



Patterning in English Written Medical Leaflets

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1. Sentence Structuring

In describing sentences, Leech et al., (2001:463) and Crystal (2003: 40-1) shed light on English sentences as the largest structural unit concerning the organization of the grammar of a language. Quirk et al., (1985:42) state that a sentence is the structure which consists of one or more clauses, which consist of one or more phrases, which consist of one or more words, which consist of one or more morphemes.

Traditionally, any sentence is the expression of a complete thought (Palmer, 1971:71). It is a string of words which begins with a capital letter and ends with a full stop (Parrott, 2000:251).

Glauner (2002:ch 12, p.1-2) states that all sentences are formed depending on certain grammatical rules, such rules can be described as the rules of grammaticality.

Logically, Strang (1971: 72) highlights the definition of sentences by explaining the logic of sentences saying that the sentence is the structure which consists of a complete subject and a complete predicate, as in:

The children are happy

Complete subject predicate

Semantically, Gleason (1965:317) classifies sentences referring to - as other grammarians - do to the four types of classification, i.e. as declaratives, imperatives, interrogatives, and exclamatives.

Others highlight the syntactic classification showing that English - as other languages - can syntactically be classified into four types as: simple, compound, complex, and compound - complex sentences.

Quirk et al., (1985:78-9); Leech and Svartvik (1994:26) and many other grammarians talk about the structure of English sentences referring to the different elements composing them. These basic elements which build the structure of English sentences vary according to their patterns.

2. Sentence Patterning

The process of patterning is very common and important among grammarians. The term "pattern" is widely used to refer to the basic elements which compose the final form of the sentence (Greenbaum 1991:56 and Glauner 2002:70). The term "pattern" is used to apply generally to the basic unit of any language.

The analysis of this paper is mainly based on "Quirk et al., 's model". This model is basically a strict syntactic classification which has seven patterns. The pattern is the structure which consists of the basic elements: Subject (henceforth S), verb (henceforth V), and the other complements (direct object (O), complement (C), and adverb (A).

Quirk et al., 's model has the following patterns:

1. SV The man walked. →
2. SVO The captain caught the ball. →
3. SVC → John is handsome, or John is a professor.
4. SVA → The chef is in the kitchen.
5. SVO₁O₂ → He gives me an expensive gift.
6. SVOC → We have called him a fool / stupid.
7. SVOAI → put the book on the shelf.

3. Scientific Language

Crystal in his "How Language Works" (2007:470) talks about the scientific language saying that the field of medicine, more than any other, forces a confrontation between scientific and everyday language. Ronald (1993:78) and Crystal (2007: 470-71) state that there is a mistrust of scientific language that is alleviated through science publications and avoids oversimplification.

No doubt, English is described as a language which has been increasingly used and taught as the needs increased by those who are interested in scientific specialties. This language and this purpose ; scientific purposes, maintain different features:

- * Syntactic features.
- * Contextual and rhetorical features.
- * Communicative features.
- * Non-verbal features.

In the process of designing the medical leaflets, there are a number of key points to be accounted :

1. Complex language and medical jargon cause difficulty in understanding by patients.
2. Using, to some extent, colloquial English.
3. The importance of using short sentences and/or bullet points (www.cambreg.co.uk).

4. Analysis of Basic Sentence Patterns (BSPs) Occurrence in English Medical Leaflets

The total number of sentences chosen randomly from the used medical leaflets is (112) active, passive, positive and negative, affirmative, imperative, and declarative basic sentences. The researcher based the work on the full-form sentences aside leaving the abbreviations and single terms or words. The sample is taken from ten English written medical leaflets (see Appendix 2). The BSPs are examined in these randomly selected sheets. The use of BSPs is graded between the seven Quirk et al.,'s model as shown in table (1):

Table (1)
Frequency Distribution of the total uses of BSPs in English medical leaflets

Patterns	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	Total
Frequency	3	40	33	7	3	4	22	112
Percent	2.678	35.714	29.464	6.250	2.678	3.571	19.642	99.997

Note:

- P1 = pattern 1 P2 = pattern 2 P3 = pattern 3
P4 = Pattern 4
P5 = pattern 5 P6= pattern 6 P7 = pattern 7

The most frequent one is pattern 2 (40; 35.714), second is pattern 3 (33;29.464), third comes pattern 7 (22;19.642), fourth comes Pattern 4 (7; 6.250), fifth comes pattern 6(4;3.571), and finally comes pattern1 and 5 with same frequency and percentage (3; 2.678) (see Appendix 1).

5. Discussion of Results

According to the given results, it has been noticed that :

1. Pattern 2 (SVO)

This pattern comes first and this can emphasize the prominence of this pattern since it scores (40) points. In the selected leaflets, there is a frequent occurrence of the intransitive verbs as contain, include, consist of, use, avoid, and many others, as in:

Each- coated tablet contains Avaslo – Atorvastatin Calcium.

In this pattern, the passive basic sentences are widely and intentionally used to obviate the active subject, since there is no urgent necessity to mention the agent, as in:

*** Patients have been informed of the potential hazards.**

*** Serum CPK levels should be monitored.**

In some cases, the use of the imperative (negative or positive) sentences are required to inform the patients of the main instructions of the recommended drug as:

*** Do not by yourself interrupt the period of treatment.**

*** Reduce the dose.**

2. Pattern 3(SVC)

P3 comes next with (33; 29.464). This pattern is urgently used because it is essential in the process of structuring any medical leaflet. It's necessary because it refers to the description of the drug or medicine, as in:

*** Nicotinamide is an essential component of coenzymes .**

*** The doctors and the pharmacists are experts in medicine.**

This pattern is basically used in the process of writing any medical leaflet to describe and identify the use of drug. The verb "be" is widely used and the complements are either adjectives or nouns which describe and explain, and give more information. The sentences of this pattern are distributed between descriptive content which is rare and identification content which is widely used, as in:

* **The side effects are uncommon. (descriptive content)**

* **Meloxicam is a non-steroid anti-inflammatory drug. (identification content)**

3. Pattern 7 (SVOA)

This pattern comes third which is used heavily to give amount of information and instructions to patients. The main observation here, is the excessive use of the passive or imperative constructions as exemplified in these leaflets :

* **Antihistamines is rapidly absorbed after oral administration.**

* **Do not keep the drug outside.**

In fact, the use of the adverb or the adverbial clause is to add some meaning to the object according to the need of the verb.

4. Pattern 4 (SVA)

This pattern comes fourth (7; 6.250) and next to pattern 7 with a great difference. In some of pattern 4 sentences specify place, time, etc., as:

* **Keep at temperature (15-30 C°)**

It is noticed that the verb "occur" occupies the highest degree of frequency in most sentences, as in:

* **Borderline elevation of one or more liver tests may occur in up to 15% of patients taking NSAID.**

5. Pattern 6 (SVOC)

This pattern has (4; 3.571) and this makes it in the final position with the other remaining patterns. In fact, P6 is more complex and elaborate than the other patterns. So,

the medical-sheet writers attempt to avoid using it to make the patients or those who read the leaflet find no difficulty in understanding the instructions written in these leaflets. The writers of medical leaflet, tend to use adjectival clauses to describe the subject. The adjectival clauses are used to give the patients more information about the drug, as in:

***Tussifin contains Ephedrine HCl which prevents the bronchial spasms.**

6. Pattern 1 (SV) and Pattern 5 (SVOO)

These two patterns have the same percentage and the same frequency (3; 2.678). Since P1 consists of S and V only. It gives the patients no information or instructions about the drug, as in:

*** Abnormal liver test has occurred.**

P5 occurs in the passive form in the majority of its frequency, as in :

*** Patients have been informed of the potential hazards.**

6. Conclusions

Throughout the investigation of English BSPs in medical leaflets, the following results have been reached by the researchers :

1. The language of medical leaflets is, to some extent, different from other forms of language. It depends on the purposes, and the applications the writers want to convey.
2. The patterns vary considerably, some are used frequently and excessively as shown in the analysis, whereas others are less in use. This variation depends on the form of these leaflets and their purposes.
3. The most frequently used BSPs are P2(40;35.714) and P3 (33; 29.464) i.e., they are the most essential patterns in the medical leaflets. They are used heavily because of

their essentiality in the English grammar. Pattern 7 has (22; 19.642) and comes next to these two patterns to show its importance.

4. The less frequent BSP used in the English medical leaflets is P4(7;6.250). It means that the pattern is less essential than all patterns.
5. The least frequently used BSPs are P6(4;3.571) , P1(3; 2.678) , P5(3; 2.678) which have the same score and percentage, and P4(0:0.00). This means that these patterns are less essential in English medical leaflets.

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Appendix (1)

Sentences Randomly Chosen from Medical Leaflets (112 Sentences)

- **Pattern 1 (SV)**

1. **Abnormal liver test has occurred.**
2. **Dizziness or sleeplessness may occur.**
3. **If new symptoms occur, consult a doctor.**

- **Pattern 2 (SVO)**

1. **Each 15ml contains vitamin B1 5mg.**
2. **Calcium pantothenate enhances the oxidative metabolism of carbon synthesis.**
3. **The gel form is characterized by being very rapidly absorbed from the skin thus induces a very quick anesthetic action.**
4. **Tullin is indicated for the temporary relief of minor aches, pains, and headache.**
5. **Antihistamines may have additive affects.**
6. **It reduces morbidity, shortens convalescence and maintains normal growth and good health.**
7. **Side effects in the case of normal doses conclude: nausea, vomiting, constipation, and drowsiness.**
8. **It combines the sedative form.**
9. **Lignocaine blocks the conduction of nerve impulses by decreasing the neuronal membrane.**
10. **Hypersensitivity reactions may be encountered.**
11. **These possibilities should not be overlooked.**
12. **Gastric large and symptomatic treatment are recommended.**
13. **However very rare allergic reactions have been reported.**
14. **Mebeverine is generally well tolerated.**
15. **Though experiments in rats and rabbits have shown that mebeverine is not teratogenic in these species.**
16. **The desired effect has been obtained.**
17. **Treatment with LOXIM is not recommended.**

18. The drug should be discontinued.
19. Symptoms consistent with liver disease are observed.
20. Patients with asthma may have aspirin-sensitive asthma.
21. Concurrent administration of LOXIM with the following drugs should be avoided.
22. Activated charcoal may be administered repeatedly.
23. Each film-coated tablet contains: Avas 10- A calcium equivalent to Atorvastatin 10mg.
24. Food reduces the rate and extent of absorption.
25. Adverse effects reported commonly include constipation, flatulence.
26. Safety in pregnancy has not been established.
27. Serum CPK levels should be monitored.
28. Periavit syrup is well tolerated.
29. Multiple doses of Atorvastatin and Digoxin were co-administered.
30. The patient should avoid driving a car or operating dangerous machinery.
31. A bottle contains 120ml.
32. Each soft gelatin capsule contains paracetamol 250mg.
33. TULLIN combines the central antitussive effect of dextromethorphan.
34. Cough is accompanied by excessive phlegm (mucus).
35. Do not take this product.
36. Tussifin reduces the bronchial and nasal congestion.
37. Do not by yourself interrupt the period of treatment.
38. Do not repeat the same prescription.
39. In addition, rare cases of severe hepatic reactions, including jaundice, liver necrosis have been reported.
40. Concurrent administration of LOXIM with the following drugs should be avoided.
 - Pattern 3 (SVC)
 1. Periavit syrup is safe.
 2. If sore throat is severe.

3. Tussifin is very palatable due to liquid extract of liquorice, a safe sweetening and flavoring agent.
4. Vitamin B2 is vital for the oxidation-reduction reactions in the body cells.
5. Vitamin B2 is important for the synthesis of nucleic acids.
6. The elimination on half-life is constant across dose levels indicating linear metabolism with therapeutic dose range.
7. These laboratory may be transient with continuing therapy.
8. It is advisable to rehydrate patients first.
9. Hemoperfusion may not be useful due to high protein binding.
10. Meloxicam Bp 7.5/15mg of this substance is as effective as 15mg of codeine.
11. LDL- C reduction is similar whether Atorvastatin is given with or without food.
12. Aseptic cleansing to each feeding is essential.
13. They are rare.
14. Side effects are absent.
15. Side effects are uncommon.
16. Its consumption, contrary to instructions, is dangerous for you.
17. The mean plasma elimination half-life of Atorvastatin in human is approximately 14 hours.
18. Nicotinamide is an essential component of coenzymes.
19. Tussifin is a reliable expectorant with antihistaminic properties.
20. Glyceryl Guaiacolate is a new efficient and extremely safe expectorant.
21. A medicament is a product which affects your health.
22. The doctors and the pharmacists are experts in medicine.
23. Vitaminat syrup is a multivitamin combination.
24. SEDO-PECT is combination of three effective drugs.

25. Its duration of action is about 45 minutes.
26. Mebeverine, the active principle in Meva, is a musculotropic spasmolytic with a strong and selective action on the stomach.
27. An oxicam derivate is a member of the enolic group of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.
28. Meloxicam is non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug.
29. The main volume of distribution is approximately 10L.
30. The recommended starting and maintenance dose of LOXIM is 7.5mg.
31. Atorvastatin Calcium is [R-(R*, R*)] -2- (4-fluorophered)-b, d-dihydroxy -5- (1-methylethyl) -3-phenyl.
32. Tussifin acts as a bronchodilator.
33. If the woman becomes pregnant while taking Atorvastatin, it should be discontinued.

- Pattern 4 (SVA)

1. Serious gastrointestinal toxicity, such as inflammation, bleeding ulceration small intestine or large intestine, can occur at any time, with or without warning symptoms.
2. Anaphylactaid reactions have occurred in patients without knowing prior exposure to LOXIM.
3. Borderline elevations of one or more liver tests may occur in up to 15% of patients taking NSAID.
4. Store at temperature (15-30 C°) away from direct sunlight.
5. Liver enzyme changes generally occur in the first three months of the treatment.
6. Plasma concentrations of Atorvastatin decreased 25%.
7. Digoxin Concentrations increased by approximate 20%.

- Pattern 5 (SVOO)

1. It should not be given to patients who have experience in asthma.
 2. Patients have been informed of the potential hazards.
 3. LOXIM should not be given to patients with the aspirin triad.
- Pattern 6 (SVOC)
1. It has the advantage that it is devoid of addictive liability.
 2. Tussifin contains Ephedrine HCl which prevents the bronchial spasms.
 3. Periavit syrup contains cyproheptadine HCl which has antihistaminic.
 4. Atorvastatin is indicated as an adjunct to diet to reduce elevated total- C, LDL.
- Pattern 7 (SVOA)
1. Keep it out of reach of children.
 2. Prevent and control pain during examination and instrumentation.
 3. For fissured nipples apply the cream after food.
 4. Meva is not contraindicated in patients with glaucoma.
 5. LOXIM should be avoided because it may cause premature closure of the ductus arteriosus.
 6. Vitamin B1 is involved in the decarboxylation reactions necessary or carbohydrate metabolism.
 7. Not more than 30mg should be applied in one day.
 8. The use of a sterile gauzed pad is suggested when applying the product to broken or burnt skin.
 9. Concentration ranging from 81 to 159 mg/ml were obtained (2 – 4 hours) after administration.
 10. Temporarily relieves cough due to minor throat and bronchial irritation.
 11. Do not take the product for persistent or chronic cough.
 12. Do not use this product if you are now taking a prescription.

13. It has been used with success to stimulate appetite in underweight patients and in those with anorexia nervosa.
14. Atorvastatin is rapidly absorbed after oral administration.
15. It is given with or without food.
16. Atorvastatin is extensively metabolized and eliminated primarily in bile.
17. Keep all medicines out of the reach of children.
18. It is also indicated for the treatment of patients with primary dysbetalipoproteinemia who don't respond to diet.
19. Atorvastatin is indicated to reduce total and LDL-Cm
20. LOXIM is indicated for relief of the signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis.
21. LOXIM is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to meloxicam.
22. To minimize the potential risk for an adverse G1 event, the lowest effective dose should be used for shortest possible duration.

Appendix (2)

Samples of Medical Leaflets

LIGNOCAINE

Local Anaesthetic

Composition :

Lignocaine Hydrochloride

Cream , Gel

Cream

2% or 5%

Gel

2% or 5%

**Properties :**

Lignocaine blocks the conduction of nerve impulses by decreasing the neuronal membrane permeability to sodium ions. This reversibly stabilizes the membrane and inhibits depolarization, resulting in the failure of propagated action potential and subsequent conduction blockade.

Its duration of action is about 45 minutes.

The gel form is characterized by being very rapidly absorbed from the skin thus induces a very quick anaesthetic action.

Indications:

- The control of pain, itching, burning and other unpleasant symptoms due to :
 - Minor burns
 - Abrasions
 - Napkin rash and stomatitis aphthosa
 - Non poisonous insect bites
 - Inoperable anaerobic conditions
 - Haemorrhoids, fissures, nipple soreness
 - Dermatological lesions, and similar conditions.
- Anaesthetic lubricant for endotracheal intubation.
- Prevent and control pain during examination and instrumentation.

Precautions :

Not more than 30g should be applied in one day. Although lignocaine has been shown to be relatively free from allergic and sensitizing properties these possibilities should not be overlooked. Apply with caution to severely traumatized mucosa and sepsis in the region of application.

Contraindications:

Known hypersensitivity to local anaesthetics of the amide type.

Application :

Apply to the affected area once or twice daily or in any suitable frequency. For fissured nipples apply the cream after each feed, but aseptic cleansing prior to each feeding is essential. The use of a sterile gauzed pad is suggested when applying the product to broken or burnt skin.

Drug interactions : None .

Side Effects :

Hypersensitivity reactions may be encountered but they are rare .

Packing : Tube of 20 gm.



The NILE Co. For Pharmaceuticals and Chemical Industries
Cairo A. R. E. - R. C. C. 11568

Important: Read carefully!

MevaTM

mebeverine HCl 135 mg
Film Coated Tablets

COMPOSITION:
MevaTM Tablet, each tablet contains mebeverine HCl 135 mg.

MODE OF ACTION:
Mebeverine, the Active principle of MevaTM, is a muscarinic spasmolytic with a strong and selective action on the smooth muscle spasm of the gastrointestinal tract, particularly of the colon.

INDICATIONS:
Specific functional disturbances of the colon:
- Irritable colon syndrome in its primary form
- Irritable colon syndrome associated with organic lesions of the gastrointestinal tract, such as diverticulitis and dyscolitis of the colon, regional enteritis.

DOSEAGE AND ADMINISTRATION:
One tablet three times daily, preferably 20 minutes before meals. When the desired effect has been obtained, the dosage may be reduced gradually after few weeks.
Not recommended for children under 12 years.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:
Contraindications are not known. As atropine like side effects are absent, MevaTM is not contraindicated in patients with glaucoma or prostatic hypertrophy.
Mebeverine is contraindicated in patients with paralytic ileus.

SIDE EFFECTS:
Mebeverine is generally well tolerated and side effects are uncommon. However very rare allergic reactions have been reported e.g. rash, urticaria and angioedema.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS:
Through experiments in rats and rabbits have shown that mebeverine is not teratogenic in these animal species. Administration of MevaTM is to be discouraged during pregnancy. MevaTM should be avoided in patients with a history of acute porphyria.

OVERDOSEAGE:
GMS excitability may occur; its specific antidote is known, gastric lavage and symptomatic treatment is recommended.

PACKAGING:
Pack of 30 film coated tablets.

STORAGE:
Store between 15 - 30°C

THIS IS A MEDICAMENT

- Medicament is a product that affects your health, and its consumption entirely is subjected to a regimen for you.
- Follow strictly the doctor's prescription, the method of use and the instructions of the pharmaceutical and the manufacturer.
- The doctor and the pharmacist are experts in medicine, its benefits and risks.
- Do not use a product if you do not find the instructions presented to you.
- Do not repeat the same prescription without consulting your doctor.

Keep medication out of reach of children.

Council of Arab Health Ministers & Union of Arab Pharmacists


G. I. T. Medicine

MevaTM is a quality product manufactured by:

 **المصنوع في جدة**
Jeddah Pharmacia

P.O. Box 5267 Jeddah-21442-Saudi Arabia

2273888 Fax: 011524994

Soft Gelatin Capsules

COMPOSITION:
Each soft gelatin capsule contains:
Paracetamol 500mg
Guaifenesin 100mg
Pseudoephedrine HCL 30mg
Dextromethorphan HBr 10mg

INDICATIONS:
TULLIN® combines the central antitussive effect of dextromethorphan, with the analgesic guaifenesin and a mild congestion effect of pseudoephedrine, in addition to the analgesic Paracetamol.
TULLIN® is indicated for the temporary relief of minor aches and pains, headache, muscle aches and sore throat associated with cold or flu, and to reduce fever. Temporarily relieves cough due to minor throat and bronchial irritation and nasal congestion as may occur with the cold.
Helps loosen phlegm (mucus) and thin bronchial secretions to make coughs more productive.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:
None.

PRECAUTIONS:
Do not take this product for persistent or chronic cough such as occurs with smoking, asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, or if cough is accompanied by excessive phlegm (mucus), unless directed by a doctor.
If patient has heart disease, high blood pressure, thyroid disease, diabetes, or difficulty in urination due to enlargement of the prostate gland do not take this product unless directed by a doctor.
Do not take this product for more than 7 days (adults) or 5 days (children under 12) or for fewer more than 3 days unless directed by a doctor.
If pain or fever persists or gets worse, if new symptoms occur or if asthma or swelling is present, consult a doctor.
If sore throat is severe, persists for more than 2 days, is accompanied or followed by fever, headache, rash, nausea, or vomiting, consult a doctor promptly. If cough or other symptoms persist, do not improve within 7 days, tend to recur, or are accompanied by fever, rash, or persistent headache, consult a doctor.
If dizziness or sleepiness occur, discontinue the drug and consult a physician.
In case of pregnancy or lactating, consult a physician before using the drug.

DRUG INTERACTION:
Do not use this product if you are now taking a prescription monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI), or for 2 weeks after stopping the MAOI drug.


DOSEAGE AND ADMINISTRATION:
Adults and children 12 years and over: Swallow 2 soft gelatin capsules every 4 hours.
Children 6 years to under 12 years: Swallow 1 soft gelatin capsule every 4 hours.
Children under 6 years consult your doctor.

STORAGE:
Store in dry place, below 30°C, protect from light.
Keep all medicines out of the reach of children.

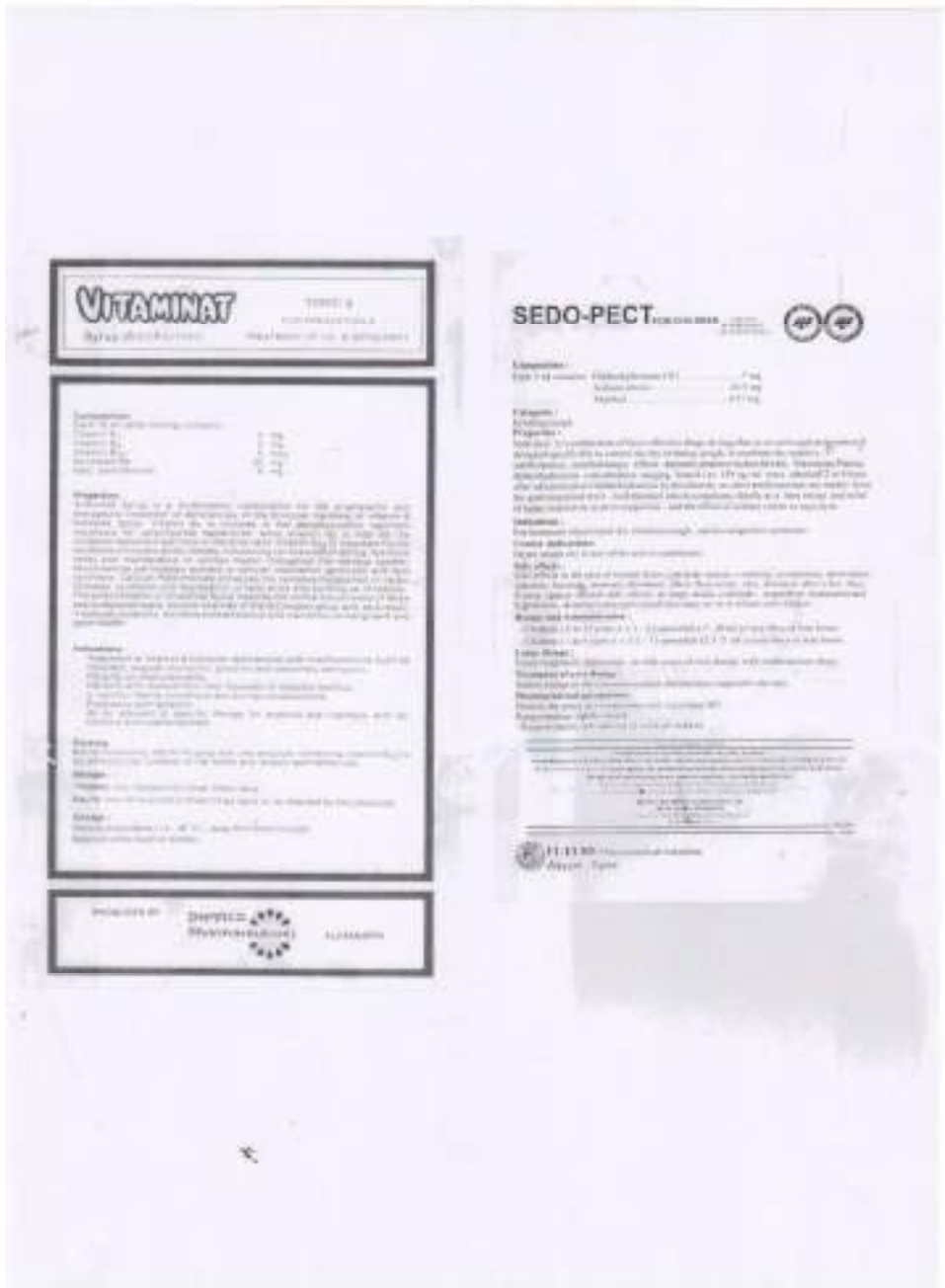
PACKAGING:
TULLIN®: Box contains 30 or 200 or 500 soft gelatin capsules.

THIS IS A PRESCRIPTION

For information on this product, please contact your pharmacist or visit our website at www.tullin.com.
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التركيب المستخدمة في الوصفات الطبية المكتوبة باللغة الانكليزية

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الخلاصة

تعد تراكيب الجمل احدى طرق للتكلم بناء الجمل، ترتيب عناصرها و بنائها . تقع الجمل تحت تراكيب يحددها وجود وظيفة الاسماء و الافعال و الصفات و الظروف. تصنف هذه التراكيب بسهولة حسب نوع الفعل المستخدم.

سيقوم الباحثان بدراسة و تحليل سبعة تراكيب اساسية للجمل المستخدمة في كتابة الوصفات الطبية. تعتبر لغة الوصفات الطبية مختلفة بعض الشيء عن صيغ اللغات المستخدمة في مجالات اخرى. تتنوع هذه التراكيب حيث بعضها يستخدم بشكل مكرر و مكثف كما هو موضح في التحليل ، بينما البعض الاخر استخدام قليلا "جدا". يعتمد هذا التنوع على صيغة هذه الوصفات الطبية و الغرض من استخدامها.

