



## The Use of Semantic Lexical Relation in Rowling's "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows"

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### Abstract

Semantics is the study of words' meaning. One of the branches of semantics is a lexical relation study. It refers to the relationship between the meaning of words. The focus of this article is the explanation of the use of three types of lexical relations: synonymy, antonymy and hyponymy in the Rowling's novel "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows". The study aims to explain the use of the elements or the three types of semantics lexical relation appeared in that novel. This study employed qualitative research in the form of content analysis which deeply investigates the meanings in the novel. The units of analysis are words that appeared in the novel, taken from the whole chapters of the novel. Therefore, the object is semantics lexical relations comprising three types of lexical relations: synonymy, antonymy and hyponymy. The findings show that each type of lexical relation is interconnected with one another. The most dominant type that is used by the author of the novel is antonymy. There were 148 out of 319 items, followed by synonymy with 97 finding items and then hyponymy with 26 finding items. This current study hopefully can enhance the teacher or lecturers and the students English Language Education to involve the semantics lexical relation. Moreover, the findings and discussions can be applied in English Language Education Study Program, specifically in the semantics subject. The implications of lexical relation could be found not only in an English textbook but also in literature work such as novel, poetry, poem, even in play or drama, which is the subject that is required to learn by every single student.

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## INTRODUCTION

Learning about the system of language, we have particular study that we learned to understand the phenomenon of language itself. It is called as linguistics (Wijaya, 2016). There are so many fields that categorize every type of linguistics subject, one of them is semantics. Semantics is the study of meaning that is used for understanding human expression through language (Cruse, 2004). In daily life, people often make a statement or express an utterance about the possibility that something is the case. People do not always know what exactly happens in this world: some assumptions can be based on the real world, like some phenomena that may refer to what is being assumed, for example, *a dark cloud in the sky* that can be used to predict rain, while others can be just based on the speaker's belief that something is the case. Semantics closely related to applications in real life including word sense and its meaning, so that in this study will be focused on one of semantic's subject, it is called as lexical relations. Moreover, words are sometimes called as lexical items or lexeme. Words meaning might be characterized not only in term of its component features but also in term of its relationship to other words. This approach is called as lexical relation (Yule, 2010, as cited in Febriasari, 2018). In the lexical relations, it describes relationship among word meanings. It is the study of how lexicon is managed and how the lexical meanings of lexical items are related to each other. There are several types of lexical relations, such as; homonym, polysemy, synonymy, antonym, hyponymy, and metonymy (Palmer, 1976). Meanwhile, this study would be focus on showing the use of lexical relations which are synonymy, antonymy and hyponymy based on Yule's (2010) theory 4<sup>th</sup> edition.

To make it specific, this article investigated the using of lexical relations in the written form that is in the novel. (Welek and Weren, 1970, as cited in Pahlawanita, 2018) said that, as a literary work, it represents a story about human life experiences. There are two kinds of novel, they are fiction novel and non fiction novel. One of the best-selling fiction novel is Harry Potter by J.K.

Rowling. This novel is considered to be one of the popular and famous novels in the world. The novel contains interesting story that makes everyone knows about the world of magic. Those stories have such a useful information to entertain and to persuade the readers making their imagination after reading this novel. The author uses so many words to describe something. Besides, to make it more interesting, the author also chooses the words that contains semantic lexical relations such as synonymy, antonymy and hyponymy, and then the readers have their assumptions to interpret the meaning. On the other hand, lexical relations in the novel Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows has not investigated yet, it is because of the newest title of the Harry Potter's novel series. These study problems are only limited to the three-part of semantic lexical relations, how is the use synonymy, antonymy and hyponymy in the Rowling's novel "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows".

The previous studies that have been conducted in the past time in relevance with this study are also a part of a writer's thesis findings. In the area of synonymy, this article is in line with Febriasari (2018) which is the similarity in our findings are, firstly the five types of lexical relation which is analyzed by the author and secondly the type of synonymy is mostly dominant in her findings. But still, the different object is the dissimilarity of our study and also the type of synonymy here comes to the second-highest dominant in these findings. In line with her, Inst & Aziz (2018) delved various sense relations which is similar with five types of lexical relation (synonymy, antonymy, homonymy, and polysemy), then their paper ended with a conclusion that revealed the merits of a linguistic treatment of these refined semantics aspects. In line with the previous study conducted, A. M. Hussein et al., (2017) also used Yule's theory which is similar with this current article, but the dissimilarity is he investigated the phenomenon of synonyms and also his object study has discussed the idea of no total similarity in meaning among words in the glorious Qur'an. This article contradicts with Ridwan (2015) who

researched analysing diction and lexical relation through Editorial in Jakarta Globe August edition. The types of lexical relation that analysed by him was from John Saeed's theory which are synonyms, antonyms, hyponyms, meronyms, retronyms. Where the type meronyms and retronyms are not discussed in this current article. And then, the study conducted by Altay (2017) conversely it appeared to used vocabulary learning strategies in language classrooms. Although, the things that are analyzed in his study (the five types of lexical relation) is the same like this current study his study points at semantics mapping particularly in lexical relations as a practice for EFL learners by suggesting its pros and cons and thus aims to raise awareness with this respect. In line with Altay, the previous study of synonymy which contradicts with this article, was purposed by Al-Ghazali & Al-Musawi (2015) their study aimed to investigate the translation accuracy of Qur'anic synonymy into English and the synonyms renditions will be assessed in the light of a translation quality assessment model to pinpoint how far accuracy has been attained.

The previous studies of lexical relations particularly in antonymy, they are from Gao & Zheng (2014) their study aimed to investigate the antonymy in English texts and this focus is the use of antonymy in specific English texts from a linguistic perspective. In line with Gao, the next previous study is from Salih (2015) his paper is about a proposal of new different ways for giving opposite meanings of words, changing only one letter of a word can make antonyms. The main purpose of this study is to apply the creative process of thinking for opposite words instructions.

The other study is coming from Anis & Saddhono (2013) they are students of Sebelas Maret University, their study discussed the lexeme antonym in using the affixation "Me-Kan" especially analyzing in morphosemantics. The last previous study of antonymy group is about the role and function of antonymy which purposed by Gjergo & Delija (2014) they discussed in detail the role and functions of antonyms in language and speech discourse.

Meanwhile, the contradict of antonym findings, they are; purposed by the study from Widhiarso & Haryanta (2016) his finding indicated that, although both tests assessed similar content, responding to an antonym test requires complex cognitive process is more than responding to a synonym test.

Lastly, the last studies regarding hyponymy will be noted. First, the previous study of hyponymy which was conducted by Telaumbanua & Sihombing (2017) their research findings are, part of the body is the most dominant type of hyponymy category that is appeared in the short story of "The Voyage". The conclusion of the research is the best way to remember words through hyponymy for EFL learners. In so doing, students can enrich their vocabulary and can write and speak in English confidently. Another findings research which is the same like this current research is purposed by Ihsan et al., (2015) it deals with the use of hyponymy in teaching vocabulary to the learners is effective, despite his research using the pre-experimental method or quantitative research. Similar to Ihsan, the study of the effectiveness of hyponymy purposed by Puspita (2019) gave good significant influence of using the hyponymy to improve students vocabulary. Her findings research as same as this current findings research but the difference is only the method of her research used a quasi-experimental design. The other similar previous research is conducted by Nyambura & Gathigia (2018) concluded that hyponymy is employed in Gĩkũyũ church sermons to create relationships between hyponyms and super-ordinate terms, even their research used the Semantic field theory (SFT) but still, the point that they find out is hyponymy. While the other contradict study which is analyzed the hyponymy from Ekoyanantiasih (2015), her study emphasized that the hyponymy of the verbs containing the meaning of "to take" using the descriptive method based on Nida's (1975). The theory was based on her assumption of study that a lexeme contains a systematic semantics unit and a configuration of meaning which could be sorted into the smallest components. The result showed that the lexeme

base as the superordinate has many hyponymies and one of them is jung jung, dong dong.

So it is then concluded that this study is considered novel compared with the previous studies aforementioned because this study is taking the most recent novel from the Harry Potter series as its subject, which was not done by the previous researchers mentioned yet. According to the latter statement and also based on the background above, the research problems of this research are; how is the use synonymy in Rowling's novel "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows", how is the use antonymy in Rowling's novel "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows", how is the use hyponymy in Rowling's novel "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows". Therefore, the purpose of this articles is to explain the use of synonymy, antonymy and hyponymy in Rowling's novel "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows". Moreover, this article can contribute to the enrichment of semantics study, particularly in synonymy, antonymy and hyponymy. Then, it can be developed to understand more and improve theories of lexical or sense relations in the semantics subject.

## METHODS

This study deals with the use of lexical relations semantics in the novel "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" by J.K. Rowling. To make connections between the design and objective of the study, the type of research fits in this study was content analysis. Thus this present study applied the qualitative content analysis because the study dealt mostly with non-numerical data in the form of language or linguistics forms. This was in line with the qualitative content analysis which deeply investigates the meaning in the textual documents. Through lexical relations, it would make us more understand when the focus was in the process of identifying, describing and analyzing each of type the lexical relations which are synonymy, antonym, and hyponymy.

The data of analysis or the subject of this study was the current words that were appeared in Rowling's novel "Harry Potter and the Deathly

Hallows". The data were taken from the whole chapter of the novel. The object of the study was semantic lexical relations comprising each type of lexical relations, which were synonymy, antonymy and hyponymy appeared in the novel. The e-book was downloaded from the official website available on google which was from handsomebee.com.

Being naturalistic qualitative research, the primary instrument in this study was human instrument: the researcher. That was I as the researcher herself, who determined the scenario of this research. Therefore the researcher was as the data collector, the data analyst, the data reporter.

The primary instrument in this study was I as the researcher herself. I played the role of the designer, the data collector, the data analyst, the interpreter, and the reporter of the research findings. Moreover, in the primary instrument, there were tables and the coding system as the several secondary instruments in line with the study objectives.

After the data were collected, then I analyzed them and related to the three questions of study which followed six steps of Creswell (2012), they were; reading the text, identifying the lexical relations words as the data, classifying the lexical relation forms which are synonymy, antonymy, and hyponymy, after that reducing the data that more relevant, so interpreting the data, reporting the data and the last drawing the data.

To get the trustworthiness, there were several criteria to be fulfilled, the two of which were credibility and dependability. The credibility of data was obtained employing triangulation. In this study, the researcher would use triangulation of theory and validator.

In triangulation of theory, I considered using the trustworthiness of the study by using multiple perspectives namely, theories of Yule (2010) and Keidler (1998), in order to avoid the research bias. I also used validator triangulation to strengthen data analysis. I chose one lecturer from Universitas Negeri Semarang, Prof.Dr.DwiRukmini, M.Hum, because she is one of the experts in semantics study so that she

could give me any suggestion and validation. By applying both triangulations, the researcher expected the result of this study would be valid and consistent for the same data because the dependability data was obtained by providing detail, in-depth explanation of data in the data analysis and presentation.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Semantic lexical relation refers to the relationship or the connection between one lexeme to another or one word to another word. Followed by Yule's (2010) theory, there are five types of lexical relation semantics. They are; synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, homonymy, and polysemy. The analysis of lexical relation semantics allows us to identify to explain their use, meanwhile in the focus of this article would be in the use of synonymy, antonymy, and hyponymy appeared in narrative and conversation in the novel. Besides, lexical relations are a type of semantics relations which have a significant role in the explanation, analysis and use of the meanings of words within sentences (Malik, 2017).

### The Use of Synonymy in Rowling's novel "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows"

Synonymy word is the words those have similarity in meanings, in line with Yule (2010) synonymy word that two words or more with very closely related meanings. In other words, the use of synonymy happens when two words or more appeared in one sentence with similarity in meanings.

The total finding of this type of lexical relation was 97 in numbers, this makes synonymy the second-highest finding of lexical relation types in the novel. The sample of synonymy's findings "*He had **trusted** Dumbledore, **believed** him the embodiment of goodness and wisdom.*" (Ch.18/Pg.360/L.6). On this sample, the synonymy found in the word "trusted" and "believed". Those two words share the same meaning which stands for having faith toward someone or what the person is saying, in the case

of the sentence, the word "trusted" and "believed" refer to Albus Dumbledore.

In this sample of findings, the use of synonymy word is often used by Rowling as the author of the novel, it makes the sentence simpler and also easy to read by all generation. Furthermore, synonymy becomes the second most findings, it is due to the researcher claimed that a more comprehensive view of synonymy would cover not only words as units of synonymy, but even more complex linguistic constructions.

### The Use of Antonymy in Rowling's novel "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows"

Antonymy is two words having the opposite meaning which is in line with Yule (2010) that antonyms word is two forms or words with the opposite meanings. In other words, the use of antonymy happens when two words appeared in one sentence with the opposite in meanings.

The total finding of this type of lexical relation is 148 in numbers, this makes antonymy the first highest findings of lexical relation types in the novel. The sample of antonymy's findings "*The sword that lies inside it is a **fake**, This is the **real** one.*" *He looked from one to the other of them.*" (Ch.24/Pg.489/L.19). The antonymy that was spotted on the sample is the use of word "fake" and "real". It is commonly known that the total opposite of the word fake is the word real. It can also be proven through the sentence, the word "fake" refers to the sword inside the Lestranges' vault and the word "real" refers to the sword which showed by the Griphook or goblin.

In this sample of findings, Antonymy is one of the lexical relation types that almost found in this study. It is because of antonymy helps achieve textual cohesion. It reveals the opposition and the unity of objects in languages. Applying it in English texts such as in the novel correctly reveals the oppositeness of objects and produces a strong sense of comparison. Therefore, many the writers are fond of and good at employing antonyms in their literary works, because it makes the works artistically charming and powerfully convincing, and also it contributes to

achieving characterization, scene description, statement of opinions, discussion and refutation. Moreover, the linguistic study of using antonymy in English texts helps readers understand and appreciate the authors' intention much more easily.

### **The Use of Hyponymy in Rowling's novel "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows"**

Hyponyms words occur when the meaning of one form is included in the meaning of another, then the relationship is called as hyponymy, Yule (2010). In other hands, it is the phenomenon of the relationship of the type between a more general thing (hypernymy) and more specific things (hyponymy), for example, fruits are Hypernymy and then apple, banana, grapes, avocado are Hyponymy.

The total finding of this type of lexical relation is 26 in numbers, this makes hyponymy claim the third finding of lexical relation types in the novel. The sample of hyponymy's findings "*Harry quietly extracted his rucksack from Hermione's beaded bag, and from inside it, the photograph album Hagrid had given him so long ago.*" (Ch.16/Pg.321/L.16-17). On this sample is indicated that the word "rucksack" relates to the word "bag". Their relation in the term of Hyponymy is that the word "rucksack" is part of the word "bag". It means that the word "bag" takes a larger portion or hypernym than the word "rucksack" as in the definition, the "bag" may have different parts that can be (shoulder bag, purse, tote), and "rucksack" is one of "bag" part.

In this sample of findings, Hyponymy is one of lexical relation type that rarely found in this study. The researcher stated that due to the words which have been introduced and described at the beginning of serial Harry Potter's novel. That is why hyponymy becomes the lowest dominant that is found by the writer.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the findings and discussion before, the conclusion of this article is the use of antonyms which were 148 items was the most

commonly found in the Rowling's novel, followed by the use of synonymy were 97 items and then the use of hyponymy were 26 items. So that, antonymy is crowned as the highest percentage among the other lexical relation compared with synonymy and hyponymy. The reason foreshadowing why the researcher claims antonymy as the highest percentage is being used on so many occasions by Rowling is due to being found to be practical to comprehend by the readers. Based on Gao & Zheng (2014) stated that antonymy plays rather important roles in specific English texts, especially in poetry, novels, dramas, speeches and proverbs. Therefore, antonymy helps the English textual cohesion such as in this novel. Teachers or lecturers who emphasize the study or the use of antonymy in class will find their students have a higher reading ability.

This study limited to analyzing the types of lexical relations words which are antonymy, synonymy and hyponymy in the Rowling's novel "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" to support semantics study. Further, for those who want to do the research, they have to upgrade object which is going to be analyzed, not only novel but it could be the other of a non-fiction book.

Pedagogically, the results of this study can be used as the supporting teaching materials to teach students of English Language Development in semantics subject. Also, it can enhance the lecturers and the students to involve the multimodality in the semantics study, especially in antonymy, synonymy and hyponymy of semantic lexical relations. However, the study of using lexical relations should not stop at the linguistic level. Exploring the rhetorical function of lexical relations may help us improve the ability to use language and heighten the effect of language output.

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