

Tenses Usage in Sherlock Holmes Short Story by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

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ABSTRACT

Tense one of grammatical terms in language learning, especially English which is used to show an event, activity, or scenario is occurring. The main tenses in English are past tense, present tense, and future tense. Tenses are used in writings and non-writings. Tenses have a very important role in writing English fiction, such as in writing short stories. This research was conducted to find out the tenses used in the book a collection of short stories series 1 of Sherlock Holmes which consists of 6 chapters and 174 pages. This was analysed using Betty Schramper Azar's Theory. The method used in this research was qualitative method. The research results showed that there were 1285 data from chapters 1 to chapter 6 consisting of 503 present tenses, 705 past tenses and 77 future tenses. The simple past tense is used in most of the sentences and the simple future tense are the least used in the sentences of the book.

Key words: Simple Present; Past Tense; Future Tense; Short Story

INTRODUCTION

In this era, we are required to be able to interact and play an active role in global interactions. English is an international language that is important to learn and master well to help us to take a part in collaboration of the global world Asmarani & Sundari (2023). Mastering English is very important to be able to compete with the global world Siregar (2019). The importance of communication is growing in this age of globalization, which is still developing today. Harmer (Kahirunisa, et al, 2022) states that English is employed in every facet of people's lives, including the arts, the economy, information transmission, and social knowledge. Those explanation show that English is mostly used in communication. it can be concluded that the role of English is getting important to help people be connected to wider society. It means the urgency and the demand for being able to use English should be put under consideration.

English is one of the languages that is still difficult to learn by language learners. There are four language skills that must be known, namely, listening, speaking, reading and writing. Certain skills must be mastered if someone wants to achieve a high level of proficiency in English; listening, speaking, reading and writing (Muta

& Denis, 2016). To be able to master the four language skills, one of the language components that plays an important role is grammar. Astuti (2024) Grammar is a crucial rule for pupils studying the language. It is taught to all. Grammar is difficult to understand for learners who have different grammar, and their mother tongue or original language does not have tenses. This case is very influential especially for learners in Indonesia. Setyadi (Siregar, 2019) and Rosari & Sianturi (2023) state that grammar can be the hardest to learn because it is complex, especially for English learners whose mother tongue has different grammar rules and in using his/her mother tongue he/she does not know or use tenses like in English. In other words, the role of tenses in learning English is very important. Grammar is a basic component of language that must be learned by students. One component that students must master in grammar is tenses. (Siregar, 2019).

Tenses in English according to Betty Schramfer Azar in 1999 broadly, there are three tenses, namely, present, past and future. Furthermore, every English learner is required to be able to understand tenses well because understanding tenses has a very important role in learning English. this is expressed by Seruni (2023) Tenses are a crucial element in the English language. The function of tenses can be beneficial to know the time occurrence of an event whether it is in the present, in the past, or in the future. One way to deepen your understanding of tenses in English is through reading fiction, namely collections of short stories, in this case the collection of Sherlock Holmes short stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The short story itself Ikan, et al (Seruni, 2023) is a relatively short story and communicating complex life events based on real life. It is a story that conveys complicated life experiences based on actual community occurrences. Short story has an intrinsic element just like novel which are plot, theme, character, setting, point of view and characterization. Hence, short story is a shortened fictional story that tells a certain theme.

This collection of Sherlock Holmes short stories with a detective genre is written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who is a Scottish doctor. The book consists of a collection of short stories consisting of six chapters and the number of pages is 174. The sub-titles of the stories contained in each chapter in the book are, (1) The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: the Boscombe valley mystery; (2) The adventure of Sherlock Holmes: the copper beeches; (3) The memoirs of Sherlock Holmes: the final problem; (4) The field bazaar; (5) the adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton; and (6) the adventure of the Sussex vampire. Each story is created with extraordinary English and spiked in cases that contain neat pieces of mystery. The author in the Sherlock Holmes short story collection reveals each plot and slice of the story in every moment in several types of tenses. Given that tenses refer to the time of an event or activity that occurs. So the focus of this study is to find out what tenses are used in the Sherlock Holmes short story collection from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Concept of Tenses

So that a one's message in English communication, whether spoken or written, can be conveyed properly according to the time an event or activity occurs, it must be conveyed using the appropriate tense. non-native speakers must utilize a range of tenses as a means of communicating time (Panggalih, et al, 2023). Grammatical is everything that is directly related to punctuation and word order in a sentence (Tabasi, et al, 2023) A grammatical term in English used to show an action has happened, is happening, or about to happen is called tenses. The main tenses in English are past tense, present tense, and future tense (Putri, 2023). Grammar in learning English has an important role. Grammar is the central element in learning English and students are demanded to know how to use the grammar, both in spoken or written form. Learning language without understanding grammar may give some problems in mastering English well. There are many rules in grammar, including articles, parts of speech, sentence pattern, and tense, etc. Cook and Ricard (Anjarani & Indahwati, 2019).

The Classification of Tenses

Learning a language requires its users to be able to understand and master the use of tenses well. Simply, tenses are times or periods. The changes that occur are in the verbs. Changes in the verbs indicate the time of an event or scenario, an activity in English. Napratilora & Yanti (Seruni, 2023) and Asmarani & Sundari (2023). tenses are the use of specific verbs that refers to the time of an event or activity that happened in a sentence. . A tense is change of the verb that suitable to the using of time (Sari, 2020). Selanjutnta fiqih Kartika murti Tenses in English is related to the use of verb and adverb of time. An activity done in different time will use different tenses.

Betty Schramper Azar broadly divides tenses into three, namely, past tense, present tense, and future tense. The following will describe each type of tense.

1. Present tense

The Simple present tense is used to describe conditions or actions that are in progress or happening right now or habitual actions and occurrences. The simple present tense has several functions, such as expressing general truths and expressing habits and habitual actions. It can also be used to indicate a future time. The form of verb used in this tense is Verb I. Suffixes "-s" or "-es" must be added to the verb form if the subjects are He, She, It. Meanwhile, for subjects I, You, We, They, no suffixes are added. As for the negative and interrogative form, the auxiliaries used in this tense are "do" or "does" add with "not". The auxiliary "do" is used for subjects I, You, We, They, while the auxiliary "does" is used for subjects He, She, It.

2. Past Tense

The Simple past tense is formed by adding the suffix -ed to the infinitive, which is how most verbs are regular, or it can be irregular, requiring study and memorization in each instance. The simple past tense is used to talk about activities that started and ended in the past, to express the duration of an event that was completed in the past, and to express habitual activities in the past. Differ from simple present tense, no suffixes “-s” or “-es” added. Instead, suffix “-ed” is added to the verbs (Verb I) which belong to regular verbs like “laugh” becomes “laughed.” As for the irregular verbs, the verbs used is completely different from Verb I. For instance, the word “put” (verb I) becomes “put” (Verb II), the word “eat” (verb I) becomes “ate” (Verb II), the word “sweep” (verb I) becomes “swept” (Verb II). In some cases, the past form of a verb is the same as the basic verb (Verb I) such as the past form of the verb “beat” is also “beat”, the past form of the verb “bet” is also “bet”, etc. as for the negative and interrogative form of simple past tense, the auxiliary “did” is used followed with “not”. Thus, the verb will change into basic verb (verb I). all subjects (I, You, They, We, He, She, It) use the same auxiliary which is “did”.

3. Future tense

The simple future tense is used to indicate that an action will occur at a certain time in the future. Talking about habits and generalizing the future requires using the simple future. In English, the simple future tense contains two separate tenses: will and be going to. These two forms often denote two very different meanings, despite the fact that they are sometimes used interchangeably. Will and be going to are used for offers and plans respectively. The negative and interrogative form for simple future tense uses the auxiliary “will” or “be going to” added with “not” (for the negative sentence). As for the verbs, the verbs must be in base verb which means verbs without adding “-s”, “-es”, or “-ed”.

Short Story

A short story is a fictional literary work that is more concise than a novel. A short story contains an event or conflict. The narrative is made brief, contains a single message and the short story is born from the author's imagination. A short story is a story which has an indecisive fact and is not an argumentative analysis by Achmad (Oktaviani & Chan, 2023). The story that is poured out is also fictional. Hereinafter Short stories are works of prose fiction that are shorter than novels. They are characterized by the development of a single major theme and a scope and cast of characters that are constrained. In addition, a short story is a work of prose fiction that normally takes one sitting to read and concentrates on a single, isolated incident (Seruni, 2023).

Short story contains a series of stories. In the series of stories are arranged with a neat sentence structure and often found changes in verbs as a form to describe when an event occurs. Most and instilled in the minds of readers that a fiction is created by past form. Bieber (khairunisa, et al, 2022) in fiction, where the use of the past

to depict fictitious past events is a well-established norm, the past tense most frequently alludes to past time via some past point of reference. But in reality a short story is built from several tenses. So in other words, the collection of Sherlock Holmes short stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle can be used to enrich the understanding of English learners in classifying the types of present tense, past tense and future tense.

Previous Related Study

In this section, the researcher discusses several previous studies that are relevant to this study. The study entitled Tenses usage in bear's magic moon story book by (Astuti, 2024). This study focuses on identifying the types of tenses used in in bear's moon story book which is categorized as a Fantasy genre book. The research she conducted refers to the classification of tenses according to Betty Schramper Azar, namely past, present, and future tense. The method used in her research is a qualitative method. The results of the study showed that there were 35 data from the three tenses. 30 sentences in the form of present tense, 1 sentence in the form of past tense and 4 sentences in the form of future tense. From these data, it shows that the least used tense is past tense and the most is present tense.

Putri (2023) with her research the analysis of tenses used in a children's book; the-not-so-perfect princess-and-not-so-dreadful-dragon written by jayneen sanders shows her findings that focus on three classifications of tenses based on Betty Schramfer Azar, namely past, present, and future tense. The researcher also identified the function of each tense in the story built by the author. The results of her research showed that there were 66 data consisting of 38 past tenses, 25 present tenses and 3 future tenses. The sentences in past tense described the characters and the events. The present tense described what the characters are feeling and stated a fact. Lastly, the future tense described the worries the characters feel. Finally, research was conducted by Muta & Dennis (2016) with the title A study of tenses used in English online news websites. This research is different from the other two studies. The focus of the research is analyzing and describing tenses in English found on the English online news website. The research results showed that there were The research findings of the study showed that all uses of English tenses in the 20 news were 279 sentences; past tense were 155 sentences (56%), present tense were 120 sentences (43%), and future tense were 4 sentences (1%). The most English tenses aspects of the news were past simple tense and present tense, past simple tense, present simple tense, present perfect tense, and present progressive tense, respectively. In contrast, breaking news used the least English tenses aspect of the news was past perfect tense, future simple tense, past progressive tense, present perfect progressive tense, and future perfect tense, while there were no used past perfect progressive tense, future progressive tense, future perfect tense, and future perfect progressive tense in the 20 selected breaking news.

From the three studies there are differences or gaps. This lies in the object of the study. In the first and second studies there are differences in the genre of the

research object. The research object used by Astuti (2024) used the bear's magic moon story book which is a story book in the Fantasy genre, while the second study by Putri (2023) the research object used was a fairy tale. The last study by Muta & Dennis (2016) used the English online news website as the object of his research. While this study uses a collection of Sherlock Holmes short stories with a detective genre nuance.

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by Putri (2023) the research object used was a fairy tale. The last study by Muta & Dennis (2016) used the English online news website as the object of his research. While this study uses a collection of Sherlock Holmes short stories with a detective genre nuance. Language is an important tool for humans. One of the foreign languages that must be mastered by English learners is English. In English itself, there is one component of language that must be considered and must be understood well, namely grammar, tenses, and of course this can be studied, one of which is by studying short stories. The following will explain some literature related to this research.

METHOD

Design and Samples

The method used in this study is a qualitative research method in which all data is analyzed in the form of words and sentences. Creswell (2012) states that the qualitative research analyzes the words to group of them into larger meaning of understanding, such as codes, categories, or themes. This research was conducted to focus on finding and identification of types of three tenses namely present tense, past tense and future tense in the collection of Sherlock Holmes short stories series 1 by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Doyle, S, 2017). This research used all the chapter on the book to gain the data. The book consists of six chapters and 174 pages. It was done to get comprehensive data in finding the tenses used.

Instrument and Procedure

The primary data is taken from the collection of Sherlock Holmes short stories series 1 by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Secondary data; the researcher uses some references that are related to theory of language, English, grammatical rules or tenses theory and short story. The data were collected by following some steps. The book was read repeatedly to get tense category. Later, classified the data based on tenses category. The classification of data were analysed by using the theory proposed by Betty Schramfer Azhar. The conclusion was drawn to summarize the result of the analysis.

Data Analysis

Data analysis in this study used Betty Schramfer Azar's theory. In addition, previous research that is relevant to review data on the collection of Sherlock Holmes short stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle consisting of six chapters and 174 pages was also used. There are several techniques used in data analysis in the study. Reading each chapter of the short story, then identifying each sentence in each storyline to determine sentences that fall into the category of present tense, past tense and future tense. This is done by reading and underlining each sentence in each paragraph found carefully. The main thing that is analyzed is the pattern of each sentence in each paragraph in the story to find each of these tenses after careful analysis, the

researcher maps the data by tabulating the data according to the qualifications and sequence of data per chapter. The last step of the analysis is to accumulate data from each tense in each chapter and then re-accumulate all the data as a whole.

RESULT AND DISUSSION

In this section, the researcher discusses the research findings on tenses used in the Sherlock Holmes short story collection series 1 by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle which consists of six chapters and 174 pages. Three similar studies have already conducted the research about tenses used in various genre and research object. Putri (2023) and Astuti (2024) classified tenses using fiction books which children's books. Each of the book include to fairy tale and fantasy genre. The third study conducted by Muta & Dennis (2016) used Online News Websites. They didn't focus on classified the three boardly tenses based on Betty Schramper Azar theory namely present tense, past tense, and Future Tense, but they discussed all kinds of tenses or 16 tenses found in Online News Website. This research focusses on classified tenses based on Betty Schramper Azar theory which were found in Sherlock Holmes Short story with detective genre. From the results of the data analysis conducted, there were 1285 data consisting of 503 present tenses, 705 past tenses and 77 future tenses. The number of present tense, past tense and future tense data can be seen in Table 1 below.

Table 1
The classification of tense per chapter

No	Tenses	Chapter						Numbers
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	
1	Present Tense	132	104	100	8	77	82	503
2	Past Tense	157	157	121	19	129	122	705
3	Future Tense	11	21	17	1	13	14	77
Total								1285

(Data from collection of Sherlock Holmes Short Story by Sir Arthur Conan Dayle, 2017)

From the tenses data classification in Table 1, we can summarize the findings for each chapter in the collection of short stories Serhlock Holmes series 1 by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, which consists of six chapters and 174 pages. In this case, the researcher will provide each tense in each chapter with examples of data for each tense to represent the data findings in this research.

Present tense

- a. Data 18 chapter 1: *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Boscombe Valley Mystery*
 - (a) "My dear fellow, I know you well. (page 13)
- b. Data 4 chpater 2 : *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes: The Copper Beeches*
 - (b) Crime is common. Logic is rare. Therefore it is upon the logic rather than upon the crime that you should dwell. (page 4)

The data shows that in sentence (a) the pattern is subject + Verb 1 + Object + adverb. The verb does not add the suffixes -es/s because the subject is in the first person singular "I" and the sentence is included in the affirmative sentence. The content is in accordance with the description of research conducted by Putri (2023) stated that the suffixes "-s" or "-es" must be added to the verb form if the subjects are He, She, It. Meanwhile, for subjects I, You, We, They, no suffixes are added. Data (b) uses the Subject + verb be + complement pattern. This is an interrogative sentence. The verb in the main sentence "is" is used because the subject is "crime" which is the third singular subject that refers to the object or thing being talked about.

Past tense

- a. Data 28 of chapter 3: *The memoirs of Sherlock Holmes: the final problem*
 - (a) "He clapped his hand into his pocket, and I raised the pistol from the table. But he merely drew out a memorandum-book in which he had scribbled some dates. (page 94-95)
- b. Data 15 of chapter 4: *The field bazaar*
 - (b) I turned my attention to the photograph, therefore, and saw at once that it consisted of yourself as a member of the Edinburgh University Eleven, with the pavilion and cricket field in the background. (page 11)

Based on the data, it can be seen that sentence (a) uses a regular verb form, namely by adding the suffix -d/ed. As in the sentence "clap" becomes "clapped" and "raise" becomes "raised." Clap is a verb that consists of one syllable and ends with a consonant and before the consonant there is a vowel so the last letter or consonant is doubled. Meanwhile, sentence (b) uses the regular phrase "turn" becomes "turned." "see" becomes "saw" which is an irregular sentence and "consist" becomes "consisted". This shows that Lubis (Seruni, 2023) states that simple past tense is a grammatical tense that places an action or situation in the past. Furthermore (Tabasi, et al, 2023) revealed the use of regular and irregular verbs or the verb be (was and were), is a use of the simple past, It must be implemented that the Past Tense is a function and grammar of a tense that occurs events that have occurred in the past.

Future Tense

- a. Data 12 of chapter 5: *the adventure of charles augustus milverton*
 - (a) "You will ruin no more lives as you have ruined mine. You will wring no more hearths as you wrung mine. (page 142)
- b. Data 14 of chapter 6: *The adventure of the sussex vampire*
 - (b) "If you will take one elbow of the too faithful Dolores, I will take the other.

Those two data consist of dependent clause and independent clause. Dependent modifies an independent clause. In sentence (a), the main sentence uses the pattern subject + will + bare infinitive + object. Meanwhile, in the second sentence, the main sentence has almost the same pattern, but the difference is only in the complement S+Will +bare infinitive + complement. In general, the main

characteristic of the future tense is using "will/be going to. Both "will/be going to" are used to describe offers and plans, respectively. However, according to Murphy (1989), "will and be going to" have different functions in their use. According to him, "will" is used when we decide to do something at the time of speaking. Meanwhile "be going to" is used when we have already decided to do something. Apart from that, this research also found a future form that uses "shall." This is found in the five chapters of the Sherlock Holmes short story collection by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. However, in this case, an example is given in chapter 3 of the memoirs of Sherlock Holmes: the final problem "I shall be brief, and yet exact, in the little which remains for me to tell." Different from "will/be going to", shall can only be paired with the subject "I/we."

From the results of the findings, analysis and discussion, it can be said that tenses are used to indicate the time an event or activity occurs which is indicated by changes in the verb pattern in each sentence. Changes in the verbs indicate the time of an event or scenario, an activity in English. Napratilora & Yanti (Seruni, 2023) and Asmarani & Sundari (2019) tenses are the use of specific verbs that refer to the time of an event or activity that happened in a sentence. Learning tenses can also be done, one of which can be done by reading fiction books such as a collection of Sherlock Holmes short stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle because short story is a type of prose narrative. MacMillan is a shortened prose narrative (Seruni, 2023). Beside finding types of tenses in English, readers can also enjoy each story created by the author and can improve their English vocabulary.

CONCLUSION

This study found the classification of present tense, past tense, future tense in the collection of Sherlock Holmes short stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle which consists of 6 chapters and 174 pages totaling 1285 sentences consisting of Present tense 503, past tense 705, and future tense 77. The data also showed that the dominant tense in the short story was the past tense, and the one used least by the story writer was the future tense. This short story is a detective genre. Tenses are used in this collection of Sherlock Holmes short stories to show story slices in each storyline built by the author. This research can practically be used as an alternative in learning tenses. Short stories of Sherlock Holmes short stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle can be used as a medium to deepen understanding of tenses in English. In this research, the researchers discuss the tenses used in Sherlock Holmes Short Story. For further researchers, study more deeply about tenses which is not explained in this research to understand more deeply the tenses exist in the fiction book.

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