

Semantics Analysis of Sentences, Utterances, and Presuppositions in Short Story: Two Kinds by Amy Tan

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ABSTRACT

This research examines sentence utterance and presupposition, as represented in Amy Tan's short story "Two Kinds" (1989). Sentences are grammatically complete and are abstract. Utterance is the real embodiment of sentences. The presupposition is the assumption of hidden meaning. This research aims to understand how language structure, usage in real context, and implicit meaning interact in the communication process. The research method employed is a descriptive qualitative analysis of semantics. The results of this study indicate that the distinction between sentences and utterances is significant in analyzing semantic meaning. At the same time, presupposition can also reveal the point of view or language communication strategy. The theory used is from George Yule (1996) and Charles W. Kreidler (1998)

Keywords: Semantics, Sentence, Utterance, Presupposition

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INTRODUCTION

Language is a tool that people regularly use for conversation. In line with Johnston (2008), as mentioned in Kiuk and Ghozali (2018), language is the method or set of approaches used to ensure there is agreement between the sender and receiver regarding the meanings assigned to symbols and the schema for combining them used in each communication. When someone says, "Can I borrow your pen?" there are several matters that ought to be taken into consideration, which include how the sentence shape is formed (sentence), how the sentence is uttered (utterance), and what assumptions (presupposition) are in the simple sentence within the form of a query, which is spoken through borrowing a pen marked through the usage of quotation marks, assuming that the speaker does not have a pen. Therefore, the phenomenon suggests that language is not always just a series of words spoken randomly; rather, it is spoken to convey a specific intention, which, if not well understood in the context of the communication, can lead to incorrect information for both the speaker and the listener. In many instances, the means of a language are not harmonized if the speaker and the listener no longer apprehend the context of the communicate. Similarly, the background of the speaker and listener is also one of the boundaries that can lead to misunderstanding of the means or assumptions.

Therefore, semantics, which is one of the branches of linguistics devoted to researching linguistic meaning and the interpretation of expressions in a language (Chierchia and McConnell, 1992, as cited in Rafida, 2018). According to Yule (1996), semantics is the science that studies the connection between words, terms, or sentences and the concepts, ideas, or entities that exist in the world. In conducting research, various media can be used as research data, including movies, poems, songs, novels, and short stories.

Thus, in this study, the authors used a short story entitled "Two Kinds" by Amy Tan as the primary data. This story is about a girl from China who moved with her parents to the United States. Her mother is the type of strong-willed parent who demands too much from her child. The daughter must achieve perfect grades, maintain a good and classy attitude, and attend reputable schools and universities. Additionally, she should take some extra lessons and classes that she may not enjoy. The climax is that the daughter has to take a piano class that her mother signed up for without the child knowing. During her piano performance, she makes an embarrassing mistake, so at home, she fights with her mother and asks why her mother is always forcing things on her. At the end of the story, the girl fights for her freedom, refusing anything she dislikes. She cannot achieve good grades, cannot behave gracefully, doesn't get into a good university, doesn't graduate from college, and no longer plays the piano. This study focuses on reading semantics within the context of sentence styles, utterances, and presuppositions, utilizing data from Amy Tan's short story (1989). The authors will become aware of sentences, utterances, and presuppositions that exist in the story, utilizing the theories of George Yule (1996) and Charles W. Kreidler (1998).

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Sentence

A sentence is a fundamental unit of language that expresses a complete idea. However, especially within the context of Semantics, it is not continually the case. According to Kreidler (1998), a sentence is a construction of words in a particular sequence that is meaningful. A sentence is a combination of grammatical rules that expresses a complete thought, question, exclamation, request, command, or suggestion.

2. Utterance

An utterance is a complete unit of speech that is spoken or written in a particular context. It is what someone actually says or writes, regardless of whether it forms a grammatically correct sentence. According to Kreidler (1998), utterance is written with quotation marks. An utterance is an act of speech or writing: it is a specific event at a particular time or place involving at least one person, the one who produces the utterance, but usually more than one person.

3. Presupposition

A presupposition is an implicit assumption that should be actual for the utterance to make feel or be suitable. According to Yule (1996), A presupposition is something the speaker assumes to be the case before making an utterance. Types of presupposition:

1. Existential – Assumes the existence of something or someone.
2. Factive – Assumes the truth of the speaker's statement following verbs such as 'regret,' 'realize,' and 'know.'
3. Lexical – A presumption that arises because of the meaning of a word or phrase. Triggered by certain words like manage, stop, continue, etc.
4. Structural – Triggered by specific sentence structure like WH-questions.
5. Non-Factive – Assumes something is not true, triggered by expressions like "if," "wish," "imagine."
6. Counterfactual – Implies the opposite of reality; often hypothetical.

METHODOLOGY

The author uses quantitative methods to analyze the types of Sentences, Utterances, and Presuppositions in this short story. According to Perry (2005), as cited in Dewi, Hermani, and Apsari (2019), qualitative research is characterized by the use of verbal descriptions of its data. This data is taken from a short story by Amy Tan entitled "Two Kinds. This short story is about the conflict between a mother (Suyuan) and her son (Jing-Mei), both of whom are Chinese immigrants living in the United States. The author analyzes the types of sentence structure and presupposition in the short story "Two Kinds" using the theories of George Yule (2006) and Charles Kreidler (1998).

RESULTS

NO	SENTENCE	UTTERANCE	PRESUPPOSITION
1.	When my mother told me this, I felt as though I had been sent to hell (Tan, 1989).	"Look here" (Tan, 1989).	"If she had as much talent as she has temper, she would be famous now," (Tan, 1989).
2.	Moreover, she also executed a fancy sweep of curtsy, so that the fluffy skirt of her white dress cascaded slowly to the floor like the petals of a large carnation (Tan, 1989).	"Play note right, but doesn't sound good! No singing sound" (Tan, 1989).	If I hit the wrong notes because I had not practiced enough, I never corrected myself (Tan, 1989).
3.	He had me curve my hand around an apple and keep that shape when playing chords (Tan, 1989).	"She brings home too many trophy," lamented Auntie Lindo that Sunday (Tan, 1989).	And now I realized how many people were in the audience, the whole it seemed (Tan, 1989).

4.	I thought she was snotty (Tan, 1989).	"You lucky you don't have this problem," said Auntie Lindo with a sigh to my mother (Tan, 1989).	"Then I wish I wasn't your daughter. I wish you weren't my mother," I shouted (Tan, 1989).
5.	When I stood up, I discovered my legs were shaking (Tan, 1989).	"Turn off TV" (Tan, 1989).	The lessons stopped (Tan, 1989).
6.	I had been waiting for her to start shouting, so I could shout back and cry and blame her for all my misery (Tan, 1989).	"Are you sure?" I asked shyly (Tan, 1989).	"If you don't hurry up and get me out of here, I'm disappearing for good," (Tan, 1989).
7.	I didn't get into Stanford (Tan, 1989).	"Take it," she said (Tan, 1989).	

Discussion

1. Sentence

Data 1

When my mother told me this, I felt as though I had been sent to hell.

The data is a sentence that consists of a subject, a predicate, and an object. According to Kreidler (1998), a sentence is a collection of meaningful words in a language consisting of a subject, a predicate, and an object.

Data 2

And she also did this fancy sweep of cursty, so that the fluffy skirt of her white dress cascaded slowly to the floor like the petals of a large carnation.

The data above is a sentence because it consists of a subject, a predicate, and an object. According to Kreidler (1998), a sentence is a collection of meaningful words in a language consisting of a subject, a predicate, and an object.

Data 3

He had me curve my hand around an apple and keep that shape when playing chords.

The data above is a sentence because it consists of a subject, a predicate, and an object. According to Kreidler (1998), a sentence is a collection of meaningful words in a language consisting of a subject, a predicate, and an object.

Data 4

I thought she was snotty.

The data above is a sentence because the sentence consists of a subject, a predicate, and an object. According to Kreidler (1998), a sentence is a collection of meaningful words in a language consisting of a subject, a predicate, and an object.

Data 5

When I stood up, I discovered my legs were shaking.

The data above is a sentence because it consists of a subject, a predicate, and an object) According to Kreidler (1998), a sentence is a collection of meaningful words in a language consisting of a subject, a predicate, and an object.

Data 6

I had been waiting for her to start shouting so I could shout back and cry and blame her for all my misery.

The data above is a sentence because it consists of a subject, a predicate, and an object. According to Kreidler (1998), a sentence is a collection of meaningful words in a language consisting of a subject, a predicate, and an object.

Data 7

I didn't get into Stanford.

The data is a sentence because it consists of a subject, a predicate, and an object. 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

Data 1

"Look here,"

The data is an utterance because, according to Kreidler (1998), an utterance is a speech act that is uttered by at least one person, written in quotation marks. The data has quotation marks.

Data 2

"Play note right, but doesn't sound good! No singing sound,".

The data is an utterance because, according to Kreidler (1998), an utterance is a speech act that is uttered by at least one person, written in quotation marks. This data has quotation marks before and after the sentence.

Data 3

"She bring home too many trophy," *lamented Auntie Lindo that Sunday.*

The data is an utterance because, according to Kreidler (1998), an utterance is a speech act that is uttered by at least one person, written in quotation marks, or can also be in italics. This data has quotation marks before and after the sentence. It was said by Auntie Lindo to provide information.

Data 4

"You lucky you don't have this problem," *said Auntie Lindo with a sigh to my mother.*

The data is an utterance because, according to Kreidler (1998), an utterance is a speech act that is uttered by at least one person, written in quotation marks, or can also be in italics. This data has quotation marks before and after the sentence. The data is said directly by the character Auntie Lindo.

Data 5

"Turn off TV,"

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

Data 6

"Are you sure?" I asked shyly.

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

Data 7

"Take it," she said.

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

3. Presuppositions

Data 1

"If she had as much talent as she has a temper, she would be famous now,"

This data is a counterfactual presupposition because it assumes that the speaker and listener already know that the child has a big temper. According to Yule (1996), a counterfactual implies the opposite of reality, often in a hypothetical sense.

Data 2

If I hit the wrong notes because I hadn't practiced enough, I never corrected myself.

This data is a counterfactual presupposition because the sentence assumes that the speaker can play music. According to Yule (1996), a counterfactual implies the opposite of reality, often in a hypothetical sense.

Data 3

And now I realized how many people were in the audience, the whole it seemed.

The data is a factive presupposition because this sentence implies that the speaker realizes there are many people in the audience. According to Yule (1996), the factive presupposition is a presumption that assumes the truth of the speaker's statement following verbs such as 'regret,' 'realize,' and 'know.'

Data 4

"Then I wish I wasn't your daughter. I wish you weren't my mother," I shouted.

The data is a counterfactual presupposition. These sentences suggest that the speaker hopes his current mother is not his biological mother. According to Yule (1996), a counterfactual implies the opposite of reality, often in a hypothetical sense.

Data 5

The lessons stopped.

This data is a presupposition because the word stopped implies that the lesson has already started. According to Yule (1996), lexical presupposition is a presumption that arises because of the

meaning of a word or phrase. Examples of words that can trigger presuppositions are 'start,' 'again,' and 'stop.'

Data 6

“If you don’t hurry up and get me out of here, I’m disappearing for good,”

This data is a presupposition because it implies that something has to be removed from a place. According to Yule (1996), a counterfactual is a presupposition that implies the opposite of reality, often in a hypothetical manner.

CONCLUSION

From the table above, this research has examined the semantic aspects of sentences, Utterances, and Presuppositions in the short story *Two Kinds* by Amy Tan. This study has identified sentences as grammatical structures that form meaning. At the same time, utterances describe how sentence structures are realized in spoken or written contexts, and presuppositions reveal the meaning implied or assumed in communication. The study also identifies various sentence structures (such as simple, complex, and compound-complex), multiple types of utterances (including commands, questions, and statements), and different types of presuppositions (including active, counterfactual, and lexical).

In the depiction of the mother-daughter conflict in the short story *Two Kinds*, these semantic elements interact with each other in the narrative to understand how meaning is constructed through form and context, which is essential for a deeper understanding through texts that are explicit as well as implicit because of the use of language in intercultural and interpersonal relationships. Therefore, semantics plays an essential role in literary texts and the dynamics of human communication.

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