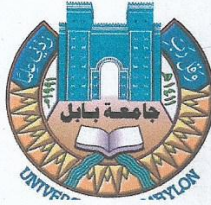


Republic of Iraq
Ministry of Higher
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University of Babylon
College of Education for
Human Sciences
Department of English

A Linguistic Analysis of Adjectives and Adverbs in a Literary Text.

A Paper Submitted to the Department of English, College
of Education for Human Sciences, University of Babylon,
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of B.A. in English Language

By

Muntadhar Muhammed Swadi

SUPERVISED BY

Assist. Prof. Sa'id Abdulwahab Jawad

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S. A. Jawad
Dr. Sa'id Abdulwahab
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

[فَتَعَالَى اللَّهُ الْمَلِكُ الْحَقُّ وَلَا تَعْجَلْ
بِالْقُرْآنِ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ يُقْضَىٰ إِلَيْكَ وَحْيُهُ وَقُلْ
رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا]

صدق الله العلي العظيم

سورة طه : اية ١١٤



Dedication

To

The Martyrs of Iraq

Acknowledgements

After being grateful to Allah, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisors Assist. Prof. Sa'id for his unlimited encouragements, kindness and insightful views which enriched my study.

Muntadhar

٢٠٢٢

Abstract

This study is a Linguistic Analysis of Adjectives and Adverbs of Oscar Wilde's *The Happy Prince*. The study is composed of four chapters, Chapter One presents preliminary remarks, which contains introduction to the study, the problem of the study, the aim of the study, the hypotheses of the study, the procedures of the study, the limitation of the study, the Importance of the Study and an introduction to Oscar Wilde's *The Happy Prince*. Chapter two begins by discussing the concepts of adjectives and adverbs. Different definitions of adjectives and adverbs are given by various scholars. Then several types of them are cited with examples. In chapter three, the researcher will analyse Oscar Wilde's *The Happy Prince*. Finally, chapter four consists of several conclusions to the study. At the end of the study, it is provided with list of references that are used in the study.

Contents

Dedication	iii
Acknowledgments	iv
Abstract	v
Contents	vi

Chapter One: Introduction

۱-۱- The Problem of the Study	۱
۱-۲- The Aim of The Study	۲
۱-۳- The Hypotheses of the Study	۲
۱-۴- The Procedure of the Study	۲
۱-۵- The Limit of the Study	۳
۱-۶- The Importance of the Study.....	۳

Chapter Two: Theoretical Background

۲-۱- Introduction	۴
۲-۲- What are adjectives?.....	۴-۷
۲-۳- What are adverbs?	۷-۸

Chapter Three:

Analysis

۳-۱-Introduction	۹
۳-۲- Data Analysis of Adjectives	۹-۱۵
۳-۳- Data Analysis of Adverbs	۱۵-۱۷

Chapter four

Conclusions

Conclusions	۱۸
References	۱۹

Chapter One

Introduction

Introduction

In general, adjectives and adverbs are words such as tall, round, ready, above, indeed, happy, small, worst, etc which describe nouns and verbs in sentences. In grammar, they are words whose main role is to modify noun or pronoun and verb, and give more information. Also, they are part of the traditional English eight parts of speech though linguists today distinguish. The undertaken study is based on the analysis of a short story in English in which how the writer uses linguistic features like adjectives and adverbs to portray the social and cultural conditions of his texts. The researcher presents in the appropriate numbers and frequency rates of the content words of the text and shows the reasons behind using such words.

1-1- The Problem of the study

In all languages, there are words and phrases which are called adjectives or adjectival phrases and adverbs or adverbial phrases. We use adjectives to describe nouns and pronouns. Adjectives can come before nouns or after linking verbs. While Adverbs are used to describe verbs, adjectives or other adverbs. They are often (but not always) made by adding 'ly' to the adjective. Sometimes this may a problem in understanding the literary work. So, the researcher finds it important to focus on these phrases in a literary work.

١-٢- The Aim of The Study

The current study is an empirical investigation of the use of adjectives and adverbs in Oscar Wilde's selected short story *The Happy Prince*. It attempts at illustrating how adjectives and adverbs are exploited by the writer in order to achieve various literary purposes including signifying the theme by analysis Oscar Wilde's selected short story *The Happy Prince* by applying the adopted words to examine all type of adjectives and adverbs. in the selected text.

١-٣- The Hypotheses of The Study

It is hypothesized that

- ١- What kinds of adjectives and adverbs are used in *The Happy Prince*?
- ٢- What is the usefulness of the various kinds of adjectives and adverbs used in the text?
- ٣- It is also hypothesized that the use of Adjectives and adverbs can show the life of ordinary people and their suffering from the poorness in the analyzed text.

١-٤- The Procedures of The Study

The selected short story Oscar Wilde's *The Happy Prince* adopts to be analysed by picking out all types and forms of adjectives and adverbs. Then, they are set in tables to show their frequencies and percentages and see their impact in the story.

١-٥- The Limit of the Study

This study is only concerned with the analysis of the adjectives and adverbs which are used in the analysed text *Oscar Wilde's The Happy Prince*.

Oscar Wilde (١٨٥٤-١٩٠٠) was an Anglo-Irish playwright, novelist, poet, and critic. He is regarded as one of the greatest playwrights of the Victorian Era. In his lifetime he wrote nine plays, one novel, and numerous poems, short stories, and essays.

The Happy Prince is a story by Oscar Wilde. It is about the story of a statue, the Happy Prince, covered with gold and many fine jewels. It sits overlooking the city. One day a swallow bird seeks shelter under the statue and discovers the prince not happy, but sad.

The bird becomes friendly with the prince and tries to make him happy by assisting him in his desire to ease the suffering of others. It plucks out the ruby, the sapphire and other fine jewels from the statue and delivers them to those who are poor and needy. '

١-٦- The Importance of the Study

Adjectives and adverbs are parts of speech that are used to give other additional information about other words. Also they are called content words since they give important information in sentences, that is why the researcher writes this study.

Chapter Two

Theoretical Background

2-1 - Introduction

This chapter begins by discussing the concepts of adjectives and adverbs. Different definitions of adjectives and adverbs are given by various scholars. Then several types of them are cited with examples.

2-2 - What are adjectives?

Adjectives are characterized as expressions “that alter, clarify, or adjust the meaning contributions of nouns”, (Huddleston and Pullum 2002:526). According to Crystal (2008), adjectives which might be abbreviated as (A, adj, ADJ) belong to the grammatical category of words referring to the main set of items which specify the attributes of nouns from a formal point of view. Crystal states that the narrow and broad presentations of the term "adjectives" will be found in grammars.

Cambridge Dictionary defines adjectives as one of the four major word classes, along with nouns, verbs and adverbs. They give us more information about things represented by nouns and pronouns. Richards, Jack C. and Schmidt, Richard (2001: 12) defines adjective as a word that describes the thing, quality, state, or action which a noun refers to. For example: big, small, blue, old, rich and nice. They give us more information about people, animals or things represented by nouns and pronouns.

Cruse, Alan (2006: 8) states that there are two main positions for adjectives, first as a modifier in a noun phrase which comes before the

noun and this is called attributive position or adjective as in the following example:

١- She is wearing a red dress The word *red* is attributive adjective

The second one is a complement in a verb phrase which comes after the verb and this is called predicative position or adjective as in the following example:

٢- Her new dress is red The word *red* is predicative adjective.

Most adjectives can occur in both positions (there are exceptions: The man is afraid /*the afraid man; the main problem/* The problem is main). One suggestion to the semantic correlates of this positional difference is that the predicative position attributes a relatively greater time sensitivity to the designated state of affairs. So, for instance, (٣) is slightly more normal than (٤), because the temperature of water is inherently changeable:

٣- Be careful, that water is hot.

٤- Be careful, that is hot water. Cruse, Alan ٢٠٠٠: ٢٨٩)

There are some adjectives that can be used only as predicative such as are those referring to health or lack of health: faint , ill , well , unwell . For example : She is very ill. (Quirk,R. and et.al, ١٩٨٥: ٤١٧)

It cannot be told whether a word is an adjective by looking at it in isolation, since the form of a word does not necessarily indicate its syntactic function. Some suffixes are indeed found only, or typically, with adjectives as in

-able: comfortable

-al: seasonal

-ful: playful

-ic: scientific

-ish: grayish

-less: useless

-ous : dangerous

-y: dirty (Quirk, Randolph et. al ١٩٨٥: ٤٠٢)

Adjectives usually have the following features:

١- They can freely occur in attributive function, they can premodify a noun, appearing between the determiner and the head of a noun phrase:

٥- An ugly painting.

٦- The round table.

٧- Dirty linen.

٢- They can freely occur in predicative function, they can function as subject complement, as in (٨), or as object complement, as in (٩) in the following examples:

٨- The painting is ugly.

٩- He thought the painting ugly.

٣- They can be premodified by the intensifier very, see the example below :

١٠- The children are very happy.

٤- They can take comparative and superlative forms. The comparison may be by means of inflections (-er and -est), or by the addition of the premodifiers more and most as in as in the following examples:

١١- The children are happier now.

١٢- They are the happiest people I know.

١٣- These students are more intelligent.

١٤- They are the most beautiful paintings I have ever seen.

(Quirk, Randolph et. al ١٩٨٥:٤٠٢-٤٠٣)

٢-٣- What are adverbs?

Richards, Jack C. and Schmidt, Richard (٢٠١٠: ١٤-١٥) defines adverb as a word that describes or adds to the meaning of a verb, an adjective, another adverb, or a sentence, and which answers such questions as how?, where?, or when?. In English many adverbs have an -ly ending. For example, adverbs of manner e.g. carefully, slowly, adverbs of place e.g. here, there, locally, and adverbs of time e.g. now, hourly, yesterday. A phrase or clause which functions as an adverb is called an adverb phrase or adverb clause.

Adverbs are words that usually modify the meaning of verbs. They may also modify adjectives, other adverbs, phrases, or even entire sentences. An adverb answers the question when?, where?, how?, how much?, how long?, or how often?. Most adverbs are formed by adding -ly to an adjective. If the adjective already ends in -y, the -y becomes -i.

bold / boldly

solid / solidly

interesting / interestingly

heavy / heavily

unnecessary / unnecessarily

There are, however, many common adverbs that do not end in -ly, such as again, also, just, never, often, soon, today, too, very, and well. The words

when, where, why, and how are called interrogative adverbs when they begin a question.

١٥- When did the event occur?

١٦- Where is the proof?

١٧- Why was he so late?

١٨- How did they get here? ٢

Chapter Three

Analysis

3-1- Introduction

In the this chapter, the researcher analyses Oscar Wilde's *The Happy Prince*. According to the analysis of the story there are 160 of adjectives and adverbs in the analysed text. The following table demonstrates the frequency rates of the linguistic categories analysed text:

Table (3-1) indicates the number and Percentage rate of adjectives and adverbs in the text.

Total		Adjectives		Adverbs	
NO	%	NO	%	NO	%
160	100	120	75	40	25

The previous table indicates that the number and Percentage rate of adjectives (120), (75%) respectively, are more than adverbs (40) , (25%) in analyzed the text.

3-2- Data Analysis of Adjectives:-

Before starting on data analysis which is the ultimate aim of the current study, we will set adjectives and their types, frequencies and percentages which are found in the analysed text in the following table:

**Table (۳-۲) adjective and their Frequency and Percentage
in Oscar Wilde's *The Happy Prince***

No.	Adjectives	Types	Frequency	Percentage
۱	Happy	Descriptive	۱۴	۱۲
۲	Little	Descriptive	۱۳	۱۱
۳	Beautiful	Descriptive	۷	۶
۴	Poor	Descriptive	۷	۶
۵	Great	Descriptive	۵	۴.۱۶
۶	Fine	Descriptive	۴	۳.۳۳
۷	Large	Descriptive	۳	۲.۵
۸	White	Descriptive	۳	۲.۵
۹	Wonderful	Descriptive	۳	۲.۵
۱۰	Thin	Descriptive	۲	۱.۶
۱۱	Red	Descriptive	۲	۱.۶
۱۲	Yellow	Descriptive	۲	۱.۶
۱۳	Golden	Descriptive	۲	۱.۶
۱۴	Tall	Descriptive	۲	۱.۶
۱۵	Warm	Descriptive	۲	۱.۶
۱۶	Square	Descriptive	۲	۱.۶
۱۷	Tired	Descriptive	۲	۱.۶
۱۸	Marvelous	Descriptive	۲	۱.۶
۱۹	Shabby	Descriptive	۲	۱.۶
۲۰	Serve	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۲۱	Unpractical	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۲۲	Attracted	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۲۳	Slender	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۲۴	Silver	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳

۲۵	Ridiculous	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۲۶	Lonely	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۲۷	Afraid	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۲۸	Flirting	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۲۹	Graceful	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۳۰	Domestic	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۳۱	Fresh	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۳۲	Sensible	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۳۳	Curious	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۳۴	Dreadful	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۳۵	Polite	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۳۶	Gilded	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۳۷	Open	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۳۸	Glad	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۳۹	Painted	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۴۰	Cold	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۴۱	Useful	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۴۲	Lazy	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۴۳	Copper	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۴۴	Admired	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۴۵	Bright	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۴۶	Delicious	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۴۷	Good	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۴۸	Chill	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۴۹	Pink	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۵۰	Keen	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۵۱	Disappointed	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳
۵۲	Blind	Descriptive	۱	۰.۸۳

٥٣	Bright	Descriptive	١	٠.٨٣
٥٤	Rich	Descriptive	١	٠.٨٣
٥٥	Black	Descriptive	١	٠.٨٣
٥٦	Grey	Descriptive	١	٠.٨٣
٥٧	Clean	Descriptive	١	٠.٨٣
٥٨	Dead	Descriptive	١	٠.٨٣
Total			١٢٠	١٠٠٪

Oscar Wilde's *The Happy Prince* written in simple form with simple words and clear meaning. It demonstrates a number of features of that society which is talked about through the use of adjectives which enables the readers to measure the reality embedded in the text of the short story. All the adjectives in the short story are organized in the previous table. The table indicates that the number and percentage rate of adjectives (١٢٠), (٧٥٪) respectively, are higher than adverbs in the analysed text. The author uses (٥٨) adjectives with frequency (١٢٠) and they are related to different types of adjectives.

The adjective *happy* is the highest use in the story which comes in (١٤) frequency with (١٢٪) percentage. This highest uses indicates that this relates to important thing in the story, The adjective *happy* uses to describe the state of hero of the story who is the happy prince. See the following examples:

١٩- '... stood the statue of the *Happy* Prince.'

٢٠- 'Why can't you be like the *Happy* Prince?'

٢١- 'The *Happy* Prince never dreams of crying for anything.'

٢٢- 'I am the *Happy* Prince.'

The adjectives(happy) in the previous examples (١٩-٢٢) are used by the writer to describe the state of the prince. This adjective uses in attributive function as (Quirk, Randolph et. al ١٩٨٥: ٤٠٢) state that can freely occur in attributive function, when they occur before a noun, appearing between the determiner and the head of a noun. Other use of the adjective (happy) in the following example:

٢٣- 'I am glad there is someone in the world who is quite *happy*' ,

The adjective (happy) in example (٢٣) uses as a predicative function since it uses after a linking verb that is (is) as Cruse, Alan (٢٠٠٦: ٨) states that when an adjective comes before a verb, it will be called predicative adjective.

Another important use of adjective is the adjective *little*. This adjective uses to describe other characters in the story which are the swallow and the boy. The swallow uses to spread the happiness to the poor people by taking things from the statue of the happy and give them to the poor people. See the following examples from the selected sections:

٢٤- One night there flew over the city a *little* swallow.

٢٥- Swallow, swallow, *little* swallow, will you not bring her the ruby out of my sword-hit?.

٢٦- Swallow, swallow, *little* swallow, said the prince , " will you not stay with me for one night , and be my messenger?.

٢٧- " but the happy prince looked so sad that the *little* swallow sorry. "It is very cold here," he said ; " but I will stay with you for one night, and be your messenger." "Thank you, *little* swallow," said the prince .

In examples (٢٤-٢٧) the adjectives (*little*) are used to talk about the little swallow. In all or the previous examples, it uses in attributive function. Another use of adjective (little) in the following example:

٢٨- "In a bed in the corner of the room her *little* boy is lying ill."

In the previous example the adjective (*little*) uses to describe the poor boy that wait for the swallow to bring them something. The swallow in the story represents as a messenger of peace and help poor people to take from the prince's statue and give it to the people.

Adjectives *beautiful* and *poor* are come with (٧) frequency and (٦٪) percentage for each one. These adjective are used in the story to describes things and people. As in the following examples:

٢٩- " for he was in love with the most *beautiful* reed."

٣٠- "A *beautiful* girl came out on the balcony with her lover."

٣١- "... the *beautiful* sapphire lying on the withered violets."

In the previous examples (٢٩-٣١) the adjective (*beautiful*) uses by the writer of the story to describe people and things. These adjective are used as a descriptive adjective and as attributive function.

Another important adjective in the story which related to the theme of the story that is adjective (*poor*) as in the examples bellow:

٣٢- "..... there is a poor house."

In example (٣١) the adjective (*poor*) uses by the writer to describe the people who are poor and need the most basic rights. It uses as a descriptive adjective and as attributive function.

Other adjectives uses by the writer to describe the statue of the happy prince or the suffering of people. Also they use to talk about the government system in that city. Some adjectives use to describe the human side of the prince and the good side of the swallow.

۳-۳- Data Analysis of Adverbs:-

Concerning adverbs the author uses (۴۰) frequency of adverbs with (۲۰%) percentage of the linguistic elements which are talked about in the study. See the following table:

Table (۳-۳) adverbs and their Frequency and Percentage in Oscar Wilde's *The Happy Prince*

No.	Adverbs	Types	Frequency	Percentage
۱-	Away	Place	۸	۲۰
۲-	Quite	Manner	۶	۱۵
۳-	Indeed	Manner	۲	۵
۴-	Over	Time	۲	۵
۵-	Always	Frequency	۲	۵
۶-	High above	Time	۱	۲.۵
۷-	So	Degree	۱	۲.۵
۸-	Really	Degree	۱	۲.۵
۹-	Early	Time	۱	۲.۵
۱۰-	At once	Time	۱	۲.۵
۱۱-	Far	Time	۱	۲.۵
۱۲-	Consequently	Manner	۱	۲.۵
۱۳-	Finally	Time	۱	۲.۵
۱۴-	At night time	Time	۱	۲.۵
۱۵-	There	Place	۱	۲.۵

١٦-	Softly	Manner	١	٢.٥
١٧-	Under	Time	١	٢.٥
١٨-	Yet	Conjunctive	١	٢.٥
١٩-	Faraway	Time	١	٢.٥
٢٠-	Balcony	Time	١	٢.٥
٢١-	Ready	Manner	١	٢.٥
٢٢-	At last	Time	١	٢.٥
٢٣-	Feverishly	Manner	١	٢.٥
٢٤-	Lazily	Manner	١	٢.٥
٢٥-	Lovely	Manner	١	٢.٥
Total			٤٠	١٠٠

The writer uses adverb *away* (١) frequency with (٢٠٪) percentage of the total number of the adverbs which are used in the story. This use may refer to the distance between those who have responsibilities and the ordinary people. Another one that the use of adjective *quite* which come with (٦) frequency and (١٥٪) percentage of the total number of the adverbs. This use is somehow related to the use of *away* as it uses to describe the state of the ordinary people who were suffering from hungry, poverty and deprivation because of the negligence of officials. Other adverbs use to refer and shows time and place to describe events in the story. This use may refer to the change and transition in life happen from case to case. See the following examples:

٢٣- "his friends had gone *away* to Egypt..."

٢٤- " he had met her *early* in the spring..."

٢٥- " will you come *away* with me."

੨੬- " you have *quite* drenched me."

੨੭- "*far away* continued the statue..."

੨੮- "*At last* he came to the poor house.."

੨੯- " Thinking *always* made him sleepy

Chapter Four

Conclusions

Conclusions

This paper illustrates the usefulness of adjective and adverb in the analysis of texts as a way of exploring hidden meaning. The researcher sees at the end of the analysis that adjectives in the text reveals higher rates than adverbs as in the use of adjectives (١٢٠) (٧٥%) while adverbs (٤٠) (٢٥%). From the results one can conclude that the author uses simple word in the story in order to be obvious and clear in meaning and be understood to all the readers specially young ages. The author writes the story to give moral lesson for those who are in the responsibility position to take care of people and give them their rights in life. Everything will end in the world, and the official will not remain in his position and his position will removed from him and will remain only the good deeds of him.

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Notes

- 1- [https://www.learn cram.com/english-summary/the-happy-prince summary/](https://www.learn cram.com/english-summary/the-happy-prince-summary/)
- 2- <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/grammar/britishgrammar/adjectives> 2.
- 3- <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/adverb>