

Corpus Linguistics Research: Analyse the Use of Article in Novel "The Body in The Library" by Agatha Christie

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Abstract

The study aims to analyse the article in "The Body in The Library" written by Agatha Christie. "The Body in The Library" is a fiction crime about an old amateur detective, Miss Marple, even though she just an old ordinary single woman who lives alone in a rural area but have a great instinct to solve the mystery. An article used to define a definite or an indefinite noun also a countable and uncountable noun. It used to know references of the noun before in the story in a novel. The method used in this research is a descriptive qualitative method that includes the stages of data collection, analysing the data and then making a conclusion about it. The analysis "The Body in The Library" written by Agatha Christie used article the, a and an. The article function in "The Body in The Library" novel by Agatha Christie refers to define and indefinite noun.

Keywords – Analysis, article, Agatha Christie

Introduction

A language used by all human beings in the world. A language is a communication tool, both written and spoken (Tarigan, 1990). A language is a communication tool produced by the human speech organ (Keraf, 2004). Humans always in touch with language because people use it every time, so there are many different languages in each region. English is one of the most spoken languages and the official language in more than sixty countries. Language influenced by many factors so, it has many different interpretations from its users.

Language is a system of arbitrary symbols generated by speech tools and used conventionally by people in society to communicate (Wibowo, 2016). Based on this understanding, language has an inseparable relationship with linguistics, the study of language. Currently, people made mistakes in writing, especially in the use of articles. Article in English used to define the noun, both specific noun and unspecific noun. Sometimes people feel confused with articles "a" and "an." The things that must consider when choosing an article are whether the noun is defined or countable. When the noun can be made plural, it is called countability, e.g., apple into apples.

Indefinite article or article 'a' and 'an' used if the noun is countable and singular, also when it is the first time mentioned the noun. If the words start with a vowel, it will use the article 'an', and if it a consonant, it will use the article "a." For example, "I bought an ashtray" - no one knows which ashtray or "There is a ball outside the garage" - no one knows about the ball. Defined article or article 'the' used when both listener or reader understand the noun that refers to by speaker. For example, "I bought lipstick yesterday. The lipstick is sage green." The lipstick mentioned before, so both of them know about the lipstick. If a noun is uncountable or plural and not definite, it did not need an article. For example, "Bilra will go to Purwokerto."

A novel is fictional prose that neither too long nor too short (Nurgiyantoro, 2009). The novel is a long prose work about the life of a character and the people around him (Depdiknas,



2005). In this study, we will focus on analysing the use of articles in the novel "The Body in The Library" written by Agatha Christie. It is a crime fiction novel about the adventures of an amateur detective, Miss Marple, who try to solve the mystery of the unknown corpse and the murderer's motive for leaving the corpse in the library.

Methodology

It uses a descriptive qualitative method, using qualitative data and then describes it descriptively. The descriptive method is used to or analyzes a research result, not in broader conclusions (Sugiono, 2005). The data are taken from "The Body in The Library", a crime fiction novel written by Agatha Christie. It tells about the adventures of Miss Marple to solve the mystery of an unknown corpse. The steps are: (1) reading the novel, (2) finding the articles in the novel, (3) making notes about the articles found in the novel, (4) analysing the articles, and (5) concluding the result.

Finding(s) and Discussion

There are three types of article, article 'a', 'an', and 'the'. Article "a" and 'an are called indefinite article used in a countable and singular noun. Meanwhile, defined article or article 'the' used when both listener or reader understand the noun that refers to by speaker. Based on the research, there are 3.505 articles used in the novel "The Body in the Library" by Agatha Christie. The table is as follow:

Table 1. The number of articles used in the novel

Article	Count	Percentage
A	1223	34.9%
An	143	4.1%
The	2139	61%
TOTAL	3505	100%

Based on the table, the definite article "the" is the most used in the novel. The defined article "the" appears 2139 in the story. The indefinite article "a" is the second article is the second most used in the novel, which appears 1223 times. Meanwhile, the indefinite article "an" is the least used to appear 143 times.

1. Article 'a'

There are two types of indefinite article, article "a" and article "an". The indefinite article 'a' used in the singular countable noun. Article 'a' used when the word started with a consonant sound, but in some cases, it used in words that start with vocal sound. For example, the word starts with a vocal sound that pronounced with the initial "j", such as union and university.

The use of the indefinite article 'a' found both in dialogue and outside the character dialogue. Based on the table above, we can see that the use of the indefinite article 'a' in the novel 'The Body in The Library' most used in chapter thirteen with the percentage of 10.6%. The second most used indefinite article 'a' is used in chapter one with 7.9%, and the third is chapter seven with the percentage of 7.8%. The indefinite article the least used in the novel is in chapter seventeen with the percentage of 1.7%, followed by chapter sixteen with 2.5% and chapter two with 3.5%.



Table 2. The number of articles 'a' used in the novel

Chapter	Count	Percentage
1	96	7.9%
2	43	3.5%
3	80	6.5%
4	54	4.4%
5	90	7.4%
6	64	5.2%
7	95	7.8%
8	82	6.7%
9	74	6.1%
10	55	4.5%
11	47	3.8%
12	68	5.6%
13	130	10.6%
14	82	6.7%
15	51	4.2%
16	32	2.6%
17	21	1.7%
18	59	4.8%
TOTAL	3505	100%

2. Article 'an'

Article 'an' and 'a' called the indefinite article. The indefinite article 'an' used in the singular countable noun. Article 'an' used when the word started with a vocal sound, but in some cases, it used in words that start with a consonant sound. For example, the word starts with a consonant sound, but the consonant sound is not pronounced, such as the consonant sound "h" not pronounced in word 'hour' and 'honest'.

Table 3. The number of articles 'an' used in the novel

Chapter	Count	Percentage
1	11	7.7%
2	4	2.8%
3	5	3.5%
4	8	5.6%
5	11	7.7%
6	5	3.5%
7	9	6.3%
8	12	8.4%
9	6	4.2%
10	2	1.4%
11	4	2.8%
12	13	9%
13	22	15.4%
14	6	4.2%
15	8	5.6%
16	5	3.5%
17	6	4.2%
18	6	4.2%
TOTAL	143	100%

The indefinite article 'an' used both in dialogue and outside dialogue. From table 2 shows that the indefinite article most used in chapter thirteen with the percentage 15.4%. The second most used is in chapter twelve with 9% and followed chapter eight with 8.4%. On average, in each chapter in the novel, the indefinite article appears seven times. The indefinite article least used in "The Body in The Library" is in chapter ten with 1.4%. The



second least used indefinite article 'an' is with 2.8%, appears in chapter two and eleven. The third is chapter six with the percentage of 3.5%.

3. The article 'the'

Article 'the' also called the definite article. The definite article 'the' used both in countable and uncountable noun and used when both listener or reader understand the noun that refers to by speaker. For example, in chapter one, the maid said to Mrs Bantry, "there's a body in the library." Both the maid and Mrs Bantry know which library they are talking about and that library is in their house.

Table 4. The number of articles 'the' used in the novel

Chapter	Count	Percentage
1	224	10.5%
2	94	4.4%
3	140	6.5%
4	105	4.9%
5	120	5.6%
6	133	6.2%
7	187	8.7%
8	123	5.8%
9	90	4.2%
10	100	4.7%
11	108	5.1%
12	75	3.5%
13	178	8.3%
14	112	5.2%
15	112	5.2%
16	59	2.8%
17	49	2.3%
18	131	6.1%
TOTAL	2139	100%

Table 4 shows the definite article 'the' most used in chapter one with the percentage 10.5%. The second most used definite article is chapter seven with 8.7%, followed by chapter thirteen with 8.3%. On average, in each chapter in the novel, the indefinite article appears 118 times. The indefinite article least used in "The Body in The Library" is in chapter 17 with 2.3%, followed by chapter 16 with 2.8%. The third least used definite article is chapter 12 with the percentage of 3.5%.

Conclusions

From the research, there are some necessary things. First, in the English language, article used in singular countable noun, both define and indefinite article. Second, each chapter of the novel "The Body in The Library" used many definite and indefinite articles, with a total found is 3505. The most article used in "The Body in The Library" is the definite article "the" with more than half of the articles. And the last, the article 'a', 'an' and 'the' used in the novel is important because it helps the reader to understand the story more easily.



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