

ANALYSIS OF PREPOSITIONS *IN, AT, & ON*
IN THE SHORT STORY “RIP VAN WINKLE” BY WASHINGTON
IRVING

I Dewa Gede Satya Nugraha

Sastra Inggris Non Reguler

Fakultas Sastra Universitas Udayana

ABSTRAK

*Bahasa Inggris sangatlah penting dalam era globalisasi. Bahasa Inggris harus diaplikasikan dengan benar sesuai dengan aturannya. Kalimat yang benar dalam Bahasa Inggris meliputi banyak aspek. Salah satu diantaranya adalah jenis kata. Sesuai dengan tulisan ini yang berjudul *The Analysis of Prepositions in, at, & on in The Short Story “Rip Van Winkle” by Washington Irving*, preposisi sangatlah penting untuk membuat kalimat yang baik. Itu mengapa penulis ingin meningkatkan pemahaman dan kemampuan dalam menggunakan preposisi khususnya *in, at, & on*.*

*Sumber data dari tulisan ini adalah cerita pendek yang berjudul *Rip Van Winkle* yang ditulis oleh Washington Irving. Metode pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan menyimak bacaan dan mencatat data yang dibutuhkan dari cerita pendek tersebut. Dalam menganalisa data, tulisan ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Metode ini digunakan untuk menjelaskan karakter dari data sesuai dengan teori yang digunakan dalam tulisan ini.*

*Dalam tulisan ini preposisi *in, at, & on* dianalisa sesuai dengan fungsi dan maknanya, menurut teori *Quirk, et. Al.* Sesuai dengan analisa preposisi tersebut dibagi menjadi dua fungsi yaitu *adverb* dan *complementation*. Dari banyak kategori makna, ditemukan preposition dalam kategori *positive position, space, time position, dan goal/target*.*

*Dari tulisan ini ditemukan bahwa fungsi *adverbial* akan ditemukan jika preposisi *in, at, & on* terdapat pada kalimat lengkap yang terdiri dari subjek, predikat, dan objek. Di sisi lain, fungsi *complementation* akan ditemukan pada kalimat yang tidak lengkap. Kategori makna preposisi ***in*** terdiri dari *positive position, space, dan time position*, preposisi ***at*** terdiri dari *positive position, time position, dan goal/target*, sedangkan preposisi ***on*** terdiri dari *positive position dan time position*.*

Kata kunci: Preposisi, fungsi, makna

1. Background of the Study

Language is one of essential part of human culture which has a very important role in the human daily life. As a means of communication, language has a role when we express ideas, thought and feeling, to convey information, to transfer knowledge, science, and technology, either in spoken or written form.

Many aspect can be found in the language whether internal or external ones. From the internal point of view, there are morphology, phonology, syntax, semantics, and grammar. They are branches of linguistics. These aspects are often called micro linguistic elements.

Focusing on the research, the topic of discussion is taken from a micro linguistic study (grammar) especially preposition which is one of the important elements of the English sentences. In English sentences we can find five elements that must be combined correctly, such as subject, verb, complement, object, and adverbial. As we know there are simple prepositions and complex prepositions. A simple preposition consists of a word or one word, for examples *at, in, on, of, from, with, and by*, some of them also adverbs. Complex prepositions consist of combinations of two or three words that function in the same way, for examples, *according to, regardless of, and in addition to*. Some of the relationships which can be expressed by prepositions are *place or position, time, manner, and agent*.

Michael Swan in “Practical English Usage” said that it is difficult to learn how to use prepositions correctly in a foreign language. Most English prepositions have several different functions (for instance, one well known dictionary lists eighteen main uses of *at*), and these may correspond to several different prepositions in another language. (Swan, 1995: 444)

According to the statement above, that is why it is very interesting to learn prepositions, especially prepositions *in, at, and on* in detail. These prepositions have some types and various meanings in sentences. They are also found in various word classes in sentences. In addition, by means of this research we can increase the understanding of these prepositions, in order to use those in a sentence correctly.

2. Problem of the Study

Based on the background above, this study focuses to discuss the functions and meanings of the preposition *in*, *at*, & *on* which appear in the short story, as follows:

1. What are the functions of prepositions *in*, *at*, and *on* in the sentences found in the short story “Rip Van Winkle” by Washington Irving?
2. What are the meanings of prepositions *in*, *at*, and *on* found in the short story “Rip Van Winkle” by Washington Irving?

3. Aims of the Study

The aims of this research are to get experiences how to analyze prepositions in a literary work and to improve the knowledge and the understanding of prepositions especially the prepositions *in*, *at*, and *on*. The aims would be achieved from this paper are as follows:

1. To analyze the functions of prepositions *in*, *at*, and *on* in the sentence found in the short story “Rip Van Winkle” by Washington Irving.
2. To analyze the meanings of prepositions *in*, *at*, and *on* in the sentence found in the short story “Rip Van Winkle” by Washington Irving.

4. Research Method

This writing is focused on analyzing prepositions *in*, *at*, and *on* in a short story. There are three aspects of the research in this study.

4.1. Data Source

The object of this research was taken from a short story entitled “Rip Van Winkle”. This fiction story was published in 1819, in America. “Rip Van Winkle” is a short story written by the American author, Washington Irving. This short story was chosen as the data source because in this literature, prepositions as the

target of this research related to the problems can be found. The target of this research are prepositions *in*, *at*, and *on* which have meanings, and functions related to the theory which was used in this writing.

4.2. Method and Technique of Collecting Data

This method of data collection was done through reading and note taking from the data source. The steps of collecting the data are as follows:

1. Reading the reference books related to the topic as well as reading the data source carefully and understanding the content of the short story, in term of the preposition *in*, *at*, and *on*.
2. Finding out and underlining the sentences which contain preposition *in*, *at*, and *on* in the short story and giving mark to the data which are relevant to the research.

4.3. Method and Technique of Analyzing Data

When the data had been collected, the data were classified based on the theory applied. First, prepositions *in*, *at*, and *on* were classified as the requirement of this study based on each meaning and function categories. Second, the data were analyzed systematically based on the theory applied in this writing. Finally to keep the legality of the data, this analysis was supported by theories which were taken from some books applied in this writing.

5. Analysis

The data are analyzed in detail using the theory which is applied in this study. The preposition *in*, *at*, & *on* appeared in the data analyzed to identify the functions and the meanings. The functions are focused by two categories; they are the function of preposition as an adverbial and as a complementation. The meanings are focused by some categories; they are the meaning of preposition as positive position and destination, space, time position, and goal/target.

In this study, preposition *in*, *at*, and *on* show the functions and the meanings in several categories. The functions and meanings of the prepositions are described, as follows:

5.1. Positive Position and Destination

1. He used to tell story to every stranger that arrived **at** Mr. Dollittle's hotel.
2. ..., but I fell asleep **on** the mountain, ...
3. ..., yet it was the worst conditioned farm **in** the neighborhood.

Prepositional phrases *at Mr. Dollittle's hotel* in sentence (1), *on the mountain* in sentence (2) and *in the neighborhood* above indicate location.

The function of prepositional phrases *at Mr. Dollittle's hotel* in sentence (1) is complementation of verb because the preceding word of *at* is a verb 'arrived' and *on the mountain* in sentence (2) is complementation of adjective because the preceding word of *on* is an adjective 'asleep'. If we omit the prepositional phrases they will be incomplete. So, they are required to complete the sentence. However, the function of prepositional phrase *in the neighborhood* in sentence (3) is as adverbial. It gives more information about the noun 'farm'. It can be omitted without destroying the sentence.

5.2. Space

1. He caught his daughter and her child **in** her arms.
2. The neighbors stared when they heard it; some were seen to wink at each other and put their tongues in their cheeks; ...

The prepositional phrases *in her arms* in sentence (1) and *in their cheeks* in sentence (2) explain various positions. The function of prepositional phrases in both sentence are adverbial. Preposition *in* in sentence (1) and sentence (2) gives more information about the noun 'child' and 'tongues'.

5.3. Time Position

1. ..., took his part in all family squabbles and never failed, whenever they

talked those matters over **in** their evening gossiping, ...

2. ..., as fine lady does her train **in** bad weather.
3. ..., they are clothed in blue and purple, and print their bold outlines **on** clear evening sky, ...

The prepositional phrases *in their evening gossiping* in sentence (1) explain that the period of their evening gossiping is shorter than a day, *in bad weather* in sentence (2) explains the period of bad weather is shorter than a day, and *on clear evening sky* explains the period of the clear evening sky.

The function of prepositional phrases in *their evening gossiping* in sentence (1) is complementation of adjective because the preceding word of *in* is an adjective 'over', *in bad weather* in sentence (2) is as adverbial because it gives more information about the noun 'train', and *on clear evening sky* in sentence (3) is as adverbial because it gives more information about the noun 'outlines'. The prepositional phrases in sentence (2) and (3) can be omitted without destroying grammaticality of the sentence.

5.4. Goal/Target

1. ...; and not a dog would bark **at** him throughout the neighborhood.
2. ..., he sneaked about with a gallows air, casting many a sidelong glance **at** Dame Van Winkle, ...
3. A troop of strange children ran **at** his heels, ...

The prepositional phrase *at him throughout the neighborhood* in sentence (1) explains that 'him' as the intended target, *at Dame Van Winkle* in sentence (2) explains that 'Dame Van Winkle' is the intended target, and *at his heels* in sentence (3) explain that 'his heels' is the intended goal. The words or a phrase which are followed by preposition *at* in every sentence has a role as a noun or noun phrase.

The function of the prepositional phrase *at him throughout the neighborhood* in sentence (1) is as complementation of verb, because the preceding word of *at* is a verb 'bark', *at Dame Van Winkle* in sentence (2) is as adverbial, because it gives more information about the noun phrase 'a sidelong

glance', and *at his heels* is as complementation of verb, because the preceding word of *at* is the verb 'ran'.

6. Conclusion

Based on the result of the data analysis which is presented above, it can be drawn by some conclusions. The conclusions of the research of the prepositions *in*, *at*, and *on* are found from the data source that is the short story "Rip Van Winkle" by Washington Irving. They were analyzed based on the theory of Quirk, ET. Al. Some conclusions which are drawn can be formulated as follows.

Prepositions *in*, *at*, and *on* which were analyzed in this writing describe that they have syntactic function. The function of prepositions *in*, *at*, and *on* is divided into two points, such as postmodifier in noun phrase, adverbial and complementation. From the data source it could be found only two functions that are adverbial and complementation, to develop a well structure. The application of the functions above makes the concern of the research to that's two functions. From this writing can be found that the function of *adverbial* will occur if prepositions *in*, *at*, and *on* are presented in the complete sentence which consist of; subject, predicate and object.

On the other side, *complementation* will occur if the sentence is not complete as well. The prepositions *in*, *at*, and *on* in this writing are preceded by some classes of word that are **verb** and **adjective**. However, noun class dominates all of the classes of words.

About the meaning, each preposition, that is, *in*, *at*, and *on* has some meaning categories. The meaning categories of preposition *in* consist of positive position, space, and time position. The meaning categories of preposition *at* consist of positive position, time position, and goal or target. The meaning categories of preposition *on* consist of positive position, and time position. The prepositions *in*, *at*, and *on* which express the meaning categories are followed or joined by a noun which is formed by a word, a phrase, and clause. Those three occur in the short story.

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