

INVESTIGATING PAST TENSE ON TWILIGHT NOVEL BY STEPHANIE MEYER

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Abstract

The novel is one of the literary works that are very popular in a whole society. For understanding novels, it is necessary to read the types of tense carefully. The researcher will analyze the past tense that appears in this novel. Past tense explains the events that occur in the past story that the character has experienced. Past tense is a word that indicates something that happened in the past. The word that often appears, for example, was yesterday, last week, and many others. In the novels, past tenses function as a marker of activities that occurred in the past. This research focuses on the dialogue contained in the novel. The use of past tense sentences is influential and shows when something happened so readers who use English as EFL can understand and apply. The purpose of this research is to analyze the past tense formula and the function.

Keywords: Corpus Linguistics, Novel, Past Tense

Introduction

Many aspects should be learned as EFL learners. As EFL learners, they could not worry about learning English as soon as possible as ESL learners. They live in a country where they communicate with the primary language of their country. As an EFL learner, he or she should master the four English skills; listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Based on Kurniasih (2011, p.73), these elements are appropriate for learning because they will use them in communication.

Learning English needs supporting material such as understanding grammar material. Based on Long's (1987) research, learning grammar is necessary because comprehension is not enough to make people master learning language. Besides that, learning grammar is essential to understand all of the language's meaning. Grammar refers to the rules of systematic relationships is used to organize a language and its meaning. Grammar uses to make meaning during reading, writing, listening, speaking, and viewing. (Annandale, 2005, p. 183).

The grammar lessons that general sense. The learner should know the tenses such as present tense, past tense, continuous tense, perfect tenses, and future tense. Tense is to a vital role in formulating the meaning of the sentence. According to Grain (2006), some tense is a tool that the speaker uses to express when something occurs in their language so the learner can learn to think like a native speaker.

One of the tenses is past tense. Past tense use is to represent the past accident that has finished. Sometimes the learner has an obstacle using the past tense with the proper formula. The past tense verb consists of two kinds of verbs there is an irregular and regular verb. The common obstacle is that they do not know when they use the regular or irregular verb when they have to add or eliminate the auxiliary verb and do not know past tense forms (Syarif, 2014).



There are types of past tense which has a different function. The usages of these types depend on the time, whether that was in progress or has finished. The past tense's types are *simple past*, *past perfect*, *past continuous*, *past perfect continuous*.

Simple past tense is tense to describe events that have finished in the past (Elfitriani, Kustini, Kusnasari, 2014). Simple Past tense consists of two types are: verbal and nominal. The little past tense states the statement followed by adjective form, the noun form, or an adverb form. For example, *Mr. Hans was a teacher two years ago*. However, the verbal form contains an irregular verb or regular verb. For example; He ate pancake last night)

Past Perfect tense states, an action has been completed in a condition in the past before another action occurred. The usage of the Past Perfect tense is to express something that happened in the past and continues during another event that has arrived in the past. For example, *they had gone out when she called*.

Past continuous tense states that action was happening at a convinced time in the past. In this sentence, there are two actions which the first occurring when another is in progress. Past Continuous tense can describe many conditions, for example, to describe the action that was appeared in the past. For example, *Jane was laughing at my carelessness*. This tense can explain something that was happening continuously in the past tense when the other action came. For example, *my telephone was ringing when he was gone*. The Past Continuous tense can state the habitual action in the past. For example, *Lucy was laughing louder in the class that day*.

Past Perfect Continuous shows the two functions. The first one is the action that occurred in the past that continues in the present time. For example, *she has been studying since one o'clock this afternoon*. The second function is the event that just finished which the people are not interested in the effect. For example, *it has been raining a long day*.

The object of the research is the Twilight Novel which is a famous novel at that time. This novel wrote by Stephanie Mayer. This novel tells the story of a vampire man who is falling in love with a beautiful woman. It not only presents a romance story in general but also explores the life of a vampire. This novel has been revised into several sequels that were interesting same as the original novel.

This research aims to analyze the past tense form and the function in Twilight Novel by Stephanie Meyer. The researcher would find out a nominal and verbal form that most often appears in Twilight Novel.

Methodology

The data resource or subject research is Twilight Novel. A Twilight novel by Stephanie Meyers is a novel that bestselling novel when it was launched firstly in 2006. The researcher uses qualitative research to analyze the past tense of a Twilight Novel. According to Pritha Bhandari (2020), qualitative research consists of identifying and collecting non-numeric data. For example are text, audio, and video). This qualitative research aims to understand the concepts, opinions, or experiences.



The research will focus on the data resource of the statement or expression used in the past tense form. The data of the research are nominal and verbal sentences of past tense. The nominal and verbal sentences are divided into three forms: positive, negative, and interrogative. According to the types of nominal and verbal sentences, the research will determine the use of negative sentences on nominal and verbal sentences.

The researcher compares negative sentences on nominal and verbal forms of past tense on Twilight Novel using AntConc software while finding the data. The software AntConc could provide the frequency of some words. The researcher will provide the result of finding data with a table. The result that will be analyzed is the frequency of nominal and verbal forms.

Findings and Discussion

According to Frank (1971), a complete predication includes a subject and a predicate with a finite verb. The function of the sentence itself to express feelings, expressions, requests, and others to particular objects that are addressed both orally or in writing. The sentence was divided into two kinds of sentences based on the form of the predicate. They are nominal and verbal sentences, Qomar (2003:7).

Table 1. The frequency of nominal and verbal

Frequency	Types	
	Nominal	Verbal
	210	262

From the data resource, the frequency of verbal sentences is more than nominal sentences in Twilight Novel. Two hundred ten sentences used the nominal structure, and 262 sentences using verbal sentences. Both of those sentences have different types and structures. A little sentence is a sentence that the predicate is to be no verb, and it contains subject and noun as complement. According to Baudh (1993:04), a noun refers to a person, place, or thing (it can be an idea, concept, etc.).

The use of to be in a nominal sentence depends on the tenses and the subject used in the sentence. The research will focus on the past tense or simple past tense. The to be of past tense are was and were. The to be (was and were) must be followed by some complement such as adjective, noun, or adverb. The sentence can be formed as a positive sentence, negative sentence, or interrogative sentence.

The verbal sentence is a sentence that contains verb words to state the activity. According to Richard (1989:305), a verb comes as the predicate of a sentence. The use of verbs in sentences depends on the tense that will be used. In past tense or simple past tense, the verb used is regular or irregular. The pattern of the sentence is also different from the other tense. The sentence can be formed as a positive sentence, negative sentence, or interrogative sentence.

1. Nominal sentence

Table 2. The frequency the uses of nominal sentence

Wasn't/weren't + noun (a/an)	10
Wasn't/weren't + adjective	94
Wasn't/weren't + adverb	106
TOTAL	210








From the data resource on Twilight Novel, the researcher found 210 nominal sentences. The highest frequency is from using a nominal sentence with adverb (to be wasn't/weren't + adverb). There was 106 nominal sentence contains adverb. The second rank is the use of nominal sentences with adjectives. The third rank is the use of the nominal sentence with a noun.

A nominal sentence with adverb has been the highest frequency in the nominal sentence on Twilight Novel. There were 106 nominal sentences with adverbs in this novel. An *adverb* is a word used to modify verbs, adjectives, and other words (Gucker, 1996, 59). An adverb is placed before or after the verb or adjective to explain them more in the sentence. For the example:

- The dance was billed as semiformal, and *we were not exactly sure what that meant*. Both Jessica and Angela seemed surprised and almost disbelieving when I told them I had never been to a dance in Phoenix.

From the first example in the negative sentence, there is an adverb "exactly" after the to be "were not." The "exactly" is placed after the verb is replaced with to be because it is a nominal sentence. The adverb "exactly" explains the feeling "sure" of the subject that was described after the word "exactly."

Table 3. The pattern of nominal sentence

we	weren't	exactly	sure	what that meant
				
Subject	to be + not	adverb	adjective	complement




Subject + was/were + not + Adverb

The second type is a nominal sentence with an adjective. The frequency of this form is 94 sentences with adjective words. According to Gucker (1996:56), an adjective is a word to state and explain nouns or pronouns. An adjective word in a sentence is used to explain the condition of the noun or pronoun in the sentence or phrase. For the example:

- I was mentally calculating my chances of reaching the truck before he could catch me. I had to admit; *they were not good*. "I will just drag you back," he threatened, guessing my plan.

From the sentence they were not good, there is an adjective word "good." The word "good" comes after to be were not. It explains the subject or pronoun "they" conditions. The sentence describes the condition of the subject "they" using the adjective "good," and there is to be was and not as a predicate of the nominal sentence.

Table 4. The pattern of nominal sentence with adjective

They	weren't	good
		
subject	to be + not	adjective






The last type is a nominal sentence with a noun. The frequency of this form is ten sentences. According to Baudh (1993:04), a noun is a word that refers to a person, place, or thing. This word can be seen by the article that comes after to be. Noun as an object can be formed as a direct object or indirect object. The noun may be indicated by the article that comes before that noun, for example, an article a or an. For the example:

- "I do not remember them that clearly. Carlisle and Esme have been my parents for a long time now." "And you love them." *It was not a question.* It is evident in the way he spoke of them.
- "We are meeting at my dad's store at ten." His eyes flickered to Edward again, wondering if he was giving out too much information. His body language made it clear that *it was not an open invitation.* "I will be there," I promised.

The first example *was not a question*, and there is a noun word "question." The word "question" is indicated by the article "an" in this sentence. So, the sentence is the nominal sentence with noun because the sentence contains subject, to be, and noun.

The second example, *it was not an open invitation*, shows the nominal sentence with the noun. There is a word "open invitation" as a noun that comes after the article "an."

Table 5. The pattern of nominal sentence with noun

It	Wasn't	a question
		
Subject	To be + not	Noun
Subject + was/were + not + Noun		

The nominal sentence in negative sentence has a pattern {Subject + was/were + not + Adverb/Noun/Adjective}. The predicate is "was" and must be followed by an adjective or noun or adverb, so some sentences can be called nominal sentences if the sentence uses that pattern.

2. Verbal sentence

A *verbal sentence* is a sentence that describes an activity using a verb (Eka, 2015, 30). A verb is a complex part of a sentence because it makes the sentence is complete. From the data resource, the verbal sentence is to be the highest frequency. A verb is placed after the subject to describe the subject's action.

There are 84 words of verb that are used in a verbal sentence in Twilight Novel. Those verbs have a different function for describing some actions in the sentence. For the example:

1. "I brought the jacket for you. *I did not want you to get sick or something.*" His voice was guarded.
2. *I did not see where he came from*, but suddenly he was there, pulling the door open for me.
3. *They did not look anything alike.* Of the three boys, one was big – muscle like a severe weight lifter with dark, curly hair.



The first example, *I did not want you to get sick or something*, uses the verb "want" to describe the subject's actions. I, as a subject, did not as an auxiliary verb in a negative sentence, want as a verb, and you to get sick or something is a complement which proves that the sentence is a verbal sentence. The sentence does not use the verb 2 because it is negative sentence which has the pattern {Subject + did + not + Verb 1 + Complement}.

Table 6. The list of verb on verbal sentence

Words	Frequency	Words	Frequency	Words	Frequency
Add	1	Get	4	Recognize	3
Agree	1	Go	3	Relate	2
Answer	11	Happen	1	Remember	2
Appear	2	Hear	2	Respond	4
Argue	1	Help	2	Say	4
Ask	1	Hesitate	1	See	13
Believe	3	Hunt	3	Show	1
Belong	2	Know	20	Sink	1
Bother	2	Involve	1	Sleep	2
Broach	1	Lapse	1	Smell	3
Buy	1	Laugh	1	Sound	5
Care	1	Leave	1	Speak	4
Come	7	Like	1	Stand out	1
Cost	1	Look	22	Start	1
Cringe	1	Make	2	Swerve	1
Dare	1	Matter	4	Take	5
Decelerate	1	Mean	3	Tell	3
Depend	1	Miss	3	Think	5
Do	3	Mix	1	Touch	3
Even	7	Mind	1	Trust	1
Exist	2	Move	2	Try	2
Expect	2	Need	5	Understand	7
Feel	6	Notice	2	Want	24
Figure	1	Pause	1	Wait	1
Find	1	Pay	1	Work	1
Finish	3	Plan	1	React	1
Fit	1	Prefer	1	Realize	2
Follow	1	Qualify	1	Turn	3

The second example is *I did not see where he came from*, and it uses the verb "see." I, as a subject, did not as an auxiliary verb in a negative sentence, see as a verb and where he came from as complement. This sentence has a negative meaning because uses did not as an auxiliary verb that followed by verb one see. The word "see" explains the subject's action that becomes negative meaning because the auxiliary verb "did not." That proof is made the sentence are verbal.



The third example is *that They did not look anything alike*; it uses the verb "look" to state the subject's actions. Like the analysis before, the word look is followed by the auxiliary verb "did not" because the sentence is negative. They, as subject, did not as an auxiliary verb in negative sentences, look like a verb, and anything alike is complementing. Those proof are made the sentence are verbal.

From those examples, the verbal sentence in past tense has a different pattern. In negative sentence, the pattern is {*Subject + did + not + Verb I + Complement*}. The verb of the past tense sentence does not use the verb two because there is an auxiliary verb before the verb to state the negative meaning (not).

Conclusion

Twilight is one of the most famous novels of its time. This is evidenced by the existence of a film adapted with the same title as the novel. Because of the many fans of this novel, researchers analyzed the simple past tense contained in the dialogue. The goal is to examine more deeply the function of the past tense sentence itself. The research is on simple past tense then disarming again into negative sentences to be more specific. After the researchers conducted data analysis, it was proven by the data that there are two types of sentences, namely verbal and nominal sentences.

In the dialogue between characters, more commonly used verbal sentences proved data 262 sentences. In comparison, the nominal sentence amounts to 210 sentences. In this novel, there are 84 types of past tense verbs, for example, recognize, see, show, buy, take, and so on. A verb is placed after the subject to describe the subject's action. Those verbs have a different function for describing some actions in the sentence.

The nominal sentences proved data 210 sentences. The highest frequency is using nominal sentences with adverbs (to be wasn't/weren't + adverb). There was 106 nominal sentence contains adverb. The second rank is the use of nominal sentences with adjectives. The third rank is the use of nominal sentences with nouns. Nominal sentences are also divided into three types such as nominal sentences with nouns, adjectives, and adverbs. So, each of these types of sentences has various functions that make this novel like living in reality and real.

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