Existential *there* Constructions in English Applied Linguistic Articles and Novels: Perspectives of Pragmatic Aspects, Semantic Interpretations and Vicinity of Syntactic Structures

โครงสร้าง "there" ที่มีอยู่ในบทความภาษาศาสตร์ประยุกต์และ นวนิยายภาษาอังกฤษ: มุมมองผ่านทางหลักวัจนปฏิบัติศาสตร์ การตีความเชิงอรรถศาสตร์และบริเวณใกล้เคียง ของโครงสร้างวากยสัมพันธ์

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Abstract

This study examined the existential *there* constructions in English applied linguistic articles and English novels. Previous studies investigating this construction concentrated on learners of English as a Foreign Language and the corpora of spoken register. This study contributes to the perspectives of pragmatic aspects, semantic interpretations and vicinity of syntactic structures of existential *there* constructions. The data collection of this study was derived from seven English novels due to their being best sellers and 12 *Journal of English for Academic Purposes* due to its indexation in Q1 Scopus database. A total of 339 sentences, gathered from applied linguistic articles and English novels, are isolated into 110 tokens and 229 tokens, respectively. The framework of pragmatic aspects, semantic interpretations and syntactic structures follows Ward and Biner (1995), Jiang & Hyland (2020) and Radford (2009), respectively. The pragmatic aspects of existential *there* constructions in both datasets were explained by *end-weight principle*. Semantic inter-

pretations of existential *there* constructions in both datasets appears similarly in regard to subjectivity, quantification, list of things and comparison. Vicinity of syntactic structures with existential *there* constructions in applied linguistic article was *reduced relative clauses*; however, vicinity of syntactic structures of existential *there* constructions in English novels are *to- infinitive clauses* and *adjective clauses*. The results of this study are expected to be useful for EFL and learners of English as a Second Language (ESL) for how to learn grammar implicitly from applied linguistic articles and novels.

Keywords: *Pragmatic aspects, semantic interpretations, vicinity of syntactic structures, existential there constructions, applied linguistic articles, novels*

บทคัดย่อ

        งานวิจัยนี้ศึกษาเกี่ยวกับโครงสร้าง *there* ที่มีอยู่ในบทความภาษาศาสตร์ประยุกต์ และนวนิยายภาษาอังกฤษ งานวิจัยก่อนหน้านี้ให้ความสนใจกับโครงสร้าง *there* ที่มีอยู่ในงานเขียนของนักเรียนญี่ปุ่นและเกาหลีที่ใช้ภาษาอังกฤษเป็นภาษาต่างประเทศ และในคลังข้อมูลบทสนทนา งานวิจัยนี้จึงศึกษาโครงสร้างไวยากรณ์ที่มีอยู่ผ่านมุมมองของหลักวัจนปฏิบัติศาสตร์ การตีความเชิงอรรถศาสตร์ และบริเวณใกล้เคียงของโครงสร้างวากยสัมพันธ์ คลังข้อมูลของโครงสร้าง *there* ที่มีอยู่เก็บรวบรวมมาจากหนังสือนวนิยายขายดีเป็นจำนวนทั้งสิ้นเจ็ดเล่ม บทความภาษาศาสตร์ประยุกต์เก็บรวบรวมมาจาก *Journal of English for Academic Purposes* เป็นจำนวน 12 บทความซึ่งอยู่ในฐานข้อมูลสกอปัส คิว 1 จำนวนข้อมูลทั้งหมดประกอบด้วย 339 ประโยคแบ่งออกเป็น 110 ประโยคจากบทความภาษาศาสตร์ประยุกต์ และ 229 ประโยคจากนวนิยาย การวิเคราะห์โครงสร้าง *there* ที่มีอยู่ผ่านมุมมองของหลักวัจนปฏิบัติศาสตร์ การตีความเชิงอรรถศาสตร์ และบริเวณใกล้เคียงของโครงสร้างวากยสัมพันธ์ทำตามแบบของ Ward และ Biner (1995) Jiang และ Hyland (2020) และ Radford (2009) ผลการศึกษาในมุมมองวัจนปฏิบัติศาสตร์พบว่าโครงสร้าง *there* ที่มีอยู่ในทั้งสองตัวบทสอดคล้องกับหลักการน้ำหนักปลายอ้างถึงการนำส่วนขยายไปไว้ที่ท้ายประโยค การตีความเชิงอรรถศาสตร์จำแนกได้เป็นการแสดงความคิดเห็นส่วนบุคคล จำนวน รายการต่าง ๆ และการเปรียบเทียบ โครงสร้างคุณานุประโยคแบบลดรูปเป็นโครงสร้างวากยสัมพันธ์ที่ใช้ในบริเวณใกล้เคียงโครงสร้างที่มีอยู่ในบทความภาษาศาสตร์ประยุกต์ โครงสร้างควบคุมถูกใช้ในบริเวณใกล้เคียงของโครงสร้าง *there* ที่มีอยู่ในตัวบทนวนิยาย บทความนี้จะเป็นประโยชน์ต่อผู้เรียนภาษาอังกฤษเป็นภาษาต่างประเทศและผู้เรียนภาษาอังกฤษเป็นภาษาที่สองในการเรียนไวยากรณ์ภาษาอังกฤษจากบทความภาษาศาสตร์ประยุกต์และนวนิยายภาษาอังกฤษ

คำสำคัญ: โครงสร้างไวยากรณ์ที่มีอยู่, หลักวัจนปฏิบัติศาสตร์, การตีความเชิงอรรถศาสตร์, บริเวณใกล้เคียงของโครงสร้างวากยสัมพันธ์, บทความภาษาศาสตร์ประยุกต์, นวนิยาย

Introduction

In the present day, English has become an important language of the world. Numerically, there are 2 billion of both native and non-native English speakers. Knowing English opens a tremendous opportunity in our everyday lives. Not only is it for the sake of studying English in classrooms, but also it helps us upgrade our living conditions, such as better opportunities to get a job and career advancement.

In order to gain these benefits, knowing English language has become a basic need in our lives. To know language is to know the grammar of the language (Radford, 2009). Grammar is viewed as a significant core for one to learn language. The benefit of learning grammar is that it allows English users to use English systematically and effectively. Accordingly, our *linguistic performance*, referring to our ability to use language, will be improved.

Basically, the structure of English is a subject+verb+object (SVO) language, as in *Jennifer likes salad*. The subject in the English language is required in all clauses in order to comply with *Extended Projection Principle*, interchangeably known as an EPP feature (Radford, 2009). However, existential *there* construction shows a contradiction to this rule of general English structure, as in (1).

(1) There is *a cup of coffee on the table*.

In (1), the subject of the sentence *a cup of coffee on the table* is located in the final position. This is considered as an uncommon structure of the English language where the subject is moved to the final position and the existential subject *there* is filled in the Spec T position, interchangeably known as the syntactic position of the subject (Radford, 2009). With regard to this extraordinary condition of existential *there* construction, it is intriguing to investigate how this construction is used with the perspectives of pragmatic aspects, semantic interpretation and vicinity of syntactic structures.

Pedagogically, it is believed that this study will be useful for EFL and ESL learners as they show confusion about how to use existential *there* in English. Lee's (2011) study compared the use of existential *there* constructions in English between native and non-native speakers of English via a 5-scale judgement task, categorizing into *very good*, *good, ok, bad* and *very bad*. The two groups were asked to make a judgement on the token *there is a friend of yours at the door* as to what extent it is acceptable. The results show that the average points as given by native English speakers and non-native English

speakers are 4.61 and 3.33 points, respectively. This means that non-native English speakers show their hesitation in judging the accuracy of this construction in English. Therefore, the study of existential *there* constructions will be useful for non-native speakers of English. This information will lead to the following research questions.

1. What are the pragmatic aspects of the existential there constructions in applied linguistic articles and novels?

2. What are the semantic interpretations of the existential there constructions in applied linguistic articles and novels?

3. What is the vicinity of syntactic structures of the existential there constructions in applied linguistic articles and novels?

Literature Review

This study focuses on form, meaning and use of the existential *there* constructions in different text varieties. The investigation includes the vicinity of syntactic structures of existential *there* constructions, semantic interpretations, pragmatic aspects and the use of existential *there* constructions in *text varieties*, referring to written texts from different genres.

Vicinity of Syntactic Structures of Existential *there* Constructions

In English, the subject is crucially important (Radford, 2009). Theoretically, the existence of subject is to satisfy an EPP feature. This means that all clauses in English need a subject. However, the existential *there* construction in English is a special construction as the subject is moved to the final position of the sentence, as in (2).

(2)
(a) *Two dogs* are in this garden.
(b) There are *two dogs in this garden.*

In (2)*,* the phrase *two dogs* is actually the subject of the sentence, syntactically located under the node of DP, determiner phrase. When the DP is moved to the final position of the sentence as demonstrated in (2b), it results in the emptiness of the *Spec T position*, referring to the subject position (Radford, 2009). When the spec T position becomes empty, the existential *there* subject is filled into this position to comply with EPP.

According to Swan (2016), existential *there* constructions indicates that something exists. While *there is* and *there was* are used with a singular subject, *there are* and *there were* are used with a plural subject. This study syntactically investigated four variants of existential *there* constructions as in *there is*, *there's*, *there are* and *there're*.

Existential *there* constructions co-occur with various syntactic structures. So *vicinity* in this study refers to the colligation with the nominal NP, which are exemplified into *prepositional phrases* and *to- infinitive clauses* (Palacios Martínez & Martínez Insua, 2006), as in (3).

(3)

(a) There was *a waste of money.*

(b) There is *an important issue to make a decision.*

Example (3) presents the colligation between the nominal NP in existential *there* constructions with their vicinity of syntactic structures, such as prepositional phrases in (3a) and *to-* infinitive clause, as in (3b). It is assumed that the nominal NP in different text varieties is likely to show different preferences of syntactic vicinity.

Semantic Interpretations of Existential *there* Constructions

In addition to the vicinity of the nominal NP in existential *there* construction, this study also examines its semantic interpretations referring to the denotation of nominal NP as colligated with syntactic structures. There are various semantic interpretations where one of them denotes quantification, referring to numerical and statistical data (Jiang & Hyland, 2020), as in (4).

(4) There are *two books on the table.*

In (4), *two books* denote a number of items. In addition to numerical marking, it also denotes reasons, as in (5).

(1) We plan to travel to Japan, but the trip needs to be postponed as there is *a damned case*.

In (5), *a damned case* indicates a reason as to the need to cancel the trip. The third semantic interpretation of existential *there* constructions is to indicate surprise, as in (6).

(6) I did not know there are *huge numbers of people joining my birthday party*.

As the speaker did not expect that there would be that many participants joining her birthday party, she employs the use of existential *there* construction to indicate her surprise and use the subject *there* to delay this message. Additionally, existential *there* constructions are also used to present *a list of things*, as in (7).

(7) There are *bread, butter, jam* and *orange juice for our picnic*.

In (7), the writer provides a list of food that she will bring for her picnic. In addition to that, existential *there* construction is used with the semantic interpretation of *subjectivity*, referring to evaluation, assessment, opinion towards an event or a certain situation (Martínez Insúa, 2002), as in (8).

(8) There is *enough light for us to see through the window*.

In (8), the word *enough* indicates the speaker's assessment. As demonstrated above, the semantic interpretations with the vicinity of syntactic structures of existential *there* constructions include numeration, reason, surprise, lists of things and subjectivity.

Pragmatic Aspects of Existential *there* Constructions

Aside from semantic interpretations of the nominal NP, pragmatic aspects also play an important role in the use of existential *there* constructions in English. This helps us understand the actual use of existential *there* constructions in English. As mentioned in the section of vicinity of syntactic structures, the subject of existential *there* constructions is a postponed subject to the final position. Delaying the subject to the final position corresponds with the pragmatic discourse of *given and new information*, referring to providing new or unfamiliar information to the end of a sentence. This linguistic principle helps prepares listeners and readers to receive a new message. As indicated by Ward and Biner (1995), the pragmatic aspect of existential *there* constructions is to point out new information, encoded in the NP nominal with its vicinity of syntactic structure, as in (9).

(9) Come and sit here. There is *a cup of coffee for you.*

In (9), the nominal NP with prepositional phrases *a cup of coffee for you* is exemplifies as a new piece of information for the listener. The listener is invited to sit without his expectation that a cup of coffee has already been prepared for him/her.

Furthermore, the nominal NP with its vicinity of syntactic structure is also deployed to summarize known information, as in (10) (Ward & Biner, 1995)

(10) There's a line like there and another line that looks like that. So, there're *two lines that connect the dots.*

In (10), the nominal NP with its vicinity of syntactic structure summarize that they are two lines connecting the dots. So the receivers could use the existential *there* to sum up their message in the previous discourse.

In addition to providing summary, the nominal NP in existential *there* constructions is placed as the subject at the end because it is long. Using it in this way comply with the pragmatic aspects of *end-weight principle*, refering to selecting to place longer subject at the end. This seems to be a common practice in English where heavier and longer information go at the end of sentences as in (11).

(11)

(a) *Bread, butter, jam and orange juice* are on the table.

(b) There are *bread, butter, jam and orange juice on the table.*

Example (11) presents that the subject of the sentence is long and it conveys a lot of information.

In addition to end-weight principle, it is assumed that the use of the nominal NP in existential *there* construction may show negative denotations. That is way the subject must be delayed to the end of the sentence. However, this is just a hypothesis as no previous study has mentioned this point before.

Existential *there* Constructions in Text Varieties

The form, meaning and use of existential *there* constructions in this study are investigated in texts varieties since it is believed that different text varieties have different preferences of grammatical use. *Text variety* refers to different genres of datasets. Although the study of existential *there* constructions is not completely new, it is limited to the databases of EFL learners and the corpora of spoken language. This study contributes to the view of written texts in English applied linguistic articles and English novels.

One of the previous studies paid attention to the study of vicinity of syntactic structures of existential *there* constructions in English (Park, 2014). Park (2014) only examined the syntactic structure of existential *there* constructions in spoken modes of communications via British National Corpus (BNC). Two variants of the nominal NP in the existential *there* constructions are set to be investigated. The first variant is *there+be+X+ the nominal NP*, as in (12a), while the second variant is *there+be+X+X+ the nominal NP* as in (12b).

(12)

(a) There is *a room for two people.*

(b) **There is *a variety of elective subjects that students can choose in this semester.*

Park's (2014) results of study show that the shorter the notional subject, the more likely it is for speakers to form this construction correctly.

Aside from Park (2014), Tsushima and Miyake (2013) syntactically investigated Japanese non-native English speakers' use of existential *there* construction. The results show that they usually used existential *there* constructions with proper nouns and relative clauses as in (13a)-(13b).

(13)

(a) For example, there are *Nikon D3S, Canon 5DMark II, and Pentax 645D.*

(b) If there is *a person who tries to cross the street, please warn him/her.*

(Tsushima & Miyake, 2013, pp. 70-71)

Nikon D3S, Canon 5DMark II, and Pentax 645D in (13a) are an example of proper nouns. On the other hand, the nominal NP *a person* as in (13b) is used with a relative clause.

Insua (1998) found that when existential *there* constructions are used with conjunctions, the conjunction is usually located in front of *there*, as in (14).

(14) *If* there were any rubber gloves in the village […]

(Insua, 1998, p. 114)

While most previous research papers that focused on the study of existential *there* construction favors to observe the vicinity of syntactic structure, only a few studies put an emphasis on their semantic interpretations. For example, Jiang & Hyland (2020) found that the nominal NP in chemical research articles used the existential *there* constructions with the semantic interpretations of evidence, as in (15).

(15) There is *evidence to support this possibility in the recommendations stage of the larger corpus.*

(Jiang & Hyland, 2020, p. 11)

The nominal NP *evidence* is used with the *to-* infinitive clause. Insua (1998) found that existential *there* constructions in pharmaceutical and chemical texts are usually found with positive semantic denotation of the nominal NP. To date, no study has contributed to the form, meaning and use of existential *there* constructions in the field of English applied linguistic article and English novels.

Method

The data in this study were collected from English applied linguistic articles and English novels. A total of 339 tokens, referring to sentences were collected from these two corpora to be studies. The data collection is isolated into 110 and 229 tokens, respectively. The data analysis was helped to be cross-checked by three English instructors so as to ensure its reliability and accuracy.

To begin with, applied linguistic articles in this study is derived from *Journal of English for Academic Purposes* as published from 2021 to 2022 This journal is a highly reliable sources as indexed in the database of Scopus Q1 in the field of education. There are a total of 12 research articles as demonstrated in Table 1.

Table 1: Corpus of English Applied Linguistic Articles

Journal's Titles	Author and Years
Profiling figure legends in scientific research articles: A corpus-driven approach	Du, Jeing & Liu (2021)
Investigating the effects of technology-enhanced vocabulary learning strategy instruction on supporting mixed-ability EMI learners studying a journalism and communication major: An action research project at a university in China	Gay (2022)
Grammatical and functional characteristics of preposition-based phrase frames in English argumentative essays by L1 English and Spanish speakers	Geluso (2022)
Student perceptions of critical thinking in EMI programs at Japanese universities: A Q-methodology study	Gyenes (2021)
Beyond comprehension: Reading requirements in first-year undergraduate courses	Karakoç, Ruegg, & Gu (2022)
A new multidimensional model of writing for research publication: An analysis of disciplinarity, intra-textual variation, and L1 versus LX expert writing	Omidian, Siyanova-Chanturia & Biber (2021)
Evaluation of Cohen's kappa and other measures of inter-rater agreement for genre analysis and other nominal data	Rau & Shih (2021)
Phrasal complexity in English argumentative writing: Variations across Chinese STEM versus English majors' production and EFL textbook essays	Shao, Zhang, Zhang, Zhong & Xu (2022)
English and/or Russian medium publications? A case study exploring academic research writing in contemporary Russian academia	Smirnova, Lillis & Hult-gren (2021)
International students' engagement with support in developing source use abilities: A longitudinal case study	Sun & Soden (2021)
What is complexity? Grammatical issues in assignment prompts	Thwaite, Budgen, Hunter & Singh (2021)
Let's say: Phraseological patterns of SAY in academic ELF Communication.	Wang & Kaatari (2022)

Apart from these 12 applied linguistic articles, seven English novels are also used to examines existential *there* constructions. English novels are everyday reading materials where readers can select the one they like to read themselves. Moreover, they are special as the writers need to create an orientation, referring to the setting, place and plot of the stories. The novel is also required to have resolution, referring to what happens at the end of the stories. With these reasons, it is necessary for the writers to plan well before starting to write from the start until the end (Muliani, Norahmi & Asi, 2019). The data collection in this study comprises a corpus of seven English novels as presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Corpus of English Novels

Novels	Authors & Year
Gathering Blue	Lowry (2000)
Messenger	Lowry (2004)
Little Women	Alcott (1969)
The Sorrows of Young Werther	von Goethe (2012)
Charlotte's Web	White (2012)
Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone	Rowling (2014)
The Lost World	Doyle (2018)

After receiving the two corpora of existential *there* constructions, the data analysis of vicinity of syntactic structure of existential *there* construction is demonstrated as in Table 3.

Table 3: Vicinity of Syntactic Structures of Existential *there* Constructions (16)

Vicinity of Syntactic Structures	Examples
Prepositional phrases	(a) Late that afternoon, Lurvy went to Mr. Zuckerman. "I think there's something wrong *with that pig of yours"*
To- infinitive clauses	(b) There were six dolls *to be taken up and dressed every morning,* for Beth was a child still and loved her pets as well as ever.
Adjective Clauses	(c) Harry was glad school was over, *but there was no escaping Dudley's gang, who visited the house every single day.*

Table 3 presents the ways how vicinity of syntactic structure of existential *there* constructions. *With that pig of yours* as in (16a) shows the analysis of prepositional phrases. *To be taken up* is an example of *to-* infinitives clauses. On the other hand, *who visited the house every single day* is an adjective clause.

Table 4: Semantic Interpretations of Existential *there* Constructions

(17)

Semantic Interpretations	Examples
Subjectivity	(a) Late that afternoon, Lurvy went to Mr. Zuckerman. "I think there's *something wrong with that pig of yours*"
Numerical data	(b) There were *six dolls to be taken up and dressed every morning, for Beth was a child still and loved her pets as well as ever.*
List of things	(c) In my garden there are *roses and honeysuckles of two sorts: one sort was given to me by my father! They grow as plentifully as weeds; I have been looking for them these two days and cannot find them.*
Description Comparision and Contrast	(d) There is a historical book on the shelf. (e) In some cases, there was *no clear distinction between formative and summative evaluation*.

The semantic interpretation of existential *there* constructions as *subjectivity* refers to one's opinion or evaluation toward certain situations as in (17a). *Numerical data* is defined as the use of existential *there* constructions to refer to an arithmetical number and quantitative data and quantification as in (17b). The semantic interpretation of existential *there* constructions as *lists of things* refers to providing a list of objects, things or entities as in (17c). *Description* is defined as the use of existential *there* constructions to provide descriptive information such as history books as in (17d). *Comparision and contrast* refers to equating two information as in (17e). The data validation was checked by three English instructors to ensure their accuracy and their reliability as in Table 4.

Table 5: Data Validation

Data Collection	Data Analysis	Data Validation					
		Instructor 1		Instructor 2		Instructor 3	
		A	D	A	D	A	D
There is *so much to do about the play for Christmas night.*	Subjectivity	✓		✓		✓	
In my garden there are *roses and honeysuckles of two sorts: one sort was given to me by my father!*	List of things	✓		✓		✓	
There were *six dolls to be taken up and dressed every morning, for Beth was a child still and loved her pets as well as ever.*	Numerical data	✓		✓		✓	

Table 5 shows that the semantic interpretations of existential *there* constructions were checked by three English instructors. A represents agreement with the data analysis. D represents disagreement with the data analysis. If more than 2 experts showed agreement with the data analysis, it is regarded as being valid and reliable. However, if only one or none showed agreement with the data analysis, the token was reanalyzed. With this process of data collection, data analysis and data validation, the results and discussion of existential *there* constructions in English novels are presented in the following section.

Results and Discussion

In regard to the method of data collection and data analysis above, this section presents the results and discussion which are divided into four sections: the pragmatic aspects, semantic interpretations, the vicinity of syntactic structures, and text varieties in existential *there* constructions.

Pragmatic Aspects Existential *there* Constructions

According to Ward and Biner (1995), the pragmatic aspects of existential *there* constructions are various including pragmatic discourse of given and new information, summarizing old information and end-weight principle. In addition to that, there is an assumption of negative denotations in nominal NP and its vicinity of syntactic structures.

Both datasets show similarities and differences in regard to the use of existential *there* constructions in pragmatic aspects. One of the clearest usages of existential *there* construction in both datasets go along the same line as end-weight principle, as in (18)

(18)

(a) In early summer, there are *plenty of things for a child to eat and drink and suck and chew.* (Novel)

(b) As such, applying referencing conventions also belongs to the concept dimension, and there are *clear criteria for judging what correct and incorrect use is.* (Applied Linguistics article)

Both of sentences put heavier and longer subjects to the final position of the sentences. Despite having similarities, the differences between the two is also found. While existential *there* constructions is well applicable with given and new information, where the new information goes to the position of nominal NP and with its vicinity of syntactic structure, the same position in applied linguistic articles is applied for summarizing old information.

(19)

(a) [...] then he shouted, 'There's *another one! Mr H. Potter, The smallest bedroom, 4 Privet Drive'.* (Novel)

(b) From beneath the chestnut trees, there is *an extensive view*. (Novel)

(c) A miracle has happened on this farm. There is *a large spider's web in the doorway of the barn cellar.* (Novel)

(d) For example, research has shown that when gender is made salient, people perform according to the stereotypical ability of their gender (i.e., women less capable at maths, men less capable at empathy)-however, when gender is not mentioned, there is *no such correlation in performance.* (Applied linguistic articles)

In (19a), the new information refers to a room addressed to Mr. Potter. In (19b), the writer provides additional information that an extensive view can be seen from under the tree. In (19c), new information about a large spider's web that is in the doorway, is given. On the other hand, in (19d), it is a sum up of the result as explained in the previous section.

As hypothesized, the nominal NP with its vicinity of syntactic structure shows negative denotation. That is why a preparatory subject is given before in order to prepare readers for unexpected message. This use is prevalent in English novel as in (20).

(20)
(a) Harry was glad school was over, *but there was no escaping Dudley's gang,* who visited the house every single day. (Novel)

(b) The goose egg was right underneath. *There was a dull explosion as the egg broke, and then a horrible smell*. (Novel)

Although Harry feels good because he has already finished his classes at school, he could not get away from Dudley's gang as in (20a). The existential *there* construction in (20b) introduces a negative denotation of an egg breaking.

Semantic Interpretation of Existential *there* Constructions

Both datasets show both similarities and differences concerning the semantic interpretation of existential *there* constructions. One of the clearest empirical evidence is the semantic denotations of *subjectivity*, referring to opinions, assessment and evaluation (Vartianen, 2013), as in (21).

(21)

(a) "See if *there's a nice ripe tomato while you're out there getting the lettuce.* (Novel)

(b) There was *a horrible smell in the kitchen next morning when Harry went in for breakfast*. (Novel)

(c) As a result, there is *a growing need for students to attain a level of English language proficiency that allows them to cope with the demands posed by learning an academic subject through the medium of a foreign language.* (Applied linguistic article)

(d) There is *increasing attention to reading-based writing tasks in EAP assessment.* (Applied linguistic article)

Making comments in existential *there* constructions does not only allow the readers to visualize each scene, but they also get insight into taste, smell and sound. In (21a), the writer gives a comment on a tomato. In (21b), the writer comments about the bad smell from the kitchen. Similarly, the writers mention about the significant of English proficiency as in (21c) and *increasing attention to reading-based writing tasks* as in (21d).

Another similarity between two data set is *a list of things*, referring to list of items, entities and object (Tsushima & Miyake, 2013), as in (22).

(22)

(a) In my garden there are *roses and honeysuckles of two sorts*. (Novel)

(b) The pattern itself may be treated as a holistic entity where there are *both fixed elements and open slots to be filled freely*. (Applied linguistic articles)

In (22a), the writer provides the categories of the plants available in one's garden as in roses and honeysuckles. In (22b), the writer provides information in regard to bother fixed elements and opened slots.

Moreover, both English novels and applied linguistic articles clearly show the empirical evidence of *quantification*, referring arithmetic data, statistic data and numerical data (Radford, 2009), as in (23).

(23)

(a) There were *hundreds of them congregated within view.* (Novel)

(b) There are *many varieties of conduct and opinion.* (Novel)

(c) There are *eight prompt words whose form must be changed to fit the sentence correctly.* (Applied linguistic article)

(d) There are *four categories* of grammatical functions of adverbials. (Applied linguistic article)

(e) There were *two students of Chinese descent in the group.* (Applied linguistic article)

Unlike English novel, most semantic interpretation of quantifications in applied linguistic articles appears with exact numbers, such as *eight prompts words*, *four categories,* and *two students*.

In addition to quantification, the semantic interpretation of comparison is only found in the data of research of English applied linguistics.

(24)

(a) Our finding suggests that there are *considerable differences between L1 and LX expert writing in the Discussion section*, especially with respect to fulfilling the communicative practices related to the evaluation and elaboration of research findings. (Applied Linguistic articles)

(b) In some cases, there was *no clear distinction between formative and summative evaluation.* (Applied linguistic articles)

Example (24) shows the differences of existential *there* construction in applied linguistic article that it is used to compare and contrast between two things.

Vicinity of Syntactic Structures of Existential *there* Constructions

Aside from a variety of semantic interpretations, existential *there* constructions in English novels go along the same lines as Palacios Martínez and Martínez Insua (2006) who indicated that this construction is used with the syntactic structure of *to*-infinitive clauses to denote sequential events as in (25).

(25)

(a) Wilbur stood in the sun feeling lonely and bored. "There's never anything *to do around here,*" he thought.

(b) There is so much *to do about the play for Christmas night.*

(c) There's a regular conspiracy around here *to kill you at Christmas.*

(d) Right after the buzzer sounds, a lot of people shower and change as quickly as they can. For me, though, there was more work *to be done.*

The *to*-infinitive clauses *to do around here* as in (25a), *to do about the play for Christmas night* as in (25b), *to kill you at Christmas* as in (25c), and *to be done* as in (25d) are used to indicate sequential events.

In addition to being used with to-infinitive clauses, this study is agreeable with Palacios Martínez and Martínez Insua (2006) in that existential *there* constructions are found to be used with the syntactic structure of *adjective clause* to indicate subjectivity and modification as in (26).

(26)

(a) Do not mention this again: *there are people who would censure me for it.*

(b) Harry was glad school was over, but *there was no escaping Dudley's gang, who visited the house every single day.*

(c) The month-old cine-camera was lying on top of a small, working tank Dudley had once driven over next door's dog; in the corner was Dudley's first ever television set, which he'd put his foot through when his favorite program had been cancelled; *there was a large bird-cage which had once held a parrot that Dudley had sat on.*

In (26a) *who would censure me for it* represents subjectivity referring to an opinion. On the other hand, *who visited the house every single day* in (26b) is additional information.

Unlike English novels, the vicinity of syntactic structure in research papers of English applied linguistic is reduced relative clauses.

(27)

(a) [...] there are many activities *associated with opportunity pursuit* (Applied linguistic articles)

(b) Indeed, throughout the study, there is evidence *suggesting not only that the same expression can be used with different functions, even by the same speaker, but the same function can also be fulfilled by a wide variety of expressions.* (Applied linguistic)

The frequent use of reduced relative clauses could be due to limited space of research articles.

Existential *there* Constructions in Text Varieties

Unlike previous studies, Tsushima and Miyake (2013) focused their study of existential *there* constructions on EFL learners. Their results show that Japanese EFL learners enjoy using existential *there* constructions with proper nouns as in *there are Nikon D3S, Canon 5DMark II, and Pentax 645D.* This phenomenon does not appear to occur in English novels and applies linguistic articles. Despite having differences, the vicinity of syntactic structure occurs similarly to English novels in that the use of relative clauses with existential *there* constructions occur among EFL Japanese learners and in English novels. This could be influenced by explicit learning of grammar from English classrooms and grammar books (Swan, 2016).

In addition to Japanese EFL learners, the use of existential *there* constructions is partially similar to spoken register as studied by Park (2014) where the *there* variant of *there's* occurs frequently in English novels, especially in quotation marks, as in (28).

(28)

(a) "When I'm out here," he said, "there's no place to go".

(b) Late that afternoon, Lurvy went to Mr. Zuckerman. "I think there's something wrong with that pig of yours".
(c) "See if there's a nice ripe tomato while you're out there getting the lettuce."

As illustrated in (28), the variant of *there's* is consider as a common linguistic feature of spoken language which is frequently found in English novels where there is a part of conversation as indicated by quotation marks. Furthermore, as mentioned by Park (2014), it is likely for the pattern of *there+be+X+X+the notional subject* to occur with ungrammaticality. This is not found in this study as written novels require proofreading before being published.

Pedagogical Implications

As mentioned earlier, the results of this study will be useful for EFL and ESL learners. Learning English is not only learning grammar from English grammar books, which is viewed as explicit learning of grammar. It is important for learners of English language to understand language in all perspectives via form, meaning and use simultaneously. Although learning grammar from grammar books is good as it encourages learners to focus on certain structures, the weakness is that it does not provide the meaning of different sentence structures. Learning grammar from authentic texts allows the learners to choose text varieties based upon their own interest and they learn how to apply the use of grammar in certain situations accurately and appropriately.

Studying grammar from grammar references as well as explicit learning of grammar from classrooms are often considered as boring activities. Learners may truly know how to use forms, but it may be difficult for each learner to apply those forms in actual use. Offering them to learn grammar implicitly from English novels of their own interest would increase the opportunity for learners to learn grammar outside their classroom (Jakobsson & Knutsson, 2020; Ling, 2015).

Based upon this research study, existential *there* constructions are common structures that are frequently applied in everyday use. Knowing this structure does not only increase the learners' linguistic performance of language use outside the classroom, but it also encourages learners to learn how to make comments, evaluate and present their opinions as this construction is usually found to be used with the interpretation of subjectivity.

Conclusion

This study has investigated existential *there* constructions in applied linguistic articles and English novels so as to answer the following three research questions.

(1) What are the pragmatic aspects of the existential *there* constructions in applied linguistic articles and novels?

(2) What are the semantic interpretations of the existential *there* constructions in English applied linguistic articles and novels?

(3) What is the vicinity of syntactic structures of the existential *there* constructions in applied linguistic articles and novels?

Pragmatically, both datasets show the compliance of existential *there* constructions in regard to end-weight principle. While English novels apply existential *there* constructions for putting information, the existential *there* construction in applied linguistic articles is more outstanding with the use of summarizing old information. It is distinctive for the use of existential *there* constructions in English novels for negation information whereby using the subject there helps prepare readers for receiving this information.

Inside this preparatory subject, information fills the paradigm of nominal NP with its vicinity of syntactic structure are subjectivity, lists of things, quantification, and comparison and contrast. Unlike English novels, it is outstanding for applied linguistic articles to fill in the semantic interpretation of comparison and contrast in the slot of the nominal NP with its vicinity. However, both of them show the similarities in the semantic interpretation of subjectivity, lists of things and quantification.

Syntactically, the vicinity of syntactic structures that usually appear with existential *there* constructions in English novels is *to-* infinitive clauses to indicate sequential events as in *There is so much to do about the play for Christmas night.* Furthermore, existential *there* constructions also occur with adjective clauses to indicate subjectivity as in *there are people who would censure me for it*. On the other hand, reduced relative clauses are often found in the vicinity of syntactic structure as in applied linguistic articles due to limited space of research articles.

The results of this study are limited to only English novels, generalizing the result of this study to other text varieties may not be applicable to the optimal level. It is recommended that the future research in the field of this study should use other types of texts, such as newspapers and magazines.

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