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The Qualifier of Anyone and Anything: A Systemic Functional Linguistic Approach

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ABSTRACT

Many research has been discussing the use of the word anyone and anything in English. This research as a preliminary study tries to figure out the qualifier of the word anyone and anything in English. This study investigated the types of the qualifier which are embedded in the head anyone and anything in a nominal group. The approach applied in this research is Systemic Functional Linguistics which is introduced by Halliday in his first well-known book entitled *An Introduction to Functional Grammar*. The present writer obtained 1000 corpus of each (1000 corpus for the word anyone and 1000 corpus for anything as the head) from British National Corpus. The method used is a descriptive method. As a qualifier, the present writer only obtained the words after the word anyone and anything of each data. For the next step, the present writer classifies the types of qualifier of anyone and anything based on the forms, into four groups: \emptyset , clause, noun group, and prepositional phrase. From the analysis of the data, the result of the research shows that the qualifier of ‘anyone’ could be \emptyset (44.5%), clause (28.3%), noun group (16%), and prepositional phrase (11.3%) while the qualifier of ‘anything’ could be \emptyset (40.5%), prepositional phrase (21.6%), noun group (20.6%), and clause (17.3%). It can be concluded that \emptyset is the highest number of qualifier of both anyone and anything while the lowest number of the qualifier is a prepositional phrase for anyone and clause for anything.

Keywords: Anything, anyone, qualifier, clause, prepositional phrase, noun group

Introduction

Systemic Functional Linguistics was introduced by M.A.K. Halliday. Halliday as the father Systemic Functional Linguistics wrote his book entitled “*Introduction to Functional Grammar*” (Halliday, 1985). He introduces groups as the second rank after words before clauses. There are two types of group: major and minor group (Sujatna, 2013) and there are three major groups: noun group, verbal group, and adverbial group. As one of the types of the major groups, the noun group is an interesting phenomenon in Systemic Functional Linguistics perspective. The noun group could be built by some elements, they are classifier, epithet, qualifier which come at the same time to modify the thing. Besides the major, the other type of group is minor group. The groups classified into the minor groups are conjunction group and prepositional group. This essay focuses on the major group, especially the noun group. The aims of this research are, firstly, to identify the kind of qualifier following the thing *Anything*, secondly, to identify the kind of qualifier following the thing

Anyone, and thirdly, to identify the dominant qualifier following the thing *Anyone* and *Anything*.

Noun Group

Group, according to (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004) in (Sujatna, 2013) “*is in some respects equivalent to a word complex – that is a combination of words built up on the basis of particular logical relation. This why it is called group (=group of words)*”. Another opinion comes from (Gerot & Wignell, 1995) “*A group, as the name implies is a group of words and, like everything else in grammar, relationships between and among words in group are structured... A group is basically an extension of a word. It consists of a headword plus any modification to that word.*”

Noun group as we know, as one of the major groups, is a group of words which has a noun as the head of the group, or sometimes called as thing. Gerot & Wignell, (1995) argue that “*A nominal group is a group of words which has a noun (a word which names a person, place, or thing) as its head word and includes all additional information related to that noun.*”

As a group of words, a noun group could stand alone or be modified by pre-modifiers, post-modifiers or both. Pay attention to the following example:

(1) Books are important.

The word book in the example (1) is a noun group which stands alone. It has no modifiers. We can say that the noun group consists of the Thing only. The following examples describe the noun group consisting of its modification.

(2) My books are important.

The example (2) describes that the noun group *My books* consists of a Thing books and a deictic *my*. According to (Gerot & Wignell, 1995) “*Deictic has the function of stating ‘which thing’.* It specifies how the Thing in question can be identified in relation to the context.” The word *my* in the example (2) is a possessive deictic.

Besides Deictic, the Post Deictic is also one of the noun group elements as (Gerot & Wignell, 1995) argue that “*The Post-Deictic identifies the subset of the class of Thing by referring to its fame or familiarity, its status in the text, or its similarity or dissimilarity to some other designated subset.*”

The next element is Numerative; it tells us ‘how many’. The Numerative indicates some numerical feature of the subset; either quantity or order, either exact or inexact. The following is the example of Post-Deictic and Numerative in a noun group.

(3) The identical two boys are my friends.

The group *The identical two boys* is a noun group. It has a Deictic *the*, a Post-Deictic *identical*, a Numerative *two*, and the Thing *boys*. The Deictic *the* describes ‘which thing’ (which boys), the Post-Deictic *identical* describes the subset of the class of Thing (identical boys), and the Numerative *two* indicates the numerical feature of the subset (two boys) while the Thing is boys.

Following the Deictic, Post-Deictic, and Numerative, there are Epithet and Classifier that come before the Thing. Epithet indicates the quality of the subset. It might be objective or subjective. The objective Epithet sometimes called as experiential Epithet while the subjective is an expression of the speaker’s attitude.

THE QUALIFIER OF ANYONE AND ANYTHING: A SYSTEMATIC

The last element before the Thing is Classifier. Classifier tells us what kind or what type, for example, we differentiate the kind of 'right answer' or 'wrong answer'. Sometimes it is hard to differentiate between Classifier and Epithet. Gerot & Wignell, (1995) argued that "*A Classifier cannot be intensified*" as described in the following examples.

(4) *It is very right answer.

(5) *It is very wrong answer.

The words right and wrong in the examples (4) and (5) are classifier so that they could not be intensified by the word very. It would be different with the word big and small they could become very big and very small. From the examples (1) up to (5) they describe the elements come before the Thing, what about the element comes after the Thing? The element comes after the Thing is Qualifier.

Qualifier is an element comes after the Thing, it modifies the Thing that is why it is sometimes called Post-Modifier. According to Gerot & Wignell (1995), "*Qualifiers provide additional defining or circumstantial information about the Thing.*" Pay attention to the following example.

(6) A book with the blue cover is mine.

The group *A book with the blue cover* is a noun group. It has both Pre-Modifier and Post-Modifier. The Pre-Modifier is a non-specific Deictic (a) while the Post-Modifier is a prepositional phrase as the Qualifier (with the blue cover). Both of the Modifiers modify the Thing (book).

This research discusses the Qualifier as the element comes after the Thing. Halliday and Matthissen (2004) argue that Qualifier can be a prepositional phrase, noun group or clause. The present writer limits the object of the research: they are anyone and anything. Both *Anyone* and *Anything* are pronouns. As a pronoun, each of them could be a Thing as a head of a noun group. The present writer has two objectives of this research, the first is to find out the types of the qualifier of the word *Anyone* and *Anything*, and the second is to find out the distribution of the types of the qualifier of the word *Anyone* and *Anything* relating to the 1000 corpus of each collected from British National Corpus (BNC).

Research Methods

The method applied in this research is a descriptive method. It describes the phenomenon being studied relating to the data. The data obtained from British National Corpus (BNC). The writer took 1000 corpus containing the word anything and 1000 corpus containing the word anyone. After collecting the data, the writer classified them into the types of the qualifier. They are \emptyset , clause, noun group, and prepositional phrase.

Result and Discussion

The Qualifier of Anyone

As described earlier, every noun group has a Thing. The Things discussed in this research are both *Anyone* and *Anything*. As the Thing, the word *Anyone* or *Anything* is the head of the noun group. The Thing comes before the Qualifier. Based on the 1000 corpus collected, it is found that the Qualifier of the Thing *Anyone* could be \emptyset (zero). It is explained in the data, \emptyset as the qualifier (the examples in Figure 1), prepositional phrase

THE QUALIFIER OF ANYONE AND ANYTHING: A SYSTEMATIC

(the examples in Figure 2), noun group (the examples in Figure 3), and clause (the examples in Figure 4). The following is the examples of the data mentioned (each category is represented by three data).

No	Data	qualifier
1	scowling look at Manchester United it makes me sick.' I don't think anyone will ever beat my record, but I very much hope that they will.	Ø
2	you're never alone in the blackout, even though you can't actually see anyone ." Ar, hey,' Vi said uneasily,' don't	Ø
3	you. Their telephone number is (-----) # CAN YOU kindly let me know if anyone can repair a Garrard radiogram? The number is K.G.A. 81015. (deleted:name) (deleted:address) Try Jones	Ø

Figure 1. Ø as the qualifier of *Anyone*

No	Data	qualifier
888	red carpeted, canopied entrance wasn't easy. Security people checked invitations before admitting anyone through the tent flaps. Inside it was like a football match. Both sides	PP
889	rows. Invaluable if you are growing vegetables intensively in beds. # Power points # Anyone with a large plot to maintain, who wants to reduce effort and time spent	PP
890	safety at these maniacal velocities. There didn't seem to be any sign of anyone at all, and Howard wasn't particularly surprised, since neither the government nor	PP

Figure 2. Prepositional Phrase as the qualifier of *Anyone*

No	Data	qualifier
728	you're simply doing what you want, with no thought of anything -- or anyone - else.' He gazed down at her for a long moment, then	NG
729	yes okay then. (SP:JT5PSUNK) That's terrific. Okay. Erm (pause) is there anyone else er as open minded as your brother-in-law? (SP:JT5PSUNK) No I can't think	NG
730	with them indicators which can be taken for granted by an enforcement officer (or anyone else) as unambiguous signs of their presence. Evidence decays. All but the	NG

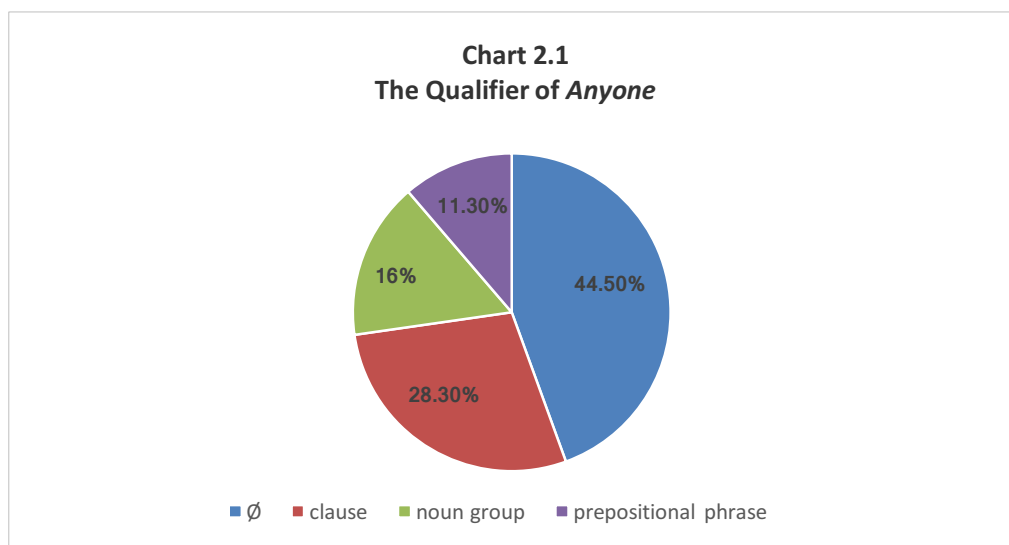
Figure 3. Noun Group as the qualifier of *Anyone*

THE QUALIFIER OF ANYONE AND ANYTHING: A SYSTEMATIC

No	Data	qualifier
447	you just like to learn in lots of different ways. Just make sure that anyone who's training you doesn't restrict what you learn by not allowing you to	Clause
448	year. A spokesman for North Yorkshire police said officers still wanted to hear from anyone who had invested money with Mr Finnegan's companies. Mr Finnegan was to stand	Clause
449	worked on the project to tell you the details. I'm not aware of anyone who's still around. Presumably it was something to do with the way that	Clause

Figure 4. Clause as the qualifier of *Anyone*

From the examples of each category, the data of the qualifier of *anyone* can be described as in the following chart 2.1.



The chart 2.1 describes that the 1000 corpus obtained, has four different types: Ø, prepositional phrase, noun group, and clause. The Ø as qualifier of the thing *Anyone* in noun group, as the highest, it reaches 445 data or 44.50%, clause as qualifier of the word *Anyone* in noun group reaches 283 data or 28.3%, noun group as qualifier of the word *Anyone* in noun group reaches 160 data or 16%, and prepositional phrase as qualifier of the word *Anyone* in noun group reaches 113 data or 11.3%.

The Qualifier of Anything

This research does not discuss only *Anyone* as the Thing but also *Anything*. The same with the Thing *Anyone*, the Thing *Anything* could also be modified by Ø or called zero (the examples in Figure 5), clause (the examples in Figure 6), noun group (the examples in Figure 7), or even a preposition phrase (the examples in Figure 8). The following is the examples of the data mentioned (each category is represented by three data).

THE QUALIFIER OF ANYONE AND ANYTHING: A SYSTEMATIC

No	Data	qualifier
1	three, and if you're well enough to work you're well enough for anything .' He lifted her hand to his lips and kissed the inside of her	Ø
2	<u>top of what's already occurring. And, erm, you won't solve anything. (SP:PS3KA) That's right, so, if you want to try and erm</u>	Ø
3	the faded sashes they wore, and the weapons they carried, marked them as anything but ordinary folk fleeing the marauders. Those, and the presence of Myrcans in	Ø

Figure 5. Ø as the qualifier of *Anything*

No	Data	qualifier
406	remain stupid.' Mere boastful pessimism? Or a necessary razing of expectation before anything can be properly thought, or done, or written? I don't even	Clause
407	breaks down, it could be sound shut down it could be it could be anything you choose, but I want it anyway, leave it to you so all	Clause
408	higher silver content, to white gold which could pass for silver. To obtain anything like pure silver from a natural gold alloy involved a relatively sophisticated process of separation	Clause

Figure 6. Clause as the qualifier of *Anything*

No	Data	qualifier
579	eaten quite a few within a couple of hours before his death." Anything else in the stomach?' Franks screwed up his lips.' Not much	NG
580	which it can be forced to feed on its own surplus fat. Never believe anything else, whatever silly things you may read or hear elsewhere. Different bodies have	NG
581	feet away, too caught up in the playwright's words to be aware of anything else. He'd trusted her; even when everything seemed to point against her	NG

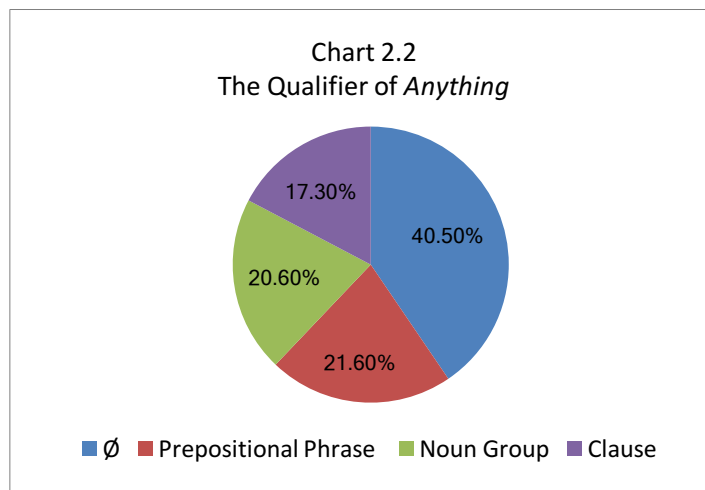
Figure 7. Noun Group as the qualifier of *Anything*

No	Data	qualifier
785	must be a combination of the sea and the heat. I've never seen anything quite like it anywhere in the world.' Niall maneuvered a particularly tight bend	PP
786	?' He laughed bitterly.' Forget it, Fran. You try making anything out of that and you'll find yourself up to your neck in more trouble	PP
787	it until a time when you have been taken sick and you can't do anything about it. (SP:PS5N1) No, no. (SP:PS5MU) You certainly want to look at doing	PP

Figure 8. Prepositional Phrase as the qualifier of *Anything*

From the examples of each category, the data of the qualifier of *anything* can be described as in the following chart 2.2.

THE QUALIFIER OF ANYONE AND ANYTHING: A SYSTEMATIC



Relating to 1000 data collected by the present writer, she found 405 data or 40.5% consisting Ø qualifier comes after the thing anything as the highest rank. The present writer tries to describe the data as the following. The prepositional phrase comes after the thing *Anything* found 216 data or 21.6%, the noun group comes after the thing *Anything* found 206 data or (20.6%), and the clause comes after the thing *Anything* found 173 data or 17.3%.

Conclusion

The result of the research shows that the qualifier of ‘anyone’ and ‘anything’ as described in the following table.

the qualifier of ‘anyone’				the qualifier of ‘anything’			
Ø	clause	noun group	prepositional phrase	Ø	clause	noun group	prepositional phrase
44.5%	28.3%	16%	11.3%	40.5%	21.6%	20.6%	17.3%

The table describes that the Ø is the highest number of the qualifier of both *anyone* and *anything*. From the table, it can be seen that Ø as the qualifier of *anyone* is (44.5%), followed by clause (21.6%), noun group (16%), and prepositional phrase (11.3%) while the qualifier of *anything*, Ø as the qualifier could be (40.5%), prepositional phrase (21.6%), noun group (20.6%), and clause (17.3%).

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