

The Analysis of Sentences, Utterances, and Presuppositions in The Novel The Little Prince By Antoine De Saint-Exupéry

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ABSTRACT

This research examines semantic and pragmatic considerations in analyzing sentences, utterances, and presumptions in The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. The study employs a qualitative descriptive approach, using the models developed by Kreidler (2002) and Yule (1996) to methodically find and classify different linguistic components in the novel. Deliberately chosen passages were used to represent a wide range of language use. The study demonstrates how various sentence types, utterances, and presuppositions work together subtly to enhance the novel's thematic richness and narrative framework. The results emphasize the significance of linguistic analysis in revealing the layers of meaning embedded in literary works, enhancing our understanding of semantics and pragmatics in literary discourse.

Keywords: semantics; sentence; utterance; presupposition; The Little Prince

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INTRODUCTION

Language is a crucial element in human interaction. Language is a methodical means of expressing ideas or feelings through agreed-upon signals, sounds, gestures, or symbols that have understandable meanings Tseng (2018) as cited in Oviogun et al (2020). Without language, a person is unable to communicate their thoughts, opinions, concepts, or emotions (Rizky et al, 2019). According to Chomsky (2002), cited in Oviogun et al (2020), language is a natural entity, a component of the human mind, physically located in the brain, and a component of the species' biological inheritance. Language is crucial for building relationships with people and society, according to Ramayanti and Marlina (2018: 27). As stated by Herman (2017: 72), language facilitates communication by enabling individuals to express their thoughts and emotions and engage in conversation with others. Linguistics is the branch of science that examines language in depth. The word "linguistics" is derived from the Latin word *lingua*, which means language, and linguistics is the scientific investigation of language. The study of language is the science of linguistics (Crystal 1971). Semantics and pragmatics are key domains within linguistics.

Semantics is often the literal meaning of language, and many linguists define it as such. According to Yule (1996), semantics is the scientific study of the meaning of words, sentences, and phrases. In contrast, Kreidler (2002) defines semantics as the methodical investigation of meaning. Pragmatics, on the other hand, examines how people use language. It examines the grammaticalized or encoded relationships between language and context in a language's structure (Levinson, 1983, as quoted by Rizky et al., 2019). Additionally, Yule (1996) defines pragmatics as the study of the meaning conveyed by a speaker (or author) and understood by a listener (or reader).

Three crucial ideas are frequently discussed in the linguistic domain, particularly in semantics and pragmatics: sentences, utterances, and presumptions. A sentence, as defined by Sari (2022), quoting Hogue (1995: 8), is a collection of words that conveys a full idea and includes a subject and a verb. Furthermore, according to Sari (2022), who cites Hornby (2000), a sentence is a collection of words that conveys a question, sentence, or command and typically consists of a verb and a subject. In contrast to a sentence, which is a collection of words that conveys a complete thought, an utterance is an act of speech in a specific situation. Saeed (2009) states that an expression is one made when speaking or writing it. Kreidler (2002) describes an utterance as a speech or writing act that takes place at a particular time and place and includes at least the speaker, but usually more than one person. Lastly, presupposition is also a key element of pragmatics and semantics. One of the elements of a useful inquiry is the presupposition, according to Yule (1996). According to Yule (1996), presupposition is what the speaker believes to be true before speaking. In order to analyze how speakers frequently express their presuppositions, Yule (1996) connected presupposition to the use of a large number of words, phrases, and structures. According to this perspective, different forms of speech have different underlying presumptions.

The writers were inspired to evaluate this study by earlier research on the subject. The study, which Febrianti et al. published in 2024 with the title "Analysis of Sentence Types Found in Stephen Crane's Short Story A Dark Brown Dog," is the first. Their research focused on the different kinds of phrases used in the short tale A Dark Brown Dog. They approached the analysis using a qualitative and descriptive approach. The story contained a variety of sentences, including complex and simple sentences as well as compound or complex ones.

Solehah et al. (2022) published the second study, titled "An Analysis of Presupposition on the Main Characters of Frozen Movie Script." Yule's presupposition theory was used in their research to determine the meaning and underlying presuppositions of the "Frozen" film screenplay. They describe their analysis

using a qualitative descriptive technique. Their research yielded a structural presupposition, which is the quantity utilized in the screenplay of “Frozen.”

The third study is from Raharjo (2018), entitled “An Analysis of Expressive Utterances Produced by the Characters in The Movie Entitled *SpongeBob SquarePants* (A Pragmatic Study)”. The study focused on finding out the characteristics of expressive utterances produced by the characters and the variability of expressive utterances in the *SpongeBob SquarePants* movie. The research uses a descriptive qualitative method. The result shows four sentence types of expressive utterances employed in the *SpongeBob SquarePants* movie transcript: ellipsis, declarative, interrogative, and imperative.

The study is based on these works and examines sentence types, utterances, and presuppositions in Antoine de Saint-Exupéry’s novel *The Little Prince*. It employs a qualitative descriptive approach to identify implicit meanings in the conversations and examine the sentences, utterances, and presuppositions. To offer a more complete picture of the language and how it influences the novel’s topics and characters, this work examines various linguistic elements within the same literary text.

In order to comprehend pragmatics and semantics, it is necessary to analyze the sentences, words, and presuppositions. Because novels are works of art that mirror real human life, they frequently include sentences, utterances, and presuppositions that can also be found in actual situations. For this reason, the authors want to study the sentences, sentences, and presuppositions made by Antoine De Saint-Exupéry in his book “*The Little Prince*,” as explained above.

The research reveals several phenomena. Readers frequently concentrate on the literal meaning of sentences, resulting in misinterpretations of utterances and concealed presuppositions. In addition, many people fail to appreciate the linguistic complexity of literary masterpieces like *The Little Prince*, missing how phrases, sentences, and presumptions add to greater meanings. This may make it challenging to comprehend the cultural and contextual messages in the text.

This study aims to broaden researchers’ understanding and examine and determine how sentences, utterances, and presuppositions are used in Antoine De Saint-Exupéry’s “*The Little Prince*.” The study aims to improve readers’ comprehension of linguistic structures and meanings, particularly at the level of sentences, utterances (speaking), and presuppositions, thus helping them be more attentive towards unspoken meaning and the situations in which language is used. Furthermore, readers will be more able to comprehend the linguistic approach that Antoine de Saint-Exupéry uses in *The Little Prince*, resulting in a more profound and insightful reading experience.

METHODS OF RESEARCH

In “*The Little Prince*” by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, the researcher analyzes the data using a qualitative descriptive research approach. Qualitative research examines and comprehends the meaning that people or groups give to a social or human issue (Creswell & Poth, 2018). Sudaryanto (1993) defines descriptive research as research that relies on actual or pre-existing data. The English translation of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry’s novel *The Little Prince* served as the source of the data. The study examines the text of the novel, highlighting a thorough, contextualized analysis. By carefully reading the book and recognizing the sentences, words, and presuppositions employed in the text, the data was gathered. Purposive sampling was used in the study to select excerpts from *The Little Prince* that display a variety of linguistic features, including sentence types, expressions, and presuppositions. These excerpts were chosen from several chapters to provide a diverse selection of instances and a fair depiction.

In this study, the researchers employ Kreidler's (2002) semantics and Yule's (1996) pragmatics theories to examine the sentence, utterance, and presupposition. The difference between utterances, sentences, and presuppositions is the first distinction made in the analysis. Kreidler's definition is used to define each sentence and utterance in order to analyze it. The sentence kinds are also categorized according to Quirk's (1985) ideas. The kinds of utterances in the book are categorized using Yule's theory of utterances. Every kind of presupposition is also analyzed and classified using Yule's theory of presupposition. By analyzing these linguistic components in their conversational and narrative contexts, the study investigates how they help to convey themes and the entire story.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This research found the structural forms and determined the categories or types of sentences, utterances, and presuppositions. The data was taken from the English adaptation of *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. The researchers apply the theories of Kreidler to define the sentences and utterances, Quirk's theories to classify each type of sentence, and Yule's pragmatics theory to analyze the presupposition in the data.

No.	Data	Type	Analysis
1.	It was a picture of a boa constrictor in the act of swallowing an animal. (Ch. 1, page 4).	Sentence (Simple sentence)	According to Kreidler (1998), a sentence is a series of words arranged in a certain order that makes sense in that specific language. Quirk et al. (1985) define a simple sentence as one that only has one independent clause. The data is a simple sentence consisting of one independent clause. "It" is the subject, and "was" is the primary verb. Quirk et al. (1985) said that a sentence is made up of clauses as well as components like the subject and the verb.
2.	They always need to have things explained. (Ch. 1, page 4).	Sentence (Simple sentence)	Kreidler (2002) categorizes them as sentences that include the meaning of the syntactic structure in which they appear. According to this data, which is based on the book, the sentence conveys the message that the adults could not comprehend the drawing that the narrator created when he was a child, and that they always needed to have things explained to them. The data is a simple sentence since it only has one sentence with "they" serving as the subject and "need" as the primary verb. A simple sentence consists of a single independent clause, according to Quirk et al. (1985).
3.	A boa constrictor is a very dangerous creature, and an elephant is very cumbersome. (Ch 2. Page 7)	Sentence (Compound sentence)	A compound sentence comprises two or more coordinate clauses that are immediately connected, according to Quirk et al. (1985). The data is a complex sentence comprising two independent clauses linked by the coordinating

			conjunction "and." "A boa constrictor is a very dangerous creature," and "An elephant is very cumbersome" are the first and second independent clauses.
4.	The shrub soon stopped growing and began to get ready to produce a flower. (Ch. 8. Page 19)	Sentence (Compound sentence)	A compound sentence is made up of two or more coordinate clauses as its immediate components (Quirk et al., 1985). According to the data, the sentence is compound since it has two separate clauses connected by a comma and the coordinating conjunction "and." "The shrub soon stopped growing" is the first separate clause, while "began to get ready to produce a flower" is the second. "The Shrub" is the subject of each clause, while "stopped" is the main verb of the first clause, and "began" is the main verb of the second.
5.	So, as the little prince described it to me, I have made a drawing of that planet. (Ch. 5, page 14)	Sentence (Complex sentence)	There must be at least one dependent clause that serves as a component of the sentence and only one main clause in a complicated sentence (Quirk et al., 1985). The information indicates a complicated sentence with one independent and one dependent clause. The sentence "The little prince hesitated a moment" is an independent or main clause, while "As the king made no answer" is a subordinate clause.
6.	As the king made no answer, the little prince hesitated a moment. (Ch. 10, page 26)	Sentence (Complex sentence)	A complex sentence has only one main clause and at least one or more subordinate clauses that serve as sentence components (Quirk et al., 1985). The information reveals a complicated sentence with a subordinate and an independent clause. The sentence "As the king made no answer" is subordinate, whereas "The little prince hesitated a moment" is an independent or main clause.
7.	"That is a hat." (Ch. 1, page 5)	Utterance (Declarative utterance)	An utterance is represented by this data. According to Kreidler's 2002 definition, an utterance is an act of speech in a specific occurrence at a certain time and location, involving at least one individual, along with its intended meaning. The adults claim the narrator's picture depicts a hat in this information. It is only spoken at a certain time and location. Because it is a sentence that imparts knowledge, the utterance has a declarative structural form (Yule, 1996).
8.	"Because where I live everything is very small . . ." (Ch. 2, page 8)	Utterance (Declarative utterance)	The data shows an utterance because it is an act of speech at a particular time and place (Kreidler, 2002). In this data, the Little Prince tells the narrator that

			everything is small where he lives. It is spoken at a specific time after the narrator drew a sheep inside a box for a little price. This data shows a declarative utterance, as it is performed as a sentence (Yule, 1996).
9.	"That is not an object. It flies. It is an airplane. It is my airplane." (Ch. 3, page 9)	Utterance (Declarative utterance)	It is an utterance because it is an act of speech involving at least one person (Kreidler, 2002). In this case, the speaker is the narrator, and the listener is the Little Prince. The data shows a declarative utterance because it provides information (Yule, 1996).
10.	"Frighten? Why should anyone be frightened by a hat?" (Ch. 1, page 4)	Utterance (Interrogative utterance)	This data is an utterance because it needs context to understand the meaning. The meaning of an utterance is the meaning of the sentence plus the meanings of the circumstances (Kreidler, 2002). The adults are confused by the narrator's childhood depiction of a boa constrictor eating an elephant by asking why anyone would fear it and claiming that it resembles a hat. The structural form of this utterance is an interrogative utterance, and its function is to make a question (Yule, 1996).
11.	"Do you come from another planet?" (Ch. 3, page 9)	Utterance (Interrogative utterance)	In this data, the narrator queries the little prince as to whether he is from another planet. The narrator says it in a particular event, at a given time and location, and includes at least one other individual (Kreidler, 2002). The utterance's data structural form is an interrogative utterance, and its function is to ask a query (Yule, 1996).
12.	"If you please--draw me a sheep!" (Ch. 2, page 6)	Utterance (Imperative utterance)	In this tale, the Little Prince requests that the narrator sketch him a sheep, and the information acts as a sentence. The narrator is told it by The Little Prince. As Kreidler (2002) put it, any act of speech that takes place in a specific location and at a specific time is considered a spoken discourse. It is essential to understand the kind of structural form of the utterance, and its purpose is to make a request or order (Yule, 1996).
13.	"I order you to yawn. It is years since I have seen anyone yawning. Yawns, to me, are objects of curiosity. Come, now! Yawn again! It is an order." (Ch. 10, page 24)	Utterance (Imperative utterance)	The king's speech to the Little Prince during his tour to the first planet is represented by this data. An utterance is defined as any utterance that takes place at a specific location and at a specific moment (Kreidler, 2002). This utterance has the structural form of an imperative sentence, since it serves the purpose of command/request (Yule, 1996).

14.	"Ah! Ah! I am about to receive a visit from an admirer!" (Ch. 11. Page 26)	Utterance (Expressive utterance)	According to Kreidler (2002), this information constitutes an utterance, which is a utterance that occurs in a certain location, at a specific moment, and at a particular event. Because it conveys the speaker's emotions, the information is a powerful sentence (Yule, 1996). In the story, the arrogant fellow was thrilled to see the little prince approaching for the first time.
15.	"Oh! How beautiful you are!" (Ch. 8. Page 19)	Utterance (Expressive utterance)	Because it is a utterance that occurs at a specific time and location, the data is considered an utterance (Kreidler, 2002). The information is a sentence. Yule (1996) defines expressive utterances as those utterances that express the speaker's emotions. The Little Prince lauded the flower in this data.
16.	"The flower that you love is not in danger. I will draw you a muzzle for your sheep. I will draw you a railing to put around your flower. I will—!" (Ch. 7. Page 18)	Presupposition (Existential presupposition)	Yule (1996) defines a presupposition as something the speaker believes to be true before speaking. The idea that anything or anyone identified by a noun phrase actually exists is known as existential presupposition (Yule, 1996). Because the noun phrase "the flower" implies that there is a flower that the Little Prince adores, this information is categorized as an existential premise.
17.	"I gave up what might have been a magnificent career as a painter." (Ch. 7. Page 18)	Presupposition (Lexical presupposition)	According to Yule (1996), lexical presupposition assumes that while speaking one word, the speaker might presume that another word or meaning would be understood. Since the verb phrase "gave up" suggests that the narrator once envisioned a career as a painter during his childhood, this data is categorized as a lexical presupposition.
18.	"If I owned a silk scarf," he said, "I could put it around my neck and take it away with me. If I owned a flower, I could pluck that flower and take it away with me. But you cannot pluck the stars from heaven." (Ch. 13. Page 32)	Presupposition (Counterfactual presupposition)	The term "counterfactual presupposition" refers to the idea that what is assumed is not only false but rather the opposite of what is actually the case, or "contrary to facts" (Yule, 1996). Because the data contradicts reality, it is categorized as a counterfactual presupposition. The Little Prince does not have both a flower and a scarf.
19.	"Why are you selling those?" asked the little prince (Ch. 23. Page 50)	Presupposition (Structural presupposition)	A structural presupposition, as defined by Yule (1996), is the presupposition that a portion of a structure contains data that is being regarded as previously understood. The data is considered a structural presupposition because the Little Prince, in this instance, is aware that the merchant is selling drugs.

20.	"I know a planet where there is a certain red-faced gentleman. (Ch. 7. Page 18)	Presupposition (Factive presupposition)	A factive presupposition is the presupposition that information stated after certain words, e.g., 'know' and 'regret', is true (Yule, 1996). The verb "know" in the dataset serves as a factive trigger, making it a factive presumption. It makes the presupposition that the little prince is aware of the existence of a world where there is a red-faced man.
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CONCLUSION

In Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's "The Little Prince," this study looks at pragmatic and semantic factors in the analysis of sentences, assertions, and presumptions. Utilizing widely accepted linguistic principles, the study illustrates how various sentence forms and presuppositional cues impact the reader's interpretation and enhance the expressive possibilities of the story. The study suggests that one's understanding of the novel's themes and the Author's communicative objectives are improved by analyzing these linguistic aspects. This approach places a strong emphasis on incorporating pragmatic and semantic analysis into literary study in order to have a deeper grasp of how narrative literature generates and conveys meaning.

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