

Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter presents the research background, concern with the lexical categories in “*The Woman at the Store*” short story written by Katherine Mansfield. This chapter also provides the research question, the objective of research, the research delimitation, and the research significances in terms of theoretical and practical contribution.

Research Background

Chomsky (1957) as cited in Adekunle (2013) stated that a set of specific universal principles which are intrinsic properties of human mind and form parts of our genetic endowment is called language. It means language as a tool to convey idea, feeling or opinion to others. In this regard, language can be defined as a form of human communication in the form of oral or written that used sound, and can be used in other media such as writing.

As a human, people need language to express their emotion, idea, and feeling each other. Language allows people to send and to receive the information. In this case, the researcher believes that the process of transferring information from one person to another by using certain media such as language is called communication. Thereafter, the good way of maintaining communication is the style of the language used itself. In the history of language style, style has been defined by different scholars. As Leech and Short (1981) cited in Hanif, Ahmed, and Aftab (2015) stated that style was a tool of the writer to transfer the messages to the reader. It indicates people have their own style of language to express the idea, feeling or emotion to others. As defined by some linguistic scholars, the study of style has been called as the study of stylistic. In this regard, Leech and Short (2007) has defined that stylistic has been defined as the study of language (linguistic) style which used as an exercise to find out and to describe the use of

language in a work. This indicates that through the stylistics study, we can find out the style of language use in a literary work.

Related to short story, the researcher believes that every author of short story has their own style of language which used to interpret the messages of the story. They have their own ways or style in arranging a text, which aims to interpret the meanings of a text to readers. In particular, a novelist has a language style to interpreting the meaning of story for readers (Mcarthur, 1996 in Adenkule, 2013). In the same way, Leech and Short (2007) note “Every analysis of style, in our terms, is an attempt to find the artistic principles underlying a writer’s choice of language. All writers, and for that matter, all texts, have individual qualities” (p. 60). What is interesting from Leech and Short’s statement is a writer means the author of literary text have individual qualities of language that used in their works.

Related to the quality of language, in literary works the development of language has been giving the impression in terms of the selections of words (Illamuddin, 2016). By this statement, it can be inferred that we may investigate the influence of language in literary works especially in short story “*The Woman at the Store*” that was published in 1912. What is surprisingly is the kind of investigation deals with the study of stylistic. Therefore, it needs an appropriate approach to study style which called stylistic analysis. Accordingly, Hanif et al. (2015) further argued that stylistics is the one part of applied linguistics that presents a scientific study of style by applying linguistic principles and theories both in literary or non-literary works. In the same way, Widdowson (1975) as cited in Hanif et al. (2015) has added style is the science of linguistic orientation in the literary text.

By comparing the various explanations that related to the study of language style, the researcher interested to analyze the style of a writer by matching the theory of stylistic analysis

with the language-oriented in literary works i.e. short story written by Katherine Mansfield. Moreover, the researcher wants to prove the method of stylistic analysis that provided by Leech and Short in their book entitled *Style in Fiction* (2007). The overall objective of this research is to find out the writers' choice of language through stylistics study. In particular, the aim of this research is to discover how lexical categories are used in conveying the meanings of the story.

Nevertheless, there were other literary works that can be analyzed stylistically such as novels and poem, but short story became the main object of this research, because there are several reasons namely; firstly, short story is a fictional narrative text. This means that the short story is narrated by the narrator of story, and the author of story expresses the messages of the story through the narrator itself. Secondly, the short story is shorter than the novel, and it is easier to find out the language style that used in the text. Hence, based on the several reasons have been explained previously, this research interested to find out how is the author using lexical features in expressing the messages of the short story.

The important point is we can find out the message of a literary text through the language that used by the author. This means that it needs a study of language style. Accordingly, Person (2001) in Khattak, M.I., Mehnaz., and Khattak, M.A. (2012) have claimed the crucial goal of stylistic is to describe for their own sake in and to show their functional significance for the interpretation of the text, or to relate literary effects to linguistic 'causes' where these are felt to be relevant. However, there is something to be expected in the use of language, which is, the reader becomes surprised and gains fresh awareness to the use of language, which turns out to be unique.

Related to the uniqueness of the writers' choices of language, Marini (2010) in her thesis claimed that every author in making their work will show the use of language with unique

features and typical patterns of the text. It indicates the use of specific language in his or her work will certainly show the characteristic of the author's style. This designates that the style of language is the basic thing which gives uniqueness to every writer of literary text. Thereafter, one of the uniqueness of language use is shown by one of the good writers Katherine Mansfield, through her short story *The Woman at the Store*. Milne (2000) cited in Ebaditabar (2011) has stated that Katherine has a modern style of writing. Therefore, the researcher interested to investigate her modern style of writing through stylistic analysis. At the end of this research, it is expected that Katherine Mansfield has her own style in using the language features in writing the short story.

In this regards, short story written by Katherine Mansfield entitled *The Woman at the Store* becomes the main object of this research, because there are some interesting though of the researcher about the short story namely: First, based on my observation, there has not been done applying stylistic study to the short story *The Woman at the Store*. Second, basically, we know that messages of the story can be sent by the diction that used in the story. This means that the choice of words in a story depends on the style of the author. Furthermore, related to Katherine Mansfield's style in selecting words, the researcher reveals that Katherine has her own characteristic in employing the lexical features in her short story *The Woman at the Store*. For instance, Katherine has been always using the concrete noun which supports her description of the setting of the story. She has often been using concrete noun which refers to the things around the place in the short story. Here the example:

*“We were on the **brow** of the **hill**, and below us there was a **whare** roofed with corrugated **iron**. It stood in a **garden**, rather far back from the **road** – a big*

paddock opposite, and a *creek* and a *clump* of young *willow trees*.” (Mansfield, p. 2)

From the above example, it appears that Katherine was effective in describing the situation or the setting in the story by using concrete noun such as *brow*, *hill*, *whare*, *iron*, *garden*, *road*, *paddock*, *creek*, *clump*, and *willow trees*. Katherine was creatively in using concrete nouns that makes the reader aware of every scene of the story. In particular, she always gives a sign where the short story is taking place. Therefore, the researcher intends to find out more about how Katherine’s style in using lexical features in her short story entitled *The Woman at the Store*.

Research Question

In appointing the research, a research question has been formulated as the guidance to discover the research objective:

How are the lexical categories in *The Woman at the Store* short story written by Katherine Mansfield based on stylistic study?

Research Objective

In accordance with the formulated question, the main target of this research is to find out the lexical categories that used in “*The Woman at the Store*” by means stylistics study.

Scope and Delimitation of Research

The main target of this research is to reveal how the lexical categories used in “*The Woman at the Store*” by means stylistic study. In order to investigate the lexical categories, this research is limited to Leech and Short’s theory. According to Leech and Short (2007), the lexical categories are placed under four general headings: lexical categories, grammatical categories, figures of speech, and cohesion and context. Nevertheless, this research is exclusively focused on

stylistic analysis of Katherine Mansfield in writing her short story *The Woman at The Store* that was published in 1912. This research is focus on analyzing the employing of lexical features that used to figure out the meanings of the story. Specifically, in lexical categories, choice of words, word types such as *noun*, *verb*, *adjective*, and *adverb*.

Research Significances

There are several significances of this study, which are theoretical and practical significances.

Theoretically, the result of this research is expected to explore students' understanding of stylistic analysis. In particular, they will know that the effect of lexical use in illuminating the messages of a story. Also, they will know that every single writer has their own style in language choices. Moreover, the significance of this study can be made as reference for those who have interest in the field of stylistics study, which this research can be a guideline for further research particularly who will be looking for analyzing of stylistic in literary works.

Practically, the result of this research is expected to provide awareness for everyone about the importance of study about style. In particular, for students of English Department, it is expected to be able to examine the style or the uniqueness of the use of language in literary works.