

An analysis words in english short stories through british council kids application

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ABSTRAK

Studi ini menunjukkan betapa pentingnya struktur bahasa dalam pengembangan narasi dan karakter, serta betapa pentingnya bagi penerjemah untuk mencapai keseimbangan antara akurasi dan penerimaan budaya. Selain itu, studi ini mengkaji penggunaan kata majemuk dalam cerita pendek berbahasa Inggris yang tersedia di aplikasi British Council Kids. Penekanan khusus diberikan pada peran kata majemuk dalam meningkatkan kosakata dan pemahaman bahasa Inggris anak-anak. Ada tiga jenis kata majemuk: kata majemuk tertutup (seperti "notebook"), kata majemuk terbuka (seperti "ice cream"), dan kata majemuk dengan tanda hubung. Studi ini menyelidiki tiga cerita: "Elizabeth I", "The Ugly Duckling", dan "Nessie-The Loch Ness Monster." Dan menemukan kata majemuk kunci beserta maknanya. Hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa kata-kata ini meningkatkan narasi, mendukung pengembangan karakter, dan menyampaikan tema. Pada akhirnya, hal ini membantu keterampilan berbahasa dan pemahaman anak-anak. Artikel ini menekankan pentingnya melibatkan siswa muda dan meningkatkan pemahaman mereka tentang kata majemuk dalam konteks.

ABSTRACT

The study shows how important language structure is to developing narrative and character, and how important it is for translators to strike a balance between accuracy and cultural acceptability. In addition, the study looks at the use of compound words in English short stories available on the British Council Kids software. Particular emphasis is placed on the role of compound words in improving children's English vocabulary and comprehension. There are three types of compound words: closed compound words (such as "notebook"), open compound words (such as "ice cream"), and hyphenated compounds. The study investigates three stories: "Elizabeth I," "The Ugly Duckling," and "Nessie - The Loch Ness Monster." and finds key compound words and their meanings. The results show that these words enhance the narrative, support character development, and convey themes. Ultimately, this helps children's language skills and comprehension. This article emphasizes the importance of short stories as a teaching tool to engage young students and enhance their understanding of compound words in context.

Introduction

Compound word is a word which is formed through one of the word formation processes by combining one of them lexical items with other items and thus producing



new words with new meanings. A combination of two or more words that work as a single unit and provide a new meaning distinct from the meanings of the separate words is called a compound word. In contrast to a brush or tooth alone, the term "toothbrush" combines the words "tooth" and "brush" to particularly refer to a device used for teeth cleaning (Christianto, 2020).

Based on their writing style, compound words may be divided into three main categories, words that are closed compounds are created by connecting two words together without any gaps (e.g., "notebook," "football"). The merged word works as a single unit, open compound words, these are combinations of distinct words that express a single concept (e.g., "ice cream," "post office"). Even while each word keeps its own shape, taken as a whole, they convey a novel idea, hyphenated compounds, these terms (such as "mother-in-law" and "well-being") are joined by hyphens. Relationships between the combined terms are made clearer by hyphenation.

Compound word comprehension improves communication and vocabulary. Here are some instances of each kind: closed compounds (e.g., "Basketball" and "Sunflower"), open compounds (e.g., "Full moon" and "High school"), hyphenated compounds (e.g., "Twenty-one" and "Sister-in-law"), understanding the distinct grammatical roles played by each kind might help one become a better writer and speaker (Christianto, 2020). Short stories as a powerful resource for instructing children in language abilities, utilizing their captivating stories and familiar subjects. Studies indicate that these brief tales not only engage young readers but also promote creativity and enhance vocabulary growth in an organic and pleasurable way (Ermawati, 2010).

A research project conducted by (Maulidia, 2023) emphasizes the beneficial effects of short stories in classrooms focused on English language learning. The study shows that short narratives make the learning process more engaging, which in turn boosts the writing skills of students. According to the results, when students interact with brief stories, they show better memory for vocabulary and improved skills in communication, reflecting notable advancements in reading understanding and general language competence. Moreover, incorporating short stories into language education has been proven to enhance comprehension of grammar rules and vocabulary. This method not only improves the language experience for students but also promotes active involvement in class, resulting in greater interest and better memory of new ideas (Pardede, 2021).

Through short stories, this study aims to help children understand and recognize compound words. By recognizing compound words, children can improve their reading skills, expand their vocabulary, and broaden their understanding of the English language as a whole. When short stories are used as a learning method, they provide interesting and relevant contexts, which makes the learning process more enjoyable. This study also serves as a guideline for teachers and parents on how to use short stories as a tool to teach their children English. By using the British Council Kids app, children can access a variety of stories that contain many words, which makes learning important language concepts easier. The main goal of British Council Kids is to provide interactive and teaching learning resources so that children can learn English in a fun and rewarding way. Understanding compound words can help children understand the context and

meaning of literary texts, which in turn improves their language skills (Dewi et al., 2020). Previous studies also emphasized that the use of compound words in literary texts not only enriches language but also improves children's reading ability (Cahyanti, 2016).

Focusing on compound words is important because the combination of words helps children understand the logic of English in an interesting way. For example, many compound words in popular short stories such as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle make reading more enjoyable for children. To expand vocabulary and improve reading ability, compound word analysis has been proven to be successful. Recent studies emphasize how important compound words are for understanding the context and meaning of contemporary literary texts (Maharani & Refnaldi, 2022). While understanding compound words also helps children learn language better (Oktafiani & Sari, 2019). As a result, this study is expected to provide useful information for children, teachers, and parents through the analysis of compound words from short stories that can be accessed through the British Council Kids application. This method is useful for children's English development and helps understand the overall function of language. It is hoped that children will find it easier to understand and use compound words and apply them in everyday life through an interactive and interesting approach.

Discussion

In a study of compound words in the short stories "Elizabeth I", "The Ugly Duckling", and "Nessie - The Loch Ness Monster" found in the British Council Kids application, researchers found many examples of compound words that have important meanings and roles in the context of the story. These words not only increase vocabulary, but also support the delivery of themes and characters in the narrative.

Elizabeth I

In the study of the short story "Elizabeth I" from the British Council Kids application, there are several prominent compound words, namely bad tempered, step-mothers, goodbye, Spanish Armada, and loving people.

a. Bad-tempered: This term is a combination of "bad" and "tempered" (attitude or weakness). This means describing an individual who is easily angered or has a bad character.

b. Step-mothers: This term is a combination of "step-" (stepmother) and "mothers" (mother). This means referring to a mother who is not biological.

c. Goodbye: This term is a combination of "good" and "by" and "e" (end). It means a polite farewell.

d. Spanish Armada: This term is a combination of the name of the country ("Spain") and the term for warship ("Armada"). It refers to the Spanish naval fleet.

e. Loving People: This term is a combination of "loving" and "people" (individuals). It means someone with whom one has great affection.

This finding is very much in line with previous studies on complex phrases in Japanese. For example, let's look at the research on complex phrases in Kajii Motojiro's

short story "Remon," where complex phrases such as 贅沢 (zeitaku) are formed from two words, namely 贅 (zei) and 沢 (taku) (Rini & Aryani, 2024). The study explains that compound words can have non idiomatic meanings if their components consist of similar vocabulary, for example both 贅 and 沢 are included in the kango category because they are pronounced on-yomi. This is similar to the way compounds are formed in English such as bad-tempered, where each item has its own meaning, but together they create a new meaning.

Furthermore, when translating compound phrases from Japanese to Indonesian, translators need to be careful not to disturb the original meaning. As seen in another study on translating compound phrases in Japanese short fiction into Indonesian, translators applied literal translation, semantic translation, and free translation techniques to maintain the original meaning (Ainiyah & Rini, 2024). The analysis of compound words in the short story Elizabeth I reveals that the combination of complex language elements can produce important new meanings. This result is related to previous studies on compound words in Japanese and the importance of preserving the original meaning in the translation process. Thus, understanding the structure and meaning of compound words is very important in linguistic studies and literary translation (Widad & Zawawi, 2023).

The ugly duckling

In the study of compound words in the short story "The Ugly Duckling," there are several interesting terms to note, such as Mummy Duck, ducklings, somewhere, and snowfall. These terms are not only narrative, but also reflect the richness of morphological structures in English.

a. Mummy Duck refers to a female duck, which exhibits maternal bonds and an important role in the narrative. The term consists of two words: "Mummy" (mother) and 'Duck' (duck), which together reflect a figure who protects and nurtures her young. In the context of the story, Mummy Duck acts as a symbol of protection and love.

b. Ducklings is the plural form of duckling, which refers to a number of ducklings. The term also describes the process of life and development, where the ducklings play an important role in the storyline. The use of the plural form in this context highlights the aspects of togetherness and interaction that occur between the characters in the narrative.

c. Somewhere denotes an obscure location, creating an air of mystery and quest in the story. The term suggests that the main character, a less attractive duck, is on a journey to find his place in the world. The use of this term gives an emotional layer to the search for identity.

d. Snowfall refers to a weather event that reflects a shift or change. In the narrative, snow symbolizes the challenges that the ugly duckling must face before he finally finds his identity as a beautiful swan.

The analysis shows that the use of compound phrases in "The Ugly Duckling" not only enriches the vocabulary but also gives more dimensions to the meaning of the story. Based on research conducted by (Nurjanah et al., 2018), the application of

derivative and inflectional affixes in narrative texts such as “The Ugly Duckling” is crucial to understanding language structure and character evolution. This study also observed that word morphology can influence the way readers grasp the connection between the characters and the main theme in the story (Bunau, 2023).

The set of words shows the main theme of change and self-recognition. Rizkia (2016) explains that the utilization of morphemes in the story helps convey moral values related to self-recognition and beauty that comes from the heart (Arwanto et al., 2024). Therefore, terms such as Mummy Duck, ducklings, somewhere, and snowfall are not just language elements, but also narrative tools that strengthen the core of the story. Overall, this study shows how important it is to understand the morphology of words in literary works to uncover the deeper meaning of the text. The previous study provides strong evidence of the relevance of morphological analysis in English language teaching, especially for learners who are studying language structure (Irham et al., 2022).

Nessie – The Loch Ness Monster

In the discussion of the short story “Nessie - The Loch Ness Monster,” there are several compound terms, namely “Loch Ness,” “underwater,” and “submersible.” These three terms show how the English language utilizes word combinations to produce more complex meanings.

a. Loch Ness is an example of a compound name that belongs to the proper name category. The term is made up of two parts: “Loch,” which means lake in Scottish, and ‘Ness,’ which is the specific name for the location. According to Bulgis, the use of this place name not only provides a geographical identity, but also connects the story with myths and folklore related to the legendary creature believed to inhabit the loch. As such, this type of compound name often functions as the subject or object in a sentence, showing its importance in the context of the narrative.

b. Underwater is a compound adjective that describes anything that lies below the surface of the water. It brings together “under” and “water,” resulting in a new meaning that refers to a state or place below the surface of the water. In a narrative context, it can refer to a search or discovery made in a lake, adding an element of mystery and adventure (Maharani & Refnaldi, 2022).

c. Submersibles, while it can be seen as a plural term, is actually more accurately referred to as a noun with the prefix “sub-.” This term refers to devices that are built to operate below the surface of the water. In the context of the narrative, submersibles can describe the latest technology used to probe the depths of Loch Ness in the search for the legendary creature. This shows the connection between technological advancement and the exploration of myth.

From the examination conducted, it is clear that the application of complex phrases in “Nessie - The Loch Ness Monster” not only embellishes the language but also gives depth to the meaning of the story. Terms such as “Loch Ness” establish geographical and cultural context, while “underwater” and “submersibles” add technical as well as exploratory elements to the story.

Furthermore, the invention of underwater vehicles as a tool for exploration shows the connection between ancient legends and present-day technology. In various studies on compound phrases, it is revealed that word combinations can produce new meanings that are not only linguistically effective but also in a narrative context (Maharani & Refnaldi, 2022). Therefore, the study of the use of compound phrases in this short story provides a deeper understanding of how language shapes our perception of key themes such as natural wonders and the quest for knowledge. Overall, this analysis shows that mastery of compound words is crucial to understanding nuance in English and how these components support the formation of themes in literary works. Additional research can be conducted to examine more examples of the application of compound words in other literature to understand broader linguistic patterns.

An analysis of the use of compound words in the three short stories shows that compound words are very useful in designing narratives and character development. Previous studies have revealed that compound words are often used to produce more complex meanings. For example, in a study of compound words in the novel “The Fault in Our Stars”, it was revealed that the most frequently used type of compound word was compound nouns, with the proportion reaching 73% of the total data (Christianto, 2020). This shows that compound nouns are often used to describe objects or characters in a narrative.

In this short story analysis, the use of compound words such as “ugly duckling” and “Loch Ness monster” serves to give the characters and objects a clear identity. On the other hand, compound adjectives such as “grumpy” provide additional information about the character's nature or condition, thus deepening the reader's understanding of the storyline. In addition, research conducted by Bulgis on the morphological structure of compound words reveals that the combination of elements in compound words can create a deeper meaning compared to single words. For example, in “The Ugly Duckling”, the combination of the words “ugly” and “duck” not only describes physical appearance but also hints at the themes of social rejection and the journey towards self-acceptance.

In the world of translation, it is crucial to pay attention to the way words are understood in the target culture. Previous studies have shown that translating complex phrases needs to preserve the original meaning while ensuring that the term is accepted by the new audience (Basori & Setyowati, 2024). This indicates the challenge for translators to strike a balance between meaning accuracy and cultural appropriateness. The use of compound words in the third short story provides a deeper understanding of how language builds narrative and character. The results of this study are in line with the findings of previous studies that highlighted the prevalence of compound words in literary works as well as the importance of preserving meaning when translating. Therefore, this analysis emphasizes the significance of language structure in understanding and conveying stories in an effective way.

Conclusion and Suggestions

This study shows that the use of compound words in short stories has a significant impact on children's vocabulary and their understanding of English. The study found that, by categorizing compound words into closed, open, and hyphenated categories, they not only enrich the story and support character development, but also convey important themes. Therefore, it is highly recommended to use short stories as a teaching tool because it will engage young learners and help them improve their overall language skills as well as understand the context in which different words are used.

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