Syntactic Model for the Analysis of Moral Stories

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ABSTRACT

Linguistics has offered a new dimension to the analysis of a literary texts. Along with traditional approaches like biographical, psychological and sociological etc. there is a need to acknowledge the language skills that the author has imparted in structuring and constructing a work of art. This paper attempts to analyse the moral stories to develop a mechanism and methodology to study the syntactic aspect of literary works by taking into consideration the words, phrases, clauses and sentences to build the literary epitome. Grammar can not be studied in isolation and all efforts so far were isolating it from the literary circle. If one studies the literary texts focusing on the grammatical structures, it will generate amazing results.

Keywords- Syntax, moral, grammar, linguistics, stylistics.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Golden Touch of Midas

"Once upon a time, there was a Greek King, Midas. He was very rich and had lots of Gold. He had a daughter, who he loved a lot. One day, Midas found an angel in need of help. He helped her and in return she agreed to grant a wish. Midas wished that everything he touched would turn into gold. His wish was granted. On his way home, he touched rocks and plants and they turned into gold. As he reached home, in excitement he hugged his daughter, who turned into gold. Midas was devastated and he had learnt his lesson. Upon learning his lesson, Midas asked the angel to take his wish away."

Literature is an indispensable and integral part of culture. People cite various reasons for studying literature namely to get moral lessons, to get aesthetic pleasure, to derive pleasure and syntactic pleasure. We come across that literature is studied only from the moralistic or philosophical perspective and in classroom the formal or structural view is often neglected. So, the paper here attempts to explore the syntactic features of moral stories with special reference to *The Golden Touch of Midas.* Short stories can be analysed using both form and content. Predominantly the stories are analysed and studied for it's

in the moral and ethical upliftment of the human character. However, giving due respect to the content the form is also important and offer synthetic pleasure fi analyse it from the structural point of view.

There are five levels of linguistic analysis i.e., phonetics and phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics. The syntactic analysis focuses upon the four elements. These are sentence, clause, phrase and words. The four levels will enable us to explore the formal or structural aspect of the story. It will also link the grammar with the context. Unfortunately, the grammar has often been taught taking out from its context. It will surely generate the interest among the learner as well as strengthen the syntactic aspect of language.

II. SENTENCES

The sentences can be classified according to the structure and function. The number of clauses and their relation with one another will determine the type of sentence based on the structure i.e. simple, compound, complex and compound – complex. So far as the function is concerned, we have the types of sentences like directive, interrogative, imperative and exclamatory. Let's analyse the story on the basis of sentences:

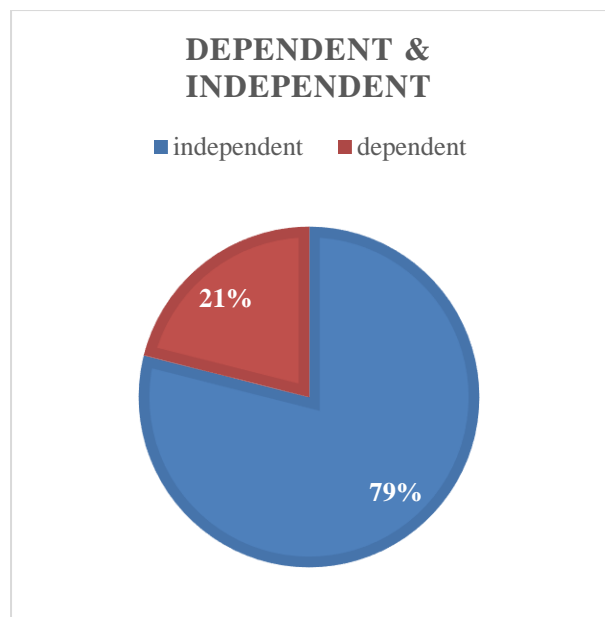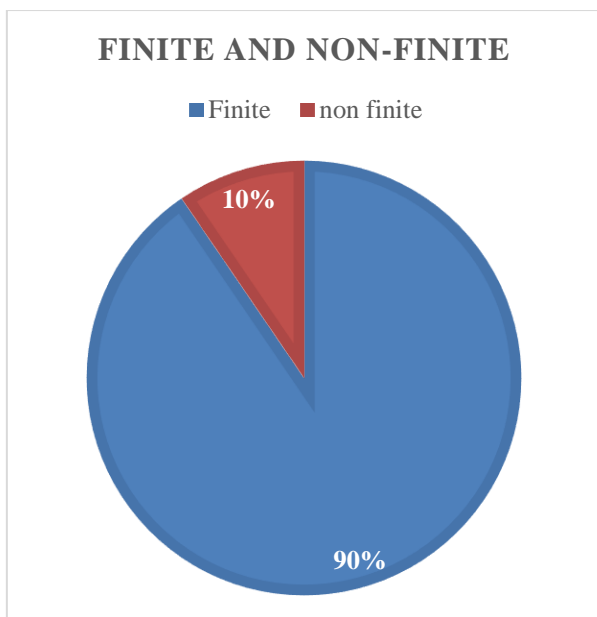| Sr. No.	Sentence	Type
1	*Once upon a time, there was a Greek King, Midas.*	Simple
2	*He was very rich and had lots of Gold.*	Compound
3	*He had a daughter, who he loved a lot.*	Complex
4	*One day, Midas found an angel in need of help.*	Simple
5	*He helped her and in return she agreed to grant a wish.*	Compound
6	*Midas wished that everything he touched would turn into gold.*	Complex
7	*His wish was granted.*	Simple
8	*On his way home, he touched rocks and plants and they turned into gold.*	Compound
9	*As he reached home, in excitement he hugged his daughter, who turned into gold.*	Complex
10	*Midas was devastated and he had learnt his lesson*	Compound
11	*Upon learning his lesson, Midas asked the angel to take his wish away*	Simple

Analysis of Sentences

Simple 37%
Compound 36%
Complex 27%
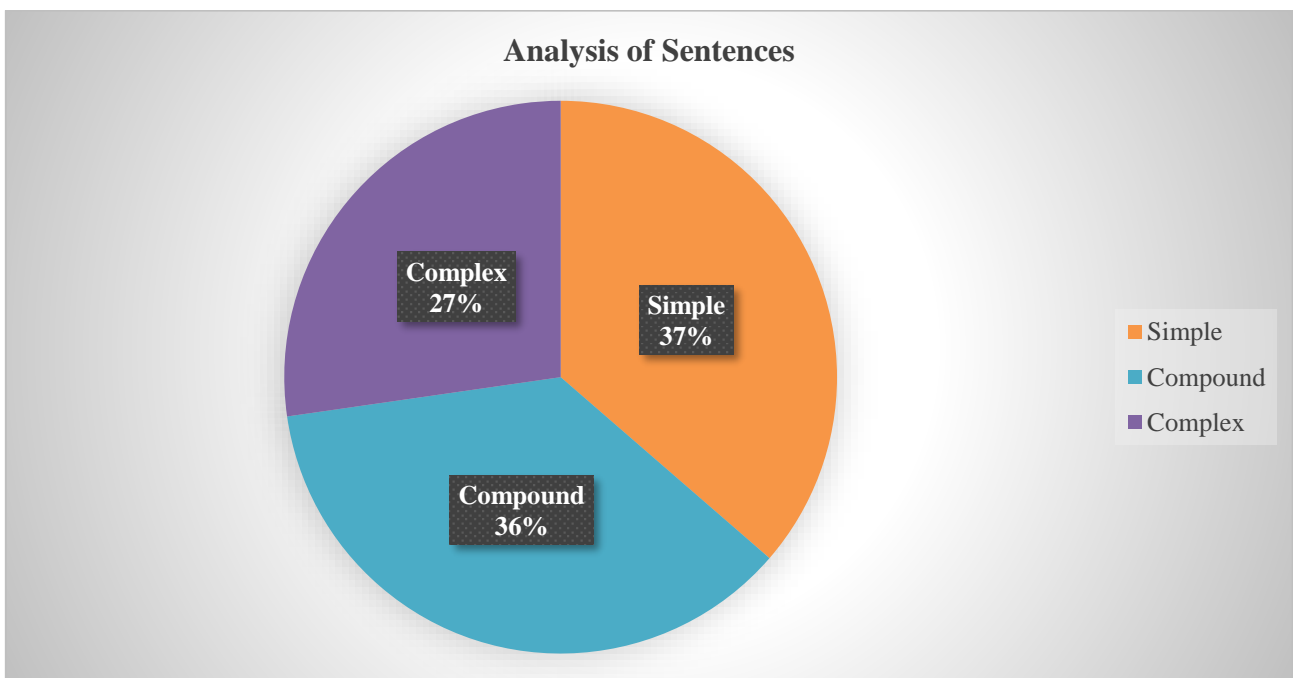
III.   CLAUSES – TYPES

Sr. No.	Clauses	Type
1.	*Once upon a time, there was a Greek King, Midas.*	Finite / Independent
2.	*He was very rich and*	Finite / Independent
3.	*had lots of Gold.*	Finite / Independent
4.	*He had a daughter,*	Finite / Independent
5.	*who he loved a lot.*	Finite / dependent
6.	*One day, Midas found an angel in need of help.*	Finite / Independent
7.	*He helped her and*	Finite / Independent
8.	*in return she agreed to grant a wish.*	Finite / Independent
9.	*Midas wished*	Finite / Independent
10.	*that everything he touched would turn into gold.*	Finite / dependent
11.	*His wish was granted.*	Finite / Independent
12.	*On his way home, he touched rocks and plants and*	Finite / Independent
13.	*they turned into gold.*	Finite / Independent
14.	*As he reached home,*	Finite / dependent

15.	*in excitement he hugged his daughter*	Finite / Independent
16.	*who turned into gold.*	Finite / dependent
17.	*Midas was devastated and*	Finite / Independent
18.	*he had learnt his lesson*	Finite / Independent
19.	*Upon learning his lesson*	Non-Finite
20.	*Midas asked the angel*	Finite / Independent
21.	*to take his wish away*	Non-Finite

IV.   CLAUSES – PATTERNS AS SPOCA

Sr. No.	Clauses	Pattern
1.	*Once upon a time, there was a Greek King, Midas.*	A A P S
2.	*He was very rich and*	S P Cs
3.	*had lots of Gold.*	P O
4.	*He had a daughter,*	S P O
5.	*who he loved a lot.*	S P O
6.	*One day, Midas found an angel in need of help.*	A S P O A A
7.	*He helped her and*	S P O
8.	*in return she agreed to grant a wish.*	A S P Vi O
9.	*Midas wished*	S P
10.	*that everything he touched would turn into gold.*	O S Ved P A
11.	*His wish was granted.*	S P
12.	*On his way home, he touched rocks and plants and*	A S P O
13.	*they turned into gold.*	S P A
14.	*As he reached home,*	S P A
15.	*in excitement he hugged his daughter*	A S P O
16.	*who turned into gold.*	S P A
17.	*Midas was devastated and*	S P
18.	*he had learnt his lesson*	S P A
19.	*Upon learning his lesson*	P O
20.	*Midas asked the angel*	S P O
21.	*to take his wish away*	P O A

FINITE AND NON-FINITE
Finite 90%, non finite 10%

DEPENDENT & INDEPENDENT
independent 79%, dependent 21%

V.   PHRASES

Sr. No.	NP	VP	AjP	AvP	PP	GP	TOTAL
1.	*Once upon a time a Greek King, Midas.*	*was*		*there*			4
2.	*He*	*was*	*very rich*				3
3.	*lots of Gold*	*had*					2
4.	*He* *a daughter*	*had*					3
5.	*Who* *he*	*loved*		*a lot*			4
6.	*One day Midas* *an angel*	*found*			*in need of help*		6
7.	*He*	*helped*				*her*	3
8.	*she* *a wish*	*agreed to grant*			*in return*		5
9.	*Midas*	*wished*					2
10.	*everything he*	*touched would turn*			*into gold.*		5
11.	*wish*	*was granted.*				*His*	3
12.	*he* *rocks plants*	*touched*			*On his way home*		5
13.	*they*	*turned*			*into gold*		3
14.	*he*	*reached*		*home*			3
15.	*he* *daughter*	*hugged*			*in excitement*	*his*	5
16.	*who*	*turned*			*into gold*		3
17.	*Midas*	*was devastated*					2
18.	*He* *lesson*	*had learnt*				*his*	4
19.					*Upon learning his lesson*		1
20.	*Midas* *the angel*	*asked*					3
21.	*wish*	*to take*		*away*		*his*	4
Total	*32*	*22*	1	*4*	9	*5*	73

NUMBER OF PHRASES IN CLAUSES
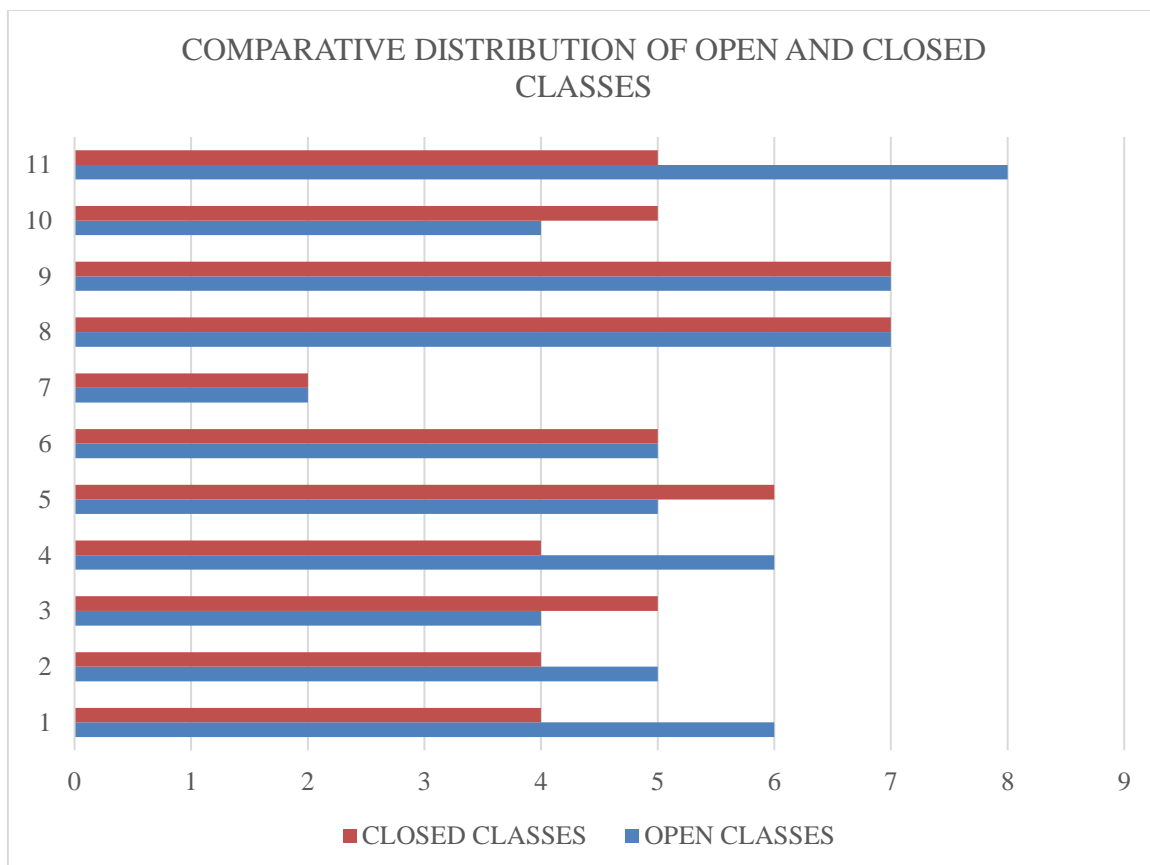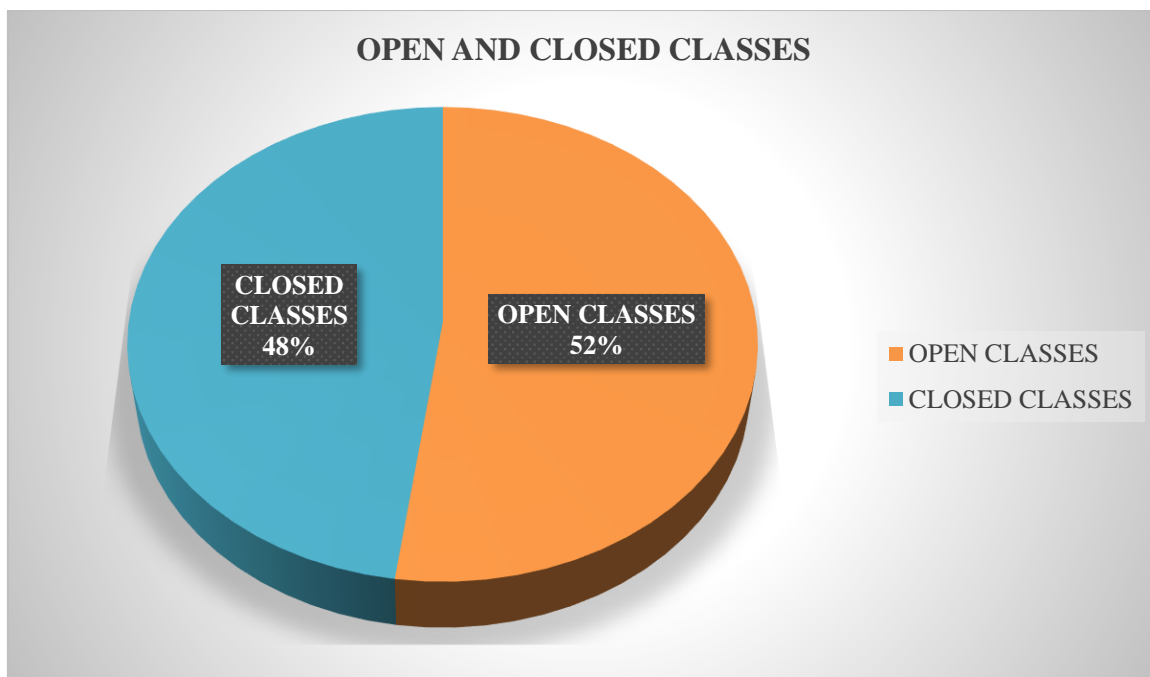

Distribution of Phrases
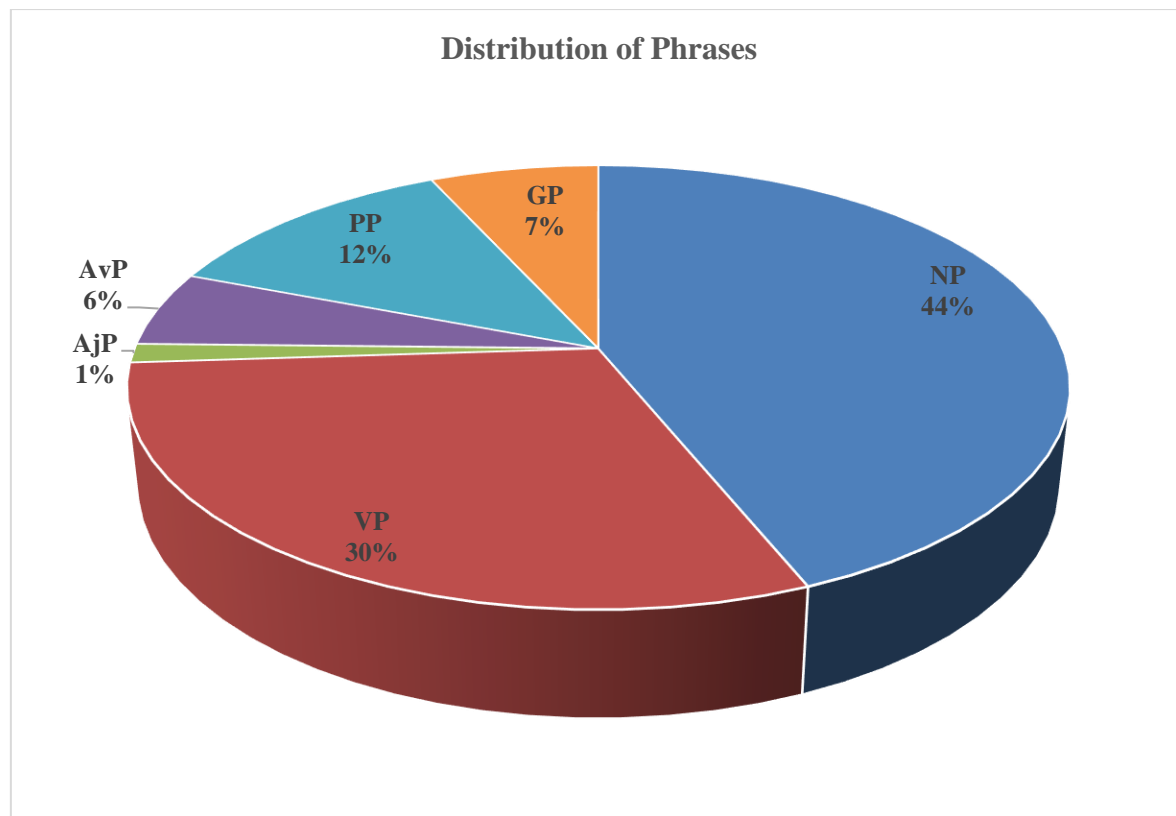
VI. WORDS

Words are generally classified into two categories i.e. open class and closed class. Open class words are unlimited in number and entry for the new word is possible in it on the other hand closed classes words are limited in number and entry is restricted for the new words n it. The words belonging to the category like Noun, Verb,

Adjective and Adverb are known as open classes. The words like determiner, pronoun, operator verb, enumerator, preposition, conjunction, and interjection are included in closed class. Therefore, the story can be analysed based on these eleven categories of words belonging to open and closed class in the larger context.

Let's explore the classification of words in the present story.

Sr. No.	OPEN CLASSES				
	NOUN	VERB	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB	Total
1	time, Greek, King, Midas	was		there	6
2	gold	was, had	rich	very	5
3	daughter	had, loved		lot	4
4	day, Midas, angel, need, help	found			6
5	return, wish	helped, agreed, to grant,			5
6	Midas, gold	wished, touched, turn			5
7	wish	granted			2
8	way, rocks, plants, gold	touched, turned		home	7
9	excitement, daughter, gold	reached, hugged, turned		home	7
10	Midas, lesson	devastated , learnt			4
11	lesson, Midas, angel, wish	learning, asked, take		away	8
Total					**59**

Sr. No.	CLOSED CLASSES							
	Determiner	Pronoun	enumerator	preposition	conjuction	Aux Verb	Interjection	Total
1	a, a		once	upon				4
2		he,	lots	of	and			4
3	a, a	he, he, who						5
4	an		one	in, of				4
5	a	he, her, she		in	and			6
6		everything, he		into	that	would		5
7		his				was		2
8		his, he, they		on, into	and, and			7
9		he, he, his, who		in, into	as,			7
10		he, his			and	was, had		5
11	the	his, his		to	upon			5
Total								**54**

OPEN AND CLOSED CLASSES

COMPARATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF OPEN AND CLOSED CLASSES

Sr. No.	OPEN CLASSES	CLOSED CLASSES	GRAND TOTAL
1	6	4	10
2	5	4	9
3	4	5	9
4	6	4	10

5	5	6	11
6	5	5	10
7	2	2	4
8	7	7	14
9	7	7	14
10	4	5	9
11	8	5	13
Total	59	54	113

VII. CONCLUSIONS

Therefore, this paper proves that moral stories can not be studied on for moral and ethical values but to imbibe the syntactic skill of analysis. This model if adopted in letter and spirit would definitely generate interest among the learners. The hierarchical structure of grammar namely sentences, clauses, phrases and words would enable the proper analysis of the story.

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