

Analysis of Hyponymy in 'Oliver Twist' novel by Charles Dickens (1838): Semantics Study

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to analyze the types and the functions of hyponymy used in Oliver Twist's novel by Charles Dickens. In the books, Charles Dickens tells the life story of Oliver Twist that has a lot of moral stories in it. However, hyponymy is widely used in the novel as an explanation to the words so the readers can understand clearly about every word in the novel. The method used in carrying out the study was a descriptive qualitative method. Therefore, the results of this research that were taken from Oliver Twist, a children's novel by Charles Dickens (1838) are 38 data that are qualified as 5 types of hyponymies such as 10 data hyponymy of the body part (26%), 7 data of hyponymy object (18%), 9 data of hyponymy family (23%), 6 data of hyponymy feelings (15%), and 5 data of hyponymy of buildings (13%) as the least frequent relation in the novel.

Keywords

hyponymy; semantics; function of hyponymy; books; novel



I. Introduction

Books are the most appropriate media if we want to learn or provide new knowledge. With books, people can share their minds with writing as an intermediary between the writer and the reader. As a medium, a book must also have characteristics that distinguish it from the other media, such as have to be written or printed with pages that are attached to one side and are intended to be published and studied (Sitepu:2012) A book is considered successful if it can arouse the interest of the audience in understanding the contents of the book. By having the same characteristics, the novel can be called a form of book because of the characteristics in the novel such as has a clear plot, the setting is described in detail and has many characters. (Sumardjo:1998)

The book that intended for children often use words that are made as clear as possible to describe things, objects, and also people. Therefore, the author decided to analyze the book by Charles Dickens using the hyponymy method within the scope of semantics to explain in detail what words are included in the hyponymy in Oliver Twist's book. George Yule (2010) defined semantics as the study of word, phrase, and sentence meaning. This approach is concerned with objective or general meaning and avoids trying to account for subjective or local meaning. This theory is supported by another theory that the study of meaning as it is conveyed through language is known as semantics (Saeed:1997). Based on the explanation above, Semantics can be interpreted as learning in finding and interpreting the meaning of each word written by the author clearly so that people who read it can understand it in one reading and also there are no errors in interpreting it. Simatupang (2019) also added that semantics is the study of meaning communicated through language.

Thus, lexical relation came to explain the relationship of the meaning of words to the other words. According to Yule (2006), the relationship between two or more words is

known as a lexical relation, and it may be analyzed by looking at the meaning of the words in relation to one another. According to Palmer (1976), lexical relations have five types such as hyponymy, synonymy, antonymy, and homonymy.

Hyponyms, according to Al-Shemmery & Alshemmery (2017), have a meaning that is connected to one another and arranges itself into a sequence. As an example, home and school are hyponyms for the form of buildings. The example shows that the hyponym has a level structure that is interrelated in giving the meaning so as to form a hierarchical arrangement. In other words, the hierarchical relationship is the meaning that is identified from the hyponym structure that is related to each other.

This research will explore hyponymy as part of lexical relations with the aim that children's readers will understand well and clearly what the author means in this book and can also take lessons from the life story of Oliver Twist. Not only children but adult readers are also expected to know about the contents of the minds of children who are full of curiosity. This journal is expected to help children's storybook writers to be able to place hyponymy words correctly and also as teaching materials for teachers.

1.1 Question Research

The following questions must be answered as part of this research are:

1. What are the types of hyponymies found in the novel 'Oliver Twist'?
2. What are the functions of hyponymy in the novel 'Oliver Twist'?

II. Review of Literature

2.1 Semantics

Semantics is the study of meaning. It deals with the literal meaning of words and the meaning of the way they are combined, which taken together form the core of meaning, or the starting point from which the whole meaning of a particular utterance is constructed (Kearns, 2011). The language we used to communicate or write has many advantages if we look at the form of linguistics. To know better about linguistics, we have to know the meaning of the language itself. Thus, semantics comes as a part of linguistics to explain more about the meaning of linguistics study. Semantics is concerned with the meaning of not only non-sentences meaning, such as phrases and incomplete sentences, but also with the meaning of whole sentences. The meaning of whole sentences involves propositions, and the notion of a proposition is central to semantics. A proposition is that part of the meaning of the utterance of a declarative sentence that describes some state of affairs (Hurford et. al, 2007). According to Panjaitan Km (2016), semantics is used to determine the precise meanings of words and phrases and clear out any ambiguity that could cause readers to believe a word has multiple possible meanings. Moreover, semantics can also increase our insight in thinking about language so that there are no misunderstandings in speaking and writing because the meaning of a language can change if we don't use it in the right context. 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).

2.2 Lexical Relations

Lexical semantics, also known as lexical relations, is the branch of semantics that deals with the meaning of words, according to Winda (2018) Lexical relations describe relationships among word meanings. According to semantic field theory, lexemes are categorized according to their division and features. Bus, rail, ship, and airplane are a few examples. All of those things point to some form of transportation, including a ship at sea, a bus on land, and an airplane in the air. In actuality, conditional semantics compares and refers to the same expression in predicates. (Setianto: 2017) Then, the meaning of words forms into the pattern of links or relations lexical semantics and is broken down into several types. Homonymy, polysemy, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, meronymy, member collection, and portion mass are the several types of lexical relations, according to Cruise (1986). This study will concern the hyponymy field of lexical relations to research what category of hyponymy and what are the functions of hyponymy.

2.3 Homonymy

Homonymy is the relationship between words that are homonyms—words that have different meanings but are pronounced the same or spelled the same or both. It can also refer to the state of being homonyms. Homonymy, according to Matthews (1997), is the connection between words that have a shape but have distinct meanings and cannot be put together. When numerous words have the same shape, this is known as homophones Palmer (1976). For example, a band can be divided into a musical group and a ring. Saeed divided homonymy into 4 types: same spelling category, same category, and different category. Homonyms also provide problems because they belong to three different types of words. Words like to, too, and two are examples of homophones, which are words with the same pronunciation but different spellings and meanings. For example, quail (the bird) and quail (the word) have the same pronunciation and spelling but have different meanings (to cringe) (Retnomurti:2021)

2.4 Polysemy

The term polysemy comes from the Greek word's poly and sēma which together mean 'many signs'. The opposite of polysemy is monosemy. Polysemy is important for lexicographers in the design of their dictionaries. To identify the polysemy, lexicographers use the criteria of relatedness to know about historical development. According to Johnson (1987), polysemy is the phenomenon in which a single word may have numerous distinct meanings that are logically connected to one another. An example of polysemy such as run - to move the foot fast (denotative) and manage (connotative).

2.5 Synonymy

Synonymy relates to the topic of semantics, which concerns the study of meaning in language. The term synonymy originates from the Greek words *sún* and *onoma*, which mean with and name. Synonyms used in predictions with the same referring expression, the predictions have the same truth value (Saeed: 2003). According to Elhaj & Gawi (2015), many terms with the same meaning are referred to as synonyms. If words have different applications but have the same meaning, the words can be included as synonyms. The examples of synonyms are large - big and coming - present.

2.6 Antonymy

If the synonyms are parts of referring to the same meaning, antonyms are part of semantics that give different meanings. An antonym is a term that has a meaning that is the

opposite, according to Saeed (2003). Antonymy is the oppositeness of meaning between a word and the other word or among words in the same part of speech, such as good-bad (adjective-adjective) and fast-slowly (adverb-adverb). According to Lyons (1977), antonymy refers to the relationship between lexical words whose meanings are opposed to one another. Antonymy is sometimes considered to be the reverse of synonymy.

2.7 Hyponymy

When the meaning of one form is included in the meaning of another, the relationship is described as hyponymy (Yule:2010). The words of hyponymy use the concept of 'inclusion' as a way to solve and unify language into categories so that readers and listeners can clearly know what the meaning of the words used by the writer and speaker is. The concept of 'is a kind of' is also used in this study like a horse is a kind of sheep. To know more about hyponymy, Yule (2010) stated that individuals typically employ hierarchical relationships between things like animals and insects or vegetables and flowers.

III. Research Method

This research used qualitative methods to analyze the category and the function of using hyponymy in the 'Oliver Twist' novel. According to Creswell (2012), qualitative research is meant for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social human problem. This research collected the data with the following steps: (1) determining books to be used as research material, (2) downloading e-book version of 'Oliver Twist' novel, (3) reading the books, and (4) identifying hyponymy contained in the 'Oliver Twist' novel, (5) write the conclusion.

IV. Result and Discussion

This study will explain what category of hyponymy and what the function of hyponymy found in Oliver Twist's novel. After analyzing the novel, the writer found that the category of hyponymy can be classified into 5 types which are Hyponymy of Part of body, Hyponymy of feelings, Hyponymy of buildings, Hyponymy of objects, and Hyponymy of family. With the data that has been collected, it can be ascertained that the hyponym most used by the author is the hyponym part of the body.

4.1 Part of Body

Data 1

The nurse **scooped the baby into her arms.**

(Oliver Twist : page 5)

In the data, the hyponymy word found is scooping the baby into her arms. The data described that the nurse was holding the newborn baby with both hands. The word arm is used to make the place more specific because the hand has many other parts such as elbows, fingers, arms, and others. By choosing arm as the word to describe a hug, readers both adults and young children know that the baby is in the arms of a nurse and indirectly, the nurse is holding him. This is also supported by the Longman dictionary which defines the arms as one of the two long parts of your body between your shoulders and your hands.

With the explanation above, it can be said that hyponyms can be used to explain in detail the parts of the human body, especially the part of the human hands. That way,

readers can clearly understand which part of the hand is being discussed by the author in the story so that children and adults can immediately understand the meaning of the words.

Data 2

But during the night, he covered his **eyes** with his small **hands** to shut out the darkness.

(Oliver Twist : page 11)

In the novel, it is told that Oliver feels sad because he has to be punished in a dark and cramped room because he is forced to take food in the orphanage canteen guarded by an nasty cook man. Feeling unfair, Oliver often cries alone and covers his eyes with his hands to dispel the darkness. According to the Longman dictionary, eye is one part of the body that humans use to see while the hand is the part of the body that is at the end of the arm, including the fingers that are often used to hold objects. Therefore, the data above can be ascertained into the hyponymy of the body part.

In addition to explaining in detail the parts of the human body, hyponymy can also support the atmosphere that the author is building in the story. As in the data above, Charles Dickens wrote that Oliver always closed his eyes using his small hands every night. That way, readers will feel sad for remembering that young Oliver had to be punished so cruelly alone.

4.2 Feelings

Data 3

As the gate closed behind them, Oliver felt a sudden **sadness** in leaving behind the only friends he had ever known.

(Oliver Twist : page 8)

In the data, the writer explains that Oliver feels sad because he has to leave the workhouse, the house where he was born and leaves the only friend he has. Oliver feels sad because he has to part with his friend after all his adventures at the workhouse happened. After the gate closed, the council met Oliver and said that Oliver had to work the next day.

According to the Longman dictionary, sadness is the state of feeling sad. Therefore, sadness is included in the category of hyponymy feelings. With the explanation above, the readers will know how Oliver feelings after he lost his only friend in the workhouse. This hyponym of feelings is supported by the dramatic impression of the sentences used by the author. That way, the use of this hyponymy serves to explain Oliver's condition at that time. The hyponym of feelings also has many examples such as happy, guilty, and angry. The function of hyponymy in the data is to bring up the situation as the writer wanted.

4.3 Buildings

Data 4

On Jacob's Island, **the warehouses** were roofless and empty. The walls crumbled down and the windows were smashed. The doors fell into the streets.

(Oliver Twist : page 100)

The data found on page 100 of Oliver Twist's book shows how bad and worrisome the state of the warehouses is. In the book, Jacob's Island is described as a slum island that was surrounded by a muddy ditch six to eight feet deep and twenty feet wide when the tide was in. The sentence above can be concluded as a hyponym for buildings. According to the

Longman dictionary, warehouses are large buildings for storing things before they are sold, used, or sent out to shops.

The hyponym in the data above explains more that the building used as a hiding place by Toby Crackit and Tom Chitling is an outdated building that is usually used as a place to keep a thing before it sells to consumer. consumers, even though warehouses have a similar name to houses, the two things have a similar purpose, namely a place to protect. The difference is that houses are made to protect people, while warehouses are used to protect goods.

4.4 Objects

Data 5

“In this very room, in this very **bed**, once nursed a pretty woman who was brought here full of dirt and dust. She gave birth to a boy and died.”

(*Oliver Twist* : page 43)

According to Longman’s dictionary, a bed is interpreted as a large, rectangular piece of furniture, often with four legs, used for sleeping on. In the data above, the word bed was spoken by Sally to Mrs. Coney when telling a secret from his mother Oliver who brought precious gold before he died in the room. Previously, the author did not mention what room the two of them used to speak. However, when Sally mentions that there is a bed in the room, the readers understand that this room is a bedroom.

Therefore, the function of hyponymy from this data is that hyponymy can be explained more clearly by objects that have become icons in the room, such as a bedroom with a bed, a kitchen with a stove, and a bathroom with a bath. so, the reader can shorten the time to read a lot of sentences but actually only refers to one room.

4.5 Family

Data 6

“We never did figure out who his **father** or **mother** were.”

(*Oliver Twist* : page 6)

The data found for Hyponymy of family is father and mother. In the novel, it is told that after ten months old, Oliver was sent to another workhouse run by a woman named Mrs. Mann. The woman who guards the workhouse is described as a woman who likes money and is not kind to the twenty-five children in the workhouse she manages. One day, Mr. Bumble visits the workhouse and asks about Oliver's condition and the conversation ensues.

Grandfather, father, mother, brother, sister, and daughter are hyponyms in the category of family members. This refers to the relationship where the brother is the father's son, the father is the grandfather's child, brother and sister are siblings, and kids are the plural of brother or sister. This relationship refers to the meaning of a hierarchy that is interrelated and characterizes the hyponym. Cousin is included in the family's hyponym. A cousin is a brother who comes from the blood ties of each parent. That way the hierarchical relationship is still very strong and makes the cousin a part of the hyponym that belongs to the family member. The function of the hyponymy family in the data is to explain that father and mother are in the hierarchy of hyponymy.

IV. Conclusion

The researcher concluded that lexical-semantic concern with lexical meaning. The researcher found there are 38 data sources for analysis. It can be found there are Therefore, the results of this research that were taken from *Oliver Twist*, a children's novel by Charles Dickens (1838) are 38 data that are qualified as 5 types of hyponymy such as 10 data hyponymy of the body part (26%), 7 data for hyponymy object (18%), 9 data of hyponymy family (23%), 6 data feelings (15%), and 5 data of buildings (13%) as the least frequent relation in the texts. The hyponym of the body part takes dominant use in the novel. Charles Dickens raised this novel as a children's novel where there are many interesting lessons that children can take. Therefore, this study raised the theme of hyponymy so that the children's novels can explain in detail every aspect contained in the novels such as *Oliver Twist*.

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