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Polar Antonym in Literary Texts

A Paper

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

فَأَصْحَابُ الْمَيْمَنَةِ مَا أَصْحَابُ الْمَيْمَنَةِ (8) وَأَصْحَابُ الْمَشْأَمَةِ مَا أَصْحَابُ الْمَشْأَمَةِ (9)

(صدق الله العلي العظيم)

(سورة الواقعة - 56)

In the Name of Allah , Most Gracious, Most Merciful

*(First) those on the right hand; what of those on the right hand? (8) And
(then) those on the left hand; what of those on the left hand?*

(Ali, 1987:56)

Allah spoke the truth

**To
my family**

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Abstract

This paper tries to shed light on polar antonyms in literary texts. It aims at (1) finding out the definition of an Antonym. (2) Pinpointing out the types of Antonyms. (3) Specifying the most dominant type of Antonyms in a literary text. Consequently, it hypothesizes that: (1) An Antonym is a word with the exact opposite meaning to another. Common antonyms are often adjectives and adverbs with a word they directly oppose (2) There are three types of Antonyms. (3) polar antonym is the most preponderant type in the happy prince. Finally, this paper comes up with the following conclusions: 1. An antonym is a word with the opposite meaning to another word. For example, an antonym for 'good' is 'bad', and an antonym for 'hot' is 'cold'. It validates the first hypothesis. 2. There are three types of antonyms: gradable antonyms(Polar) , complementary antonyms and Converse Antonyms . It validates the second hypothesis. 3. Polar Antonym is the most preponderant type in the happy prince. It validates the third hypothesis.

Key words : Polar Antonym , Types. happy prince

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Chapter One

Introduction

1.1 The Problem

Semantics is the subfield that studies meaning. It can address meaning in words, phrases, sentences, or larger discourse units. A word is a speech sound or a combination of sounds, or its representation in writing, that symbolizes and communicates a meaning. It also has relations such as s hyponyms, metonyms, homonyms, synonyms, and antonyms. Antonym is a paradigmatic lexical relation between two lexemes opposite in meaning, such as big/little, female/male, and down/up. Antonym represents opposite semantic relation between a word and the other word or among words in the same part of speech, such as tall-short (adjective - adjective) and quickly-slowly (adverb- adverb). This paper tries to answer these questions

1-What is meant by Antonym ?

2-What are the types of Antonyms ?

3- Which types are most used in the literary text (Happy Prince)?

1.2 Aims

In light of the questions mentioned above, the present study tries to achieve the following aims:

1-Finding out the definition of An antonym.

2-Revealing the types of antonyms.

3- pinpointing the most dominant type of antonyms in the Happy Prince.

1.3 Hypotheses

It hypothesizes that :

- 1-An antonym is a word that means the opposite of another word.
- 2- There are three types of Antonyms :
- 3- Polar Antonym is the most preponderant type in the happy prince .

1.4 Procedures

To achieve the aims of the study and verify its hypotheses, the following steps will be adopted:

- 1-Presenting a theoretical background about Antonym in English.
- 2- Analyzing Literary Texts, especially in the happy prince, according to the information developed by the researcher, followed by a statistical analysis of the results.
- 3-Drawing some conclusions to estimate the validity of the hypotheses of the current work.

1.5 Limits

The study is limited to investigating the concept of antonym and its type in Literary Texts(the happy prince).

1.6 Value

The current study is hoped to be of value to those interested in linguistics and literary studies.

Chapter Two

Theoretical Background

2.1 Definitions of Antonym.

The term antonym is derived from Greek and may be split down into "anti," which means opposite, and "onym," which means name. An antonym is a term that means the opposite of another word(Saeed, 2003: 66).

An antonym is a semantic relationship between two words with opposite, opposition, or contrasting meanings, and the link between the two words is two-way(Chaer, 2012: 291).

According to Alwasilah (2011: 314), antonymy refers to the opposing meaning in lexical pairs such as "high: low." Additionally, antonyms are pairs of words with opposite meanings.

As per (Finch ,2000: 151) antonymy is a sense relation which exists between words which are opposite in meaning, or sense .

Antonyms are words that mean the opposite of other words. For example, the antonym of short is tall (Murphy and Andrew, 1993 :17). The exact meaning in the following definition, antonymy refers to words with opposite meanings. These are usually in pairs: hot/cold, tall/short, and loud/quiet (Web Source 1) .

2.1 Types of Antonyms

2.1.1 Gradable antonyms(Polar)

Polar antonyms form a sub-type of antonym . Such as “heavy / light , fast / slow , deep /shallow , thick/ thin) they denote relative values along a single dimension ,like length or weight , prototypically measured in conventional unit (Cruse , 2006:130).

Gradable antonyms can be referred to as ‘polar opposites’.Polar antonyms are "typically evaluatively neutral and objectively descriptive", as in "long"/ "short".(Cruse, 1986:p 204).

The most prevalent type of antonymy is gradable antonymy (polar). Antonym pairs such as hot/cold, big/small, and tall/short are gradable antonyms.They are mainly adjectives(Hu, 2001, :164).

Meyer (2009: 173) elucidates that adjectives such as “old and new” would be antonyms because they depict two extremes on the scale of age.

He adds that there are various linguistic devices that can be used to mark points between these two extremes. First, both these adjectives have comparative and superlative forms: older/oldest and newer/newest. Thus, one can say that X is newer or older than Y, or that X is the oldest and Y is the newest (ibid .) .

The comparative forms of polar antonyms are impartial . Something does not have to be short to be describable as shorter than something else , nor does something have to be heavy to be describable as heavier(Cruse , 2006 :130) .

Second, both adjectives can be preceded by degree adverbs, such as very and somewhat, indicating differing points on the scale of oldness and newness(ibid.) .

The gradable antonymy has three characteristics: first, as the name suggests, they are gradable; that is, the members of a pair differ in terms of degree. also means that if you deny one thing, you do not necessarily assert the other. Furthermore, the antonym pairs may have comparative and superlative degrees. For example, “good” and “bad” both of these two words have comparative and superlative degrees: “better”/“best” and “worse”/“worst.” (M. L. Murphy, 2003, p. 31).

Therefore, being not good is not necessarily bad, and being not bad is not necessarily good. Between “good” and “bad,” There is a degree that is “so-so.”

Second, antonyms of this kind are graded against different norms; the second feature means that there is no absolute criterion by which we tell an object is “big”, and another is “small.” The criterion is relative but not absolute . For example:a small car is always bigger than a big apple.(Lyons 1977, 275)

Third, one pair member, usually the term for the higher degree, serves as the cover term. (Hu, 2001:164). As for the third characteristic, one of the antonym pairs is the cover term known as “unmarked.” “Unmarked” is used more widely than “marked.”

We may ask, “how old are you” or “how tall is she” instead of “how young are you” or “how short is she.” In that, “old” and “tall” are cover terms, “unmarked”; and “young” and “short” are marked. The distinction between “unmarked” and “marked” reflects the potential value system of the speech community. People want to be tall rather than short(ibid.).

2.1.2 Complementary antonyms

Also known as direct antonyms or contradictory antonyms, complementary antonyms are related words that are absolute opposites. They exist independently from one another and do not need the other term to exist. Examples of complementary antonyms include “night and day” and “inhale and exhale.”(web source 1).

In the same vein (Aarts, Chalker& Weiner,2014: 78) define a complementary antonym as one of a pair of words with opposite meanings, where the two meanings do not lie on a continuous spectrum. There is no continuous spectrum between odd and even, but they are opposite in meaning and are, therefore, complementary antonyms. Such as :include: mortal : immortal, exit : entrance, exhale : inhale, occupied : vacancy

Jones (2002:34-7) illustrates that complimentary antonyms are word pairs that have no degree of meaning. In other words, in complementary antonyms, there are no middle ground .as in the following examples: boy and girl, off and on, night and day, entrance and exit.

Complimentary antonyms also have three characteristics: first, they completely divide the whole of a semantic field. There is no middle ground between the two of them. The essence of a pair of complementaries is that between them, they exhaustively divide some conceptual domain into two mutually exclusive compartments so that what does not fall into one must necessarily fall into the other(Cruse 1986, 198).

For example, in the word (dead/ live), a person is not dead; s/he must be alive; If dead exists, then one is not alive. There is no word to be existed between dead and alive. (Lyons,1977: 272).

Second, the norm in this type is absolute; it is the same when used for all the things it applies. Complementary antonyms are related words that are absolute opposites. They exist independently and do not need the other term to exist. Examples of this type include “night and day” and “inhale and exhale.” (Web source3)

Third, there is no cover term for the two members of a pair. (Hu,2001:170)
As for the third characteristic, there is no cover term or covered term in the complementary antonymy. We can not ask about somebody's sex, like age. It means we cannot say "how boy/male is it" like "how old are you." We should ask, "Is it a boy or a girl." That is a normal question.

2.1.3 Converse Antonymy

The antonym pairs like husband/wife, doctor/patient, teacher/student, buy/sell, above/below, and employer/employee are converse antonymy.

They show a reversal relationship. A is B's husband means B is A's wife. A is B's doctor means B is A's patient. A is B's teacher means B is A's student. It is also known as relational opposites(ibid.).

In linguistics, converses or relational antonyms are pairs of words that refer to a relationship from opposite points of view, such as parent/child or borrow/lend. The relationship between such words is called a converse relation (Web Source 2).

Converses can be understood as a pair of words where one word implies a relationship between two objects. In contrast, the other implies the existence of the same relationship when the objects are reversed(ibid.).

Egan (1968:216) describes these antonym pairs as pairs of words with such a relationship that one cannot be used without suggesting the other.

Therefore, there is a huge difference between converse antonymy and the other two subtypes of antonymy; one should presuppose the other as for the two members involved in an antonym pair. If there is a buyer, there must be a seller (*ibid.*).

Chapter Three

Data Analysis and Discussion

3.1 Data Analysis

Polar Antonyms

Text 1

High above the city, on a tall column, stood the statue of the Happy Prince. He was gilded all over with thin leaves of fine gold, for eyes he had two bright sapphires, and a large red ruby glowed on his sword-hilt.

He was very much admired indeed. “He is as beautiful as a weathercock,”(wilde.1888,p3)

Gradable antonym (polar) is evident in the above speech in “ beautiful” to give a sufficient description of the statue of the happy prince and the word “happy”, which depicts the prince himself.

Text 2

Why can't you be like the Happy Prince?" asked a sensible mother of her little boy who was crying for the moon. "The Happy Prince never dreams of crying for anything."(ibid .4) .

Gradable antonym (polar) is evident in the above speech in “ happy” to give a sufficient description of the statue of the happy prince .

Text 3

One night there flew over the city a little Swallow. His friends had gone away to Egypt six weeks before, but he had stayed behind, for he was in love with the most beautiful Reed(ibid .) .

In the above text, a good description of the swallow is “little,” Another illustration uses the word “ beautiful”, which refers to a reed.

Text4

I will put up there,” he cried; “it is a fine position, with plenty of fresh air.” So he alighted just between the feet of the Happy Prince(ibid .6) .

The word “ happy” is gradable –antonym . It refers to the prince himself .

Text 5

“I have a golden bedroom,” he said softly to himself as he looked round, and he prepared to go to sleep; but just as he was putting his head under his wing a large drop of water fell on him.“What a curious thing!” he cried; “there is not a single cloud in the sky, the stars are quite clear and bright, and yet it is raining. The climate in the north of Europe is really dreadful

The bird resorts to the statue to shelter from the rain, but he is surprised by raindrops falling on him, so the word “ large” describes the situation. Also,

“the stars are quite clear and bright”, There is a description of the weather as clear, “quiet”, “ clear”, “ bright”, and “ dreadful” are gradable antonyms.

Text 6

The eyes of the Happy Prince were filled with tears, and tears were running down his golden cheeks. His face was so beautiful in the moonlight that the little Swallow was filled with pity(ibid .7) .

In the above text, “ happy” describes the prince himself, “beautiful” refers to the prince, and finally, “little” refers to the bird.

Text 7

”I am the Happy Prince.”(ibid .8).

Gradable – antonym is evident in “ happy” which describes the prince himself .

Text 8

“When I was alive and had a human heart,” answered the statue, “I did not know what tears were, for I lived in the Palace of Sans-Souci, where sorrow is not allowed to enter. In the daytime I played with my companions in the garden, and in the evening I led the dance in the Great Hall. Round the garden ran a very lofty wall, but I never cared to ask what lay beyond it, everything about me was so beautiful. My courtiers called

me the Happy Prince, and happy indeed I was, if pleasure be happiness. So I lived, and so I died. And now that I am dead they have set me up here so high that I can see all the ugliness and all the misery of my city, and though my heart is made of lead yet I cannot chose but weep.”(ibid .) .

The happy prince utilizes gradable antonyms(polar), such as “great “, to describe the hall of the palace. He continues his speech by using “ beautiful” to clarify everything around him is good. Also, “ happy” is a polar antonym describing the prince himself. in addition, he uses the gradable antonym “ polar.” in this sentence, “I can see all the ugliness and all the misery of my city”, the word “ ugly” expresses that now he saw all the tragic cases in the city.

Text 9

“Far away,” continued the statue in a low musical voice, “far away in a little street there is a poor house.”(ibid .9) .

Again “ little” refers to the street here, and “poor” refers to the house.

Text 10

In a bed in the corner of the room her little boy is lying ill. He has a fever, and is asking for oranges. His mother has nothing to give him but river water, so he is crying. Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow, will you not bring her the ruby out of my sword-hilt? My feet are fastened to this pedestal and I cannot move.”(ibid .) .

During the conversation between the happy prince and the sparrow, The happy prince wants to help the low-income family. This situation is

embedded using the gradable – antonym “ little”, which refers to the boy. Again “ little” describes the bird.

Text 11

“But the Happy Prince looked so sad that the little Swallow was 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.(ibid .10) .

Many gradable antonyms “ happy”, “ sad” “ little”, “cold”, and again “ little” describe many things, such as swallow and weather as cold.

Text 12

So the Swallow picked out the great ruby from the Prince’s sword, and flew away with it in his beak over the roofs of the town.A beautiful girl came out on the balcony with her lover. “How wonderful the stars are,” he said to her, “and how wonderful is the power of love!”(ibid .11)

In sum, “ great” refers to the ruby,“ beautiful” refers to the girl, and “ wonderful” describes the stars in the sky.

Text 13

He passed over the river, and saw the lanterns hanging to the masts of the ships. He passed over the Ghetto, and saw the old Jews bargaining with each other, and weighing out money in copper scales. At last he came to the poor house and looked in. The boy was tossing feverishly on his bed, and the mother had fallen asleep, she

was so tired. In he hopped, and laid the great ruby on the table beside the woman's thimble. Then he flew gently round the bed, fanning the boy's forehead with his wings. "How cool I feel," said the boy, "I must be getting better"; and he sank into a delicious slumber(ibid .).

In the above text "old" describes Jews. "poor," tells the family status. Also, "great", "delicious", "cool", and better "are gradable antonyms.

Text 14

"Then the Swallow flew back to the Happy Prince, and told him what he had done. "It is curious," he remarked, "but I feel quite warm now, although it is so cold." "That is because you have done a good action," said the Prince. And the little Swallow began to think, and then he fell asleep. Thinking always made him sleepy.(ibid .12) .

Though the weather is cold, the swallow feels warm because he helps others. This idea is evident in words such as "cold", a polar antonym describing the weather. Also, another gradable antonym, "warm", describes the bird's status.

Text 15

When day broke he flew down to the river and had a bath. "What a remarkable phenomenon," said the Professor of Ornithology as he was passing over the bridge.

“A swallow in winter!” And he wrote a long letter about it to the local newspaper. Every one quoted it, it was full of so many words that they could not understand.(ibid .12-13) .

“ Long” and “ many” are gradable antonyms which describe the letter.

Text 16

“To-night I go to Egypt,” said the Swallow, and he was in high spirits at the prospect. He visited all the public monuments, and sat a long time on top of the church steeple. Wherever he went the Sparrows chirruped, and said to each other, “What a distinguished stranger!” so he enjoyed himself very much. When the moon rose he flew back to the Happy Prince. “Have you any commissions for Egypt?” he cried; “I am just starting.”(ibid .) .

The gradable antonym (polar) in the above speech, “high,” long,” and “ strange,” indicates the status of the bird during the journey.

Text 17

“I am waited for in Egypt,” said the Swallow. “My friends are flying up and down the Nile, and talking to the large lotus-flowers. Soon they will go to sleep in the tomb of the great King. “Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow,” said the Prince, “will you not stay with me for one night, and be my messenger? The boy is so thirsty, and the mother so sad.”(ibid .13-14) .

In the above conversation, “large”, “soon”, “great”, “ thirsty”, “sad “, and “little” are gradable antonyms.

Text 18

“Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow,” said the Prince, “far away across the city I see a young man in a garret. He is leaning over a desk covered with papers, and in a tumbler by his side there is a bunch of withered violets. His hair is brown and crisp, and his lips are red as a pomegranate, and he has large and dreamy eyes. He is trying to finish a play for the Director of the Theatre, but he is too cold to write any more. There is no fire in the grate, and hunger has made him faint.(ibid .)

Again, “little” refers to the bird, “ young” refers to man, and “ large “ describes man’s eyes

Text 19

“Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow,” said the Prince, “do as I command you.”(ibid .15).

So he plucked out the Prince’s other eye, and darted down with it. He swooped past the match-girl, and slipped the jewel into the palm of her hand. “What a lovely bit of glass,” cried the little girl; and she ran home, laughing.

The first,” little”, refers to the bird, while the second refers to the girl.

Text 20

The young man had his head buried in his hands, so he did not hear the flutter of the bird's wings, and when he looked up he found the beautiful sapphire lying on the withered violets(ibid .).

"I am beginning to be appreciated," he cried; "this is from some great admirer. Now I can finish my play," and he looked quite happy.

During the bird's trip, The bird throws beautiful sapphire to the young man to help him to finish his play as the prince orders the bird. So ,”young “ , beautiful”, “ great” , and “ happy” are gradable –antonyms .

Text 21

Then the Swallow came back to the Prince. "You are blind now," he said, "so I will stay with you always."

"No, little Swallow," said the poor Prince, "you must go away to Egypt."(ibid .18).

During the conversation between the happy prince and the bird, the bird decides to stay with the prince, as the prince is now blind but refuses." Poor is gradable –antonym refers to the prince.

Text 22

All the next day he sat on the Prince's shoulder, and told him stories of what he had seen in strange lands.

He told him of the red ibises, who stand in long rows on the banks of the Nile, and catch gold-fish in their beaks; of the Sphinx, who is as old as the

world itself, and lives in the desert, and knows everything; of the merchants, who walk slowly by the side of their camels, and carry amber beads in their hands; of the King of the Mountains of the Moon, who is as black as ebony, and worships a large crystal; of the great green snake that sleeps in a palm-tree, and has twenty priests to feed it with honey-cakes; and of the pygmies who sail over a big lake on large flat leaves, and are always at war with the butterflies.(ibid .18-19).

In brief, “Long”, “ old”, “slow”, large”, “ great “, “ big”, and “large” are gradable antonyms.

Text 23

So the Swallow flew over the great city, and saw the rich making merry in their beautiful houses, while the beggars were sitting at the gates. He flew into dark lanes, and saw the white faces of starving children looking out listlessly at the black streets. Under the archway of a bridge two little boys were lying in one another’s arms to try and keep themselves warm. “How hungry we are!” they said. “You must not lie here,” shouted the Watchman, and they wandered out into the rain.(ibid .19-20).

Gradable antonyms(polar) by using the word "great" to indicate the size of the city by describing it as great. Also, "beautiful "is a gradable antonym describing the city's houses. The word "dark" describes the bird's movement in dark lanes. In addition, "warm "and "hungry" are gradable – antonyms; the former refers to the state of boys. In contrast, the latter indicates that these boys are hungry.

Text 24

The poor little Swallow grew colder and colder, but he would not leave the Prince, he loved him too well. He picked up crumbs outside the baker's door when the baker was not looking and tried to keep himself warm by flapping his wings(ibid .21).

In the above speech, "poor" and "little" is gradable antonyms, which describe the Swallow. "colder" is a polar antonym describing the weather. Also, another gradable antonym, "warm ", describes the bird's status.

Text 25

And he kissed the Happy Prince on the lips, and fell down dead at his feet.

At that moment a curious crack sounded inside the statue, as if something had broken. The fact is that the leaden heart had snapped right in two. It certainly was a dreadfully hard frost.(ibid .22).

Gradable antonym is evident in “ happy” and “curious,” which describes the prince himself and his heart.

Text 26

“The ruby has fallen out of his sword, his eyes are gone, and he is golden no longer,” said the Mayor in fact, “he is little better than a beggar!”

“Little better than a beggar,” said the Town Councillors.(ibid .).

The above text describes the prince's state after he donated everything he owned to help others. This idea is evident in the above conversation, especially in "little "better "and "longer."

Text 27

“What a strange thing!” said the overseer of the workmen at the foundry. “This broken lead heart will not melt in the furnace. We must throw it away.” So they threw it on a dust-heap where the dead Swallow was also lying.(ibid .23-24).

The gradable antonym (polar) in the above speech, "strange," describes the Swallow's fate during the journey.

Text 28

“Bring me the two most precious things in the city,” said God to one of His Angels; and the Angel brought Him the leaden heart and the dead bird.

“You have rightly chosen,” said God, “for in my garden of Paradise this little bird shall sing for evermore, and in my city of gold the Happy Prince shall praise me.(ibid .24).

In the above conversation, “ little” and “happy ” are gradable antonyms. Little describes the bird. While happy, which describes the prince.

Non –gradable Antonyms

Text 1

”Why can’t you be like the Happy Prince?” asked a sensible mother of her little boy who was crying for the moon. “The Happy Prince never dreams of crying for anything”.(ibid .4).

During the conversation between the mother and her son, she tells him that it is better to be like the prince because he always seems happy, so the word "boy", which describes the son's age, is a non-gradable antonym..

Text 2

“ I am glad there is some one in the world who is quite happy,” muttered a disappointed man as he gazed at the wonderful statue(ibid .).

Non-Gradable antonym is evident in the above speech in which “ man” refers to one of the town councillors.

Text3

”He looks just like an angel,” said the Charity Children as they came out of the cathedral in their bright scarlet cloaks and their clean white pinafores.(ibid .).

In the above speech, the Children use the non-gradable antonym “angel” to describe the statue of the happy prince. Also, the word “white” is a non-gradable antonym.

Text 4

“ One night there flew over the city a little Swallow. His friends had gone away to Egypt six weeks before, but he had stayed behind, for he was in love with the most beautiful Reed. He had met her early in the spring as he was flying down the river after a big yellow moth, and had been so attracted by her slender waist that he had stopped to talk to her.(ibid .).

A complementary antonym is evident in the above speech in "night" to describe the period. Also, "before" refers to the bird's friend's duration journey.

Text 5

“After they had gone he felt lonely, and began to tire of his lady-love. “She has no conversation,” he said, “and I am afraid that she is a coquette, for she is always flirting with the wind.” And certainly, whenever the wind blew, the Reed made the most graceful curtseys. “I admit that she is domestic,” he continued, “but I love travelling, and my wife, consequently, should love travelling also”.(ibid .5).

The bird feels lonely because his friends have left him, so In the above speech, the non-gradable antonym “after ” expresses that the swallow feels lonely, and the word “ domestic.”

Text 6

You have been trifling with me,” he cried. “I am off to the Pyramids. Good-bye!” and he flew away.All day long he flew, and at night-time he

arrived at the city. “Where shall I put up?” he said; “I hope the town has made preparations.”(ibid .6).

In the above conversation, “day ”and “night ” are non-gradable antonyms which describes the journey of the swallow.

Text 7

“ I have a golden bedroom,” he said softly to himself as he looked round, and he prepared to go to sleep; but just as he was putting his head under his wing a large drop of water fell on him. “What a curious thing!” he cried; “there is not a single cloud in the sky, the stars are quite clear and bright, and yet it is raining. The climate in the north of Europe is really dreadful(ibid).

The bird describes the weather as quite clear, but some drops of water fell on him . the word “north” is a non-gradable antonym that describes the weather in Europe. Also , the word “ single” is non-gradable antonym describes the cloud .

Text 8

“When I was alive and had a human heart,” answered the statue, “I did not know what tears were, for I lived in the Palace of Sans-Souci, where sorrow is not allowed to enter. In the daytime I played with my companions in the garden, and in the evening I led the dance in the Great Hall. Round the garden ran a very lofty wall, but I never cared to ask what lay beyond it, everything about me was so beautiful. My courtiers called me the Happy Prince, and happy indeed I was, if pleasure be happiness. So

I lived, and so I died. And now that I am dead they have set me up here so high that I can see all the ugliness and all the misery of my city, and though my heart is made of lead yet I cannot chose but weep.”(ibid .8).

In the above speech, the happy prince uses non-gradable antonyms “**alive**” to express that he never felt sad during his life. He lived in a palace and enjoyed dancing and having fun.

Again, he uses the non-gradable antonym “dead” to say that the people made a statue for him once he died. He stood and watched all the poverty and sadness that filled the city, which he had not felt.

Text9

“Far away,” continued the statue in a low musical voice, “far away in a little street there is a poor house. One of the windows is open, and through it I can see a woman seated at a table. Her face is thin and worn, and she has coarse, red hands, all pricked by the needle, for she is a seamstress. She is embroidering passion- flowers on a satin gown for the loveliest of the Queen’s maids-of-honour to wear at the next Court-ball. In a bed in the corner of the room her little boy is lying ill. He has a fever, and is asking for oranges. His mother has nothing to give him but river water, so he is crying. Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow, will you not bring her the ruby out of my sword-hilt? My feet are fastened to this pedestal and I cannot move.”(ibid .9).

Non-Gradable antonym is evident in the above speech in “open” describes the window. Also, “woman” and “boy” are non-gradable antonyms.

Text 10

“I don’t think I like boys,” answered the Swallow. “Last summer, when I was staying on the river, there were two rude boys, the miller’s sons, who were always throwing stones at me. They never hit me, of course; we swallows fly far too well for that, and besides,(ibid .10).

In this speech, the bird expresses his hate to boys because they beat him with a stone, so “boys “ is non-gradable antonym in this speech.

Text 11

“But the Happy Prince looked so sad that the little Swallow was sorry. “It is very cold here,” he said; “but I will stay with you for one night, and be your messenger.”(ibid .10-11).

During the conversation between the happy prince and the Swallow, the non-gradable antonym “night” expresses the duration that the swallow will stay with the happy prince to help the poor people as the prince orders him.

Text 12

When day broke he flew down to the river and had a bath. “What a remarkable phenomenon,” said the Professor of Ornithology.(ibid .12).

In the above conversation, “day” is non-gradable antonyms. It refers to the duration.

Text 13

“To-night I go to Egypt,” said the Swallow, and he was in high spirits at the prospect. He visited all the public monuments, and sat a long time on top of the church steeple. Wherever he went the Sparrows chirruped, and said to each other, “What a distinguished stranger!” so he enjoyed himself very much.(ibid .13).

In this speech , “night” , “high” and “top ” are non -gradable antonyms in which the swallow expresses his journeyto Egypt.

Text 14

So he plucked out the Prince’s other eye, and darted down with it. He swooped past the match-girl, and slipped the jewel into the palm of her hand. “What a lovely bit of glass,” cried the little girl; and she ran home, laughing.(ibid .15).

Non-Gradable antonym is evident in the above speech in “girl ” refers to the girl that the bird helps her

Text 15

So the Swallow flew over the great city, and saw the rich making merry in their beautiful houses, while the beggars were sitting at the gates. He flew into dark lanes, and saw the white faces of starving children looking out listlessly at the black streets. Under the archway of a bridge two little boys

were lying in one another's arms to try and keep themselves warm. "How hungry we are!" they said. "You must not lie here," shouted the Watchman, and they wandered out into the rain.(ibid .19).

There is a good description of the people in town. Some of them are rich, while others are poor. In the above text, "white," "boys," and "black" are non-gradable antonyms.

Text 16

"I am going to the House of Death. Death is the brother of Sleep, is he not?" And he kissed the Happy Prince on the lips, and fell down dead at his feet(ibid .21).

Non-Gradable antonym is evident in the above speech in "dead," the swallow describes death as the brother of sleep because both are the same.

Text 17

"And here is actually a dead bird at his feet!" continued the Mayor. "We must really issue a proclamation that birds are not to be allowed to die here." (ibid .23).

This situation is embedded using the non-gradable antonym " dead," the swallow dead at the feet of the prince.

Text 18

"What a strange thing!" said the overseer of the workmen at the foundry. "This broken lead heart will not melt in the furnace. We must throw it

away.” So they threw it on a dust-heap where the dead Swallow was also lying

“Bring me the two most precious things in the city,” said God to one of His Angels; and the Angel brought Him the leaden heart and the dead bird.(ibid .23-24).

Non-Gradable antonym is evident in the above speech in “ dead” in brief, the heart of the prince and the dead bird are lying to gather.

The most precious things in the city are the leaden heart and the dead bird. In the above text, non-gradable antonym “ angels” and “dead “ the first refers to the speech of God to one of his angles and the second relates to the bird .

Converses (Relational) Antonyms

Text 1

High above the city, on a tall column, stood the statue of the Happy Prince. He was gilded all over with thin leaves of fine gold, for eyes he had two bright sapphires, and a large red ruby glowed on his sword-hilt.(ibid .3).

Reverse antonym is evident in the above speech in the “ above” description of the statue of thehappy prince, this statue stood high above the city, and he could see everything happening there.

Text 2

”He looks just like an angel,” said the Charity Children as they came out of the cathedral in their bright scarlet cloaks and their clean white pinafores.(ibid .4).

During their conversation about the statue of Happy prince , the word In “children” is converse (relational)antonym .

Text 3

Ah! but we have, in our dreams,” answered the children; and the Mathematical Master frowned and looked very severe, for he did not approve of children dreaming.(ibid .).

During the conversation between children and in theMathematical Master the word “children” isrelational antonyms .

Text4

“It is a ridiculous attachment,” twittered the other Swallows; “she has no money, and far too many relations”; and indeed the river was quite full of Reeds. Then, when the autumn came they all flew away. After they had gone he felt lonely, and began to tire of his lady-love. “She has no conversation,” he said, “and I am afraid that she is a coquette, for she is always flirting with the wind.” And certainly, whenever the wind blew, the Reed made the most graceful curtseys. “I admit that she is domestic,” he continued, “but I love travelling, and my wife, consequently, should love travelling also.”(ibid .5).

In the above speech, the Swallow expresses his love to travel, mentioning that his wife also should love traveling. So, the word “wife” is a relational antonym.

Text5

“Alas! I have no ruby now,” said the Prince; “my eyes are all that I have left. They are made of rare sapphires, which were brought out of India a thousand years ago. Pluck out one of them and take it to him. He will sell it to the jeweller, and buy food and firewood, and finish his play.”(ibid .15).

The prince asks the bird to help the poor people during the trip. The prince has two sapphire eyes. The prince ordered the bird to pluck out one of them and hand it over to the poor writer so that the writer could sell it and get a large sum that enabled him to buy food and finish his play. In the above speech, relational antonyms “buy, “sell”.

Text6

So the Swallow plucked out the Prince’s eye, and flew away to the student’s garret. It was easy enough to get in, as there was a hole in the roof. Through this he darted, and came into the room. The young man had his head buried in his hands, so he did not hear the flutter of the bird’s wings, and when he looked up he found the beautiful sapphire lying on the withered violets.(ibid .).

One of the exciting senses that the prince orders the bird to do is to take the second sapphire and give it to the student. In the above speech, the “student “is a relational antonym.

Text7

“In the square below,” said the Happy Prince, “there stands a little match-girl. She has let her matches fall in the gutter, and they are all spoiled. Her father will beat her if she does not bring home some money, and she is crying. She has no shoes or stockings, and her little head is bare. Pluck out my other eye, and give it to her, and her father will not beat her.(ibid .17).

In the above speech, the happy prince asks the bird to help the girl who sells matches. The matches fall into the gutter, and she cries because her father will punish her. So, please give her a second eye so her father will not punish her. The word “below “ and “father “ are relational antonyms.

Text8

Leaf after leaf of the fine gold the Swallow picked off, till the Happy Prince looked quite dull and grey. Leaf after leaf of the fine gold he brought to the poor, and the children’s faces grew rosier, and they laughed and played games in the street. “We have bread now!” they cried.(ibid .20).

The bird told the prince strange and wondrous stories, but the prince ordered the bird to fly over his city. The bird saw the poor and rich people. Then told the prince about the state of poor people. The prince told the bird to take the prince's golden leaf to help poor people. Relational antonym is evident in the above speech in "children."

Text9

Early the next morning the Mayor was walking in the square below in company with the Town Councillors. As they passed the column he looked up at the statue: "Dear me! how shabby the Happy Prince looks!" he said.

In the morning, Mayer sees the statue is shabby. (ibid .22).

In the above speech, relational antonyms "below" refers to the location of the statue.

3.2 Statistical Analysis

Table (1) : The Overall Frequencies and Percentages of the Antonym and its types as used in the happy prince .

Types of Antonym	Frequency	Percentages
Polar Antonyms	84	66,1%
Non –gradable Antonyms	32	25,1%
Relational Antonyms	11	8%
Total	127	

The above table shows polar antonym scores (84) with the percentage (of 66,1%). As for the non-gradable antonym scores (32) frequency with a percentage (25,1%). Finally, relational antonym scores (11) frequency with the ratio (8%). Thus, the polar antonym gets the highest percentage.

Chapter Four

Conclusions

4.1 Conclusions

The study has arrived at the following conclusions:

1. An antonym is a type of word that has the opposite meaning to another word. For example, an antonym for 'good' is 'bad', and an antonym for 'hot' is 'cold'. It validates the first hypothesis .
2. There are three types of antonyms: gradable antonyms(Polar), complementary antonymsandConverse Antonyms. It validates the second hypothesis.
3. Polar Antonym is the most preponderant type in the happy prince . It validates the third hypothesis.

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