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The Use of Conditional Sentence in the Short Story "Who Ate the Bread?"

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ABSTRACT

Conditional sentence is one of the important structures in English that expresses cause-and-effect relationship based on certain conditions. This research uses qualitative method with literature study approach and content analysis. Data were collected from short story texts, scientific journals, and online sources, then analyzed descriptively through the identification and classification of conditional sentences. The results show that this short story contains various types of conditional sentences, such as zero, first, second, and third conditional, which play a role in building the storyline, characterizing the characters, and strengthening the moral message. The use of conditional sentences not only enriches the narrative, but also helps readers understand the various possibilities and consequences in the story. This finding confirms the importance of mastering conditional sentences in English language learning, especially in analyzing literary texts.

Keywords: Conditional Sentence, Short Story, Text Analysis, Literature Study, English, Literary Narrative

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INTRODUCTION

A conditional sentence is one of the most important structures in the English language that functions to express cause-and-effect relationships based on certain conditions. This structure is not only used in daily communication, but also has a strategic role in literary works, especially short stories. In narratives, conditional sentences can enrich meaning, express hope, regret, or possibility, and help build the dynamics of the story and character more deeply. Therefore, the use of conditional sentences in short stories is an interesting topic to be studied in depth.

The study of the use of conditional sentences in literary texts makes an important contribution to understanding how language is used as a means of expression, conveying ideology, and shaping culture in literary works. Through the language analysis approach, researchers can reveal the implied meaning, pragmatic functions, and sentence structure patterns that support the delivery of messages in the story. Thus, studying conditional sentences in the context of short stories can broaden insights into the role of language in building narratives and characterization of characters.

In general, a conditional sentence is a sentence that contains a condition that affects a certain outcome or consequence, usually preceded by a conjunction such as "if" (seandainya), 'if' (jika), or "if" (kalau). These sentences have various types, such as zero, first, second, and third conditional, each of which has a different function and pragmatic meaning. The use of conditional sentences in short stories not only enriches the variety of language, but also reflects the characters' attitudes, expectations, and inner conflicts.

This study aims to examine the form, function, and meaning of conditional sentences in the short story "Who Ate the Bread?" by Ana Sakinah, as well as how these sentences play a role in building the storyline and character development. The focus of the study is on the pragmatic and syntactic analysis of conditional sentences in the context of the narrative of the short story.

Based on this background, the problem formulation in this research is how the forms of conditional sentences that appear in the short story "Who Ate the Bread", what types of conditional sentences are used, and how the function of conditional sentences in supporting the development of plot and character. These questions are the basis for exploring the role of conditional sentences as language elements that are not only structural, but also have important pragmatic functions in literary works.

This research is limited to analyze the conditional sentences contained in the short story "Who Ate the Bread?" by Ana Sakinah in the form of written text. The main focus is on the conditional sentences that appear in dialog and narration, with the approach of pragmatic analysis and language syntax. Semantic and sociocultural aspects are only discussed if they are relevant to the main focus of the research.

METHODS

This research uses a qualitative descriptive approach that focuses on analyzing the use of conditional sentences in the short story "Who Ate the Bread?" by Ana Sakinah. The data is obtained from the text of the short story which is available in written form.

Data collection is done by reading and identifying conditional sentences that appear in the dialog and narration of the story. In addition to reading the narrative, literature study was also conducted to strengthen the theoretical basis and support the data analysis process. The instruments used included a recording sheet to document the form and function of conditional sentences and transcription tools to facilitate text analysis.

The conditional sentences were classified based on commonly used types, such as zero, first, second, and third conditional. The analysis also includes the pragmatic functions of the conditional sentences in the context of the story, such as their role in building plot, developing characters, and conveying moral messages. Semantic and sociocultural aspects are also briefly discussed to provide a deeper understanding of the pragmatic function of conditional sentences in the short stories.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the analysis of the short story "Who Ate the Bread?" by Ana Sakinah, various forms and functions of conditional sentences are found which play an important role in building the storyline, characterizing the characters, and strengthening the moral message. The main findings of this research include:

- Types of Conditional Sentence Found:

This short story contains all four types of conditional sentences, namely zero, first, second, and third conditional, each of which appears in different contexts and serves to enrich the narrative (Lubis, 2020; Zhang & Wang, 2023).

Zero Conditional appears in the part where Han's father regularly puts bread on his son's grave. Sentences like, "If Han's father puts bread on the grave, the bread always becomes smaller the next day," not only hint at habit, but also build a magical atmosphere and Han's father's belief in his son's spiritual presence. This is in line with Lubis's (2020) idea that zero conditionals in literature are often used to build a character's habit or belief pattern.

First Conditional can be identified in Han's father's hope, such as, "If Han's father prepares the party well, Han will be happy." This structure shows optimism and hope, and emphasizes a logical cause and effect relationship in the narrative. According to Lubis (2018), the use of first conditionals in narrative texts is very effective in reinforcing characters' motivations and goals.

Second Conditiona appears in the part when Han chooses to go with the mysterious girl. Sentences like, "If Han were not attracted to the girl, he would not leave the party with her," highlight the hypothetical side and the choice that the character makes. The use of this type in short stories enriches the psychological dimension of characters and emphasizes the existence of alternative fates that could have happened, but did not materialize.

Third Conditional is strongly felt in Han's father's regret after losing his son. Reflections like, "If Han had not left with the girl, he would still be alive," reinforce the tragic feel and deep regret. Lubis (2020) states that the third conditional in literary works is often a tool to express inner conflicts, reflections, and regrets of characters about the past.

- Distribution in Narrative and Dialogue:

Conditional sentences are found in both narrative and dialogue, enriching story dynamics and strengthening characterization.

- Role in Plot and Character Development:

The consistent use of conditional sentences builds tension, clarifies character motivations, and reinforces the moral message the author wants to convey.

Conditional sentences in this short story play a very important role not only as a grammatical variation, but also as a narrative device that strengthens the dynamics of the story and characterization of the characters. An analysis of the use of various types of conditional sentences (zero, first, second, and third conditional) shows different but complementary functions in building the story structure and psychological depth of the characters.

- Grammatical and Narrative Functions of Conditional Sentences

The use of zero conditionals illustrates common patterns of habits and facts, in accordance with the views of Lubis (1994, 2015) and Tarigan (1987) who emphasize the importance of cohesion and coherence in a text. These sentences serve to establish the reality of the characters and strengthen the continuity of the storyline. In addition, the first conditional, which describes possible future actions and consequences, clearly shows the character's motivation and purpose, and adds tension to the narrative (Monaghan & Rowland, 2023).

The implementation of the second conditional provides space for the character's imagination and reflection regarding the possibility of an unrealized destiny, while deepening the psychological aspects of the story. This is in line with Lubis's (2018) view that conditional sentences function as pragmatic tools to explore deeper meaning and clarify cause-and-effect relationships in narratives. Finally, the third conditional is widely applied to convey regret and thoughts about the past, especially in Han's father figure, highlighting the complexity of internal conflict and deep emotional characterization (Lubis, 2020).

- Building Tension and Suspense

Conditional sentences effectively create suspense by offering a range of possibilities that could happen if the characters choose a different path. This adds depth to the storyline and increases the reader's emotional engagement, in line with Monaghan and Rowland's (2023) research that emphasizes the need to use conditional sentences in stories to strengthen text comprehension.

- Character Deepening and Emotional Expression

The use of conditional sentences, especially the third conditional, serves to express internal conflicts, hopes, and regrets of the characters. Han's father's dialogue with this sentence shows emotional and psychological depth that strengthens the characterization, making it more human and understandable to the reader, in accordance with Lubis' (2020) opinion.

- Conveying Moral Values and Social Reflection

The conditional sentence in this short story is also a tool to convey moral values and social reflection. The message of the importance of honesty, sincerity, and responsibility for choices made is conveyed indirectly through these sentences, encouraging readers to reflect on the consequences of various decisions. Azmi et al. (2023) views also support that literary texts have the ability to convey moral values through the effective use of language.

- Contribution to Language and Literature Learning

This analysis of conditional sentences in short stories has important implications for English language learning. Introducing conditional sentences in a narrative context enables students to develop analytical skills, critical thinking, and sensitivity to hidden meanings in literature. These findings support research by Monaghan & Rowland (2023) and Zhang & Wang (2023) which highlight the success of literary text-based learning in improving language proficiency and literary appreciation among students.

- Relevance to Real Life

Stories containing conditional sentences also offer lessons that are relevant to everyday reality. As Untoro and Tim Guru Indonesia (2019) point out, literary works provide lessons that every choice brings consequences, and regrets often arise after decisions are made. Thus, readers not only enjoy the narrative, but also gain valuable character lessons and life reflections.

As such, the conditional sentences in these short stories serve as multifunctional narrative tools, harmoniously combining grammatical, pragmatic, emotional and moral elements. It enriches the reading experience while making a positive contribution in the context of language and literature learning.

CONCLUSSION

The conclusion of this study shows that the use of conditional sentences in the short story "Who Ate the Bread?" by Ana Sakinah plays an important role in building the storyline, characterizing the characters, and conveying moral messages. Various types of conditional sentences (zero, first, second, and third conditional) are found in the narrative and dialog, each of which has a different pragmatic function, such as describing habits, expectations, possibilities, and regrets.

Conditional sentences not only enrich the variety of language in the story, but also deepen the reader's understanding of the possibilities and consequences faced by the characters. The use of this structure helps to create tension, strengthen the characters' emotions, and convey moral values and social reflections. In addition, the analysis of conditional sentences in literary texts proved effective in improving students' analytical, critical thinking and literary appreciation skills in English language learning.

So, mastering and understanding conditional sentences is very important, not only as a grammatical element, but also as a tool to enrich the meaning and message in literary works. This study confirms that the integration of conditional sentence analysis in literary text-based learning can improve learners' linguistic competence and literary appreciation in a more contextual and in-depth manner.

In order to optimize the benefits, it is recommended for English teachers and learners to integrate conditional sentence analysis in literary text-based learning more often. This can strengthen the understanding of language structure as well as foster appreciation of the moral values and life context contained in literary works.

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