

## INVESTIGATING THE USE OF ARTICLE ON SHERLOCK HOLMES: A STUDY IN SCARLET BY ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

Rizki Silvia Ariyani, Lilia Indriani

English Department, Faculty of Education and Teachers Training, Universitas Tidar  
Indonesia

rizki.silvia.ariyani@students.untidar.ac.id

### Abstract

Understanding the linguistic and literature pattern is essential for EFL students. The readers would know how to correctly use the part of speech in literature and the educational context. There are many types of speech, such as an article or known as a determiner. The article is a member of speech used with noun phrases to mark the identifiability of noun phrases' references. Sherlock Holmes is a fictional character that was created by a Scottish writer named Arthur Conan Doyle. Holmes is describing the prototype of the modern mastermind detective. In each novel, there is no doubt if the researcher will use one part of speech that dominates his/her novel. Whether it can be a verb, adjective, adverb, and even a straightforward form from the part of speech such as article or determiner, here, the researcher chooses to identify the use of an article in the novel Sherlock Holmes: A Study In Scarlet by Arthur Conan Doyle because researcher believes that study on the using of an article in a novel is still in short contact.

**Keywords:** Article, Corpus Linguistics, Sherlock Holmes

### Introduction

Reading is the part of the learning process where the readers try to get any information from the passage. Reading is also an activity that can enhance our knowledge and also understanding of something new. The readers can also learn from the reading activity, get any information, and even analyze something based on the particular context. In communication and composition, context refers to the words and sentences surrounding any part of a discourse, which helps determine its meaning. Sometimes called linguistic context. In a broader sense, context may refer to any aspects of an occasion in which a speech act occurs, including the social setting and the speaker's status, and the person who has addressed—sometimes called social context (Nordquist, 2020).

In education, especially for EFL students, students are often required to read many articles and scientific journals to find any new information or because the students have to analyze something such as the grammar structure, linguistic features, literature context, and others. That makes reading is something that cannot be separated from EFL students.

Articles are words such as “a/an” and “the” that defines whether a word is specific or general, singular or plural. It appears before the noun (Jabs, J. (-). Definite and Indefinite Article [PDF]. -: Montana State University Montana.). For example:

- **The** book I bought is interesting
- I bought **a** book
- I ate **an** apple

(University, A. (2014))

Then, talking about analyzing, it is an activity that is considering in detail and subject to an analysis to discover essential features or meaning about something. Here, the researcher decided to analyze



the use and analyze type of article or better known as a determiner in Sherlock Holmes's novel: A Study In Scarlet written by Arthur Conan Doyle. "The term determiner is utilized to portray the syntactic component that comes at starting a thing express. A determiner is a required component of a thing state, the as it were another mandatory part of which is the thing itself. Thing expressions are one of the constituents of a sentence. A thing cannot show up by itself: A determiner at the very least must follow it. Since any noun needs a determiner, it is no wonder that determiners are among the most widely used words in English." (Master, P. (2018).

Then, the researcher hopes that this article will enable the reader to discern the function and types of articles or determiner in a linguistic context.

### Methodology

This article is using a descriptive qualitative method. For this research, researchers will observe the data related to the topic, then describe the terms of article or determiner, the number of uses of the article such as "the," "an," and "an" in the novel Sherlock Holmes: A Study In Scarlet by Arthur Conan Doyle. Researches will be using PDF files or eBooks as the object of study to be analyzed and using an application to detect the words. Results from studies will be descriptive qualitative data of the uses of articles such as "a," "an," and also "the," then researchers will describe the function and the types of article that used in the novel. The study is also credited with data from journal articles, books, or websites to help researchers gather data and develop them into valid information.

### Findings and Discussion

According to Purdue Online Writing Lab College of Liberal Arts (2020) an Article is basically like an adjective because it modifies the nouns. In English, articles are divided into two: **The (definite article)** and **a/an (Indefinite article)**. "The" is used to refer to specific or particular nouns in a sentence, while "a/an" is used to refer to unspecific or non-particular nouns in a sentence.

These grammatical patterns are widely available in the literature. In comparison, the literature itself is a product of human thought and taste in writing. In this research, the researcher tries to analyzing one literary work called a novel. A novel is the art-form of virile maturity: this means that the completeness of the novel's world, if seen objectively, is an imperfection, and if subjectively experienced, it amounts to resignation. The danger by which the novel is determined is twofold: either the world's fragility (LUKÁCS, 2011).

There are many genres in novels, such as romance, comedy, horror, thriller, a slice of life, mystery, fiction, etc., and among all those genres, the researcher researching one of the novels with fiction genre. It is the work of a famous writer, Mr. Arthur Conan Doyle. He is the researcher of one of the famous novels called Sherlock Holmes. This novel tells about a genius detective called Sherlock Holmes. The novel itself has nine series there are: "A Study In Scarlet," "The Sign of the Four," "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes," "The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes," "The Return of Sherlock Holmes," "The Hound of the Baskervilles," "The Valley of Fear," "His Last Boy," and the last is "The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes."

Among all series, researchers have selected a series from the novels of Sherlock Holmes, the first series of the novel, "A Study In Scarlet." This story starts from the point of view of dr. Watson,



when he was coming home from the war in Afghanistan. After returning to Britain, his life began to go awry. He became unemployed and spent the rest of his money on leisure.

This continued until finally, he ran out of money and had to find a friend to share an apartment with. Poor Watson then meets his old friend, Stamford, who then introduces him to Sherlock Holmes. During his stay with Holmes, Watson kept trying to find out about Holmes and what he was doing. After several months, Holmes admitted that he was a private investigator, and government detectives and several police and forensic teams often came to ask for his help to solve dead-end cases. This story shows us how great Sherlock Holmes's deductive abilities are to solve a complicated murder case.

Based on the story, researchers try to find the use of "article" pattern in the novel, such as: "a/an" and "the." The researcher chooses to identify the use of an article in the novel *Sherlock Holmes: A Study In Scarlet* by Arthur Conan Doyle because the researcher believes that studying an article in a novel is still in short contact. Data on the number of use of articles can be found in the table below:

**Table 1. Total Frequency of the user of an article in the Novel "Sherlock Holmes: A Study In Scarlet"**

No.	Article	Frequency
1	A	1.012
2	The	2.545
3	An	134
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,726</b>	<b>3.691</b>

Based on the data above, the researcher found some words that are used the most, and of course, it contained an article. The data will be displayed in the table below. Example of the most word that is often used in the novel:

**Table 1. 2 Total Frequency of the most word that is used in the Novel "Sherlock Holmes: A Study In Scarlet"**

Article	Example	Frequency
A	A little	27
	A few	21
	A man	25
	A small	15
	A long	13
An	An hour	7
	An instant	4
	An old	4
	An empty	3
The	The man	40
	The door	34
	The house	28
	The case	18
	The young	17
	The little	16
	The window	13
	The first	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>The Brixton Road</b>	<b>307</b>



Researchers list the data above based on the alphabet and the most data, leading to the minor data. The purpose of these data sequences is that the reader can be better at processing the information and that data more organized. Based on the data, the use of articles such as "a/an" and "the" serves to define things, as well as adjectives. However, the majority of data is used to define nouns like "the man"; "the door"; "the house"; and so on.

### Conclusions

The article is a member of speech used with noun phrases to mark the identifiability of noun phrases' references. There are two types of articles. It is definite articles and indefinite articles. The functions of a definite article such as "the" are used to refer to a specific or particular noun in a sentence. In contrast, indefinite articles refer to unspecific or non-particular nouns in a sentence. This study is aimed to analyze the use of articles in the novel written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle entitled "Sherlock Holmes: A Study In Scarlet." Based on the research, researchers found that about 3.691 articles are used in the novel, but most of the articles are used to define the nouns or to describe a person.

### References

- Master, P. (2018). A Contrastive Study of Determiner Usage in EST Research Article. *International Journal of Language Studies*, 7, 1-27.
- Nordquist, R. (2020, February 5). *Context in Language: Glossary of Grammatical and Rhetorical Terms*. Retrieved April 04, 2021, from <https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-context-language-1689920>
- Jabs, J. (-). *Definite and Indefinite Article* [PDF]. -: Montana State University Montana.
- University, A. (2014). *Learning guide-articlesinenglishgrammar* [PDF]. North Terrace Campus, The University of Adelaide: University of Adelaide.
- Purdue Online Writing Lab, P. U. (2020). *How to use Articles (a/an/the)*. Retrieved May 19, 2021, from [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general\\_writing/grammar/using\\_articles.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/grammar/using_articles.html)
- Fvieira, R. (2018). *BCA-123-Basic-English* [PDF]. -: BCA-123-Basic-English. Retrieved May 24, 2021, from <https://rogeriofvieira.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/BCA-123-Basic-English.pdf>
- LUKÁCS, G. (2011). *The Theory of The Novel A historico-philosophical essay on the forms of great epic literature*. Retrieved May 24, 2021, from <https://analepsis.files.wordpress.com/2011/08/georg-lukacs-the-theory-of-the-novel.pdf>.
- Lee, Sophia. "A Study In Scarlet Plot Summary." *LitCharts*. LitCharts LLC, 17 Apr 2017. Web. 24 May 2021. Retrieved from <https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-study-in-scarlet/summary>
- Admin, B. (2020, March 12). *Book review: A Study In Scarlet by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*. Retrieved May 24, 2021, from <https://www.bookishelf.com/book-review-a-study-in-scarlet-by-sir-arthur-conan-doyle/>

