2. THE BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF NOUN CLAUSES

2.1 The Definition of Noun

In linguistics, a noun is a member of a large, open lexical category whose members can occur as the main word in the subject of a clause, the object of a verb, or the object of a preposition. More simply, a noun is a word used to name a person, animal, place, thing and abstract idea (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noun). Lexical categories are defined in terms of how their members combine with other kinds of expressions. The syntactic rules for nouns differ from language to language. A noun can function in a sentence as a subject, a direct object, an indirect object, a subject complement, an object complement, an appositive, an adjective, or an adverb. In traditional English grammar, the noun is one of the eight parts of speech (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noun).

The words in the following sentences are all nouns:

- Late last year our neighbor bought a goat.
- Portia White was an opera singer.
- The bus inspector looked at all the passengers’ passes.
- According to Plutarch, the library at Alexandria was destroyed in 48 B.C.
- Philosophy is of little comfort to the starving.
2.2 The Forms of Noun

2.2.1 Gender of Nouns

According to Jayanthi (1998:15), gender indicates whether a person or an animal is male or female. The word ‘gender’ is originated from Latin “genus” which means kind or sort.

In English language genders are of four kinds:

a. **Masculine Gender**

A noun which denotes a male person or an animal is known as masculine gender. Examples: boy, brother, father, husband, horse, dog, drone, king, cord, man, nephew, son, uncle.

b. **Feminine Gender**

A noun which denotes a female person or an animal is known as feminine gender. Examples: girl, sister, mother, wife, mare, bitch, bees, queen, lady, woman, niece, daughter, witch.

c. **Common Gender**

A noun which denotes both male and female person or an animal is known as common gender. Examples: parents, driver, cousin, child, artists, judge, friend, servant, enemy.

d. **Neuter Gender**

A noun which denotes neither male nor female person or an animal is known as neuter gender. Examples: book, pencil, table, lamp, house, radio, album, glass, school, science.
2.2.2 Number

Jayanti (1998: 16) states that a noun has two numbers, they are:

a. The Singular Number

A noun which denotes one person or thing is known as singular number. Examples: a tree, one box, a man, a girl, one cow, a book.

b. The Plural Number

A noun which denotes more than one person or thing is known as plural number. Examples: two boxes, two men, three girls, six books.

Plural forms of nouns:

1. Most nouns form their plural by adding ‘s’ to the singular.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balloon</td>
<td>Balloons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face</td>
<td>Faces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoe</td>
<td>Shoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lion</td>
<td>Lions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box</td>
<td>Boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brush</td>
<td>Brushes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Churches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomato</td>
<td>Tomatoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hero</td>
<td>Heroes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exceptions are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bamboo</td>
<td>Bamboos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo</td>
<td>Photos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Nouns ending with ‘y’ and which have a consonant form their plural by changing ‘y’ into ‘ies’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>Armies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body</td>
<td>Bodies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>Cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fly</td>
<td>Flies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Nouns ending with ‘f’ or ‘fe’, plural are formed by changing ‘f’ or ‘fe’ into ‘ves’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calf</td>
<td>Calves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loaf</td>
<td>Loaves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life</td>
<td>Lives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knife</td>
<td>Knives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exceptions are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chief</td>
<td>Chiefs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoof</td>
<td>Hoofs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Some nouns form their plural by vowel change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Man</td>
<td>Men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foot</td>
<td>Feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tooth</td>
<td>Teeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td>Children</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.2.3 Kinds of Nouns

According to Jayanthi (1998: 10), nouns are divided into eight kinds, they are:

a. **Common Noun**: A name given in common to every person or thing of the same class or kind. Examples: woman, teacher, doctor, girl, city, village, town, region, place.

b. **Proper Noun**: The name of some particular person or place. Examples: Mother Teresa, Barrack Obama, India, Japan, Indonesia.

c. **Collective Noun**: The name of collection of things or person. Examples: crowd, mob, team, block, family, nation, poultry, class, committee.

d. **Concrete Noun**: The name of a thing that can be touched or seen. Examples: room, hand, boy, wall, sun, chair, table, book, knife.

e. **Abstract Noun**: The name of a quality, action or state. Examples: freedom, liberty, thought, death, goodness, justice, truth, beauty.

f. **Countable Noun**: The name of a thing that can be counted or divided into singular or plural. Examples: student, book, camera, writer, man, woman, studio.

g. **Uncountable Noun**: The name of a thing that cannot be counted or divided into singular or plural. Examples: milk, rice, ice, coffee, justice, iron, money, honesty, sugar, gold.

h. **Material Noun**: The name of a material or substance out of which things are made. Examples: gold, silver, wool, wood, tea, glass, steel, money.
2.3 The Definition and The Kinds of Clauses

2.3.1 The Definition of Clause

According to Jayanthi (1998: 227), clause is a group of words which forms a part of a sentence and contains a subject and a predicate.

And also the examples are:

- When I was walking in the street
- That honesty is the best policy
- Who speak the truth
- How to speak English correctly
- Where she was born

2.3.2 The Kinds of Clauses

According to Jayanthi (1998: 227), clauses are divided into two classes, they are:

1. Principal Clause/Main Clause/Independent Clause

   Principal clause is a clause which makes complete sense independently and stands by itself.

   Examples:

   - I received a letter and replied to it.
   - I tried my best but I failed in my attempt.

2. Subordinate Clause/Dependent Clause

   Subordinate clause is a clause which depends on some other clause for its meaning.
Examples:

- When I saw her.
- That the world is round.

### 2.4 The Definition of Noun Clause

According to Jayanthi (1998: 228), noun clause is a group of words which contains a subject and predicate of its own and does the work of a noun, and the examples are:

- I know **that she is a teacher in the school**.
- **What I like most in her** is her modesty.
- **That she left her husband** is known to all her friends.

**A noun clause can be used as:**

a) The subject of the verb  
b) The object of a transitive verb  
c) The object of a preposition  
d) In apposition to a noun or pronoun  
e) The complement of a verb of incomplete predication

### 2.5 The Classification of Noun Clauses

According to Suryadi (2007: 292), noun clause based on the types of sentences can be classified into four kinds, namely:

a) Statement  
b) Question  
c) Request  
d) Exclamation

The writer focuses the study only in **statement** and **question**.
2.5.1 Noun Clause from Statement

According to Suryadi (2007: 294), noun clause from statement uses conjunction “that”.

❖ Function of clauses as:

a) The subject of the verb


- Kangaroo lives in Australia. (Statement)
- That Kangaroo lives in Australia is well known to all. (Noun Clause)

b) The object of a transitive verb

Example by Suragin (2003: 123)

- John is a clever engineer. (Statement)
- I think that John is a clever engineer. (Noun Clause)

c) In apposition to a noun or pronoun

Example by Suragin (2003: 125)

- The world is round. (Statement)
- It is a fact that the world is round. (Noun Clause)

d) The complement of a verb of incomplete predication

Example by Jayanthi (1998: 229)

- Hard work brings success. (Statement)
- My belief is that hard work brings success. (Noun Clause)
2.5.2 Noun Clause from Question

A. Yes/No Question

According to Ismail (2008: http://ismailmidi.com/berita-170-noun-clause.html), noun clause from yes/no question uses conjunction “whether or if (or not)”.

❖ Function of clauses as:

a) The subject of the verb


• Can she drive the car? (Question)

• Whether (or not) she can drive the car doesn’t concern me. (Noun Clause)

b) The object of a transitive verb

Example by Betty (1992: 352)

• Is Eric at home? (Question)

• I don’t know if Eric is at home (or not). (Noun Clause)

c) The object of a preposition


• Can she drive the car? (Question)

• We discussed about whether she can drive the car. (Noun Clause)
d) The complement of a verb of incomplete predication

Example by Jayanthi (1998: 229)

- Did he attend the meeting or stay at home? (Question)
- The problem is whether he attends the meeting or stay at home.
  (Noun Clause)

Notes:

Betty (1992: 352) states that:

- When a yes/no question is changed to a noun clause, if is usually used to introduce the clause.
- When if introduces a noun clause, the expression or not frequently comes at the end of the clause, as in (b).
- In (a): or not can come immediately after whether.
- Or not cannot come immediately after if.

B. Wh-Question

According to Ismail (2008: http://ismailmidi.com/berita-170-non-clause.html), noun clause from wh-question uses conjunction “question word”.

- Function of clauses as:

a) The subject of the verb

Example by Suryadi (2007: 293)

- How will he get the money? (Question)
- How he will get the money is his own affair. (Noun Clause)
b) The object of a transitive verb

Example by Betty (1992: 348)

- Whose pen is on the desk? (Question)
- I don’t know whose pen is on the desk. (Noun Clause)

c) The object of a preposition

Example by Jayanthi (1998: 229)

- What have you read? (Question)
- I have no any idea about what I have read. (Noun Clause)

d) The complement of a verb of incomplete predication

Example by Jayanthi (1998: 229)

- Where did I find the money for the project? (Question)
- The question is where to find the money for the project. (Noun Clause)

Note:

According to Suryadi (2007: 297), dalam noun clause dari pertanyaan, subject dan verb mempunyai susunan yang umum, yakni terletak sesudah introductory word (in noun clause from question, subject and verb have a common structure, which is located after introductory word.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introductory word</th>
<th>Noun clause</th>
<th>Original Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>He</td>
<td>Did it</td>
<td>Did he do it?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They</td>
<td>Are coming</td>
<td>When they are coming?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She</td>
<td>Is</td>
<td>Who is she?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Her name</td>
<td>Is</td>
<td>What is her name?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>