



## The Use of Appraising Items in Doyle's Novel Titled *A Study in Scarlet*

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### Abstract

This research investigated the interpersonal meaning in *A Study in Scarlet*, how the appraising items used by the main characters and also its pedagogical implication to English education by using the framework by Halliday (2004) and Kress van Leeuwen (2006). The objectives of this research were to explain the use of the attitude, consisting of affect, judgment, and appreciation. This research was a discourse analysis which belongs to qualitative research. The source was nine chapters from the novel which is divided into two parts. The object was the utterances from the main characters. The units of the research were the clauses consisted in the chapters. The finding showed that the use of the attitude was dominated by Dr. Watson as the main character and also the narrator. In affect, he used mostly happiness, negative capacity, normality in judgment and positive reaction in appreciation. It can be concluded that the writer portrayed Sherlock Holmes through Dr. Watson's utterances and monologues in order to show Holmes characters, how he reacted to series of events in the novel by using certain appraising items. By applying appraising items in teaching-learning, this research hopefully could help students to enhance their interpersonal skills in communication inside or outside the classroom to reach the purpose of having varied and natural conversation also a mutual understanding.

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## INTRODUCTION

A novel, based on Sumardjo (1998, p. 29) is a story with the prose form in a long shape. By long shape, it means the story including the complex plot, diverse characters, and various setting. It is a fictional text which has a substantial length and definite complexity that deals with imaginatively human experiences. It is normally connected to each other through sequential events involving a group of persons in a certain and a specific setting. It is also one of a genre in fiction through written words as the representation of human real-life experience. The purpose of a novel can be different and subjective, neither fixed or a singular one. Of all the rewards that the novel can bring, the one for sure is enjoyment. For the reader to enjoy and invest more time in reading the novel, the author and the reader should find a way to fill in the gap.

In order to help the reader, every story needs to have a context. The context means a state of affairs which forming a background, setting, or surroundings of occurrences. Simply, the context shapes a background of an event, idea or statement in such a way as to enable the readers to understand the literary piece. This is an essential part and it helps to engage the reader. The author also should be able to create a compelling and relatable character so that the reader can enjoy reading the novel.

The relatable character in the novel helps the reader to feel the emotion, pain, triumph, joy or sorrows which directly makes the reader connected to the story and the novel itself. Through the relatable character in the story, the author can describe and deliver the emotion and experience into the reader's mind. Whether the character is sympathetic or not, it should evoke the reader's emotional responses through the character's actions or moves. Regarding this matter, appraisal plays an important part to contribute to achieving this goal. According to Martin and White (2005), the appraisal is composed of three interacting domains: attitude (feelings of emotional reactions, judgments of behaviour and evaluation of things), engagement

(sourcing attitudes and the play voices around opinions in discourse), and graduation (grading phenomena whereby feelings are amplified and categories blurred).

By applying appraisal, the reader could grasp the emotion that the character delivers through their action and state of mind by using some emotive or evaluative words or sentences. These words or sentences can deliver sympathy or empathy, sadness or happiness depend on what characters that the author shows in the story.

According to Fitriati, Sutopo, and Maula (2018), the appraisal used in eulogy could help to reach the communicative purpose of the text. The appraising items expressed in the text showed the eulogizer's assessment towards the deceased. The function of appraising items in the novel is the same as in eulogy wherein the author expressed his or her feeling through the character in order for the readers to experience the same. It directly contributes to shaping the character's personality, their point of view and makes them more alive via memorable and interesting dialogues.

The area of appraisal covers up many areas, such as speech (Agustien & Mafruchattunnisa, 2016; Priyatmojo & Apriliani, 2016; Solihah, Warsono & Fitriati, 2018) songs (Jatikusumo, 2012; Li, 2016), movies (Chusna & Wahyudi, 2015; Natalia, 2017; Amalia & Hakim, 2017) newspaper and online text (Warsono, 2008; Ekawati, 2015; Zhang, 2016), students writings (Ngongo, 2017; Yuliana & Gandana, 2018), and novel and books (Benham & Bahar, 2013; Li & Gao, 2013; Hadidi & Parvin, 2015).

Hereinafter, the object of this study was an English novel written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle titled *A Study in Scarlet* published in 1887 and later first appeared in *Beeton's Christmas Annual*. The subject for this research centered on two main characters which were Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson and the way they were dealing with solving crimes and murders.

The research aimed to see how the appraising items used in the novel. Therefore, it

analyzed the appraising items that the character used which consist of affect (un/happiness, in/security, dis/satisfaction, dis/inclination), judgment (social sanction and social esteem) and appreciation (reaction, composition, and valuation).

In addition, the interpersonal meaning is important to help a person in expressing their ideas, feelings, beliefs in order to build a strong relationship with other people. Since appraisal theory can be seen from written and spoken material, students could learn about how to utter their personal judgment and expression into text or verbal communication. Besides that, they could also figure the other's personality and character as a started to socialize in daily life. It could also help them to determine one's behavior, feelings and viewpoint to reach a more meaningful and varied talk.

## METHODS

The study aimed to explain the appraising items (affect, judgment, and appreciation) used in this novel by the main characters. In order to fulfill these objectives, the researcher concerned with the discourse field and used a qualitative research design. It also did not relate to the numeral data, but it related to the meanings, concepts, definitions, and description of things (Berg, 1989: 2).

In this study, the main source was an English novel written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle titled *A Study in Scarlet* which first published in 1887. This research used the written form taken from the *A Study in Scarlet*. Later on, the data was broken up into several sentences or words. The unit of analysis of this study were clauses and clause complexes which traditionally labeled as sentences. The sentences were analyzed by the appraisal system from Martin and White (2005) which divided into three parts; affect, judgment and appreciation.

To analyze the data, the researcher categorized the data found as the appraising items and put them into several aspects within the attitude. Next, the researcher need to interpret it based on the research problems of the

research which was to explain the use of appraising items by the main characters. After the whole data were interpreted, the researcher then continued to give the inference based on the interpretation.

To avoid bias in the researcher, the researcher used triangulation as a powerful tool to strengthen the research where it is based on the fact which states that a single method will never adequately solve the problem of causal factors (Denzin 1978; Patton 1990; De Vos 1998). In this research, the researcher used expert judgment as for the triangulation. The researcher involved two experts who have great knowledge based on their background in literature.

After all the data were taken, the researcher examined it and the result handed to the experts, in this matter the expert were two English lectures came from one of the Private University in Semarang, Hartono, S.S, M.Pd, and Destary Praptawati S.S, M.Hum. They gave their assessment towards the data along with the result that the researcher obtained. Furthermore, both of the results compared in order to corroborate the final research result.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

This part followed the statement of the research objectives.

The first objective of this research was to explain how the affect used in the novel. In order to achieve the goal, some findings are found after conducting the analysis of the appraising items. The summary of the findings of affect is shown in table down below.

**Table 1.** Distribution of affect used in *A Study in Scarlet*

Appraiser	Part I (Chapter I, VII)	Part II (Chapter XIII)	Total
Sherlock Holmes	15	6	21
Dr. Watson	107	13	120

There are some examples shown down below:

- (i) ..... he said cordially, **gripping my hand** with a strength for which I should..... (paragraph 36, page 7) (Happiness)
- (ii) Ha! Ha!" he cried, **clapping his hands, and looking as delighted as a child with a new toy.**" (paragraph 42, page 7) (Happiness)
- (iii) ....who had ruffled the little man's temper by bursting into **an explosion of laughter** (Paragraph 206, page 19) (Happiness)

The findings of affect used in the research based on the appraisal theory stated by Martin and White (2005) showed out 141 clauses which contained affect items.

From Dr. Watson, the affect found in Part I and II were 120 affects, with 25 insecurity, 6 security, 17 dissatisfaction, 14 satisfaction, 8 unhappiness, 43 happiness, 5 disinclination, and 2 inclination. Hereinafter, from Part I and Part II, Holmes gained only 21 affects, with 2 dissatisfaction, 2 satisfaction, 6 insecurity, 4 disinclination, 1 unhappiness, and 6 happiness.

In addition, Dr. Watson used 85 % of the total affect used in the novel. While his companion, Holmes only used 15 % of the total affect appeared in the novel. Furthermore, regarding to the finding of the affect, Dr. Watson tends to use happiness a lot to express his feelings or Holmes's feelings both in Part I or Part II. Regarding the affect that Holmes most used in the novel, it was insecurity in Part I and satisfaction in Part II. He used this to show his accomplishment or his personal feelings towards the case he handled or to describe Dr. Watson's reaction.

According to Martin and White (2005: 42) affect is something that concern with registering positive and negative feelings, whether it is happy or sad, confident or anxious, interested or bored. Dr. Watson most used affect was happiness and mostly was the manifestation from the writer as regards to Holmes. Most of the examples were the description of how Holmes reacted to Dr. Watson such as smiled, laughed, clapped hands and etc. The writer wanted to show the readers that it was a way of Holmes to express his excitement and his

sudden feelings when it came to conducting an investigation. But sometimes he could express happiness, not because he was purely happy but more to a satire to his own mistakes.

It can also be seen that his happiness expression was a part of his cockiness or downgrading self to other people who did not accomplish the same achievement as he did or merely because they were too foolish. On the other hand, what Dr. Watson did with his expression of happiness was a pure happy feeling or because he valued his own attainments not part of overbearing another people's viewpoint. It can be concluded that the readers could see the difference between Dr. Watson and Holmes personality towards themselves and to other people in common in the used on affect in the novel.

**Table 2.** Distribution of judgment used in *A Study in Scarlet*

Appraiser	Part I (Chapter I, VII)	Part II (Chapter XIII)	Total
Sherlock Holmes	35	16	51
Dr. Watson	56	10	66

Some examples are shown down below:

- (i) Upon my quoting Thomas Carlyle, **he inquired in the naivest way** who he might..... (paragraph 76, page 10)
- (ii) ....I found incidentally that he was **ignorant** of the Copernican Theory..... (paragraph 76, page 10)
- (iii) **His ignorance** was as remarkable as his knowledge (paragraph 76, page 10)

The findings of judgment used in the research based on the appraisal theory stated by Martin and White (2005) showed out of 117 clauses which contained judgment items.

From Part I and Part II, Watson had 66 judgment consisted of 17 positive capacity, 21 negative capacity, 9 positive normality, 12 negative normality, 2 positive tenacity, 1 negative tenacity, 1 positive propriety, 2 negative propriety, and 1 negative veracity. On the other

hand, from Part I and Part II, Holmes got 51 judgment consisted of 7 negative normality, 4 positive normality, 7 negative capacity, 24 positive capacity, 4 positive tenacity, 2 negative tenacity, 1 positive propriety, and 2 positive veracity. It can be concluded that Dr. Watson used the most judgment for around 56% with negative capacity as the most used judgment. Hereinafter, the finding from the judgment used by Holmes showed that he gained 44% with mostly used positive capacity.

According to Martin and White (2005) judgment is how people decipher the meaning towards someone else's behavior or attitude or how their character measures up. From the novel, Holmes used positive capacity the most than Dr. Watson but mostly not to measure other peoples capability or attitude except for himself. Holmes acknowledged his own ability and skill so he tends to praise himself for being superior to most people and did the opposite to other people. It is shown that his character in the novel liked showing off his skill and being the smartest among all. In conclusion, the used of judgment in the novel was the writer who wanted to show that Holmes was highly capable of being a detective. In addition, here the readers also could see that his character was not merely composed by the ideas of him being an arrogant person, which as described through Dr. Watson's personal thought, but also a character who could astonish the readers with his brilliant ability.

**Table 3.** Distribution of appreciation used in *A Study in Scarlet*

Appraiser	Part I (Chapter VII)	Part II (Chapter XIII)	Total
Sherlock Holmes	46	16	62
Dr. Watson	61	16	77

Some examples are shown down below:

- (i) *Yet his zeal for certain studies was remarkable, and within eccentric limits his knowledge was so extraordinarily ample*

*and..... (paragraph 75, page 9) (positive reaction; impact)*

- (ii) *His conclusions were as infallible as so many proporsitions of Euclid. (paragraph 88, page 11) (positive reaction; quality)*

- (iii) *My respect for his powers of analysis inreased wondrously. (paragraph 121, page 15) (positive reaction; impact)*

The findings of appreciation used in the research based on the appraisal theory stated by Martin and White (2005) showed out of 139 clauses which contained appreciation items.

Watson used appreciation more than Holmes which around 77 for both Part I and Part II, consisted of 30 positive impact, 16 negative impact, 11 positive quality, 3 negative quality, 3 positive balance, 3 negative balance, 2 positive complexity, 1 negative complexity, 3 positive valuation, and 5 negative valuation. On the other hand, Holmes gained 62 appreciation from Part I and Part II which consisted of 10 positive impact, 8 negative impact, 20 positive quality, 1 negative quality, 8 positive complexity, 2 negative complexity, 1 positive balance, 5 positive valuation, and 7 negative valuation. It can be concluded that Dr. Watson used 55% of the appreciation with positive reaction as the most used appreciation both in Part I and Part II. Meanwhile, on the other hand, Holmes gained 45% of the appreciation used in the novel and uttered mostly positive impact.

Based on Rothery and Stenglin (2000) reaction is interpersonally tuned which describes the impact of work on the reader or listener or the viewer that later lead them to evaluate the quality of the product or the process. The positive reaction was the most used in the novel from both of the characters. It means that Dr. Watson and Holmes knew how to value things around them, the process of them working on the case and the embodiment of human behavior. The writer through Dr. Watson utterances showed his honor and admiration to Holmes way of working. He appreciated the process just like Holmes who valued his knowledge and skill to solve cases. In conclusion, the used of positive reaction from

appreciation in the novel assisted the readers to participate in giving their own tribute to the products and processes that both characters experience.

Considering the explanation before, the researcher also wanted to find the pedagogical implication of the findings towards English education. Through learning attitude, the teacher can teach them how to talk or do conversation naturally, with a happy exclamation, showing their sad expression, expressing their disappointments, their interest and etc. They may have good or bad feelings, happy or sad which can be expressed directly or indirectly. The finding from this research showed that through words, the students could determine one's behavior, their feeling, their ideas, and their value towards things and people viewpoint. It also helped them to deliver a more meaningful and varied talk.

The discourse analysis used in this research gave the teachers new materials to be given to the students. Through written form, the students could learn about how to utter their personal judgment and expression into text or verbal communication. Besides that, the students could also figure the other's personality and character as a started to socialize in daily life. Literate here means that the students not only understand the literal meaning of the written words or being able to rewrite them but also can use any form of the languages whenever it comes across.

The teachers need to introduce the students about the appraising items, how the words can help them to express their emotion and judgment towards another people or things by doing situated practices inside or outside the classroom in order to train their interpersonal communication.

## CONCLUSIONS

This study answered the problems about how is the use of the appraising items in the novel. Theoretically, this research showed that in order to uncover how the writer described his characters in the novel, the appraisal system is

needed as an instrument that helped the readers to have a better understanding towards the characters reaction and emotion that radiated through the whole story.

Practically, the findings from this research are expected to make learners in English education be more aware on how to improve their interpersonal skill. Learners could have a better skill in stating their opinions and emotional responses whether it is inside or outside the classroom without the need to always stick to the textbook. It is expected for the learners to develop their ability in order to build a better communication in interacting with another people in order to achieve a mutual understanding.

Pedagogically, this research is expected to help the teachers direct the learners on how to use the appropriate phrases and words in order to express their emotion, ideas, and point of view to the people around them or things.

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