Semantic Analysis of Contextual Meaning in Dialogue of "The Ugly Duckling" Short Story

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Abstract

This research explains about contextual meaning. Contextual meaning is meaning based on the context. But the researcher has limited the research in scope of the contextual meaning in dialogue of a short story so that the objective of this research is to find out the contextual meaning in the dialogue of The Ugly Duckling short story. This research uses descriptive qualitative research design where the researcher explains this research based on the library books descriptively. The data source of this research is taken from the internet about the short story that has the dialogue. After finding the short stories, the researchers collected it as document to be analyzed. Then, the researchers analyzed the dialogue of the short story in several steps such as reading the dialogue, finding the meaning, identifying the meaning, categorizing the meaning, analyzing the meaning, and making the conclusion. The finding of this research is from 23 sentences in the dialogue of The Ugly Duckling short story, there are 8 sentences that used contextual meaning. Most of the eight sentences used the context of situation in the story so that it influences the meaning.
Keywords: Analysis, Dialogue, Contextual meaning, Semantics, Short story

Introduction

Language is a tool which is used by humans to communicate to each other. Every human will communicate and interact with the other by using language because language is a tool of communication in daily life. By using this tool, people will easily be able to express their ideas, thoughts, concepts, and feelings because the character of language is understandable so that the other people will understand what the communicator says easily. According to Herman et al. (2020, p. 85), language is used as a tool of communication, which means language is a meaning of communication that is used to interact and to strengthen relationships, such as getting or giving information and also to express their ideas or other activities (Sitorus & Herman, 2019; Sinaga et al., 2020; Thao & Herman, 2021). Information and ideas to be delivered need to be understood. That's why listeners need to comprehend every meaning stated in the language.

According to Castillo (2015, pp. 67-76), 'Language has meaning'. When humans use language, they should understand the meaning that is inside in the language. The human should also think and analyze what is the purpose or aim of the language when they talk to each other, read books, articles, and others. The meaning in language will not be shown explicitly but it is shown implicitly because the meaning implicitly shows the real meaning of the language. Because of that, human should use their critical thinking to understand the meaning of the language.

Meaning is an important part to understand what the speaker wants to say. It is the most ambiguous and most controversial term in the theory of language (Purba et al., 2020, p. 23). Meaning can be found in daily life when humans are using language such as conversation, text, songs, and others. When humans talk with others, it has meaning in their conversation. When humans read a text, an article, book, or others text, it has meaning too. Likewise, songs have meaning when people listen to them. All of those have meaning. Previous research done by Anindya (2018) in her research entitled *An Analysis of Contextual Meaning in a New Day has Come Song Lyrics* discussed about the contextual meaning in song lyrics. Song lyrics are a form of literary works and is a kind of poem. Songs are a literary work created to describe a person's mood or situation this is badly written and should be rewritten. The languages used in song lyrics are different from daily conversation. This research uses Mansoer Pateda's theory. After analyzing the data, the researcher found 65 words that have contextual meaning. Those words are miracle, strong, tear, darkness, good time, it, world, all, light sky, blinding, touched, angel, rain, wash, walls, sun, day, dark, light, pain, joy, weakness, strength, and eyes. The context of that song is the context of situation and the context of the speaker's mood. It is seen from the video clip of that song. Referring to the previous research, the researchers here are interested in conducting semantic analysis in order to find out the meaning through a short story. As we know that lyrics in songs indeed have meaning, but for short stories, it is unknown. In this research, the researcher will discuss the meaning of conversation in text especially in short stories. The short story is a fiction text that focuses on the events and the aim of the story and short story can be read in one sitting. Besides that, short stories tell the story clearly, and simply so that the reader can understand it easily. In short stories, there is a dialogue between the actors and the others that is written choose a better word here. So, the researcher will analyze the conversation and determine the contextual meaning in that short story.

Materials and methods
Semantics
According to Sutrisno as cited in Yastanti and Setiawati (2018, p. 2), 'Semantic is the study of meaning in language'. It is supported by Griffiths in Kurniati (2015, p. 280) said that 'Semantics is the study of word meaning and sentence meaning, abstracted away from contexts of use, is a descriptive subject' (Butarbutar et al., 2020, p. 3). Hence, Yule (2010, p. 113) as cited in Purba et al. (2020, p. 23) explained that semantics is the study of the meaning of words, phrases and sentences. It means that semantics is the study of meaning in language. Every language has an aim or purpose in communication because there is a message that will be delivered by the speaker to the target. The message meant in communication is the meaning

and the meaning in language depends on the how the speaker speaks a language or participating in dialogue with others.

Contextual meaning

Contextual Meaning is meaning dependent on context. Chaer in Anindya (2018, p. 5) explained that 'Contextual meaning is the meaning of lexeme or a word inside the context'. The meaning of word context in this case has several parts that influence the words used by the speaker. There are eleven parts that influence the using of contextual meaning in language such as organs (gender), situation, purpose, formal and informal context in conversation, mood context of speaker or listener, time, place, the object of the context, context of completeness in speak or hear from speaker or listener, linguistic context, and context of language (Rifardi, 2017, p. 4). All of the parts determine the meaning in language so that the speaker or the listener should understand it well. If the speaker or listener is wrong in understanding the language, the meaning of the language will be misunderstood too by the other speakers or listeners. To deepen insight into contextual meaning, there is example below:

a. I do not know, my <u>body</u> hurts.

b. *The main body of the house was built in 1625.*

The sentences above have different meanings, although sentence (a) and (b) have the same word: body. But the meaning of body in each sentence is different. In sentence (a), the meaning of body is the physical structure of a person. In sentence (b), the meaning of body is the main or central part of a house.

Research methodology

In conducting the research, the researchers used descriptive qualitative research. Descriptive qualitative research is research that explains the results of the research in descriptive data that has been taken from books, journals, or other scientific texts. This statement is supported by Hancock et al. (2007, pp. 6-7) who said that "Qualitative research focuses on description and interpretation and might lead to development of new concepts or theory, or to an evaluation of an organizational process. Hence, Qualitative research seeked to understand a phenomenon by focusing on the total picture rather than breaking it down into variables (Herman, 2015; Herman & Hasibuan, 2020, p. 69). Qualitative research is concerned with developing explanations of social phenomena." So, it can be concluded that descriptive qualitative research is the development from the explanation of the research result in form of words or description form with detail and complete. The researchers aim in conducting this research is to know the contextual meaning in the dialogue of The Ugly Duckling short story.

The data source of this research is The Ugly Duckling short story. The researchers analyzed the contextual meaning from the dialogue of short story. The researchers took the data from the internet by searching for the name of the short story "The Ugly Duckling".

According to De Clerk et al. (2011. p. 8) who said that "Observation refers to what can be seen through the eyes of the observer" It can be explained that the results of the study will be more accurate by using observation because the researchers observed what actually happened to the object of the research. So, the researchers observed and analyzes the short story of The Ugly Duckling as the object of research in conducting this study.

The researchers collected the data by using several steps. First, the researchers looked for the short story. The data were taken from internet. Second, they chose the short story that has dialogue inside it and it is appropriate with the objective of the research. They found out the appropriate short story and made it as a document. The short story was The Ugly Duckling.

After the data was collected, the researchers analyzed the data by observing and analyzing the data. There were several steps in analyzing the data, they were:

1. Reading the dialogue of short stories.
2. Finding out the meaning of every sentence in dialogue.
3. Identifying the meaning of the sentence that has no real meaning. Then, categorizing the sentence in contextual meaning.
4. Analyzing the meaning of a sentence depends on the context.
5. Drawing conclusions based on the results.

Data analysis and finding

Based on the theory above, the researcher analyzed the data in according with the focus of the research. The data is analyzed by using several steps such as reading the dialogue, finding the meaning, identifying the meaning, categorizing the meaning, analyzing the meaning, making the conclusion. The data is the short story of The Ugly Duckling that has 23 sentences in dialogue. The researchers labelled each sentence as S so that the readers can easily understand. Every Sentence in the dialogue has a supporting sentence that is labelled as SS by the researcher. The data is analyzed is below:

1. S3: Poor at least one out odd!

Based on the context, the meaning of sentence is the feelings of the Odd Duck who is different from his siblings whom have the yellow dim quills. His siblings did not accept him into their family. They always teased him and did not respect him so that the Odd Duck is felt isolated by them. The Odd Duck felt that how poor and odd himself that is not received by anyone in his environment.

2. SS9: I trust a female and lays a lot of eggs!

Based on the context, the sentence has the meaning that the Old Lady, whose poor visual perception, thought that the Odd Duck is a female goose who can produce the many of eggs. But in the reality the Odd Duck is a male duck who cannot produce the eggs.

3. S10:Simply hold up!

When this sentence is analyzed grammatically, the researcher found out the meaning is not appropriate. It made the researcher to analyze it in contextual meaning. In contextual meaning, the sentence explained the meaning to wait a minutes or give a minute for the other actor to think what idea will be he or she delivered again

4. SS10: In the event that you don't lay eggs, the old lady will ring your neck and pop you into the pot!

If the sentence is translated grammatically, the meaning is different and not appropriate with the context. So, the researcher translated it in contextual meaning. The contextual meaning of this sentence is the Odd Duck will be cooked by the Old Lady if he cannot produce the eggs. But in fact the Odd Duck is a male duck who cannot produce eggs because the only female duck can produce eggs.

5. S11: I trust the lady cooks you, then I can bother you bones!

The sentence above has the main sentence and the supporting sentence. The meaning of the main sentence is clear but the meaning of supporting sentence is not clear. If the supporting sentence is translated grammatically, it has inappropriate meaning with the main sentence. So, the supporting sentence has to be translated in contextual meaning. The contextual meaning of the whole sentence is the subject I will eat the bones of object you, if the object you are cooked by the lady.

6. S12: In the event that you won't lay eggs, in any hustle event just a bit and get full!

The contextual meaning of this sentence is, there is a little person in the event that can eat and enjoy the eggs of duck because of the duck will not produce eggs. The other actors thought that the Odd Duck did not want to produce eggs even though he is a male duck.

7. S15: In the event that no one needs me, I'll stowed away here until the end of time.

Based on the context, the sentence has the meaning that the Odd Duck felt himself not useful so that he went away from everyone until he died. The differences made people far away from him.

8. SS17: Poor thing, he's solidified!

The sentence has the meaning that how poor the Odd Duck who is frozen due to snow. It is appropriate with the context in this dialogue that there is a winter at the time and the Odd Duck had fallen to the ground. He was frozen at the time and he look like dense chunks of snow.

After analyzing the data, the researchers found that there are eight sentences in the dialogue of the short story of The Ugly Duckling that have contextual meaning. The meaning of the eight sentences are appropriate within the context of the story. The researcher also found that there are some meanings of words which have been adapted to the context. Most of the contexts in these sentences are context of situation so that the using of words is adapted too.

Results and discussions

After analyzing the data above, the researchers would like to give some discussions related to the results depicted with the previous research. Previous research done by Anindya (2018) in her research about contextual meaning to the song lyrics, she found 65 words that have contextual meaning. Those words are miracle , strong, tear, darkness, good time, it, world, all, light sky, blinding, touched, angel, rain, wash, walls, sun, day, dark, light, pain, joy, weakness, strength, and eyes. The context of that song is context of situation and context of speaker's mood. It is seen from the video clip of that song. The similarities between this research with Anindya's research are the method used. It was descriptive qualitative research. The differences are lying on the object used in here. This research used a short story and Anindya's research was about song lyrics by Celine Dion. At last, the results of this study were eight sentences in the dialogue of short story of The Ugly Duckling that have the contextual meaning.

Conclusions

Based on the data analysis and findings, it can be concluded that there are some sentences in the dialogue of The Ugly Duckling short story that used the contextual meaning. This conclusion is in accordance with the aim of the research that has mentioned to know the contextual meaning in the dialogue of The Ugly Duckling short story. From twenty three sentences in the dialogue, there are eight sentences which have the meaning based on the context of the story. Most of the contexts of the eight sentences are the context of situation from the story. Moreover the meaning of some words influence the whole meaning of the sentences based on the context. The eight sentences have the contextual meanings are:

1. S3: Poor at least one out odd!
2. SS9: I trust a female and lays a lot of eggs!
3. S10: Simply hold up!
4. SS10: In the event that you don't lay eggs, the old lady will ring your neck and pop you into the pot!
5. S11: I trust the lady cooks you, then I can bother you bones!
6. S12: In the event that you won't lay eggs, in any hustle event just a bit and get full!
7. S15: In the event that no one needs me, I'll stowed away here until the end of time.
8. SS17: Poor thing, he's solidified!

The scope of this research is the using of contextual meaning in dialogue of short story. There are only eight sentences that used the contextual meaning in dialogue of short story. The researcher thought that she found out many sentences that used contextual meaning but in fact those are only eight sentences. Therefore, the researcher accepts the suggestion from the other researchers, the readers, the linguistics' students, and others to give the critics and suggest so that this research is appropriate and worth reading.

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