on verbal clauses as the unit of analysis. The data source is the short story "Imraatun Ghalabat Al-Syaithan," from Taufiq Al-Hakim's anthology *Arinillah*. Data were collected through scrutinizing and note-taking techniques, and subsequently analyzed using translational and permutational methods.

Results: The analysis revealed two primary categorizations. Based on internal structure, both complete and incomplete clauses were identified. Based on syntactic position, verbal clauses were found that either hold a grammatical position (*al-jumlalu-lati laha mahallun minal-'irab*) or are syntactically independent (*al-jumlalu-lati la mahalla laha minal-'irab*). Functionally, the verbal clauses served to express renewal and occurrence (*li tajaddud wa huduts*), continuous renewal (*li tajaddud istimrariyah*), and permanence/stability (*li tsubut*).

Implications: This study underscores the critical role of syntactic units in shaping meaning and ensuring effective message delivery. A nuanced understanding of clauses and syntax is fundamental for achieving grammatically accurate and precise interpretation of sentences, both in literary analysis and broader linguistic study.

Keywords: *Imraatun ghalabat al-syaithan; functional analysis; structural analysis; syntax; Taufiq al-Hakim; verbal clause*

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1. INTRODUCTION

Language, whether spoken or written, is fundamentally constructed from sentences, which serve as the primary medium for conveying information, expressing intentions, and shaping meaning in human communication. This foundational principle is particularly evident in literary works, where characters and narratives are brought to life through sentential structures. A sentence is conventionally defined as the smallest grammatical unit capable of expressing a complete thought, composed of clauses, optional connecting particles, and final intonation (Royani, 2020; Supriyadi, 2014). Within the Arabic linguistic tradition, this corresponds to *kalām* or *jumlah mufīdah*, a construction that conveys complete and self-sufficient meaning (Suryani & Arummi, 2016). Clauses function as the building blocks of sentences, each representing specific events structured by dimensions of time, participants, causality, and perspective (Zwaan, 2024). This representational capacity renders clauses indispensable for both ordinary communication and literary expression.

In the practical analysis of Arabic syntax, researchers frequently encounter challenges in distinguishing between syntactic units, particularly clauses and phrases. These difficulties become more pronounced when examining literary texts, where syntactic structures exhibit considerable variation and stylistic richness (Susanto & Muhammad Samin, 2025). Among the specific challenges is the accurate identification and classification of verbal clauses, which often appear in incomplete forms, occupy diverse syntactic positions beyond the predicate role, and present particular difficulties for learners who perceive Arabic syntax as inherently complex (Alfalah & Sopian, 2024). Such challenges are especially salient in short stories, which rely extensively on verbal clauses to narrate events, depict actions, and advance narrative development.

From a theoretical perspective, clauses are predicative constructions that minimally require a subject (*musnad ilaih*) and a predicate (*musnad*), distinguishing them from phrases which are non-predicative and function as single syntactic units (Andini & Izzati, 2022; Nuroh & Syahid, 2023). In Arabic grammatical theory, clauses (*jumlah*) are traditionally divided into two primary categories: *jumlah ismiyah* (nominal clauses) and *jumlah fi'liyah* (verbal clauses), both classified as predicative constructions (*al-murakkab al-isnādī*) (Fajryanti Syu, 2023). A verbal clause is specifically defined as a clause whose predicate is a verb, whether realized as a single word or a verb phrase (Iduljanah et al., 2025). Functionally, verbal clauses are primarily associated with expressing actions and events occurring within specific temporal frameworks, conveying meanings of renewal and temporality (*tajaddud wa hudūth*) situated in past, present, or future domains (Nazhatina, 2023; Sulaikho et al., 2025). In contrast, nominal clauses generally express permanence (*thubūt*), denoting states or qualities that persist rather than events that unfold.

1.2 Research Gap and Novelty

Several studies over the past five years have examined verbal clauses in Arabic literary texts from various theoretical perspectives. Fadhillah (2025) analyzed verbal clauses in the short story *Al-Ḥilm ar-Rā'ī* by Najeeb Al-Kailani from a syntactic perspective, identifying patterns of clausal distribution. Syu'ur and Fitriani (2023) investigated verbal clauses in the novel *Walana Fī al-Ḥalālī Liqā'un* employing Kenneth L. Pike's tagmemic framework, examining clauses based on role, slot, class, and cohesion. Verawati (2024) conducted an analysis of nominal sentence structures in Arabic, examining patterns, functions, and grammatical variations. While these studies have significantly advanced understanding of the formal characteristics of verbal clauses, they have tended to focus on single analytical dimensions, predominantly structural categorization from specific

theoretical perspectives. Consequently, comprehensive analyses that simultaneously examine the internal structure of verbal clauses, their syntactic positioning within larger constructions, and their functional-semantic dimensions remain limited. Moreover, little systematic attention has been directed toward understanding how verbal clauses operate positionally within broader clausal constructions, particularly when functioning as predicates within nominal sentences where their semantic value may shift from expressing renewal to suggesting permanence.

The present study addresses this research gap by offering a multidimensional syntactic analysis of verbal clauses (*jumlah fi'liyah*) in the short story "Imra'atun Ghalabat al-Shayṭān" by Taufiq al-Hakim, an influential work of modern Arabic literature renowned for its syntactic sophistication and thematic depth. This research is methodologically novel in its integration of three analytical dimensions within a unified framework: (1) the internal structure of verbal clauses, distinguishing between complete and incomplete manifestations; (2) their positional behavior within sentence structures, examining both syntactically dependent and independent occurrences; and (3) their functional-semantic roles, including the expression of temporality, renewal, and permanence. By employing the element transfer (permutation) technique as an analytical tool, this study systematically reexamines the syntactic behavior of verbal clauses while simultaneously illuminating their semantic flexibility. The analysis demonstrates that under specific syntactic configurations particularly when embedded within nominal clause constructions verbal clauses may encode meanings of permanence, thereby complicating and enriching our understanding of Arabic clausal semantics.

The significance of this research extends across theoretical, pedagogical, and literary domains. For theoretical linguistics, particularly Arabic syntax, the study contributes to a more nuanced understanding of clausal behavior by demonstrating the interaction between structural position and semantic interpretation. For pedagogical applications, the findings offer resources for Arabic language instruction, particularly in helping learners navigate the complexities of clausal analysis. For literary analysis, the study provides a model for integrating syntactic investigation with interpretive reading, revealing how grammatical structures contribute to the construction of narrative meaning. A thorough understanding of clauses and other syntactic units ultimately serves to guide readers and analysts toward correct and grammatically accurate interpretation of sentences (Hasan, 2019), and by advancing this understanding through rigorous syntactic analysis, the present study aims to make a meaningful contribution to Arabic linguistic scholarship and to the broader enterprise of understanding how language structures meaning.

1.3 Research Question

Based on the theoretical framework and research gap outlined above, this study is guided by the following research questions:

1. How are verbal clauses categorized based on their internal structural completeness, specifically, complete and incomplete forms in the short story *Imra'atun Ghalabat al-Shayṭān* by Taufiq al-Hakim?
2. How are verbal clauses classified according to their syntactic position within sentence structures distinguishing between those that occupy a grammatical position (*al-jumlātu-lati laha mahallun minal-i'rāb*) and those that are syntactically independent (*al-jumlātu-lati la mahalla laha minal-i'rāb*) in the aforementioned short story?
3. What are the functions of verbal clauses in the short story *Imra'atun Ghalabat al-Syaithan* by Taufiq al-Hakim?

2. METHODS

2.1 Research Design

This study used a content analysis method. Content analysis is a qualitative research method used to identify, classify, and interpret the meaning contained in data in the form of text, discourse, or documents in a systematic and objective manner. Content analysis focuses on the content of a message contained in a text by describing the elements of language based on certain categories or criteria that have been determined in advance (Rohanda, 2016). In linguistic research, content analysis is used to examine the form, structure, and function of linguistic elements that appear in written or spoken texts. The data is analyzed not to test statistical hypotheses, but to understand patterns of language use and the meanings they produce. Therefore, content analysis is particularly well suited to syntactic research because it allows researchers to examine linguistic units such as phrases, clauses, and sentences in depth and in context.

2.2 Research Object

The data in this study are clauses included in the verbal clauses. The data source in this study is the short story "*Imraatun Ghalabat al-Syaithan*" by Taufiq al-Hakim, which is included in the short story anthology "*Arinillah*" (Show me Allah), published in 1953.

2.3 Research Procedures

The data collection technique used in this study was scruntinizing and note-taking. Scruntinizing is a method of data collection that involves observing language use, not only spoken language but also written language. Meanwhile, the note-taking technique is a companion to the scruntinizing technique, which is carried out by taking note data relevant to the research from the written use of language (Mahsun, 2005). The researchers collected data by scruntinizing to the use of language in the short story, and then taking note all verbal clauses in the short story and then analyze to classify them based on their internal structure, position in the sentence, and function of verbal clause.

2.4 Research Instruments

The research instrument in this study takes the form of a set of linguistic analysis guidelines designed to guide the process of data collection, identification, and classification of all verbal clauses found in short story texts. Because this study focuses on syntactic aspects, the instruments used are not questionnaires or scales, but rather a set of analytical tools that systematically organize data processing steps in the form of verbal clause analysis sheets consisting of analysis tables and final result recapitulation tables. These guidelines are implemented through verbal clause analysis sheets that include clearly defined categories such as verbal clause based on their internal structure, based on their position in sentence, and based on function of verbal clause.

Table 1 Identification of Verbal Clause Type and Function

Arabic Verbal clause	Indonesian translation	Type of verbal clause based on their internal structure	Syntactic funtion	Type of verbal clauses based on their position in the sentence structure	Function of verbal clause
-	-	-	-	-	-

2.5 Data Analysis

The data analysis techniques employed in this study consist of translational techniques and element transfer or permutation techniques, both of which are applied to support syntactic analysis. The translational technique is used as a comparative analytical tool to clarify the syntactic function and structural realization of verbal clauses by examining their equivalents across languages. Specifically, the Arabic short story *Imraatun Ghalabat al-Syaithan* by Taufiq al-Hakim is compared with its Indonesian translation to identify correspondences and divergences in clause structure, verbal predicates, and grammatical relations between the source and target languages. This comparison helps reveal how verbal clauses are syntactically constructed and interpreted in Arabic. Meanwhile, the element transfer/permutation technique is a way of analyzing language data by moving the position of language elements in a structure (e.g., a sentence or clause) to see whether the change in position affects the meaning or grammar (Mahsun, 2005). The researcher changed the position of the elements in the clause to determine whether the clause was a verbal clause or not, because verbal clauses in Arabic are determined by the order of the subject and predicate. Moving these elements can help researchers determine verbal clauses.

3 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Findings

In the research results, the researcher describes verbal clause data based on (1) its internal structure, which minimally consists of a subject and predicate and has the potential to become a sentence, 2) based on its position in the sentence structure, (3) based on the function of *jumlah fi'liyah*.

Table 2 Classification of Verbal Clauses Based on Internal Structure

Clause Type	Structure Pattern	Arabic Text	Grammatical Function	Part of Speech	Translation
Complete Clauses	Subject + Predicate	الشَّيْطَانُ صَاحَ	Subject (<i>Musnad Ilaih</i>) + Predicate (<i>Musnad</i>)	Noun (<i>Ism</i>) + Verb (<i>Fi'l</i>)	<i>The devil screams</i>
	Subject + Predicate + Object	رَجُلٌ لَّنْ يَصْمُ حَصْرَهَا	Subject (<i>Musnad Ilaih</i>) + Predicate (<i>Musnad</i>) + Object (<i>Ma'ūl Bih</i>)	Noun (<i>Ism</i>) + Future Negative Particle (<i>Tagyīm</i>) + Noun Phrase (<i>Tarkīb Idāfī</i>)	<i>No man will ever hold her waist</i>

Clause Type	Structure Pattern	Arabic Text	Grammatical Function	Part of Speech	Translation
	Subject + Predicate + Object + Modifier	الشَّيْطَانُ مَسَّ جَسَدَ الْمَرْأَةِ بِيَدِهِ	Subject (Musnad Ilaih) + Predicate (Musnad) + Object (Maf'ūl Bih) + Modifier	Noun (Ism) + Verb (Fi'l) + Noun Phrase (Tarkīb Idāfī) + Prepositional Phrase (Sharf wa Jarr)	The devil touched the woman's body with his hand
	Subject + Predicate + Modifier	الْمَرْأَةُ تَوَسَّلَتْ قَائِلَةً	Subject (Musnad Ilaih) + Predicate (Musnad) + Modifier (Hāl)	Noun (Ism) + Verb (Fi'l) + Adverb (Hāl)	The woman begged, saying
Incomplete Clauses	(Subject) + Predicate	انْتَفَضَتْ	(Subject/Musnad Ilaih) + Predicate (Musnad)	Verb (Fi'l)	(She) rebelled
	(Subject) + Predicate + Object	تَرَكَ الْمَرْأَةَ	(Subject/Musnad Ilaih) + Predicate (Musnad) + Object (Maf'ūl Bih)	Verb (Fi'l) + Noun (Ism)	(He) left the woman
	(Subject) + Predicate + Object + Modifier	تَقَدَّمَ نَحْوَ الْمَرْأَةِ قَائِلًا	(Subject/Musnad Ilaih) + Predicate (Musnad) + Object (Maf'ūl Bih) + Modifier (Hāl)	Verb (Fi'l) + Noun Phrase (Tarkīb Idāfī) + Adverb (Hāl)	(He) approached the woman while talking
	(Subject) + Predicate + Modifier	فَلْتَذْهَبِي إِلَى الْجَحِيمِ	(Subject/Musnad Ilaih) + Predicate (Musnad) + Modifier (Maf'ūl Fih)	Verb (Fi'l) + Prepositional Phrase	Go (you) to hell

Clause Type	Structure Pattern	Arabic Text	Grammatical Function	Part of Speech	Translation
				(Sharf wa Jarr)	

Table 2 presents the classification of verbal clauses based on their internal structural completeness, yielding two distinct categories. Complete clauses, which explicitly realize all core syntactic elements, appear in four patterns: Subject-Predicate, Subject-Predicate-Object, Subject-Predicate-Object-Modifier, and Subject-Predicate-Modifier. The most structurally elaborate among these is *al-shayṭānu massa jasadal-mar'ati biyadih* (the devil touched the woman's body with his hand), which exemplifies the full S+P+O+M pattern. Incomplete clauses, conversely, exhibit four corresponding patterns distinguished by subject omission, where the implicit agent is recoverable from verb morphology and discourse continuity, as in *intaḥadāt* (she rebelled) and *taraka al-mar'ata* (he left the woman). This dichotomy between explicit and implicit subject realization reflects the syntactic economy of Arabic narrative discourse, wherein agent continuity permits subject ellipsis without compromising semantic clarity, while complete clauses provide explicit encoding of participants and circumstances when required for narrative precision or emphasis.

Table 3 Classification of Verbal Clauses Based on Position in Sentence Structure

Position Category	Subcategory	Arabic Text	Grammatical Function	I'rab (Case/Grammatical Status)	Translation
Clauses With Grammatical Position (<i>Al-Jumlatul-Lati Laha Mahallun Minal-I'rāb</i>)					
	1. Predicate Position (<i>Khabar</i>)	تَحْنُ لَا تَنْظُرُ فِي صُكُوكِ	Subject (<i>Musnad Ilaih</i>) + Predicate (<i>Musnad</i>) + Object (<i>Maf'ul Bih</i>)	<i>Rafa'</i> (Mubtada') + <i>Rafa'</i> (<i>Khabar</i>) + <i>Nashab</i> (<i>Maf'ul Bih</i>)	<i>We don't look at documents</i>
	2. Adverbial Circumstantial Position (<i>Hāl</i>)	جَاءَ الشَّيْطَانُ يُظَالِ بِ يَوْقَاءِ الْعَهْدِ	Predicate (<i>Musnad</i>) + Subject (<i>Musnad Ilaih</i>) + Modifier (<i>Hāl</i>)	<i>Fi'l</i> + <i>Rafa'</i> (<i>Fā'il</i>) + <i>Nashab</i> (<i>Hāl</i>)	<i>The devil came demanding fulfillment of the agreement</i>
	3. Adjectival Position (<i>Shifah/Na't</i>)	شَفَّتَاهَا لَمْ تَعْرِفْ عَيْرَ	Subject (<i>Musnad Ilaih</i>) + Predicate	<i>Rafa'</i> (<i>Fā'il</i>) + <i>Fi'l</i> + <i>Nashab</i> (<i>His lips did not say</i>

Position Category	Subcategory	Arabic Text	Grammatical Function	I'rab (Case/Grammatical Status)	Translation
		الصَّلَاةِ تِ لِسَمَاءٍ لَا تَسْمَعُ	(Musnad) + Object (Maf'ul Bih) + Modifier (Shifah)	Maf'ul Bih) + Jar (Shifah)	anything but prayers to the sky which does not hear
	4. Object Position (Maf'ul Bih)	أَرَادَتْ الْمَرْأَةُ أَنْ تَدْخُلَ خَلْفَهُ	Predicate (Musnad) + Subject (Musnad Ilaih) + Object (Maf'ul Bih) + Modifier (Maf'ul Fih)	Fi'l + Rafa' (Fā'il) + Nashab (Maf'ul Bih) + Manshub (Maf' ul Fih)	The woman wanted to enter behind him
	5. Genitive/Annexed Position (Mudhāf Ilaih)	خَدَعْتَنِي يَوْمَ سَمَّتِ الْفَضِيلَةَ مُنْعَةً	Predicate (Musnad) + Object (Maf'ul Bih) + Modifier (Maf'ul Fih) + Subject (Musnad Ilaih) + Object (Maf'ul Bih) + Modifier (Tamyiz)	Fi'l + Nashab (Ma f'ul Bih) + Nashab (Maf'ul Fih) + Jar (Mudhāf Ilaih) + Nashab (Maf'ul Bih) + Nashab (Tamyī z)	He deceived me on the day he called virtue a pleasure
	6. Following Element (Tābi')	إِذَا الْجُدْرَانُ تَنَشَّقُ وَيَظْهَرُ لَهَا الشَّيْطَانُ	Modifier + Subject (Musnad Ilaih) + Predicate (Musnad) + Predicate (Musnad Ilaih) + Modifier + Subject (Musnad Ilaih)	*- * + Rafa' (Mubta da') + Rafa' (Mubtada) + Rafa' (Na't) + *- * + Rafa' (Fā'il)	Suddenly the walls split open and the devil appeared to them

Position Category	Subcategory	Arabic Text	Grammatical Function	I'rab (Case/Grammatical Status)	Translation
Clauses Without Grammatical Position (<i>Al-Jumlatul-Lati La Mahalla Laha Minal-I'rab</i>)					
	1. Independent Resumptive Clause (<i>Isti'nāfiyah</i>)	وَأَطْرَقَتْ فِي شِبْهِ غَيْبُوتَةٍ	Predicate (<i>Musnad</i>) + Modifier (<i>Hāl</i>)	-	He bowed his head in a state of semi-coma
	2. Relative Clause (<i>Shilat al-Maushūl</i>)	خُذِ الثَّمَنَ الَّذِي تُرِيدُ	Predicate (<i>Musnad</i>) + Object (<i>Maf'ūl Bih</i>) + Relative Pronoun + Predicate (<i>Musnad</i>) + Object (<i>Maf'ūl Bih</i>)	- + - + Isim Maushūl + <i>Shilat al-Maushūl</i> + -	Take the price that you want
	3. Conditional Response Clause (<i>Jawāb li Syarth Ghair Jāzim</i>)	لَوْ تَنَكَّرْتَ لَكَ السَّاعَةَ وَتَنَصَّرَ لَتَ لَدَفَعْنَا بِهَا إِلَيْكَ	Conditional Clause + Response Clause	Jumlah Syarth Ghair Jāzim + Jumlah Jawāb li Syarth Ghair Jāzim	If that time had come to you and passed, We would have brought it to you
	4. Following Element (<i>Tābi'</i>)	ذَهَبَتْ وَأَدَّتْ فَرَائِضَ الْحَجِّ	Modified Element (<i>Man'ūt 'Alaih</i>) + Following Adjective (<i>Na't</i>)	- + -	He went and performed the Hajj rituals

Position Category	Subcategory	Arabic Text	Grammatical Function	I'rab (Case/Grammatical Status)	Translation
	5. Explicatory Clause (<i>Tafsīriyah</i>)	إِنَّهَا جَرِيْمَةٌ أَنَّ أَنْكُصَ عَنْ الْوَقَاءِ	Main Clause + Explicatory Clause	- + -	<i>It is a crime to retreat from a promise</i>

As presented in Table 3, verbal clauses in the short story exhibit a fundamental dichotomy based on their syntactic positioning: those that hold a grammatical case position (*al-jumlatul-lati laha mahallun minal-i'rāb*) and those that are syntactically unpositioned (*al-jumlatul-lati la mahalla laha minal-i'rāb*). The first category includes verbal clauses functioning as predicates (*khobar*), circumstantial adverbials (*hāl*), adjectives (*shifah*), direct objects (*maf'ūl bih*), genitive complements (*mudhāf ilaih*), and following elements (*tābi'*). The second category comprises independent resumptive clauses (*isti'nāfiyah*), relative clauses (*shilat al-maushūl*), conditional response clauses (*jawāb li syarth ghair jāzim*), following adjectival elements (*na't*), and explicatory clauses (*tafsīriyah*). This classification underscores the capacity of verbal clauses to assume diverse syntactic roles while maintaining their core predicative nature, thereby contributing to the structural richness and semantic complexity of the narrative discourse.

Table 4 Semantic Functions of Verbal Clauses

Function	Arabic Text	Semantic Interpretation
<i>Li Tajaddud wa Ḥudūth</i> (Renewal and Temporality)	دَبَّ الدُّعْرُ فِي قُلُوبِ الزَّبَانِيَةِ	Expresses a specific event occurring at a particular moment
<i>Li Tajaddud Istimrāriyah</i> (Continuous Renewal)	أَسْعَى لِجَمْعِ الْأَرْوَاحِ أَعْمَرُ بِهَا	Expresses an ongoing or repetitive action
<i>Li Thubūt</i> (Permanence)	وَالشَّيْطَانُ لَا يَصُمُّ أُذُنَيْهِ عَنِ الدُّعَاءِ	Expresses a permanent state or characteristic

Table 4 presents the three semantic functions fulfilled by verbal clauses in the short story, which collectively demonstrate the temporal and aspectual flexibility of Arabic verbal structures. The function of *li tajaddud wa ḥudūth* (renewal and temporality) captures discrete events occurring at specific moments, as illustrated by *dabba al-dhur'u fī qulūbi al-zabāniyah* (terror crept into the hearts of the guardians of hell), which denotes a punctual action situated in past time. The function of *li tajaddud istimrāriyah* (continuous renewal) conveys ongoing or repetitive actions, exemplified by *as'ā lijām'i al-arwāhi a'mmiru bihā* (I strive to gather souls with which to populate), which emphasizes durative aspect and iterative process. The function of *li*

phrase). This pattern demonstrates how complete clauses can accommodate multiple complementary elements while maintaining explicit core constituents. The S+P+M pattern, illustrated by *فَتَوَسَّلَتِ الْمَرْأَةُ قَائِلَةً* (then the woman begged, saying), features intransitive verbs that do not require objects. Here, *فَتَوَسَّلَتِ* functions as the predicate (intransitive verb), *الْمَرْأَةُ* as the subject, and *قَائِلَةً* as a circumstantial adverbial (*ḥāl*) modifying the subject's state. This pattern demonstrates that complete clauses may include modifiers even in the absence of objects.

In contrast, incomplete verbal clauses are characterized by the presence of an implicit subject that is not explicitly mentioned, typically for reasons of syntactic effectiveness and discourse economy (Nasarudin et al., 2024). Subject omission occurs when the agent is already understood from previous discourse or is recoverable from verb morphology. The analysis identified 65 incomplete verbal clauses, manifesting in four patterns corresponding to their complete counterparts but distinguished by subject ellipsis. The (S)+P pattern, exemplified by *فَانْتَفَضَتْ* (then she rebelled), contains a predicate that incorporates the subject through verb morphology. The verb *انْتَفَضَتْ* includes the feminine suffix *تْ* (*tā' al-ta'nīth*), which marks the presence of an implicit third-person feminine singular pronoun (*dhamīr mustatir taqdīruhu hiya*). The subject is not explicitly mentioned for effectiveness, as it is already understood from context. The (S)+P+O pattern, illustrated by *تَرَكَ الْمَرْأَةَ* (he left the woman), features a transitive verb containing an implicit subject. The verb *تَرَكَ* incorporates a third-person masculine singular pronoun (*dhamīr mustatir taqdīruhu huwa*), while *الْمَرْأَةَ* functions as the explicit object. The subject's identity (the devil) is recoverable from narrative context, rendering explicit mention unnecessary.

The (S)+P+O+M pattern, exemplified by *تَقَدَّمَ نَحْوَ الْمَرْأَةِ قَائِلًا* (he approached the woman while talking), demonstrates the most elaborate incomplete structure. The verb *تَقَدَّمَ* contains an implicit subject (*huwa*), *نَحْوَ الْمَرْأَةِ* functions as the object (noun phrase), and *قَائِلًا* serves as a circumstantial adverbial (*ḥāl*) modifying the subject's state. All three non-subject elements are explicitly realized while the subject remains implicit. The (S)+P+M pattern, illustrated by *اَلتَّذَهَبِي إِلَى الْجَحِيمِ* (go to hell), features an imperative verb containing an implicit second-person subject. The verb *اَلتَّذَهَبِي* (*fi'l amr*) incorporates the subject *أَنْتَ* (you masculine), while *إِلَى الْجَحِيمِ* functions as a place modifier (prepositional phrase). The intransitive verb requires no object, resulting in a predicate-modifier structure with implicit subject. The predominance of incomplete clauses (65 instances) compared to complete clauses (35 instances) reflects the narrative nature of the short story, wherein subject continuity across successive clauses permits efficient ellipsis without compromising clarity. This structural economy enables fluid narration while maintaining grammatical coherence.

Verbal Clauses Based on Position in Sentence Structure

The positional analysis of verbal clauses reveals a fundamental binary classification based on their syntactic relationship with surrounding sentence elements. This framework, derived from traditional Arabic grammatical theory, distinguishes between clauses that occupy grammatical positions (*al-jumlātu-lati laha mahallun minal-i'rāb*) and clauses that are syntactically independent (*al-jumlātu-lati la mahalla laha minal-i'rāb*). The fundamental distinction lies in substitutability: clauses with grammatical positions can be replaced by singular forms (*mufrad*) or interpreted as having specific case markings (*i'rāb—raf'*, *naṣb*, *jarr*, or *jazm*), whereas clauses without grammatical positions stand alone without such substitutability (Al-Ghalayani, 2009; Abdurahman, 2017). The analysis identified 70 verbal clauses, distributed as 27 clauses with grammatical position and 43 clauses without grammatical position, reflecting the narrative discourse structure of the short story.

Verbal Clauses That Have a Position in Sentence Structure (Al-Jumlatu-Lati Laha Mahallun Minal-I'rāb)

Al-Ghalayani (2009) divides clauses that have a position in sentence structure into seven types, six of which were identified in the analysis of this short story, totaling 27 verbal clauses. The position of these clauses can be replaced with a singular form or non-clausal construction, and they carry specific i'rāb cases influenced by preceding grammatical operators ('āmil) (Abdurahman, 2017).

The most frequently occurring positional type, al-jumlatul-wāqi'atu khabaran (clauses functioning as predicates), appears in 14 instances. These clauses function as khabar in various predicative contexts, including khabar muftada' (predicate of a subject), khabar kāna (predicate of kāna and its sisters), and khabar inna (predicate of inna and its sisters). The construction نَحْنُ لَا نَنْظُرُ فِي صُكُوكِ (we do not look at documents) exemplifies this type. This clause consists of subject (musnad ilaih), predicate (musnad), and object (maf'ūl bih) functions. نَحْنُ is the subject in the form of an independent pronoun (ism dhamīr munfaṣil), carrying raf' case as muftada'. لَا نَنْظُرُ is a verbal clause occupying the position of khabar muftada' with raf' case. The verb نَنْظُرُ is transitive (fi'l muta'addī), requiring the object فِي صُكُوكِ, which is a prepositional phrase (syibhul jumlah) functioning as maf'ūl bih.

The second type, al-jumlatul-wāqi'atu ḥālan (clauses functioning as circumstantial modifiers), appears in four instances. According to Ni'mah, clauses occupying the ḥāl function must follow a definite noun (ism ma'rifah) serving as the sāhib al-ḥāl (subject of the circumstantial state) (Suryani & Arummi, 2016). The clause وَجَاءَ الشَّيْطَانُ يُطَالِبُ بِوَفَاءِ الْعَهْدِ (and the devil came demanding fulfillment of the agreement) illustrates this function. This sentence is a verbal clause (jumlah fi'liyah) consisting of subject, predicate, and modifier functions. The predicate is جَاءَ (intransitive verb/fi'l lāzim), while الشَّيْطَانُ is the subject (fā'il) with raf' case. The verbal clause يُطَالِبُ بِوَفَاءِ الْعَهْدِ comprises a predicate (يُطَالِبُ, transitive verb) and object (بِوَفَاءِ الْعَهْدِ). This verbal clause functions as ḥāl because it explains the state of the predicate and carries naṣb case. It becomes a circumstantial modifier as it occurs after the definite noun الشَّيْطَانُ, describing the devil's condition upon arrival—namely, that he came demanding fulfillment of the agreement.

The third type, al-jumlatul-wāqi'atu ṣifatan (clauses functioning as adjectives), appears in three instances. Clauses occupying the adjectival function must follow an indefinite noun (ism nakirah) serving as the modified element (mawṣūf). The construction وَلَمْ تَعْرِفْ شَفَقَاتَهَا غَيْرَ الصَّلَوَاتِ لِسَمَاءٍ لَا تَسْمَعُ (and his lips knew nothing but prayers to a sky that does not hear) exemplifies this function. This verbal clause consists of predicate, subject, object, and modifier functions. The predicate is لَمْ تَعْرِفْ (negative phrase/tarkīb manfī), a transitive verb. The subject is شَفَقَاتَهَا (noun phrase/tarkīb idāfi). غَيْرَ الصَّلَوَاتِ is an object with naṣb case. لِسَمَاءٍ لَا تَسْمَعُ is a place modifier (maf'ūl fih). The verbal clause لَا تَسْمَعُ (negative phrase) occupies the ṣifah (adjective) position modifying لِسَمَاءٍ, and this verbal clause carries jarr case in agreement with its mawṣūf (the described noun). It functions as an adjective because it is a verbal clause occurring after the indefinite noun سَمَاءٍ.

The fourth type, al-jumlatul-wāqi'atu maf'ūlan bihi (clauses functioning as objects), appears in one instance. Clauses occupying the object function occur exclusively with transitive verbs (fi'l muta'addī) that can take clausal objects. In Arabic, transitive verbs may require one, two, or three objects, and objects may be realized as clauses rather than single words. The construction أَرَادَتْ الْمَرْأَةُ أَنْ تَدْخُلَ خَلْفَهُ (the woman wanted to enter behind him) exemplifies this function. This verbal clause consists of predicate, subject, object, and modifier functions. The predicate is أَرَادَتْ (transitive verb), while the subject is الْمَرْأَةُ in raf' case. The verbal clause أَنْ تَدْخُلَ occupies the object (maf'ūl bih) position with naṣb case. خَلْفَهُ functions as a place modifier (maf'ūl fih) complementing the predicate, also in naṣb case.

The fifth type, al-jumlatul-wāqī'atu muḍāfan ilaihi (clauses functioning as genitive complements), appears in three instances. The construction *خَدَعْتَنِي يَوْمَ سَمَّتِ الْفَضِيلَةَ مَتْعَةً* (she deceived me on the day she called virtue a pleasure) exemplifies this function. This verbal clause consists of predicate, object, and modifier functions. The predicate is *خَدَعْتُ* (transitive verb). The subject is implicit in the predicate, indicated by the feminine suffix *تْ* (tā' al-ta'nīth), marking an implicit feminine pronoun (dhamīr mustatir mu'annath). *ني* is an object in the form of a first-person singular attached pronoun (al-ya' al-mutakallim), carrying naṣb case. The verbal clause *سَمَّتْ* occupies the position of muḍāf ilaih (genitive complement) of the temporal noun *يَوْمَ* (which is in naṣb case as muḍāf), while the muḍāf ilaih itself carries jarr case.

The sixth type, tābi'atul-jumlati-lati laha mahallan minal-i'rāb (subordinate clauses following elements with grammatical position), appears in two instances. The construction *وَإِذَا الْجُدُرَانُ تَنَشَقُّ وَيُظْهَرُ لَهَا الشَّيْطَانُ* (and suddenly the walls split open and the devil appeared to them) exemplifies this function. This is a nominal clause (jumlah ismiyah) preceded by idhā fujā'iyah (sudden-occurrence idhā). The nominal clause itself does not have an i'rāb position. *الْجُدُرَانُ* is the subject with raf' case. *تَنَشَقُّ* is a verbal clause in the form of fi'l muḍāri' functioning as the predicate of the subject, carrying raf' case. The verbal clause *وَيُظْهَرُ* occupies the position of na't (adjectival follower) because it is preceded by the conjunction wāw al-'aṭaf, and it carries raf' case. Its antecedent (man'ūt 'alaih) is *تَنَشَقُّ*, which also carries raf' case.

Verbal Clauses That Do Not Have a Position (Al-Jumlatu-Lati Lā Mahalla Lahā Minal-I'rāb)

Al-Ghalayani (2009) identifies nine types of clauses that lack grammatical position in sentence structure. These clauses cannot be interpreted as singular forms (mufrad) and therefore do not carry i'rāb case markings (raf', naṣb, jarr, or jazm) (Abdurahman, 2017). They stand independently without syntactic connection to preceding clauses. The analysis revealed 43 verbal clauses distributed across five of these categories in the short story.

The first type, al-jumlatul-isti'nāfiyyah (independent resumptive clauses), appears most frequently with 17 instances. Jumlah isti'nāfiyyah is a clause located in the middle of discourse that is disconnected from the previous clause because it initiates a new statement (Abdurahman, 2017). It may be preceded by fa or wāw al-isti'nāf, or may appear without any introductory particle. The construction *وَأَطْرَقَتْ فِي شِبْهِ غَيْبُوبَةٍ* (and she bowed her head in a state of semi-coma) exemplifies this type. This verbal clause consists of predicate (musnad) and modifier (ḥāl) functions. The clause stands alone with no syntactic connection to preceding material and is introduced by wāw al-isti'nāf, clearly marking it as an independent resumptive clause.

The second type, al-jumlatul-ṣilatil-mawṣūli (relative clauses), appears in five instances. This clause type occurs after relative pronouns (ism mawṣūl). The construction *خُذِ الثَّمَنَ الَّذِي تُرِيدُ* (take the price that you want) exemplifies this function. This verbal clause consists of predicate and object functions. The verb *تُرِيدُ* is a verbal clause functioning as ṣilat al-mawṣūl (relative clause) because it follows the relative pronoun *الَّذِي*.

The third type, al-jumlatul-wāqī'atu jawāban li syarṭin ghayri jāzim (conditional response clauses), appears in one instance. This clause type functions as the response to non-jussive conditional clauses introduced by particles such as law, law lā, and idhā (Abdurahman, 2017). The construction *لَوْ تَنَكَّرْتَ لَكَ السَّاعَةَ وَتَتَصَلَّتْ لَدَفَعْنَا بِهَا إِلَيْكَ* (if that time had come to you and passed, we would have brought it to you) exemplifies this function. This verbal clause consists of a conditional clause (jumlah syarṭ ghayr jāzim) and a response clause (jawāb li syarṭin ghayri jāzim). The clause *لَدَفَعْنَا بِهَا إِلَيْكَ* is a verbal clause

occupying the response position, marked by the particle *lām* as the answer to the non-jussive conditional clause. Meanwhile, *لَوْ تَتَكَرَّرَتْ لَكَ السَّاعَةُ وَتَتَصَلَّاتُ* constitutes the conditional clause, introduced by the conditional particle *لَوْ*.

The fourth type, *tābi'atul-jumlati-lati lā mahalla lahā minal-i'rāb* (subordinate clauses following independent clauses), appears in 15 instances. These clauses function as followers (*tābi'*) that inherit the non-positional status of their antecedents. The construction *وَأَدَّتْ فَرَائِضَ الْحَجِّ وَذَهَبَتْ* (he went and performed the Hajj rituals) exemplifies this type. These two verbal clauses consist of *na't* (adjective) and *man'ūt 'alaih* (modified element) because they are connected by the conjunction *وَ*. The verb *أَدَّتْ* is a verbal clause occupying the *na't* position as it follows the *wāw al-'aṭaf*. Meanwhile, *ذَهَبَتْ* is a verbal clause occupying the *man'ūt 'alaih* position. The clause *وَأَدَّتْ فَرَائِضَ الْحَجِّ* relates to the preceding clause *ذَهَبَتْ*. The *na't* in this construction carries no *i'rāb* because its *man'ūt 'alaih* is a verbal clause occupying the *isti'nāfiyyah* (independent resumptive) position.

The fifth type, *al-jumlatul-tafsīriyyah* (explanatory clauses), appears in two instances. This clause type explains a preceding vague or unclear statement. There are three forms of *jumlah tafsīriyyah*: those without explanatory particles, those accompanied by *أَيُّ*, and those accompanied by *أَنَّ* (Abdurahman, 2017). The construction *إِنَّهَا جَرِيْمَةٌ أَنْ أَنْكُصَ عَنِ الْوَفَاءِ* (it is truly a crime to retreat from a promise) exemplifies this function. In this construction, the verbal clause *أَنْ أَنْكُصَ عَنِ الْوَفَاءِ* occupies the *jumlah tafsīriyyah* position and begins with the explanatory particle *أَنَّ* (an *tafsīriyyah*). This verbal clause explains the preceding clause *إِنَّهَا جَرِيْمَةٌ*—"to retreat from a promise" clarifies what is meant by "it is truly a crime." The presence of the explanatory particle *أَنَّ* confirms that the verbal clause functions as *jumlah tafsīriyyah*.

The distribution of positional types 27 clauses with grammatical position versus 43 without reflects the narrative discourse structure of the short story, wherein independent clauses predominate to advance plot and character development, while positionally embedded clauses provide descriptive elaboration and syntactic subordination.

Functions of Verbal Clauses

Beyond their structural and positional characteristics, verbal clauses in Arabic fulfill distinct semantic functions that differentiate them from nominal clauses. Drawing on classical Arabic grammatical theory, particularly the insights of Al-Suyuti, the analysis reveals three primary semantic functions manifested in the short story: *li tajaddud wa ḥudūth* (renewal and temporality), *li tajaddud istimrāriyyah* (continuous renewal), and *li thubūt* (permanence) (Agustiar, 2017). These functions govern the temporal and aspectual interpretation of actions and events in the narrative, demonstrating that verbal clauses operate along a semantic continuum ranging from punctual events through durative actions to permanent states.

Tajaddud wa ḥudūth (Renewal and Temporality)

The function of *li tajaddud wa ḥudūth* expresses actions characterized by renewal (*tajaddud*) and temporality (*ḥudūth*). *Tajaddud* signifies the emergence of an action or event: in past tense contexts, it indicates completed occurrence (*al-ḥuṣūl*) where the action emerges and then disappears; in present tense contexts, it suggests that the action occurs or takes place repeatedly. *Ḥudūth* denotes temporality or transience—actions that exist at certain times and cease at others, sometimes present and sometimes absent. This function encompasses meanings situated in past (*māḍī*), present (*ḥāl*), and future (*istiqbāl*) temporal domains (Agustiar, 2017).

The clause *دَبَّ الدُّعْرُ فِي قُلُوبِ الرِّبَانِيَّةِ* (terror crept into the hearts of the guardians of hell) exemplifies this function with past tense meaning. The verb *دَبَّ* is *fi'l māḍī ma'lūm* (active

past tense verb), denoting a specific event that occurred and concluded in the past. The clause conveys that the panic felt in the hearts of the guardians is temporal or temporary—an emotion that sometimes occurs and sometimes does not. The panic that spread represents a completed past event that has ended and does not recur, capturing a discrete action situated within a temporal framework and embodying the *ḥudūth* dimension of transience.

Li Tajaddud Istimrāriyah (Continuous Renewal)

The function of *li tajaddud istimrāriyah* combines the concept of renewal (*tajaddud*) with continuity (*istimrār*), expressing actions that occur repeatedly or continuously without cessation. This function is typically realized through present tense verbs (*fi'l muḍāri'*) that denote ongoing or iterative processes extending from the present into the future. The present tense form conveys both current activity and future continuation, embodying the *istimrāriyah* dimension of continuous renewal.

The clause *أَسْعَى لَجْمَعِ الْأَرْوَاحِ أَعْمُرُ بِهَا* (I strive to gather souls with which to populate) illustrates this function. This verbal clause begins with *fi'l muḍāri'* (present tense verb) containing the pronoun *anā* (first person singular pronoun). The verb *أَسْعَى* carries meanings of both present (*ḥāl*) and future (*istiqbāl*) time, indicating an action performed repeatedly without stopping. The speaker in this clause is the devil, and the clause expresses his ongoing, continuous effort to gather souls, an action performed repeatedly and persistently, without anticipated termination. This exemplifies continuous renewal, where the action recurs or continues over time.

Li Thubūt (Permanence)

The function of *li thubūt* expresses permanence or stability (*thubūt*), denoting actions that are fixed and unchanging. While this function is conventionally associated with nominal clauses (*jumlah ismiyyah*), verbal clauses may assume this semantic value under specific syntactic conditions particularly when they occupy the predicate (*khobar*) position in nominal sentence constructions and appear in the present tense form (*fi'l muḍāri'*). The combination of predicative position and present tense morphology enables verbal clauses to transcend their typical temporal associations and encode stative permanence.

The clause *وَالشَّيْطَانُ لَا يَصْمُ أُنْتَيْهِ عَنِ الدُّعَاءِ* (and the devil does not deafen his ears to supplication) exemplifies this function. This verbal clause functions as *li thubūt*, expressing the permanence of an action from beginning to end. The verbal clause *لَا يَصْمُ* functions as *khobar mubtada'* (predicate of a subject) in a nominal sentence structure, and it appears in the form of *fi'l muḍāri'* (present tense verb). Therefore, the clause conveys that the devil does not close his ears to prayers, he always hears prayers and will always do so. This expresses a permanent characteristic or enduring state rather than a temporary action, demonstrating that under specific syntactic configurations, verbal clauses can encode the semantic value of permanence typically associated with nominal constructions.

4. CONCLUSION`

Based on the results of data analysis in the short story *Imraatun Ghalabat al-Syaithan* by Taufiq Al-Hakim, it can be concluded that verbal clauses have several types and functions. The first type, based on their internal structure, is complete and incomplete clauses. The difference lies in whether the subject is mentioned explicitly or not. The subject in incomplete clauses is not explicitly mentioned for the sake of effectiveness because the subject has already been mentioned previously so that it is already known and understood. Of all clauses based on their internal structure, incomplete clauses are the most dominant.

The second type, based on its position in the sentence structure, is a clause that has a position in the sentence structure (*al-jumlatu al-latī lahā maḥallun min al-i'rāb*), which consists of *al-jumlatul-waqi'atu khabaran*, *al-jumlatul-waqi'atu halan*, *al-jumlatul-waqi'atu shifatan*, *al-jumlatul-waqi'atu maf'ulan bihi*, *al-jumlatul-waqi'atu mudhofan ilaihi*, *tabi'atul-jumlatu-lati laha mahallan minal-'irab*. Meanwhile, *al-jumlatul-waqi'atu jawaban li syarthin jazmin* is not found in this short story, and clauses that do not have a position in the sentence structure (*al-jumlatu al-latī la mahallun lahā min al-i'rāb*) which consists of *al-jumlatul-isti'nafiyah*, *al-jumlatul-shilatil-maushuli*, *al-waqi'atu jawaban li syarthin ghairi jazmin*, *tabi'atul-jumlatu-lati la mahalla laha minal-'irab*, and *al-jumlatul-tafsiriyah*. Meanwhile, *al-jumlatul-ibtidaiyah*, *al-jumlatul-ta'liliyah*, *al-waqi'atu jawaban lil-qasami*, and *al-jumlatul-i'tiradhiyah* are not found. Based on their position in the sentence structure, verbal clauses that do not have a position are the most dominant.

Meanwhile, based on the function of verbal clauses in this short story, the functions of *li tajaddud wa huduts* (renewal and temporality), *li tajaddud imtimrariyah* (continuity renewal), and *li tsubut* (permanence) are found. This shows that the function of the verbal clause is not only *li tajaddud wa huduts* and *li tajaddud imtimrariyah*, but can also function as *li tsubut* (under certain conditions), which is the function of the nominal clause (*jumlah ismiyah*).

However, this study only discusses verbal clauses structurally and functionally, especially since only verbal clauses were studied, thus opening up space for other researchers to discuss clauses other than verbal clauses. Another limitation of this study is that it does not analyze the message contained in the short story as a whole, either explicitly or implicitly. Of course, research on verbal clauses, especially their functions related to permanent, ongoing, temporary, and new time frames, is greatly needed, but research that thoroughly examines how clauses and their combinations can convey messages accurately is also needed. Future researchers should highlight the clauses that authors use as a tool to convey their aspirations on all issues.

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Author's Contributions

Audryane Anindita Fadilla contributed to determining the concept of writing the manuscript, such as the background and research methodology, collecting and analyzing data until the discussion was complete. Rohanda and Resa Restu Pauji were responsible as supervisors who evaluated and provided critical reviews during the research preparation process.

AI Generative Statement

In the process of writing this article, the authors acknowledged using generative artificial intelligence as a tool. However, the role of artificial intelligence was limited to translating and refining the grammar. The results of AI assistance underwent critical review by the authors before finally being approved. Other than that, the research concept, research methodology, findings, interpretation of results, and conclusions are the result of the authors' own intellectual thinking.

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