

A Semantic Analysis of Sentence, Utterance, and Presupposition in The Short Story “The Necklace” By Guy De Maupassant

Anggita Tiara Apriliani¹, Naila Rahmawati²
Universitas Pamulang^{1,2}

Email: anggitiaraapriliani@gmail.com¹, nailadoang212@gmail.com²

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ABSTRACT

This study explored the semantic components of presupposition, speech, and phrase in Guy de Maupassant's short story "The Necklace." The researcher uses a descriptive qualitative method to identify instances of sentences that highlight the distinction between structure (sentences) and actual speech acts (utterances), and to examine the kinds of presuppositions that may be drawn from pragmatic theory. The findings show that various sentences in storytelling and dialogue express different concepts depending on the circumstances and setting. In addition, a wide range of assumptions were found, including lexical, empirical, and existential. The relationship between the language structure of narrative works and their meaning is further understood via this study.

Keywords: presupposition, semantics, shory story, sentence, utterance.

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INTRODUCTION

Linguistic semantics is the study of meaning that, According to Frawley (1992), a statement is based on grammatical structure, precision, decontextualization, and grammatical principles. According to this perspective, one may comprehend the importance of language through grammatical forms that methodically encode meaning, such as tense, aspect, negation, modality, and thematic roles. Frawley focuses on the structural and empirical analysis of how language organizes and communicates meaning, in contrast to the philosophical approach to language, which is typically more speculative. Consequently, linguistic semantics, as defined by Frawley, examines the grammatical mechanisms via which clear meaning is conveyed with minimal reliance on situational context.

A sentence is viewed in semantic analysis as a complete and structured grammatical unit that communicates meaning irrespective of context. According to Griffiths (2006), a sentence is "an abstract grammatical unit of language conveying a whole statement unconnected to any given context," p. 16. This suggests that the content of a statement alone, independent of its author, time, or place of origin, can determine its meaning. Since sentences serve as the fundamental building blocks for identifying real meaning before contextual factors have an impact, they are crucial to semantic theory. In contrast to utterances, which are context-dependent realizations of language, sentences have a rigid linguistic structure that facilitates precise understanding of meaning at the structural level.

The term utterance refers to any communication made by a speaker in certain circumstances, as defined by pragmatics. According to Cutting (2005), utterances are not limited to complete grammatical statements but encompass any stretch of language, whether spoken or written, that conveys the speaker's intended meaning. Words have implied meaning as well as explicit verbal communication, in which the listener deduces both the literal meaning and the intended intent behind the words. For this reason, pragmatic theory places an emphasis on language because it reveals dynamically produced meaning through interaction, speaker intention, and context.

The background assumption and shared knowledge that are assumed to be true before a speaker begins are presuppositions. As stated by Yule (1996) in Fitriani (2021), assumptions can occur in writing as well as in spoken language, which reflects the author's assumptions. Zeevat said (in Deemter and Kibble, 2002) that presuppositions are connected to particular lexical items, syntactic structures, or intonational characteristics that are referred to as presupposition triggers.

An semantic approach is employed to examine "*The Necklace*," a brief tale by Guy de Maupassant that was published in 1884 and tells the sad narrative of Mathilde Loisel, a woman driven by vanity and a desire for luxury who unknowingly gives her life for a meaningless object. Using vocabulary, concepts, and comments that are contextually appropriate, the tale builds layers of meaning investigated in a Starlight structure. Using sentence, utterance, and presupposition as semantic elements, this research seeks to analyze how *The Necklace* creates both obvious and implied meaning. This article uses modern semantic theory to explore how meaning is influenced by form, intent, and shared comprehension between the speaker and the reader.

The foundation of this study is a firm adherence to professional ideas on semantics. In support of the structural interpretation of meaning, Lyons (1995) and Griffiths (2006) echoed the definition of a sentence used here as a complete grammatical unit, independent of context. Its understanding of utterance emphasizes the importance of context and the speaker's intention in determining meaning, even if the sentence is incomplete, in accordance with Cutting (2005). The discussion on presupposition aligns with Yule (1996) and Deemter and Kibble (2002) in emphasizing how specific lexical or syntactic forms and

context expectations can lead to the triggering of meaning. This study integrates sentence, utterance, and presupposition to provide a richer, more comprehensive semantic analysis of *The Necklace*, revealing both its superficial and deeper, implicit meanings, in contrast to prior research that occasionally focused on just one of these elements.

This work increases readers' comprehension of how semantic elements like presupposition, utterance, and sentence work together in literary texts to generate both literal and implied meanings. This study stands out from three other connected studies one that examines semantic structure in short stories, one that examines the pragmatic functions of language in literature, and one that investigates presupposition triggers in narrative discourse by integrating these three components into a single literary analysis. In this way, readers will be able to fully comprehend the factors that affect meaning, such as grammatical structure, context, and their own interpretive interaction with the text.

METHODS OF RESEARCH

The most effective way to analyze language use and meaning in literature is through a qualitative descriptive methodology. We can analyze the function of semantic elements such as sentence, utterance, and presupposition using Guy de Maupassant's qualitative approach in *The Necklace*. Qualitative research is defined by Creswell (2019) as a method of analyzing and comprehending the meaning that individuals or communities ascribe to social or human challenges, with an emphasis on the process, environment, and interpretation rather than numerical facts.

A statement in semantic analysis is a linguistically structured grammatical unit that has real meaning and stands alone, without any contextual background (Griffiths, 2006). A sentence, as it is uttered, becomes context-dependent in a given environment that is impacted by time, speaker, and audience (Austin, 1962; Yule, 2020). Presupposition, on the other hand, is the underlying assumption explicit or implicit that the speaker assumes the listener already accepts as true (Fitriani, 2021; Deemter and Kibble, 2002).

selected chat and narrative from the short story *This research* relied on data collected from the *Necklace*. These lines were categorized by kinds of statement, speech, and assumption by the established semantic theory. The approach emphasizes textual analysis, in which linguistic elements are analyzed descriptively and contextually.

According to Miles, Huberman, and Saldana (2014), qualitative data analysis is the process of data condensation, data presentation, and drawing conclusions through methodical interpretation. The researcher may utilize this method to examine both the structural characteristics of language and how it is used in literature to communicate implied as well as evident meaning.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The data findings in *The Necklace* reveal a semiotic analysis based on....

No	Data	The Type	Analysis
1	The girl was one of those pretty and charming young creatures who sometimes are	Sentence	According to Lyons (1995). A sentence is conceptual grammatical element that has a whole structure. This assertion contains a complete subject ("The girl") as well

	born, as if by a slip of fate, into a family of clerks. (P,1)		as a predicate ("Was one of those.."), which makes it both syntactically and semantically whole.
2	"Good-day, Jeanne." (last paragraph)	Utterance	According to Jaszczolt (2023), an utterance is a context-bound act of communication in which a speaker, with a specific purpose in mind, addresses a listener while being influenced by the social and environmental circumstances surrounding the utterance. The statement "Good-day, Jeanne. " is an utterance because it is a direct spoken expression from Madame Loisel to Madame Forestier, serving as a greeting that initiates interaction. It is more than simply a grammatical phrase; it is a real speech act with pragmatic meaning that reveals identity, intent, and relational indicators all of which correspond to the characteristics of an utterance as defined by contemporary pragmatic theory.
3	Mathilde suffered ceaselessly, feeling herself born to enjoy all delicacies and all luxuries. (P, 3)	Sentence	This is a sentence because, as (Lyons, 1995) argued. It is a written grammatical unit that describes a state with a subject and a verb phrase
4	She was distressed at the poverty of her dwelling, at the bareness of the walls, at the shabby chairs, the ugliness of the curtains (P, 3)	Sentence	This statement according to structural criteria (Lyons, 1995), since it conveys a full concept with a subject and several linked prepositional phrases
5	She had a friend, a former schoolmate at the convent, who was rich, and whom she did not like to go to see any more because she felt so sad when she came home. (P, 6)	Sentence	Grammatically finished phrase (Lyons, 1995) containing additional clauses. It details the character's social and emotional context thoroughly.
6	"There," said he, "there is something for you." (P, 8)	Utterance	According to Austin (1962) and Yule (1996), this is an utterance since it is a speech event that occurs in real time and in context. The speaker (Mathilde's husband) carries out a locutionary act saying a meaningful sentence and an illocutionary act making or providing something (probably the invitation)
7	what do you wish me to do with that?. (P, 11)	Utterance	Mathilde make this statement in the course of a conversation, and it is context-dependent, making it an utterance. Words are real occurrences of languageusage, not conceptual like sentences, as Yule (1996) points out. Additionally, it serves as a reply during a discourse.
8	"why, my dear, I though you would be glad. You never go out, and this is such a fine opportunity." (P, 12)	Utterance	According to Austin (1983). has both illocutionary force (persuading/ reassuring) and perlocutionary effect (hoping to make her happy)

9.	she had a friend, a former schoolmate at the convent, who was rich..." (p, 6)	Presupposition	This statement makes the assumption that the reader already has the necessary background knowledge, hence it is presupposition. As Yule (1996) observes, presupposition are conclusions that listeners assume to be correct in order for the utterance to be understood.
10	"she was unhappy as if she had really fallen from a higher situation" (P, 2)	Presupposition	This statement implies that the protagonist (Mathilde) was formerly in a "higher situation". According to Levinson (1983) argues that is a counterfactual presupposition because it presupposes a past state that may not exist in reality. For the statement to be understood, readers must believe what it suggest.
11.	"you might wear natural flowers," said her husband. "they're very stylish at this time of year." (P, 33)	Presupposition	According to Austin (1962). This statement constitutes an illocutionary act, namely a recommendation. It takes into account the international environment and purpose (Yule, 1996), not simply the structure of the sentence.
12.	"Yes. You never noticed it, then! They were very similar." (L, 118)	Presupposition	The assertion So, "You never noticed it, then!" The verb noticed triggers presumptions, implying the existence of anything that might have been seen, which is implied by the phrase "They were very similar." According to Parrish et al. (2021), presupposition arises from lexical cues and reflects the background beliefs shared by the speaker and audience. The projective nature of presupposition is demonstrated by the fact that these assumptions, such as the existence and likeness of "they," remain even when negated.
13.	"Oh, my poor Mathilde! Why, my necklace was paste!" (L, last)	Utterance	This is a context-dependent expression of emotion on the part of a speaker that meets (Clark & Clark's, 1977) definition of an utterance. A linguistic expression that is dependent upon a speaker, location, and time.
14.	"She had no gowns, no jewels, nothing. And she loved nothing but that." (P, 6)	Sentence	This statement is grammatically perfect, regardless of the context or speaker, with a subject and predicate. According to Yule, 1996, this is a sentence.
15,	"Do you remember that diamond necklace you lent me..." (Last paragparh).	Presupposition	Using the verb "remember" implies that the incident (borrowing the necklace) truly occurred. According to Levinson, 1983, factitious verbs like "remember" cause presuppositions.
16.	"She danced with rapture, with passion, intoxicated by pleasure..." (P, 50)	Sentence	A full idea with a subject ("she") and a predicate is expressed through this descriptive framework. According to Yule, 1996, sentence is consistent with the fact that is independent of context
17.	"You must write to your friend..." (P, 77)	Presupposition	The existence of a friend like this is implied by the phrase "your friend." According to Levinson, 1983. Asserts that existential assumptions are implied by possessive structures.

18.	"Go look up your friend, Madame Forestier" (P. Near her husband's suggestion to borrow jewelry)	Utterance	According to Yule (1996), A statement, whether written or spoken, is a good illustration of how a speaker uses language in a particular setting. Because it occurs in Mathilde and her husband's discussion, the statement, "Go search up your friend, Madame Forestier," is contextual. It is a direct command with a referential target ("your friend") that is dependent on the circumstances and the speaker's immediate objective. It is a traditional linguistic structure whose meaning and application are entirely dependent on the context.
19.	"I brought you back another exactly like it" (P, Final Paragraph)	Utterance	According to Griffiths (2006), a statement must be interpreted in light of who makes it, when, and under what conditions. Because Mathilde utters this statement at the end of the novel, its meaning is contingent upon knowledge of the previous context, namely the substitution of the lost necklace. Without context, the meaning is either unclear or incomplete. The meaning of "another exactly like it" is contingent upon prior, unspoken conversations.
20	The girl was one of those pretty and charming your creatures. (P, 1)	Sentence	According to Lyons (1997), a sentence is a complete grammatical unit that consists of a subject and a predicate. The sentence "The girl was one of those lovely and charming young beings. " meets this criteria since it clearly identifies the subject (the girl) and the predicate (was one of those...), which together form a complete and well-organized idea.

CONCLUSION

According to this study, semantic theory may be used to give a comprehensive explanation of how meaning is produced in Guy de Maupassant's "The Necklace" by analyzing sentences, utterances, and presumptions. The way language communicates static, context-independent meanings was shown by sentence constructions; statements highlighted the dynamic, context-dependent aspect of human communication. Additionally, the presence of presuppositions in both narrative and conversation highlighted the significance of prior knowledge and linguistic signals in shaping how readers understand a text. These findings imply that literary works have subtle meanings shaped by actual events and linguistic structure. As a result, semantic analysis enhances our understanding of literary stories and also teaches us more about how language works to express both direct and indirect meanings.

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