

## ANALYZE THE USE OF PREPOSITIONS IN “FIVE FEET APART” NOVEL BY RACHEL LIPPINCOTT

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### Abstract

Indonesia is one of the countries which used English as a Foreign Language (EFL). English is studied in schools and universities but not widely used as an official language. As the world is becoming a globalization era, it is the international language that people should learn. They have to master reading, speaking, listening, and writing skills. There are many different uses of grammar in a novel that can use to improve English skills. In writing skills, deep grammar knowledge is required, including prepositions. In the Five Feet Apart novel, the author uses various prepositions, such as at, in, and on. There are rules in each of those skills, such as the use of correct prepositions in writing. Prepositions are essential to make good sentences. This study aims to examine the proper use of prepositions through different uses of prepositions in a novel. It uses a qualitative method by collecting prepositions from the Five Feet Apart novel by Rachel Lippincott. The analysis reveals which prepositions frequently appear in the story.

**Keywords:** Corpus Linguistic, Preposition, Writing

### Introduction

Linguistics is the study of language, including language form, language meaning, and language in context, and analyzes the social context, cultural, historical, and political factors that influence language. In linguistics, there is the term corpus linguistics. The term corpus linguistics refers to corpus-based linguistics studies in general (Biber, 1998; Tognini-Bonelli, 2001). In linguistics, there are branches such as syntax and semantics that aim to describe some aspect of language structure, and corpus linguistics is a broader concept applied to many parts of linguistics inquiry.

In English, some skills must use grammar correctly, such as writing. When writing, it is essential to use proper grammar, such as using prepositions, a necessary part of English grammar. Prepositions are words or groups of words used in sentences to indicate a direction, time, place, or location before a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase or introduce an object—the examples of commonly used prepositions are at, in, and on.

According to Seaton and Y.H. Mew (2007:132), a preposition is a word that connects one thing to another, indicating how they are related and frequently followed by a noun or pronoun. Meanwhile, Brown (2004:958) defines a preposition as a word used to express the relationship of different things or thoughts to one another, commonly used before a noun or a pronoun. Quirk and Greenbaum (1973) states that prepositional phrases have six syntactic functions. They are adjuncts, postmodifiers, disjunct, conjunct, verbal complementation, and adjective complementation. We could discover several commonly used English prepositions with various tasks. There are prepositions of place, prepositions of time, prepositions of movement, prepositions to demonstrate a method, reason, accompaniment, and so on.

The use of prepositions in writing is complex. Michael Swan in "Practical English Usage" said that it is challenging to learn how to use prepositions correctly. According to Swan (1995: 444), most English prepositions have multiple functions (for example, one well-known dictionary lists eighteen main uses of at), and these may correspond to various prepositions in another language. Regarding the statement above, learning about prepositions is interesting. As a



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foreigner who studies English grammar, prepositions are neither easy nor straightforward. Prepositions have various meanings in sentences, making the learners find some difficulties using prepositions in a sentence. This research aims: (1) To determine what types of prepositions are used in the novel *Five Feet Apart* by Rachel Lippincott, and (2) To find out which prepositions are often used in the novel *Five Feet Apart* by Rachel Lippincott.

It will outline the types of prepositions that often use in the novel. Then how many prepositions appear in the story. It can also include examples of prepositions used frequently in writing, such as *at*, *in*, and *on*.

### Methodology

The research uses a descriptive qualitative method. As defined by Denzin and Lincoln (1994), qualitative research is multi-method in nature, involving an interpretive, naturalistic approach to its subject matter. Qualitative research examines phenomena in their natural context and seeks to interpret or understand phenomena based on the meanings that people think are related to them. Based on the problems in the background, the researcher analyzed and explained the prepositions in the novel "*Five Feet Apart*" by Rachel Lippincott. The researcher analyzes the prepositions used in the book. The data source for this research is the entire content of the novel "*Five Feet Apart*" by Rachel Lippincott. This novel consists of 31 chapters, 196 pages, and 62,904 words. "*Five Feet Apart*" is a novel by Rachel Lippincott about Teen & Young Adult Death & Dying Fiction was published in February 2018 by Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

### Findings and Discussion

There are several prepositions. According to Sanford (1979), a preposition always works with the following noun, noun word group, or pronoun to demonstrate its relationship to the other words in the sentence. The connection can be of a specific time, place, manner, or type. According to Frank (1972), prepositions are classified into three types based on their function: preposition of time, position or place, and direction. Therefore, there are several types of prepositions: prepositions of place, the preposition of time, the preposition of manner, and direction. The researcher focuses on research in this study about those types of prepositions. However, the researcher only focuses on research prepositions: *in*, *on*, *at*, *with*, *by*, *for* as prepositions of time, place, direction, and manner.

After analyzing the data, the researcher answered the research questions or found this study's results. The first research is about the percentage of use of prepositions in the novel "*Five Feet Apart*" and the following are the study's findings:

**Table 1. The number uses of the preposition in chapter 1**

Preposition	C1		C 2		C3		C4		C5		C 6		C7		C8		C9		C 10	
<b>In</b>	68	2.47%	25	0.91	29	1.05	43	1.56	31	1.12	27	0.98	24	0.87	26	0.94	30	1.09	15	0.54
<b>On</b>	50	1.81%	18	0.65	40	1.45	35	1.27	28	1.02	26	0.94	24	0.87	23	0.83	31	1.12	20	0.73
<b>At</b>	43	1.56	36	1.31	23	0.83	34	1.23	19	0.69	21	0.76	9	0.33	13	0.47	24	0.87	23	0.83
<b>With</b>	32	1.16	17	0.62	21	0.76	10	0.36	8	0.29	10	0.36	10	0.36	7	0.25	18	0.65	6	0.22
<b>By</b>	12	0.44	12	0.44	2	0.07	9	0.33	1	0.04	5	0.18	4	0.15	1	0.04	1	0.04	0	-
<b>For</b>	51	1.85	17	0.62	23	0.83	18	0.65	14	0.51	16	0.58	11	0.40	21	0.76	24	0.87	8	0.29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>9.29</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>4.53</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>5.01</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>5.40</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>3.66</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>3.81</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>2.97</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>3.30</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>4.64</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>2.61</b>

The table above results from research into the use of prepositions in novel "*Five Feet Apart*," by Rachel Lippincott, consisting of 31 chapters. The tables describe the use of prepositions in



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each chapter of Rachel Lippincott's book. There are different results in each chapter. When using prepositions “*in*” in the first chapter, the author uses it sixty-eight times. In the second chapter, the author uses it twenty-five times. While, in the third chapter, the author uses it twenty-nine times. Then, in the fourth chapter, the author uses it forty-three times. Furthermore, the author uses it forty-three times in chapter five and with different prepositions.

**Table 21. The number uses of the prepositions in chapter 21**

Preposition	C11		C12		C13		C14		C15		C16		C17		C18		C19		C20	
<b>In</b>	24	0.87	22	0.80	16	0.58	19	0.69	39	1.41	30	1.09	9	0.33	29	1.05	15	0.54	37	1.34
<b>On</b>	5	0.18	23	0.83	12	0.44	9	0.33	39	1.41	14	0.51	9	0.33	18	0.65	15	0.54	28	1.02
<b>At</b>	12	0.44	7	0.25	18	0.65	16	0.58	36	1.31	23	0.83	5	0.18	30	1.09	16	0.58	41	1.49
<b>With</b>	10	0.36	6	0.22	7	0.25	8	0.29	22	0.80	8	0.29	4	0.15	12	0.44	12	0.44	18	0.65
<b>By</b>	3	0.11	3	0.11	1	0.04	0	-	7	0.25	1	0.04	1	0.04	1	0.04	3	0.11	4	0.15
<b>For</b>	11	0.40	13	0.47	8	0.29	8	0.29	16	0.58	6	0.22	6	0.22	21	0.76	15	0.54	14	0.51
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>2.36</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>2.68</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>2.25</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>2.18</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>5.77</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>2.97</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1.23</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>4.03</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>2.76</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>5.15</b>

The use of prepositions in novels depends on the needs and desires of the author, Rachel Lippincott, so the research results have a different number. The number of prepositions used in Chapter 1 was the highest at 2.47%, followed by Chapter 4 at 1.56%. The difference between the number of the preposition in Chapter 1 and Chapter 4 is 0.91%. On the other hand, Chapter 24 has the lowest percentage of the preposition, 0.15%, followed by Chapter 26, Chapter 27, and Chapter 31, where these three chapters have the same rate of 0.22%. The difference in the number of prepositions used in Chapters 24 and 26, 27, 31 is not too significant and reaches 0.07%. It is 13 times less than the difference in the number of prepositions between Chapter 1 and Chapter 4.

**Table 21. The number uses of the prepositions in chapter 21**

Preposition	C21		C22		C23		C24		C25		C26		C27		C28		C29		C30		C31	
<b>In</b>	39	1.41	25	0.91	9	0.33	4	0.15	9	0.33	6	0.22	6	0.22	25	0.91	11	0.40	13	0.47	6	0.22
<b>On</b>	27	0.98	17	0.62	10	0.36	4	0.15	4	0.15	3	0.11	5	0.18	19	0.69	14	0.51	6	0.22	5	0.18
<b>At</b>	36	1.31	21	0.76	13	0.47	6	0.22	7	0.25	1	0.04	8	0.07	41	1.49	8	0.29	4	0.15	6	0.22
<b>With</b>	17	0.62	11	0.40	2	0.07	4	0.15	2	0.07	0	-	2	0.07	14	0.51	4	0.15	2	0.07	3	0.11
<b>By</b>	4	0.15	1	0.04	0	-	1	0.04	0	-	1	0.04	1	0.04	2	0.07	1	0.04	1	0.04	0	-
<b>For</b>	22	0.80	9	0.33	3	0.11	4	0.15	7	0.25	1	0.04	4	0.15	14	0.51	3	0.11	3	0.11	6	0.22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>5.26</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>3.05</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1.34</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0.83</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1.05</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0.73</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>4.17</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1.49</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1.05</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0.94</b>

The researchers also did other studies with prepositions *on*, *at*, *with*, *for*, *by*. Prepositions “*in*, *on*, *at*” go in prepositions of time and place. The preposition “*for*” goes into the preposition of time. The preposition “*with*” goes into the preposition of manner. In the meantime, the preposition “*by*” is included in the preposition of direction. (1) Camila and Mya have visited me here a million times **in** the past decade..., (2) ..., standing and pretending to look at some of the artwork **on** the walls. (3) “No big deal. We’re going to meet him and Taylor **at** the airport tomorrow morning.” (4) The feeling of going on an adventure **with** my sister, ... (5) A waitress passes **by** their table, and Stella waves her down. (6) “I still need to buy a beach towel **for** tomorrow.”

Sentence (1) indicates that the preposition “*in*” is the preposition of time. In sentence (2), the preposition “*on*” is a preposition of the place. Sentence (3) shows that the preposition “*at*” is a preposition of place. Furthermore, in the sentence (4), the preposition “*with*” is the preposition of manner. Then in sentence (5), the preposition “*by*” is a preposition of the direction. Finally,



sentence (6) indicates that the preposition "for" is a preposition of direction. The following is the result of using the prepositions "in, on, at, with, by, for" as a whole in the novel "Five Feet Apart":

The prepositions in Rachel Lippincott's "Five Feet Apart" are used in a total is two thousand seven hundred and fifty-seven words from the 31 chapters of this novel. When calculating the preposition "in," the sum is seven hundred and eighty-nine words, making up 28.62% of the 31 chapters in this novel. The preposition "on" results in five hundred eighty-one terms with a percentage of 21.07%. The preposition "at" gives a result of six hundred words with a rate of 21.76%. Then there is the preposition "with," which returns 377 words with a percentage of 11.14%. Additionally, the preposition "by" gives eighty-three words, with a ratio of 3.01%. And the last is the preposition "for," which gets three hundred and ninety-seven words with a percentage of 14.40%.

It is possible to conclude that using the preposition "in" in the novel "Five Feet Apart" is the most used with a percentage of 28.62%. Meanwhile, the prepositions "at" and "on" occupy the second and third positions, which are used most often in this novel, the percentage not being very different, it is at 21.76% and 21.07%. In the fourth and fifth positions, prepositions commonly used in Rachel Lippincott's novel are prepositions "for" and "with" with percentages of 14.40% and 11.14%, respectively. The one with the lowest position for the least used preposition in Rachel Lippincott's novel "Five Feet Apart" is the preposition "by" with a percentage of 3.01%.

### Conclusions

In this study, the researcher has two goals: to determine what types of prepositions are used in the novel Five Feet Apart by Rachel Lippincott. The second is to find out which prepositions are commonly used in the book Five Feet Apart by Rachel Lippincott. The first study concluded that the preposition types used in this novel were prepositions of time, place, manner, and direction. In this study, prepositions "in, on, at" were found that went into the prepositions of place and time. Then the preposition "for" goes into the preposition of time. The preposition "with" goes into the preposition of manner. In the meantime, the preposition "by" is included in the preposition of direction.

The second study concluded that the use of prepositions in Rachel Lippincott's novel "Five Feet Apart" varies from chapter to chapter. This difference adapts to the needs of the author. There are other differences in the frequency of using prepositions in each chapter of the novel Five Feet Apart. As explained in the example, the number of prepositions "in" is the most commonly used and is seven hundred and eighty-nine with a percentage of 28.62%. Meanwhile, the preposition "by" is the least used in the novel Five Feet Apart, eighty-three times with a rate of 3.01%. Hence, the preposition "in" is often used in Rachel Lippincott's book "Five Feet Apart".

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