



Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

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Department of English

A Linguistic Analysis of the Role of Pronouns in Discourse

A paper submitted as partial fulfillment of requirements for B.A degree in English
language.

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

رَبِّ أَوْزَعْنِي أَنْ أَشْكُرَ نِعْمَتَكَ الَّتِي أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيَّ وَعَلَى وَالِدَيَّ وَأَنْ أَعْمَلَ صَالِحًا تَرْضَاهُ وَأَصْلِحْ لِي فِي دَرْجَتِي
إِنِّي تَوَكَّلْتُ عَلَى اللَّهِ وَإِنِّي مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ

صدق الله العظيم

سورة الأحقاف (١٥)

Dedication

This graduation paper is dedicated to:

Almighty Allah, My God who always listens to me, lights my way and gives me energy to do my work.

My wonderful family my father, my mother, my brother and my sisters who always encourage, pray, advice me to work harder to be a successful person.

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Abstract

This research paper which is titled *A Linguistic Analysis of the Role of Pronouns in Discourse*. Consist of four chapters, the first chapter is an introduction about the topic, chapter two is about types and definitions of pronouns, chapter three is about the analysis, linguistic analysis of pronouns in a literary text, finally chapter four about the conclusion of the first three chapters that sum up the research paper.

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Chapter One

Introduction

1.1 The problem:

The paper tries to answer the following questions:

1. Do pronouns have multiple roles in discourse?
2. How can we know the right usage of such a pronoun in such a text?
3. Do pronouns have intended meanings?
4. What effect resulting from the use of inappropriate pronouns in a particular texts?
5. How many types of pronouns do we have in English

1.2 The aims:

The paper revolves around the following points:

1. Focus on the multiple meanings of pronouns in discourse.
2. Clarify the importance of making a linguistic analysis of the role of pronouns in discourse by revealing the importance of these pronouns in a particular text.
3. Enabling the reader to have a great understand of the text by discovering the multiple meanings of pronouns.

1.3. Hypotheses:

1. Students will take into account the general meanings of the pronouns and exclude meanings that are not clear to them, and therefore the linguistic analysis reveals these meanings and shows the writer's intention to use different meanings of certain pronouns in a particular text.
2. Students will have difficulty analyzing the pronouns used in the text from a linguistic and grammatical perspective.

1.4. The procedure:

1. Choosing the appropriate literary text is the first process that contributes to reviving the research scientifically, as choosing a literary text that lacks diversity in pronouns creates a gap of information within the research. I will choose chapter two in novel "Hard Times" which is "Murdering the Innocents".
2. We have the theoretical aspect that precedes the process of selecting the literary text. In this aspect, the types of pronouns will be mentioned and also each type will be defined with a diversity in the sources used.
3. The conclusion of what I reached in my research.

1.5 Limit :

My research is specific and is limited to pronouns only, not nouns or objects or subjects, it is also limited to a specific literary text.

My research will be limited to a specific chapter of the novel “ Hard Times “, which is the second chapter on which I will conduct the linguistic analysis.

1.6. Value:

The importance of writing research for the scientific researcher is to rely on oneself as well as be patient and serious when the scientific researcher reads and reviews previous studies and sources represented in books and scientific journals. Thus, this creates a sense of self-reliance and the scientific researcher to take all the necessary measures to write a research on the subject related to his study. The importance of making a linguistic analysis of the role of pronouns in discourse creates a kind of connection between the reader and the writer by knowing the intended meanings of the pronouns used in the text.

Chapter Two

Theoretical Background

Discourse: language beyond the sentence, it refers to a unit of language longer than a single sentence.

2.1 Personal pronouns

This type has three different definitions :

1. Personal pronouns are used to replace co-referential noun phrases in clauses that are close to each other (typically before).
2. Personal pronouns can be presented in the same way that nouns, verbs, and comparable are, using stems and inflectional suffixes.
3. Pronouns that can be used as a sentences's subject.

-The personal pronouns are (I, we, you, he, she, it, they, me, us, them, him, her)

e.g. John waited a while but eventually he went home.

(Greenbaum, Quirk, 1973 :103)

e.g. They are determined.

(Ansell, 2000 :231)

e.g. We saw her in the car.

(Stageberg, 1981 :181)

e.g. Tom and Mary, you have to study more.

(Swick, 1976 :3)

2.2 Reflexive pronouns

This type has four different definitions :

1. Within the same finite verb sentence, reflexive pronouns substitute a co-referential noun phrase.
2. within the same clause, is an anaphoric pronoun must be coreferential to another nominal (its antecedent).
3. when a personal pronoun is employed in the objective case, it has a form that is the opposite of its personal pronoun. A reflexive pronoun is the name of this type of pronoun.
4. When the activity indicated by the verb is directed toward the entity referred to by the verb's subject, reflexive pronouns are frequently utilized.

-The reflexive pronouns are (myself, ourselves, yourself, yourselves, himself, herself, itself, themselves)

e.g. John has hurt himself.

(Greenbaum, Quirk, 1973 :103)

e.g. Do you talk to yourself sometimes?

(Murphy, 1985 :164)

e.g. I made this cake myself.

(Seaton, Mew, 2007 :47)

e.g. We sometimes have to help ourselves.

(Swick, 1976 :38)

e.g. I myself saw what happened.

(Ansell, 2000 :238)

2.3 Reciprocal pronouns

This type has two different definitions :

1. A reciprocal pronoun is a pronoun that denotes a relationship that is reciprocal. A reciprocal pronoun can be used to refer to one of the participants in a reciprocal construction, which is a clause in which two people have a mutual relationship.
2. The reciprocal pronouns are never refer to a singular antecedent and are never employed as the subject of a sentence. They work in the same way as a reflexive pronouns, except they refer to two or more people or things in a plural antecedent.

-The reciprocal pronouns are (each other, one another)

e.g. John and Mary like each other.

(Greenbaum, Quirk, 1973 :105)

e.g. Maria and Tom help one another.

(Swick, 1976 :41)

2.4 Possessive pronouns

This type has two different definitions :

1. The possessive pronouns combine genitive and pronominal functions. The co-referential item they replace in the latter case could be in the same sentence or a nearby one.
2. Pronouns, like nouns, can be used to express ownership or possession. To denote possession, most nouns use an apostrophe and a -s, however, pronouns create a completely new term.

-The possessive pronouns are (my, our, your, his, her, its, their, mine, ours, yours, hers, theirs)

e.g. Mary has broken her leg.

(Greenbaum, Quirk, 1973 :105)

e.g. Their teacher is stricter than ours.

(Ansell, 2000 :238)

e.g. This is my glove.

Where is yours?

(Swick, 1976 :22)

2.5 Relative pronouns

This type has three different definitions :

1. Relative pronouns functions and interrelations are best addressed in conjunction with relative clauses and nominal relative clauses.
2. A relative pronoun can be used to connect two statements. If the same noun appears in two phrases, one of the nouns can be replaced with a relative pronoun , and the two sentences can be combined into one, with the one containing the relative pronoun being referred to as a relative clause.
3. A relative pronoun is one that appears at the beginning of a subordinate clause and conveys the subordinate clause's relationship to the rest of the sentence.

-The relative pronouns are (who, whom, whose, which, that)

e.g. The girl whom I voted for won by a close margin.

(Stageberg, 1950 :182)

e.g. The knife that I broke the blade of.

(Greenbaum, Quirk, 1973 :106)

e.g. This is the man who I told you about.

(Swick, 1976 :33)

e.g. The woman who is standing near the window is a doctor.

(Ansell, 2000 :259)

2.6 Interrogative pronouns

This type has two different definitions :

1. The interrogatives and relative pronouns are identical in form and case relations, but there are functional differences in detail in addition to the core difference between interrogative and relative.

2. Interrogative pronouns are called interrogative because they ask a question.

They, like all other pronouns, take the place of nouns.

-The interrogative pronouns are (who, whom, whose, which, that)

e.g. which books do you like best?

(Greenbaum, Quirk, :107)

e.g. Who borrowed my tie?

(Stageberg, 1950 :181)

e.g. What is he talking about?

(Swick, 1976 :26)

e.g. Whose is this umbrella?

(Seaton, Mew, 2007 :48)

2.7 Demonstrative pronouns

This type has two different definitions :

1. The demonstratives can be used as both determiners and pronouns and have a numerical contrast.
2. A demonstrative pronoun is easy to spot. It is a pronoun that identifies the noun being discussed or written about. It modifies the noun in the same way an adjective does.

-The demonstrative pronouns are (this, that, these, those)

e.g. This is Mary.

(Greenbaum, Quirk, 1973 :107)

e.g. These books are on sale now.

(Swick, 1976 :24)

e.g. That is John's house.

(Seaton, Mew, 2007 :49)

2.8 Indefinite pronouns

Indefinite pronouns are used to refer to someone or something who has already been mentioned.

-The indefinite pronouns are (all, another, any, anybody, anyone, anything, both, each, either, everybody, everyone, everything, few, many, most, much, neither, no one, nobody, none, nothing, one, other, others, several, some, somebody, someone, something).

e.g. Most was done by John.

(Swick, 1976 :25)

e.g. There were two boys who called and I gave an apple to each.

(Greenbaum, Quirk, 1973 :108)

Chapter Three

The Analysis

The pronouns used in the text:

(who, anything, his, any, you, what, it, other, himself, him, he, them, one, that, I, yourself, another, me, what, your, we, us, they, this, somebody, yours, which, other, she, her, their, both, other, all, nothing, some).

This chapter will be a discussion about the role of pronouns in the literary text. This discussion concentrates on the types and functions of pronouns in “Hard Times”

‘Girl number twenty, said Ms Gradgrind, squarely pointing with his square forefinger, ‘I don’t know that girl. Who is that girl?’

In the quotation above the writer uses the pronoun “I” to show that this pronoun represents the subject of the sentence above , and also he uses the pronoun”who” to represents a question , the writer wants to make an Interrogative statement.

‘Don’t call yourself Sissy. Call yourself Cecilia.’

Here the writer make a repetition of the pronoun”yourself” in order to make a sense of emphases, the writer repeated the pronoun twice in order to employ this pronoun, it should belong to this girl without the rest of the children.

‘It’s father as calls me Sissy, sir,’

Here the writer uses the pronoun "it", this personal pronoun represents a subjective case(the subject of this sentence), and also the pronoun "me" which is represents an objective case (the object of this sentence).

‘We don’t want to know anything about that, here. You mustn’t tell us about that, here. Your father breaks horses, don’t he?’

The writer uses the pronoun "anything" to refer to something which has already been mentioned (horse-riding) which is mentioned in the quotation ‘He belongs to the horse-riding, if you please, sir.’

‘Now, girl number twenty.’ You know what a horse is.’

In the second part of this quotation, the writer uses the pronoun "you" to represents the subjective case.

‘That’s a horse. Now, let me ask you girls and boys, would you paper a room with representations of horses?’

In the first part of this quotation the writer uses the pronoun "that" to identify the noun being written about, the writer here wants to make this pronoun modifies the noun in the same way as an adjective does.

‘So you would carpet your room – or your husband’s room, if you were a grown woman, and had a husband – with representations of flowers, would you,’

We have here a possessive pronoun (your) , the writer uses this pronoun to express ownership or possession. There is also a personal pronoun (you), the writer here used this pronoun to replace co-referential noun phrase.

‘It wouldn’t hurt them, sir.

The pronoun “it” and the pronoun “them” are personal pronouns.

‘Who will force the people to be a people of fact,

The pronoun “who” is an interrogative pronoun and the writer uses it to represents a question, here the pronoun takes the place of noun, there was a gap of information, so the writer wants to perform an interrogative case in this sentence.

‘Then he has no business to do it,’ said Mr Gradgrind.

The pronoun “he” is personal pronouns, it indicate a subjective case , the writer uses it as subject of the sentence. Whereas the pronoun “it” is a personal pronoun represents an objective case.

The text has has a lot of pronouns similar to the pronouns mentioned above they also have the same function.

Chapter Four

The Conclusion

This paper points up the effectiveness of pronouns in the analysis of texts as a way of exploring hidden meaning. The researcher works out at the end of the analysis that pronouns have a great role in ensuring a full understanding of the literary text, because literary texts contain gaps and a set of points, and through a good understanding of these gaps or points, the true meaning behind these texts is revealed. In the literary text used in this research, pronouns formed a link between the reader and the writer, and after conducting a linguistic analysis of the text, it was found that :-

The writer tends to make extensive use of personal pronouns, as we noticed that he repeated the pronoun it, he and you in more than quotation, unlike other types of pronouns. The movement between the types of pronouns in the language of discourse evaluate the writer's culture and orientations. The writer used other types of pronouns such as, interrogative pronouns, reflexive pronouns, indefinite pronouns, relative pronouns and possessive pronouns, but intermittently, such as reflexive pronouns. These pronouns replace the object and express the affirmation. The writer used the possessive pronouns to indicate ownership. The rest of pronouns were used sparingly.

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