

## REVEALING A CASE GRAMMAR IN THE FILM “WHERE DO WE GO NOW” BASED ON FILLMORE’S PERSPECTIVE

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims: (1) to reveal the modalities in the film “Where Do We Go Now” directed by Nadine Labaki based on the perspective of Charles J. Fillmore; (2) to reveal the propositions in the film “Where Do We Go Now” directed by Nadine Labaki based on the perspective of Charles J. Fillmore. This research is descriptive qualitative research. The data source in this study is the film “Where Do We Go Now” directed by Nadine Labaki with a duration of 110 minutes and produced by Les Films des Tournelles, Pathe, Les Films de Beyrouth in 2011. The data collection techniques in this study used watching and taking note techniques. The data validation technique in this study uses several steps, namely increasing persistence, triangulation, and discussion. This study has the following results: (1) there are two types of modalities in the form of a tense modality and an adverb modality; and (2) there are five types of propositions in the form of agentive case, objective case, source case, locative case, and time case.

**Keywords:** case grammar, film, modalities, propositions

### A. Introduction

In everyday life, as social beings, human being need communication to socialize in their community. In this case, communication is the most important means of mixing between social beings and carried out orally or in writing. However, we often find many misunderstandings in interpreting a sentence. It is because the reader is not able to analyze sentences properly and correctly with semicolon symbols, tone innovation (which can affect the meaning of a sentence), and non-standard sentence structure. Understanding and analyzing a film requires expertise and skills in understanding a sentence properly and correctly. This case grammar study becomes significant to be studied in depth to understand a sentence properly and correctly textually or contextually.

Usually, the grammar is normative. The grammar has been arranged by the symptoms of language in general that is used in a group of people. Moreover, along with the times, language will always develop rapidly. It causes normative grammar must be descriptive. Grammar is a set of rules contained in the structure of language. The design includes sound system, form, grammar, and meaning (Keraf, 2005).

In case grammar study, we often encounter cases in everyday life: whether in a narrative, in the news, in a film conversation, or dialogue in a novel. This study is very important because there are very few studies that discuss perception in meaning and the discussion of this case grammar. We can understand that each word that is ordered differently will give rise to a different meaning. Moreover, in this study, the sentence is considered the main point in the grammatical structure of the case, which is composed of one or more noun phrases that are semantically related. Tarigan claimed this case as the rules of the case grammar system (Tarigan, 2009).

The film “Where Do We Go Now” won the Cadillac People's Choice Award, the highest and most prestigious award at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2011. The film tells of the struggles of women in protecting their communities from religious conflicts in Lebanon. The conflict started from a misunderstanding between the people, causing two strong camps to face each other. The film becomes very interesting because it raises the issue of fanaticism towards a religion (Labaki, 2011). Based on this case, the researchers are interested in exploring how the communication model causes conflict by using case grammar theory promoted by Charles J. Fillmore (Fillmore, 1967).

Based on the previous studies, the researchers found several previous studies related to this study. They are case grammar in the movie “The Gentlemen” (Basid & Maghfiroh, 2021), case grammar in film “the Professor and the Madman” (Basid, Arzaqi, & Afiyanto, 2021), sentence structure in the film “Knives Out” (Basid, Kamil, & Innah, 2021), Fillmore’s case grammar analysis (Basid, Sumiyati, Nafisah, & Fauziyah, 2022), and case grammar in Arabic novel (Basid & Zahroh, 2022).

These previous studies have similarities and differences with this study. The similarity is the use of case grammar theory promoted by Charles J. Fillmore and in terms of the type of research, namely qualitative descriptive research. Moreover, there are also differences with previous studies, especially in the object of study, which will lead to very different results from previous research. In this study, the researchers reveal case grammar in the film "Where Do We Go Now" directed by Nadine Labaki.

## **B. Research Method**

This research is descriptive qualitative because the resulting data is a sentence structure in the film dialogue. Qualitative research is an analysis of research that includes all forms of social problems that use a scientific approach using concepts and aims to gain new scientific experience and concrete and correct data (Weathington, Cunningham, & Pittenger, 2010).

The main object of this study is the film "Where Do We Go Now" by Nadine Labaki, with a duration of 110 minutes and produced by Les Films des Tournelles, Pathe, Les Films de Beyrouth in 2011 (Labaki, 2011). The techniques of data collection use watching technique and note taking technique. After data collected, the researchers conduct data validation (Weathington, Cunningham, & Pittenger, 2010) through increasing persistence, triangulation, and peer discussion.

The data is analyzed by some steps such as: (1) the researchers classify data based on Fillmore's case grammar theory. They are modality and propositions; (2) the researchers elaborate the data in the point (1) in the table modality and propositions; (3) the researchers explain each modality and propositions displayed on the table based on Fillmore's case grammar theory; (4) the researchers give interpretations in each modality and propositions based on Fillmore's case grammar theory; and (5) the researchers conduct the data induction to find the conclusion.

### C. Research Results and Discussion

The case grammar emphasized by Charles J. Fillmore initially contained 16 cases however along with the development of the theory, it was finally solved into ten grammatical cases. They are including the agentive case, experiment case, instrument case, objective case, source case, destination case, locative case, time case, accompaniment case, and benefactive case (Suparnis, 2008). The following is a presentation of modality data in the film “Where Do We Go Now” directed by Nadine Labaki which briefly describes in the Table 1. Modality.

**Table 1. Modality**

Case Grammar Element of Charles J. Fillmore	Types of Modalities	Forms of Modalities
Modalities	Time	Past Present Future
	Adverb	Frequency Degree Comparison Quantity Explanatory
	Negation	Don't want Not

#### Past

The past is a term in terms of time, meaning that it has passed or the time that has passed (Chaer, 2009).

(1) لقد قال مرحبا بك (Labaki, 2011)

*He said welcome to you*

The modality of the past tense in the sentence above lies in the word (قال), which means to have said. The context of the conversation is when one of the villagers welcomes tourists who comes to entertain the men in his village. Therefore, the past tense modality in the sentence above indicates that someone has finished saying something or said something to someone else. The past tense

modality in Arabic in the dialogue quoted above has the form of the verb made, which has the past tense or has been done.

(2) تشرفت بلقائكم (Labaki, 2011)

*I have honored meeting you*

The modality of the past tense in the sentence above lies in the word (تشرفت), which means to have glorified you. The conversation context occurred when one of the village youths had glorified a meeting with a tourist he had met, and the incident had passed. Therefore, the word (تشرفت) indicates that the event has been passed and becomes a past tense modality. Moreover, the form of the past modality in the conversation is *fiil madhi*.

(3) لقد تعاهدوا معنا لأسبوع (Labaki, 2011)

*They have tied the knot with us since last week*

The modality of the past tense in the sentence above lies in the word (تعاهدوا), which means that a promise binds it. The context of the conversation in the above dialogue occurred when a group of women was talking about the invitation of tourists to their village. The past tense in the sentence above shows that someone has agreed with another person, and the agreement has been made since last week. Therefore, the word (تعاهدوا) indicates that the events that occur in the sentence are events that have already been done.

## Present

Present is a designation in terms of time that means being happening or actual (Chaer, 2009).

(4) أرجو المعذرة، لديكم شيء نشربه (Labaki, 2011)

*I hope for forgiveness, do you have anything to drink?*

The sentence ( أرجو المعذرة، لديكم ) shows that there is a current modality in the word (أرجو). The conversation context occurred when a woman asked the host for drinking water. The word means expecting someone.

(5) نعم أعلم (Labaki, 2011)

*Yes, I understand*

The sentence (نعم أعلم) shows that there is a current modality in the word (أعلم). The word means “now I know.” The context of the conversation is when parents advise their children. The word (أعلم) is *fiil mudhore* which shows the present meaning. Therefore, with this word, the sentence (نعم أعلم) is a modality in the present form.

#### Future

Future is a term in terms of time which has the meaning of not yet happening or something that will happen (Chaer, 2009).

(6) ماذا تأكلين في الصباح؟ (Labaki, 2011)

*What are you going to eat in the morning?*

The sentence (ماذا تأكلين في الصباح) shows that there is a present modality in the word (تأكلين) which means “what will you eat.” The context of the conversation occurs when two people are going to sleep and talking about tomorrow. The word (تأكلين) is *fiil mudhore* which indicates the meaning of the future. Therefore, with the word (تأكلين), the sentence (ماذا تأكلين في الصباح) is a modality of future forms.

#### Adverb Modalities

Adverb modality is a word that is in the formation of phrases and clauses and serves as a companion to every adjective, verb, and noun (Chaer, 2009). Fillmore stated that there are five adverb modalities, frequency, degree, comparison, explanatory, and quantitative (Fillmore, 1967).

### *Adverb of degree*

The modality of the adverb of degree is a modality that is patterned like stairs or, in other words a modality that means level (Chaer, 2009).

(8) أنا لا أفطر لأنني أنام كثيرا (Labaki, 2011)

*I will not eat breakfast later because I will be sleep for a long time*

The sentence (لأنني أنام كثيرا) shows that there is a degree adverb modality in the word (كثيرا) which means “a lot.” In the context of the conversation in the sentence above, the word no longer means much but means “old.” The word is said at the end of the sentence which is a description of the state of the speaker who intends to sleep for a long time.

### *Comparative adverb*

Comparative adverb modality is a modality whose role is to compare several things, such as size, nature, human, and others (Chaer, 2009).

(9) عدد الأموات هنا أكبر من الأحياء (Labaki, 2011)

*Here, the number of people who died was greater than those still alive.*

The sentence (أكبر) shows that there is a comparative adverb modality in the word which means “bigger.” In the context of the sentence, the speaker compares the number of people who died and those who are still alive with the comparative word (أكبر).

### *Explanatory adverb*

The explanatory adverb modality is a modality that acts as an explanation for the particles in a sentence (Chaer, 2009).

(10) الآن عرفت لماذا هي مجنونة (Labaki, 2011)

*Now I understand why he is crazy*

The sentence (الآن عرفت لماذا هي مجنونة) shows that there is an explanatory adverb modality in the word (مجنونة) which means “crazy.” The word (مجنونة) is an explanatory adverb modality that explains the state of the object, namely she.

(11) أنا متأكدة أنه شاب جيد (Labaki, 2011)

*I proved that he is really a good young man*

The sentence (أنا متأكدة أنه شاب جيد) shows that there is an explanatory adverb modality in the word (جيد), which means “good.” The word (جيد) is an explanatory adverb modality that explains the object's state, namely he.

#### *Quantitative adverb*

Quantitative adverb modality is a modality that means the size or amount of an item or other; adverbs that express the degree or intensity of a particular action or event (Hopper & Traugott, 2003).

(12) أشكرك كثيرا (Labaki, 2011)

*Thank you so much*

The sentence (أشكرك كثيرا) shows that there is a quantitative adverb modality in the word (كثيرا) which means “a lot”. In the context of this sentence, the speaker gives thanks which is seasoned with the word (كثيرا). The word becomes a quantitative adverb because it means the number of thanks the speaker gives to the interlocutor.

#### *Negation modality*

The negation modality is a modality that means denying or canceling a statement. Negation modality is used to express the absence or non-existence of



a particular state of affairs, and is often used to deny or contradict a previously stated proposition (Hopper & Traugott, 2003).

### *Don't want*

Don't want is a form of negation modality as a form of rejection of statements and denial.

(13) لا أريد أن أتبعك يا سيدي (Labaki, 2011)

*I don't want to follow you sir*

The word sentence (لا) shows that there is a negation modality in the word (لا) which means “don't want to” in the context of the sentence describes the rejection of a statement and the word is to convince the hearer of the speaker's refusal.

### *Not*

Not is a form of negation modality and the word is not This is a form of the word and we often encounter the word not is used to counter a statement.

(14) لست ان أفعل ذلك يا سيدي (Labaki, 2011)

*I didn't do that job sir*

The word sentence (لست ان أفعل ذلك) indicates that there is a negation modality in the word (لست) which means “not” in the sentence is a form of denial of a statement from the speaker to the interlocutor.

## **Propositions**

Propositions are a combination of several particles in a sentence consisting of verbum and several women that have a relationship with verbal in a case that is viewed semantically (Fillmore, 1967). The propositions in the dialogue between characters in the film “*Where Do We Go Now*” directed by Nadine Labaki will be summarized in the table 2. Propositions below.

Table 2. Propositions

Case Grammar Element of Charles J. fillmore	Types of Propositions	Form of Proposition
Proposition	Agentive case	First personal pronoun
	Objective case	Human
	Source case	Death
	Locative case	Room
	Time case	Week

### Agentive case

An agentive case is a case that shows that the subject or actor played a role in an incident (Parera, 2009).

### First personal pronoun

(16) فأنا أعمل كثيرا و مشغولة جدا (Labaki, 2011)

*So I worked a lot and became a very busy person*

The word (أنا) in the sentence (فأنا أعمل كثيرا و مشغولة جدا) which means “I” is an agentive case. The context of these word occurs when a guest speaks to the host and he admits that he is busy and has a lot of work to do. The word (أنا) in in the sentence (فأنا أعمل كثيرا و مشغولة جدا) means a person who works a lot and is a very busy person.

### Objective case

The objective case is a case that is born because of the influence of actions or circumstances that come from a nomen that rely on the meaning of the verbum. The objective case is generally an object or living thing that is affected by activity (Parera, 2009).

*Human*

(18) أشكرك كثيرا (Labaki, 2011)

*Thank you so much*

The letter (ك) which means “you” is an objective case of man. The word “you” in the sentence was affected by someone who thanks to him. Therefore, he is feeling grateful. In the context of the conversation, the word “you” is influenced by someone who thank to him.

*Source case*

The source case is a case that is stated as the cause of an activity that occurs in an event stated by the verb (Tarigan, 2009).

*Death*

(19) بالرغم من هذا لا يزالون في انقسام (Labaki, 2011)

*They are separated by death*

The word (انقسام) which means “death” is a cause for the occurrence of the event which is the source case. In the context of the conversation, the word “death” in the conversation became the cause of a separation. Therefore, the word “death” became the source case because it was the cause of an incident, namely separation.

*Locative case*

A locative case is a case as a clue to a place or location of an event in which there is a relationship between a nomen and a verb (Tarigan, 2009).

*Room*

(20) كنت مصابة بالملل في غرفتي (Labaki, 2011)

*I get lazy when in my room*

The word (غرفتي) which means “my room” is a locative case. In the context of the conversation, the word (غرفتي) in the sentence becomes a locative case because it describes a place where someone is lazy, namely the room. Therefore, the word (غرفتي) is said to be a locative case.

#### *Time case*

The case of time is a case that serves as an indication of when an event occurred by the perpetrator (Tarigan, 2009).

#### *Week*

(21) لقد تعاقدوا معنا لأسبوع (Labaki, 2011)

*They've tied the knot with us since last week*

The time case in the dialogue snippet above is a time case in the form of a week. It is depicted by the word (أسبوع) which means last week. In the context of the conversation, the word (أسبوع) describes the agreement that took place last week. Therefore, the word belongs to the case of time in the form of weeks.

#### *Day*

(22) ماذا تأكلين في الصباح؟ (Labaki, 2011)

*What are you going to eat in the morning?*

The time case in the dialogue snippet above is a time case in the form of days. Depicted in the word (الصباح) which means “morning.” In the context of the conversation, the word “shobah” illustrates that the incident will occur in the morning. Therefore, the word belongs to the case of time in the form of days

Fillmore claimed that case grammar is appropriate because the sentence will contain elements of modality and proposition. Modality can clarify a conversation according to the information about the sentence. The proposition is known as a medium that describes the relationship with its purpose, with this proposition

helping to align the cases contained in the grammar so that it can be explained. Fillmore has classified modalities into time, adverb, and negation. He also classifies propositions in the form of agentive case, objective case, source case, locative case, and time case (Fillmore, 1967). The researchers' findings in this study align with the case grammar theory promoted by Fillmore.

Fillmore declared that case grammar is consistent with the fact that sentences will contain elements of modality and proposition. Modality can clarify a conversation according to the information about the sentence. The proposition is known as a medium that describes the relationship with its purpose, with this proposition helping to align the cases contained in the grammar so that it can be explained (Fillmore, 1967).

#### **D. Conclusion**

The case grammar based on the perspective of Charles J. Fillmore contained in the dialogue between characters in the film "Where Do We Go Now" directed by Nadine Labaki consists of several forms of modalities and propositions, including (1) three types of modalities in the form of time modality, adverb modality, and negation modality; and (2) five types of propositions in the form of agentive case, objective case, source case, locative case, and time case.

This study only focuses on the forms of modalities and propositions found in the dialogue between characters in the film "Where Do We Go Now" directed by Nadine Labaki based on the perspective of Charles J. Fillmore. The researchers hope that the future researchers reveal more the aspect of Fillmore's case grammar in other languages in order to prove that every language in the Fillmore's case grammar consist of modalities and propositions.

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