

Descriptive Analysis of Passive Voice Sentence Through Levels Of Semantic Analysis in the Story of *A Study In Scarlet* By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

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Abstract

Learning English as Foreign Language is not that easy in Indonesia. Mostly learners will face some difficulties in learning it as people speak English as foreign language, and the opportunity to interact with English native speakers is very little. The function of English native teachers is to teach English naturally. Therefore, in this research, the researcher offers one of English grammar features to guide the EFL learners understand English naturally. In this study, the researcher focusses on the level of semantic analysis which is actually a very basic lesson to learn English. The research methodology used is descriptive qualitative research. The data are passive voice constructions consisting of 42 passive voice sentences from a novel of Sherlock Holmes by the title "*A Study in Scarlet*". The data are examined by the researcher herself through a software feature on online application. Afterward, the data are analyzed through levels of semantic analysis. There are three key themes which are analyzed: *reference*, *sense relation* and *thematic role*. In summary, the levels of semantic analysis is successful in analyzing the reference which naturally helps the learners memorize many new words also successful in both knowing the sense relation and thematic role which guide the learners think English word just like first language or second language learners.

Keywords: *semantic analysis, Sherlock Holmes, passive voice sentence*

Introduction

Dardjowidjojo (2003) stated that English was firstly taught to Indonesians in 1914 at junior high school and in 1918 at senior high school because it was set up at the time. Formally, Mr. Wachendorff, the first head of the Central Inspectorate of English Language Instruction in the Ministry of Education declared that English was firstly announced to be one of the languages which should be learnt in 1995. It was made mention at an event of teacher trainers. English took an essential role in education as well-known that English was chosen to be one of the compulsory lessons in schools. University students unlikely complete the courses

without being assigned to read some English texts. Cited from Swan (2008) Grammar is “the rules that show how words are combined, arranged or changed to show certain kinds of meaning”. EFL can be acquired well by paying attention to grammatical rule. It is supported by (Safire, 1992) stated that “only in Grammar can you be more than perfect”.

Based on the definition of Grammar, it is essential to know the meaning of a word, phrase, clause or sentence furthermore, meaning is one of the most important components in language besides sounds and forms Abusalim (2019). The study of meaning is called Semantics. Semantics according to Kearns (2011) is that it relates with literal meaning and word combined meaning which is taken from the main core meaning and the whole utterance meaning. There are three levels of semantic analysis namely, word level, sentence level and utterance level cited by Abusalim (2019).

Semantics exists in every sound and form of language. sound is something produced from the oral organ while form is usually written. Form is a word order of word, phrase, clause and sentence. Basically, a form has two different word order, namely active voice (henceforth AV) and passive voice (henceforth PV). PV often becomes a debatable topic among researchers, English teachers, grammar book authors and EFL learners. Some expert climes that PV comes as ambiguous on the one hand weakens the writer’s scholarly argument on the other hand (Albert,2000; Sheen,1982; Sigel, 2009; Strunk & White 2000; Taylor,2005).

Many books and websites explain that a sentence in PV actually is from a sentence in AV which has made some changes. The word order of passive voice is opposite from active voice. The word order in passive voice seems like the original direct object of AV becomes the subject in PV and the original verb of AV changes mostly a past participle. Pullum (2009) explained the reason which made some experts think that PV is ambiguous “it’s silly to say that PV is evasive, wordy and verbose, in fact that short passive is simpler that its counterpart. It is important to analyze PV through levels of semantics analysis in order to stop thinking that PV is ambiguous form. Thus, the researcher means to analyze the

PV in one of the famous novels, Sherlock Holmes which is published by Battam Dell.

Sherlock Holmes is one of the famous novels which is written by a very qualified writer, Sir Arthur Conan Dole. He has some achievements from Knight Bachelor in 1902, Knight of Grace of most Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem in 1903, Queen's South Africa Medal in 1901, Knight of the Order of the Crown of Italy in 1895 and Order of the Medjidie – 2nd Class (Ottoman Empire) in 1907. Sir Arthur Conan Dole also championed two injustice cases by using self-detective work and was famous with his first two stories which were literary prose.

Sumardjo (1998) stated that novel is a totality and an artistic comprehensiveness. Totality in novel means that the novel has passage elements. One of the elements is to convey the stories more interesting. It can be more interesting because of the existence of the author's biography and psychology. Additionally, he viewed that the author's biography can determine the patterns which are produced while the psychology of the author will determine the psychology of the readers. Having read the biography of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the previous paragraph, the researcher chose this novel to be the analyzed data in this research.

Concerning with the important of meaning in a passive voice sentence which was explained previously, some researchers in the past time conducted researches in accordance of the topic in this research. Lionora, Endry and Sri (2018) conducted a research by the title "Semantic Analysis of Passive Sentence Translation in the novel The Hunger Games: Mockingjay by Suzanne Collins The differences are it focussed on the classifying the meaning into some categories of meaning therefore the previous researcher also analyzed the translation of it and uses the stuy of equivalence in the research, while this present research focusses on explaining how the semantic approach analyze the meaning not categorizing the meaning. Thus, the result of the previous research is finding 81 passive sentences found from the five chapters of the novel and according to the types of

meaning, it was found four categories of meanings and in the line of equivalence there were two types of equivalence found.

Secondly, Satriyo, Arining and Tresno (2016) declared a research by the title “A semantic analysis of denotative meaning in Kidung Doa song by Sunan Kalijaga”. In this research, the researcher just used the semantic approach to analyze the denotation which means the reference of the words but in this present research, the researcher also analyzes the semantic thematical roles of every component in the sentence. Finally, the result showed that the Dennotative meaning of many words, phrases, and sentences referred to Islamic "dakwah”.

The last, it was from Gandhis and Yaqin (2019). The previous study was under the title “Analisis Implementasi Metode Semantic Similarity untuk Pengukuran Kemiripan Makna Antar Kalimat”. The study was analyzed to count the quality of sentence similarity in the semantic implementation while this recent research is to analyze the sentence to get the sentence similarity. The result of the similarity showed that the percentage of the noun and verb from the Semantic implementation and the original sentence have been calculated as 0.25 and 0.75

Considering to the previous researches, the present researcher carries out a topic of Semantic Approach which is used to analyze PV in one of stories from the novel of Sherlock Holmes by the title “Descriptive Analysis of Passive Voice sentence through Levels of Semantic Analysis in Story of A Study in Scarlet by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle”

Research Method

The data of the research are passive sentences that are taken from a story titled *A Study in Scarlet* written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and published by Battam Dell. To get the data, the researcher uses passive voice detector online application. The total sample of this research is 42 passive voice sentences. To analyze the data, the researcher uses a descriptive qualitative method in which English passive sentences are described qualitatively. The steps in analyzing data, the writer refers to Miles and Huberman Analysis (1984). Firstly, passive sentences are identified. Secondly, those passive sentences are reduced. Thirdly,

based on the analysis of reference, sense relation and semantic thematic role, passive sentences are counted and put into table. Lastly, the results are discussed and conformed with the experts' statements to validate the findings.

Findings and Discussion

Referring to the aims of the research, the researcher wants to analyze the reference, sense relation and semantic thematic roles from English passive sentence translation in story of *A Study in Scarlet* written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. In the story, the researcher found 210 passive voice sentences and selected the 210 passive sentences into 42 passive voice sentences. Those passive sentences are analyzed based on the levels of semantic analysis. Each word of the passive voice sentences is discussed in accordance with the experts' statements.

Levels of Semantic Analysis

According to Abusalim (2018) there are three levels of semantic analysis: word, sentence and utterance, but in this research, the analysis is done only through word and sentence levels because the utterance level is used to oral language. As known in this research, the researcher used the written language in a story which is written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle namely *A Study in Scarlet*. From the word level and sentence level, there are three points that can be concerned: reference, sense relation and semantic thematic role.

Reference

Sentence : I was duly attached to the fifth Northumberland Fusiliers as assistant surgeon. (p.3)

Verb : attached

Choices : Asked, Ordered, Wanted and Assigned

Reference : Assigned

According to Passive voice detector the sentence above is passive sentence, word attached is the passive verb because based on Oxford Dictionary verb

“attached” is transitive verb. In addition, Folse (2016) stated that passive verb should be transitive verb. After knowing the passive verb, it will be discussed according to the prototype theory of the concept by Abusalim (2018) which causes the researcher to find some words that have similar meaning to the verb “attached” for examples asked, ordered, wanted and assigned. From the words that have similar meaning with attached, the researcher must choose one word which has the most similar meaning with “attached”. Therefore, it is found that “assigned” is the reference of “attached”.

Sense Relation

In the example above “attached” is able to changed with “assigned”. Therefore, to make sure that the another word which is assumed having similiar meaning with the verb, it is no harm analyzing the relation between those words. In level of semantic analysis Abusalim said that there are 4 categories of sense relation. Here is the results of analyzing sense relation on passive verbs. They are Homonymy Vs Polysemy, Semantic Similarity, Semantic Opposite and Hierarchical Relation. Based on the result there are two categories of sense relation found in the story.

Semantic Similarity

Sentence : It may be pushed to excess. (p.6)

Verb : Pushed

Reference : Pressed

Sense relation : Semantic Similarity

According to Passive voice detector the sentence above is passive sentence, word pushed is the passive verb because based on Oxford Dictionary verb “pushed” is transitive verb. In addition, Folse (2016) stated that passive verb should be transitive verb. Afterward it is found that the sense relation between “pushed and pressed” is Semantic Similarity, because Abusalim (2018) once said that one of the characters of semantic similarity is that it is different phonological

word with relatedness in meaning between the words. Therefore, it is assumed as semantic similarity.

Hierarchical Relation

Sentence : Idlers of the Empire are irresistibly drained. (p.4)

Verb : Drained

Reference : Spent

Sense relation : Hierarchical Relation

According to Passive voice detector the sentence above is passive sentence, word attached is the passive verb because based on Oxford Dictionary verb “drained” is transitive verb. In addition, Folse (2016) stated that passive verb should be transitive verb. Afterward it is found that the sense relation between “drained and spent” is Hierarchical relation, for Abusalim (2018) once said that one of the characters of hierarchical relation is that it has relation vertically between the words, in this research “drained” has vertical relation with “spent”. Therefore, it is assumed as hierarchical relation.

Semantic Thematic Roles

Based on Abusalim (2018) Semantic thematic roles have 11 types of roles. All the roles were found in the sentences. Here are the results of analyzing the semantic thematic role on passive sentences.

Agent

Sentence: Thus, pressed by us all, Holmes showed signs of irresolution. (p.60)

Agent : us all

According to Passive Voice detector the sentence above is passive sentence, word “us all” is the agent of the sentence. Based on the character of agent which was described by Abusalim (2018), “us all” is assumed as agent because It is an initiator of some action and capable of acting with volition. As seen from the

sentence that “us all” is the initiator and capable to act with the volition, therefore us all is decided as the agent.

Instrument

Sentence : His eyes were sunken in his head and burned with an unnatural Lustre. (p.64)

Instrument : an unnatural Lustre

According to Passive Voice detector the sentence above is passive sentence, word “an unnatural Lustre” is the instrument of the sentence. Based on the character of agent which was described by Abusalim (2018), “an unnatural Lustre” is assumed as instrument because It is the thing that is used to do the action, it is not an initiator. As seen from the sentence that “an unnatural Lustre” is the tool which is used to do the action, therefore an unnatural Lustre is decided as the agent.

Experiencer

Sentence : She found the road blocked by a great drove of cattle. (p.76)

Experiencer : She

According to Passive Voice detector the sentence above is passive sentence, word “she” is the experiencer of the sentence. Based on the character of experiencer which was described by Abusalim (2018), “she” is assumed as experiencer because It is an entity that is awake of the action or state. It is described by the predicate but it is not in control of the action or state. As seen from the sentence that “She” is the awake of the action but “she” does not mean to do the action, therefore “she” is decided as the experiencer.

Patient

Sentence : He would certainly have been hung had this test been in existence. (p.8)

Patient : He

According to Passive Voice detector the sentence above is passive sentence, word “He” is the patient of the sentence. Based on the character of patient which was described by Abusalim (2018), “He” is assumed as patient because It is the entity undergoing the effect of some action and often undergoing some change in state. As seen from the sentence that “He” is the object of the action, therefore He is decided as the patient.

Theme

Sentence : I was removed from my brigade and attached to the Berkshires.
(p.3)

Theme : I

According to Passive Voice detector the sentence above is passive sentence, word “I” is the theme of the sentence. Based on the character of theme which was described by Abusalim (2018), “I” is assumed as theme because It is an entity that is moved by action on whose location is described. As seen from the sentence that “I” is the person whose position is moved to another place, therefore I is decided as the theme.

Percept

Sentence : Thus, pressed by us all, Holmes showed signs of irresolution.
(p.4)

Percept : signs of irresolution

According to Passive Voice detector the sentence above is passive sentence, word “signs of irresolution” is the percept of the sentence. Based on the character of percept which was described by Abusalim (2018), “signs of irresolution” is assumed as percept because It is an entity which is perceived or experienced. As

seen from the sentence that “signs of irresolution” is the object that was experienced by Holmes, therefore signs of irresolution is decided as the percept.

Recipient

Sentence : I should have fallen into the hands of the murderous Ghazis had it not been for the devotion and courage shown by Murray. (p.3)

Recipient : the hands of the murderous Ghazis

According to Passive voice detector the sentence above is passive sentence, word “the hands of the murderous Ghazis” is the recipient of the sentence. Based on the character of recipient which was described by Abusalim (2018), “the hands of the murderous Ghazis” is assumed as recipient because It is It is a sub type of an automatic role called goal involved in action describing changes of possession. As seen from the sentence that “the hands of the murderous Ghazis” is the recipient or the receiver of I, therefore the hands of the murderous is decided as the recipient.

Beneficiary

Sentence : Twenty-nine days are given you for amendment. (p.88)

Beneficiary : you

According to Passive voice detector the sentence above is passive sentence, word “you” is the agent of the sentence. Based on the character of beneficiary which was described by Abusalim (2018), “you” is assumed as agent because “you” It is an entity for whose benefit the action was performed. As seen from the sentence that “you” is the person who get benefit from the action, therefore you is decided as the beneficiary.

Goal

Sentence : Not a day should be lost in sending me back to England. (p.4)

Goal : to England

According to Passive Voice detector the sentence above is passive sentence, word “to England” is the goal of the sentence. Based on the character of goal which was described by Abusalim (2018), “to England” is assumed as agent because It is the entity toward which something moves and movement can be either be “literally or metaphorically”. As seen from the sentence that “to England” is the target location of the action., therefore to England is decided as the goal.

Location

Sentence : There I was struck on the shoulder by a Jezail bullet which shattered the bone and grazed the subclavian artery. (p.3)

Location : on the shoulder

According to Passive Voice detector the sentence above is passive sentence, word “on the shoulder” is the location of the sentence. Based on the character of location which was described by Abusalim (2018), “on the shoulder” is assumed as location because It is It is the place where something is situated or something takes place. As seen from the sentence that “on the shoulder” is the place of the action when it is happening, therefore on the shoulder is decided as the location.

Source

Sentence : I was removed from my brigade and attached to the Berkshires. (p.3)

Source : from my brigade

According to Passive Voice detector the sentence above is passive sentence, word “from my bridge” is the source of the sentence. Based on the character of source which was described by Abusalim (2018), “from my bridge” is assumed as source because It is It is the entity from which something moves either literary or metaphorically. As seen from the sentence that “from my bridge” is the location

where it takes the action before being moved to another location, therefore from my bridge is decided as the source.

Conclusion

This research generally is describing how the levels of semantic analysis work. Levels of semantic analysis discuss about how to express a message of every word with different word. To express the message is not in a form of description, because description of word can be called a definition not a message. In using a new word to express the message is very detailed, because the word and the object should be in a clear sense relation whether they are: synonymy, antonymy or others and lastly to paraphrase a whole sentence, learners should first understand what thematic roles of each sentence component to avoid miss understanding.

There are many benefits that learners can get in learning English with this way, because learning the reference of word can increase new vocabulary, therefore Ms Rose's speaking will not be boring and become interesting. Besides of becoming interesting speaking, knowing the sense relation and thematic role will help Ms Rose have a critical thinking.

Both formal and informal school have their target in every year. Most of school hope that the students can have a critical thinking and capable in speaking and writing. This semantic analysis is a very basic lesson, but as the time goes on students will feel the influence of this lesson. Besides the benefit of this analysis, levels of semantic analysis also have weakness. Although semantic analysis can encourage the student's vocabulary naturally without memorizing, but English is not FL in Indonesia so as Indonesian people, we still need to memorize new English vocabulary.

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