

Semantic Roles in Emma Watson's Speech on Gender Equality at He for She Campaign

Vanny Annisa Putri Hendarto¹, Heri Heryono²

^{1,2}English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Widyatama University, Indonesia
vanny.annisa@widyatama.ac.id, Heri.heryono@widyatama.ac.id

Abstract

This research intends to investigate and analyze the semantic roles used in Emma Watson's speech, as well as their significance. The study was conducted using a descriptive qualitative research methodology. The information was derived from Emma Watson's speech at the HeForShe script at the United Nations. From the studies there are only found six types of semantic roles which are agent (39%), experiencer (16%), goal (7%), source (16%), theme (20%), and location (2%). In addition to identifying the semantic role, the researcher also identified the meaning contained in the speech. Kinds of meaning that we can found in this research are only four types, there are conceptual meaning (86%), connotative meaning (6%), affective meaning (6%), and reflected meaning (2%). The types of semantic roles were analyzed by identifying each sentence.

Keywords

semantic roles;
conceptual meaning;
speech



I. Introduction

Language is a social phenomena that connects people to their surroundings. Language is used as a means of communication to communicate meaning. The reality is that many Indonesians continue to struggle with English, particularly grasping its meaning. There is a branch of linguistics that focuses on the meaning of a language while analyzing it. It's known as semantics, and it's the study of word and phrase meaning.

Language is one of the most important things in the life of every human being. Each of them is of course inseparable from language, the first time a child gets a language that is heard directly from the father or mother when the child is born into this world. Then as time goes by and as the child grows, they will acquire a language other than the language taught by the mother and father, either in the form of a second, third, foreign language or so on which is called language acquisition where it depends on the social environment and cognitive level possessed by these children through the learning process in their environment. (Purba, N. et al. (2020).

Several investigations on the phenomena of language have been conducted. The semantic aspect of every linguistic element is one topic that has become a hot topic among scholars, researchers, and specialists in the field of language. The correctness of the message that each writer or speaker intends to transmit to others is why examining the meaning of an utterance is so important. Each element of speech has a purpose, both syntactically and semantically. The amount of arguments that can be used in the formulation of a phrase is determined by each verb. Each argument has a semantic role that cannot be isolated from the semantic type of the verb that occupies it since it is decided by the verb.

A semantic role is an encoder's underlying notion or knowledge that corresponds to the actions that words execute in a particular context. Apart from the language encoding of certain scenarios, it is the actual activity performed by the person in some real/imagined situation. It's also known as the underlying relationship between a patient and the clause's primary verb. According to Gawron(2013), semantic roles are roles that players play in events and circumstances. They are characterized in terms of prototypes because they are part of the content of linguistic communication, and the names we give them are only approximations of the semantic roles.

The author is interested in adopting Emma Watson's statement since it was a speech for the HeForShe movement that shocked the public in 2014. Emma Watson is a well-known British actress and campaigner. In July 2014, UN Women named her a UN Women Goodwill Ambassador for her work advocating for women's rights. Emma Watson was asked by the United Nations to give a speech at the launch of the HeForShe campaign in New York on September 20, 2014. In his address, he encouraged men to promote gender equality by participating in the HeForShe campaign, a solidarity movement that aims to abolish gender injustice and achieve gender equality, particularly in terms of equal rights and opportunity for women and children. Woman. The researcher used a study of the semantic function in the speech, as well as the meaning contained in it, to analyze Emma Watson's speech. The researcher uses George Yule's theory to analyze the role of semantics and Leech's theory to analyze the meaning contained in speech.

II. Review of Literature

2.1 Semantics

Semantics is a discipline of linguistics concerned with the study of meaning. It is regarded as a prominent area of linguistics devoted to the study of meaning in language (Crystal, 1991: 310). Because it deals with the interpretation and meaning of words, sentence patterns, and symbols, semantics is an essential part of linguistics to study. As a result, the reader will be able to comprehend what the author or speaker was trying to convey. Furthermore, according to Ningrat et al. (2019: 122), semantics establishes a link between adjacent words and explains the meaning of a phrase, regardless of whether the meanings of words are literal or metaphorical. It goes without saying that meaning is crucial in every communication setting.

The general definition of semantics is the study of meaning. It also clearly redefines that semantics limits the study to the nature of meaning. It is clear that meaning plays a very important role in the context of communication. If it doesn't make sense, all the utterances of the language are useless or meaningless. There is no meaningful thought interaction that we do in our daily lives. Meaning relates to the relationship between the word and the object it refers to. Arcnoff and Miller (2003:370) says that semantics focuses on theories of meaning which apply to sentences that make statements, and are taken to be either true or false. This assumption shows that there is a relationship between linguistic expression and the world which is at the core of linguistic meaning. Palmer (1981:1) argues that semantics is the technical term used to refer to the study of meaning, and, since meaning is a part of language, semantics is a part of linguistics.

2.2 Semantic Roles

According to Wrihatnala (2016), semantic roles try to capture similarities and differences in verb meaning that are mirrored in argument expression, with emergent generalizations that help to link semantics to syntax. Semantic roles are names for certain

repeating predicate-argument connections. They are also known as theme relations, theta roles, participants roles, and deep cases. The way the referent of the noun phrase contributes to the state, activity, or circumstance represented by the sentence is referred to as semantic roles. Semantic roles are divided into agent, topic, place, experiencer, instruments, objective, and source, according to George Yule (2006:102-103). Each role in a semantic role system responds to a given action.

1. **Agent**

The position of a argument that with the aid of using its movement influences a few different entity.

Ex: Sinta dropped the glass.

From the sentence, it can be known that Sinta is doing an action which causes the glass is broken.

2. **Theme**

The entity involved in or affected by the action.

Ex: Dara put a cake.

From the sentence, the theme is a cake, because a cake involves in the action.

3. **Location**

Discussion of where the action took place.

Ex: The match football was held in University of Putera Batam. From the sentence, it is known that University of Putera Batam was as the place for the match football was held.

4. **Experiencer**

Argument, where the action occurs.

Ex: Aunty heard that the baby was crying.

This sentence shows that Aunty heard the crying of baby.

5. **Instruments**

Argument that the entity that used by agent in order to perform an action.

Ex: Laura cut a paper with scissor.

This sentence shows that the scissor is instrument, because that is a thing that used for perform an action.

6. **Goal**

An argument that place from which an action is directed.

Ex: Throw this rubbish into the rubbish bin.

This sentence shows that the rubbish bin is the place of the rubbish must be.

7. **Source**

The role of reasoning to indicate where an action occurs.

Ex: Maria comes from Medan.

This sentence shows that the source or the village of Maria comes from.

2.3 Meaning

We will undoubtedly go through the process of comprehending the message of the other person when conversing. That is to say, in life, meaning plays a critical part in comprehending what is being communicated. There are seven forms of meaning, according to Leech (1974: 9). Connotative meaning, social meaning, emotive meaning, reflected meaning, collocative meaning, and theme meaning are all types of meaning.

1. **Conceptual meaning:** Conceptual meaning is the real meaning.

Ex: Woman, the word woman can be shown as:

Woman: +human, -male, +adult

2. **Connotative meaning:** Connotative meaning is a figurative meaning, usually using parable language.
Ex: I'm really feeling blue today. In this sentence the meaning of the word 'blue' is not a color. The word 'blue' is a parable of sadness.
3. **Social meaning:** Social meaning relates to the situation in which an utterance is used. The use of texts depends on our knowledge of language variations.
Ex: father (formal); dad (colloquial); dada (child's language)
4. **Affective meaning:** Affective meaning is concerned with the attitudes of the speaker or writer.
Ex: I'm very sorry, but if you would be so kind as to get the book next to you for me. This sentence shows the speaker has manners for the sake of politeness.
5. **Reflected meaning:** Reflected meaning is the meaning, which arises in case of multiple conceptual meaning, when one sense of a word forms part of our response to another sense.
Ex: I talked to a princess last night.
Some people might think that he was talking to a beautiful woman called 'princess'. But actually he did talk to a princess from the kingdom.
6. **Collocative meaning:** Leech (2003: 30) stated that collocative meaning consists of the associations a word acquired on account of the meanings of words which tend to occur in its environment.
Ex: delicious: food, taste, smell, cook.
7. **Thematic meaning:** Thematic meaning is the meaning that is communicated by the way the speaker or writer organizes the message, in terms of order, focus, and emphasis.
Ex: both sentences have the same meanings, but the first sentence is more complex.
 1. She is so tired that she cannot work on her assignment.
 2. She is too tired to work on her assignment.

III. Research Method

In this study, we used the qualitative research method that is the result of the research. Nazir (1985: 64) explained that the descriptive method is a research method that describes the situation of an event or occurrence so that this method only performs bare basic data acquisition. Hancock, Dawson R., and Algozzine (2009: 20) found that the main methods of collecting qualitative research data are documented materials such as interviews, focus groups, observations, letters, diaries, photographs, and collection descriptions. It states that it is a collection of. Questionnaire questions. This study uses a collection of documented material that is the script for the speech.

The subject of this study is Emma Watson's speech in the HeForShe campaign. Speech scripts can be accessed from the unwomen.org website. In this study, we analyzed the semantic role and meaning of Emma Watson's speech script. This study describes an analysis of the role of semantics in Emma Watson's speech. Researchers determine the types of semantic roles used as data in scripts and the major types of semantic roles, and analyze the meaning of sentences.

IV. Results and Discussion

Data 1

We want to end gender inequality, and to do this, we need everyone involved. (Line 2)

We	want to end gender inequality	and to do this	we need everyone involved
Agent	Theme		Goal

Based on this data, there are three semantic roles which are agent, theme, and goal. The subject ‘we’ has role as an agent because ‘we’ is the one who doing an action. From the data we can know that ending gender equality is the theme of this campaign, because because it has the meaning of ending gender inequality, where it changes because it is affected by an action. Last is the goal. To realize this goal requires elements of the entire community, especially the people who attended the campaign.

The type of meaning in this data is reflected meaning. In this data, we can see that the speaker looks like asking society to help end gender inequality. From this data, it can be ascertained that the speaker hopes that the community will help.

Data 2

I was appointed as Goodwill Ambassador for UN Women six months ago. (Line 7)

I was appointed as Goodwill Ambassador for UN Women six month ago
Agent

Based on this data, there can be seen one type of semantic role. The semantic role applied in this data is experiencer, ‘I’ which is Emma Watson Emma Watson as experiencer because she was appointed as Goodwill Ambassador for UN Women.

The type of meaning in this data is conceptual meaning. In this data the context is clear that it was Emma Watson who was appointed as a Goodwill Ambassador

Data 3

When at 14 I started being sexualized by certain elements of the press. (Line 16)

When at 14	I started being sexualized	by certain elements of the press
	Experiencer	Source

There is one type of semantic role that is experiencer. The speaker, Emma Watson, said that she was being sexualized by element of the press. That means Emma experienced that when she was 14 years old. Then the next is the source, ‘certain elements of the press’ is the source because they are the reason why Emma started being sexualized.

This data has conceptual meaning. In this sentence, he said it as it is. How he was treated when he was 14. So, the meaning of this data is categorized as conceptual meaning.

Data 4

I am from Britain and think it is right that as a woman I am paid the same as my male counterparts. (Line 25)

<i>I am from Britain and think it is right that</i>	<i>as a woman I am paid the same as my male counterparts</i>
Agent	Source

Here are two types of semantic roles found in this data which are agent and source. The word 'I' refers to Emma as an agent. The word 'Britain' is included in the source. The word explained where Emma came from.

This data has a conceptual meaning. in this sentence Emma is saying clearly, not using figurative language. We also as listeners can understand directly what the speaker meant.

Data 5

My life is a sheer privilege because my parents didn't love me less because I was born a daughter. (Line 32)

<i>My life is a sheer privilege because my parents didn't love me less</i>	<i>because I was born a daughter</i>
Theme	Agent

There are two semantic roles in this data, there are theme and experiencer. 'My life' has a role as a theme because this word is affected by the love that her parents' gift for her. While the experiencer is Emma Watson. She experienced the love of her parents, then her life has sheer privilege.

This data has a conceptual meaning. The data explains how the speaker describes his life as a mere privilege. Describes how he is loved by his parents. In the data there are no figurative words or anything so that the sentence is categorized as having a conceptual meaning.

Semantic Roles	Percentage
Agent	39%
Experiencer	16%
Source	7%
Theme	6%
Location	20%
Instrument	2%
TOTAL	100%

Semantic Roles Data

Types of Meaning	Percentage
Conceptual Meaning	86%
Connotative Meaning	6%
Affective Meaning	6%
Reflected Meaning	2%
TOTAL	100%

V. Conclusion

Based on analysis, It has been found that there are 6 types of semantic roles, which are agent (39%), experiencer (16%), goal (7%), source (16%), theme (20%), and location (2%). Other than that, there are four types of meaning, including there are conceptual meaning (86%), connotative meaning (6%), affective meaning (6%), and reflected meaning (2%). In addition, in the category of semantic roles, it can be concluded that the types of semantic roles that occur frequently are the following percentages of agents (39%) followed by location (20%) and experiencer with the percentage of (16%). In addition, the type of meaning that frequently appears in the meaning category is the conceptual meaning of the proportion (86%), but no social meaning, collocation meaning, or subject meaning is found.

References

- Crystal, D. (1991). *A Dictionary Of Linguistics and Phonetics 3rd Edition*. Cambridge, MA: Basil Blackwell.
- Ekawijaya, Ardhian and Heri Heryono. (2016). Composite Naive Bayes Clasification and Semantic Method to Enhance Sentiment Accuracy Score. Retrived on 1 Jun 2022 from https://scholar.google.co.id/citations?view_op=view_citation&hl=en&user=JuZMnAUAAAAJ&citation_for_view=JuZMnAUAAAAJ:u-x6o8ySG0sC
- Emma Watson: Gender equality is your issue too. (20 Sept 2014). Unwomen.org. Retrived on 18 March 2022 from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2014/9/emma-watson-gender-equality-is-your-issue-too>
- Gawron, J. M. (2013). *Semantic roles and grammatical relations*. USA: San Diego University.
- Hancock, Dawson R. and Bob Algozzine. (2006). *Doing Case Study Research*. New York & London: Teachers College Press.
- Iskandar, Anwar & Retno Purwani S. (2022). *Semantic Roles "Agent" and "Affected" in Trilingual Balinese Folklores: A Study of Semantics*. UNIKOM. Retrieved on 07 April 2022 from <https://ojs.unikom.ac.id/index.php/apollo-project/article/download/3961/2125>
- Leech, G. (1974). *Semantics—The Study of Meaning*. Harmondsworth: Penguin
- Nazir, M. 1985. *Metode Penelitian*. Jakarta: Ghalia Indonesia.
- Ningrat, A.,A.,A Ngr. Adriyanti, W., Kardana, I., N. (2019). Semantic Roles of the Verb "to See" in Javenese of Kertosono. 5(2), 122–129. <https://doi.org/http://dx.doi.org/10.22225/jr.5.2.1139.122-129>
- Palmer, F.R. (1981). *Semantics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Purba, N. et al. (2020). Language Acquisition of Children Age 4-5 Years Old in TK Dhinukum Zholtan Deli Serdang. *Linglit Journal: Scientific Journal of Linguistics and Literature*. P.19-24
- Simatupang, Ervina CM and Ida Zuraida Supri. (2020). Compound Word That Occur During the Global Pandemic COVID-19: Morphosemantic Study. *Journal UNIKU*. retrived on 1 Jun 2022 from https://scholar.google.co.id/citations?view_op=view_citation&hl=en&user=-XfJN08AAAAJ&citation_for_view=-XfJN08AAAAJ:M3ejUd6NZC8C
- Silalahi, David Samuel H. (2017). *An Analysis of Figurative Expressions in the Holy Bible: John*. USU. retrieved on 14 April 2022 from

<https://repositori.usu.ac.id/bitstream/handle/123456789/18782/120705046.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Wrihatnala, I., M., B. (2016). Category of Complement and Semantic Role of Single Argument in Balinese Syntactic Constructions. 2(2), 384–393.
<https://doi.org/10.22225/jr.2.2.423.384-393>

Yule, G. (2006). The Study of Language Third Edition. New York: Cambridge University Press. (102-103)
http://sintak.unika.ac.id/staff/blog/uploaded/5811996202/files/george_yule.pdf