

## Semantics Analysis of Sentences, Utterances, and Presuppositions in The Story Five Feet Apart by Rachael Lippincott

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### ABSTRACT

Rachael Lippincott's 2019 short tale "Five Feet Apart" is examined in this study with an emphasis on the language, words, and premises used. His expressions are a tangible depiction of the phrases they contain, and the sentences themselves have a sound and comprehensive grammatical structure. The word "presupposition" refers to assumptions that are implicit in meaning. Understanding language structure, application in practical settings, and inferred meanings during communication encounters are the goals of this study. Semantics is analyzed using descriptive qualitative research methods. Based on the research results, determining semantic meaning requires an understanding of the differences between sentences and expressions, although presuppositions can reflect linguistic opinions or communication strategies. George Yule (1996) and Charles W. Kreidler (1998) are referenced for the discussed hypotheses.

**Keywords:** sentences, expressions, semantics.

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## INTRODUCTION

Semantic studies are based on the analysis of linguistic structures such as sentences, utterances, and propositions in narrative texts. Each of these components makes a distinct but essential contribution to meaning and the reader's understanding of it. Propositions provide factual information in the story, utterances convey closeness and feelings in speech, and sentences provide structural linkages and narrative development. Because of its unique structure and engrossing character interactions,

There is still a need to conduct systematic research on the relationship between sentences, utterances, and propositions in children's literature, in addition to the wealth of literature on narrative discourse and semantics. In addition to Rachael Lippincott's essay, this essay aims to bridge this gap by analyzing the semantics of her novel *Five Feet Apart*. This study aims to increase understanding of the function of each linguistic unit and provide data for scientific and educational purposes by elucidating how each one works and contributes to the overall narrative.

In other words, semantics, one of the areas of linguistics, focuses on the link between meaning in language. Semantics, according to Yule (1996), is the study of the relationships between people, things, or concepts in the world and words, phrases, or sentences. His study examines semantics in terms of word patterns, expressions, and prejudices using data from *Five Feet Apart by Rachael Lippincott (2018)*. The author will illustrate words, idioms, and biases in the story using theories from George Yule (1996) and Charles W. Kreidler (1998).

Meanwhile, Kreidler (1998) proposed that Semantics is the systematic study of meaning, and linguistic semantics is the study of how languages organize and express meanings. Linguistic semantics is the topic of this book, but we need to limit ourselves to the expression of meanings in a single language, English. And lastly, N. Burton-Roberts (1988) theorizes in his paper that Presupposition is a pragmatic phenomenon, not merely a semantic one. That is, presuppositions are not inherent, truth-conditional parts of sentence meaning but instead arise from how sentences are used in discourse.

## METHOD

Because *Five Feet Apart by Rachael Lippincott (2018)* distinguishes different kinds of sentences, speech, and prejudices, the writers utilize a qualitative technique to analyze these elements. Dewi, Hernawan, and Apsari (2019) cite Perry (2005) as saying that verbal descriptions of the gathered data are a hallmark of qualitative research. *I've Feet Apart by Rachael Lippincott (2018)* is a short novella that focuses on two teens, Stella Grant and Will Newman, who both suffer from cystic fibrosis (CF), a deadly genetic lung condition. Additionally, using the short story theory proposed by George Yule (1996) and Charles W. Kreidler (1998), the writers examine the various types of speech, phrases, and prejudices.

## RESULTS

No	Data	The Type
1.	Even though she just got here this morning, she knows where she's going. (p. 38)	Sentence

2.	I get my treatments, I take my medicine, I drink my body weight in milkshakes, I get to see Barb and Julie, and I leave until my next flare-up. p. 21)	Sentence
3.	Because they've gone and messed up everything by getting divorced, and after losing each other, they won't be able to handle losing me, too. p. 21)	Sentence
4.	I tried not to laugh, and I wondered what her teeth looked like now. p. 49)	Sentence
5.	Even just a few days in, his texts started to get further and further apart. p. 44)	Sentence
6	"Love you, Stella!" (p. 7)	Utterance
7	"Here it is!" (p.15)	Utterance
8	"Are you guys excited?" (p. 16)	Utterance
9	"We'll send you a bunch of pictures, okay?" (p. 20 )	Utterance
10	"Who needs two whole weeks of sunshine and blue skies and beaches" (p. 22)	Utterance
11	"I've clocked their schedules" (p. 16)	Utterance
12	"All right, I'll see you guys later" (p.18)	Utterance
13	"This should hold you over for a bit." (p.27)	Utterance
14	"Yep. an I get breakfast now?" (p. 29)	Utterance
15	"I'll stop by later to help you with your AffloVest" (page 13)	Utterance
16	You were the head of the planning committee this year, though! can't you get them to move your treatments? p. 5)	Presupposition
17	I can't go off to Cabo, or anywhere for that matter, and risk not coming back. p.13)	Presupposition
18	You're not supposed to leave the third floor! p. 40)	Presupposition
19	I've had sex. p. 87)	Presupposition
20	They didn't want me to feel left out (p.24)	Presupposition

## DISCUSSION

### 1. Sentences

#### Analysis 1

Even though she just got here this morning, she knows where she's going.

Type: Complex Sentence

Analysis: The data above is a complex sentence because 'even though she just got here' is a dependent clause explaining the situation of the main clause, 'She knows where she's going.' according to Kreidler (1998), a sentence is a collection of meaningful words in the language, consisting of a subject, predicate, and object.

#### Analysis 2

I get my treatments, I take my medicine, I drink my body weight in milkshakes, I get to see Barb and Julie, and I leave until my next flare-up.

Type : Simple Sentence

Analysis: The data above is a simple sentence; although it's long, it only has one subject ("I") with multiple verb phrases. There is no subordination or coordination of different subjects. According to Kreidler (1998), a sentence is a collection of meaningful words in a language consisting of a subject, a predicate, and an object.

#### Analysis 3

Because they've gone and messed up everything by getting divorced, and after losing each other, they won't be able to handle losing me, too.

Type: Complex Sentence

Analysis: The data above is a complex sentence. Contains two subordinate clauses ('because...and after') modifying the main clause, 'they won't be able to handle losing me.' according to Kreidler (1998), a sentence is a collection of meaningful words in the language, consisting of a subject, predicate, and object.

#### Analysis 4

I tried not to laugh, and I wondered what her teeth looked like now.

Type: Compound Sentence

Analysis: The data above is a compound sentence. It consists of two independent clauses joined by the coordinating conjunction 'and.' According to Kreidler (1998), a sentence is a collection of meaningful words in a language consisting of a subject, a predicate, and an object.

#### Analysis 5

Even just a few days in, his texts started to get further and further apart.

Type: Complex Sentence

Analysis: The data above is a complex sentence. The clause 'Even just a few days in' functions as an introductory dependent clause modifying the main clause. According to Kreidler (1998), a sentence is a collection of meaningful words in a language consisting of a subject, a predicate, and an object.

### 2. Utterances

#### Analysis 1

"Love you, Stella!"

Analysis: The data is an utterance because, according to Kreidler (1998), an utterance is a speech act that is uttered by at least one person or written in quotation marks or can also be in italics—a short emotional expression of affection.

#### Analysis 2

"Here it is!"

Analysis: The data is an utterance because, according to Kreidler (1998), an utterance is a speech act that is uttered by at least one person or written in quotation marks or can also be in italics. His data has quotation marks before and after the sentence, and it is a complete verbal output in context.

### **Analysis 3**

“Are you guys excited?”

Analysis: The data is an utterance because, according to Kreidler (1998), an utterance is a speech act that is uttered by at least one person or written in quotation marks or can also be in italics. Direct questions are used in conversation. It's an utterance because it functions as an interactional move in dialogue.

### **Analysis 4**

“We’ll send you a bunch of pictures, okay?”

Analysis: The data is an utterance because, according to Kreidler (1998), an utterance is a speech act that is uttered by at least one person or written in quotation marks or can also be in italics. It reflects the speaker's intention and interpersonal function.

### **Analysis 5**

“Who needs two whole weeks of sunshine and blue skies and beaches?”

Analysis: The data is an utterance because, according to Kreidler (1998), an utterance is a speech act that is uttered by at least one person or written in quotation marks or can also be in italics—a rhetorical, humorous utterance used to engage the livestream audience.

### **Analysis 6**

”I’ve clocked their schedules.”

Analysis: The data is an utterance because, according to Kreidler (1998), an utterance is a speech act that is uttered by at least one person or written in quotation marks or can also be in italics. His data has quotation marks before and after the sentence, and it is a complete verbal output in context.

### **Analysis 7**

”All right, I’ll see you guys later.”

Analysis: The data is an utterance because, according to Kreidler (1998), an utterance is a speech act that is uttered by at least one person or written in quotation marks or can also be in italics. His data has quotation marks before and after the sentence, and it is a complete verbal output in context.

### **Analysis 8**

”This should hold you over for a bit.”

Analysis: The data is an utterance because, according to Kreidler (1998), an utterance is a speech act that is uttered by at least one person or written in quotation marks or can also be in italics. It reflects the speaker's intention and interpersonal function. His sentence means giving something to others to calm themselves down for a while.

### **Analysis 9**

”Yep. Can I get breakfast now?”

Analysis: The data is an utterance because, according to Kreidler (1998), an utterance is a speech act uttered by at least one person or written in quotation marks or can also be in italics. It's an utterance because it functions as an interactional move in dialogue.

### **Analysis 10**

”I’ll stop by later to help you with your AffloVest.”

Analysis: The data is an utterance because, according to Kreidler (1998), an utterance is a speech act that is uttered by at least one person or written in quotation marks or can also be in italics. It reflects the speaker's intention and interpersonal function. This shows that the speaker wants to help her friend put on her AffloVest later.

### 3. Presupposition

#### Analysis 1

"You were the head of the planning committee this year, though! can't you get them to move your treatments?"

Analysis: The data is a presupposition because, according to Kreidler (1998), a presupposition is background information assumed to be known or accepted by the speaker and listener. His statement assumes that the person listening was the chairman of the planning committee and is presently receiving medical care. Arranging these procedures is also considered to be within the listener's power. Because they are assumed within the sentence rather than being explicitly stated, these assumptions are presupposed information.

#### Analysis 2

"I can't go off to Cabo, or anywhere for that matter, and risk not coming back."

Analysis: The data is a presupposition because, according to Kreidler (1998), a presupposition is background information assumed to be known or accepted by the speaker and listener. His statement contains implied background knowledge. It assumes that traveling anywhere, including to Cabo, carries a high risk, perhaps due to a hazardous illness. This is an example of existential and pragmatic Presupposition, as the speaker assumes that the listener is aware of and agrees with the implicit risk of not coming back.

#### Analysis 3

"You're not supposed to leave the third floor!"

Analysis: The data is a presupposition because, according to Kreidler (1998), a presupposition is background information assumed to be known or accepted by the speaker and listener. Without explicitly specifying particular circumstances, the statement makes assumptions about them. It assumes that someone is prohibited from leaving the third floor by a regulation or limitation. Additionally, it is presumed that the listener is currently on the third floor and may be attempting or planning to leave. These presumptions form the background knowledge necessary to understand the statement.

#### Analysis 4

"I've had sex."

Analysis: The data is a presupposition because, according to Kreidler (1998), a presupposition is background information assumed to be known or accepted by the speaker and listener. Assuming that the speaker's sexual experience is pertinent to the situation, the comment may go against the listener's preconceived notions. Since this fact is given as something that is already real, it is assumed that it was either unexpected or noteworthy.

#### Analysis 5

They didn't want me to feel left out.

Analysis: The data is a presupposition because, according to Kreidler (1998), a presupposition is background information assumed to be known or accepted by the speaker and listener. His statement implicitly assumes certain background conditions. It believes that the speaker may have felt excluded in a particular circumstance or opportunity and that "they" took deliberate steps to avoid that. His statement is a blatant example of presupposed information, as it assumes the listener acknowledges that inclusiveness was required and that the speaker was emotionally concerned.

## CONCLUSION

With an emphasis on examining sentences, utterances, and presuppositions, the research study explores the semantic structures found in Rachael Lippincott's *Five Feet Apart*. It utilizes Yule and Kreidler's theories to investigate qualitatively how language creates meaning in narrative contexts. The grammatical complexity of sentences is analyzed, the communicative intent of utterances is assessed, and the indicated background

assumptions of presuppositions are scrutinized. According to the study, understanding these components enhances one's ability to appreciate how language influences character relationships and the emotional depth of the story. Ultimately, this semantic study underscores the importance of meticulous linguistic research in uncovering the more nuanced narrative mechanisms at work in literary works.

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