

**A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF SHORT STORY OF O. HENRY'S
"THE GIFT OF THE MAGI"**



RESEARCH PAPER

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by:

**MULYATI
A 320 040 336**

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA
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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Story book is one of reading media which most people are interested in. They prefer to read story book other kind of book such as scientific book because story book is easy to read and doesn't need much time to enjoy. The theme of story book varies from legend, epic, fiction, love etc. In addition, there are many authors of story book from all over the world and one of them is O. Henry.

O. Henry is one of the authors of the short story who exist to explore the romance side of love. The examples of short story of O. Henry are *The Last Leaf*, *The Gift of The Magi* etc. The story of O. Henry is arranged with simple language, easy to understand, and has the total theme to be caught as an interesting story. *The Gift of The Magi* is a very interesting short story written by O. Henry. It is a romantic short story for the reader because it is created based on love-life experience, and the story is simple. It just needs several minutes to finish reading the story. Then, the reader really feels satisfied with the story.

Short story is one of the kinds of text which can be studied by using discourse. Discourse Analysis pays much attention to the criteria of textuality. Two of the criteria are cohesion and coherence. Cohesion and coherence

fulfill the form of expressing ideas and a good paragraph composing a text. Both of them cannot be separated because they build the totality of meaning in text and context. Discourse Analysis puts the criteria of textuality as the most important frame, especially when the tendency of linguistic analysis leads to discourse analysis.

Baugrande in Dhian Yuni Arifianti (2005:3) states that cohesion and coherence are text centered notions, designating operations directed at the text materials. An important constitution to coherence comes from cohesion: the set of linguistic resources that every language has for linking one part of the form and structure. The cohesion devices are reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction and lexical cohesion. Coherence is one of criteria supporting the unity of meaning in a text. It is a logical sequence that is understandable by the reader.

The discourse analysis in this study is focused on cohesion and coherence and other criteria of textuality, such as intentionality, acceptability, informatively, situational and intertextuality, namely, the seven criteria (Renkema, 1993:23-27).

Those seven criteria as standards of textuality will form the text harmony. The elements to make a discourse will arrange the text harmony with a structure conjunction and a semantic function namely cohesion devices.

It completely makes sure that cohesion does not only relate to a form but also relate to meaning. The reader can avoid the wrong interpretation to the text clarity and the total message send by it. The elements make a discourse will influence the clarity relation between one unity form and another form. The writer is interested in this study because she wants to know what the discourse elements make The Short Story of O. Henry “The Gift of The Magi” as a discourse.

B. Previous Study

To prove the originality of the study the writer presents the previous research studies that have been conducted dealing with the discourse analysis.

The first previous study is conducted by Ali Suropto (2004), The English Department Student of Teacher Training and Education Faculty of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. His research paper entitled “Discourse Analysis of the Commercial Advertisement Text in Hotel Brochures (pragmatic Approach)” focused on discourse analysis used in hotel brochures.

The second previous study is conducted by Rosana Susanti (2005). Her research paper entitled “Discourse Analysis of Song Lyrics in Shades of purple Album M2M”. She analyzed song lyrics by using seven criteria of textuality and found out the real meaning of song lyric and also the composer’s intention in shades of purple album by M2M through pragmatic approach.

In this study, the writer analyzes the discourse elements in short story, not in brochures or text songs. She conducts a discourse analysis of short story of O. Henry “The Gift of The Magi”. She describes the seven criteria of textuality in discourse analysis, which focus on cohesion, coherence, intentionality, acceptability, informatively, situation, and intertextuality. This study aims at covering the weaknesses and completing the previous study.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the study, the writer proposes the problem as follows: “What elements make the short story of “The Gift of The Magi” a discourse?”

D. Object of the Study

In line with the formulation of the problem statement above the objective of the study is “to identify the elements which form a discourse unity in the short story of O. Henry “The Gift of The Magi”.

E. Limitation of the Problem

In the research, the writer limits the analysis only on seven criteria of textuality in discourse i.e. cohesion, coherence, intentionality, acceptability, information, situationality, and intertextuality in the source short story of O. Henry “The Gift of The Magi”.

F. Benefit of the Study

1. Practical Benefit

This study will make the reader know the elements of discourse. Besides, the reader will get more knowledge about English short story.

2. Academic Benefit

This research will be an academic reference by other researcher to conduct further research dealing with the seven criteria of textuality. This research can be useful to develop language science which connects with the seven criteria of textuality.

G. Research Paper Organization

The researcher organizes this paper by dividing it into five chapters in order to make it easily understood. Each of them is concerned with different issues but it is related to each other.

Chapter I is introduction. It consists of the background of the study, previous study, problem statements, object of the study, limitation of the problem, benefits of the study, and research paper organization.

Chapter II is underlying theory. It consists of the notion of discourse, the differences of text, discourse, and context, also seven criteria of textuality.

Chapter III is research method. It consists of type of research, object of research, data and data source, method of collecting data, method and technique of analyzing data.

Chapter IV is research result. It consists of data analysis, and discussion of the finding.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.