



## Analysis of Prepositional Phrases in *Pinocchio* and Its Application in Teaching Writing

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DOI: 10.37729/scripta.v9i1.1478

**Abstract.** As English learners in today's world, people must master the four skills in language learning. There are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Writing is one of the most difficult aspects of language learning. Almost every student faces this issue. This problem prompts the researchers to conduct this study. This research is to analyze of prepositional phrases in Carlo's short story *Pinocchio*. This research belongs to descriptive qualitative research. The aims of this research to find out the functions of prepositional phrases found in the Carlo's short story *Pinocchio* and to describe the application of prepositional phrases in the Carlo's short story *Pinocchio* in teaching writing. The data source of this research is short story of *Pinocchio* by Carlo Collodi. The result of the analysis shows that there are two functions of prepositional phrases found in Carlo's short story *Pinocchio*. Of the 27 data found, there are 21 prepositional phrases in function as adverb (77.78%) and 6 prepositional phrases in function as adjective (22.22%). This research can be applied in teaching writing.

**Keywords:** Prepositional phrase, Short story, Teaching writing

### 1. Introduction

Language is essential in our daily lives. Language allows people to interact and communicate with one another. People are unable to function without the use of language. Language has the power to unite people of all tribes, races, regions, and religions. People in this world can speak a variety of languages, one of which is English [1], [2].

English is an international language which is used by people from different countries to communicate with other. It is critical for people to communicate because it provides a wealth of information. Almost everyone in the world speaks and learns English. English is used in a variety of fields for a variety of purposes, including education, science and technology, entertainment, and literature [3], [4]. English has some educational specifications such as grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation.

Every written English text must be concerned with cohesion, generic structure, grammar, and good word choices. Grammar is one of the language components that students should master in order to develop accuracy and creativity in their use of the language in communication. It will improve the readability of the text. It's not just about the paragraphs; it's about every sentence in a paragraph. Every sentence in each paragraph must support the paragraph's main idea. Because prepositional phrase makes a sentence grammatically complete, it cannot be separated from the written text [5],[6].

In language learning, there are four skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. In spoken language, the use of correct word or structure is important as written language. As learners of English, students should understand the grammatical aspects such as the use of verbs, adjectives, nouns, articles, prepositions, gerunds, and so on. Good understanding will help them to produce meaningful sentences and create good communication [7].

Students frequently struggle in English classes, particularly in writing. One of them is in the process of analyzing a short story. The majority of students struggle with sentence structure and vocabulary. As a result, the researcher is eager to examine the short story in this thesis. Because short stories' language is usually easier to understand than novels'. Therefore, it can facilitate students in learning to write. As a result, it can improve students' writing abilities and become one of the media, namely short stories, that teachers can use to teach English, particularly writing. The short story that will be analyzed in this thesis is Carlo's *Pinocchio*.

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1 Prepositional Phrase

A prepositional phrase is made up of two parts: "preposition" and "phrase." According to [8], a prepositional phrase is a phrase that consists of a preposition followed by a noun, a pronoun, a noun phrase, or an adverb. Prepositional phrase always begins with a preposition and end with a noun or pronoun which is the preposition's object (the word that the preposition is in relation to). The object of a preposition can have its own modifiers, which also are part of prepositional phrases: *in the smoky room, of the remaining few people, by the rushing river.*

Furthermore, a prepositional phrase is an important component of a sentence. Prepositional phrase sometimes can be used to provide more information by connecting the subject, object, and verb. [9] say that prepositional phrases should be placed near what they describe. A prepositional phrase is defined as a nominal group that includes a preposition phrase. That is, prepositional phrases always begin with a preposition and end with a noun or pronoun. As a result, a prepositional phrase is a collection of words that includes a preposition, its object, and any words that modify the object. It is only a portion of a sentence and cannot be considered a complete thought on its own.

According to [10], prepositional phrases can function as adjectives or adverbs.

#### a) Prepositional Phrases Function as Adverbs

Prepositional phrases serve as adverbial modifiers of a verb, adjective, or adverb. This phrase responds to the question with the words how, when, and where they relate to the word it describes.

Examples:

- *Mary was sick **on the bus***  
The prepositional phrase on the bus acts as an adverb modifying the verb sick.
- *My father warm his car up **before driving***  
The prepositional phrase before driving acts as an adverbs modifying the verb warm.
- *Kartika is sitting **near the open window***  
The prepositional phrase near the open window acts as an adverbs modifying the verb sitting.
- *Most of the audience snoozed **during the tedious performance***  
- The prepositional phrase during the tedious performance acts as an adverb modifying the verb snoozed.

#### b) Prepositional Phrases Function as Adjectives

Prepositional phrases serve as adjectival modifiers for nouns. The prepositional phrases serve as adjectival phrases that say "which one" about the noun.

Examples:

- *The light **at the front door** suddenly went out*  
The prepositional phrase at the front door acts as an adjective describing the noun light.
- *The mirror **behind the door** is broken*  
- The prepositional phrase behind the door acts as an adjective describing the noun mirror.
- *The spider **above the kitchen sink** has just caught a fat fly*  
The prepositional phrase above the kitchen sink acts as an adjective describing the noun spider.

- *The woman in the trench coat pulled out her cellular phone*  
The prepositional phrase in the trench coat acts as an adjective describing the noun woman.

## 2.2 Short Story

A short story is a fictional work of prose that is less than a novel in length. According to [11], a short story is a brief work of prose fiction, and most of the terms used to analyze the novel's component elements, types, and narrative techniques also apply to the short story. A short story can be read in a half hour to two hours in one sitting. A short story in contemporary fiction can be anywhere from 1,000 to 20,000 words long. A short story typically focuses on one plot, one main character (with a few minor characters), and one central theme, whereas a novel can tackle multiple plots and themes, with a diverse cast of prominent characters. Short stories also allow for more experimentation, such as using unusual prose styles or literary devices to tell the story. Such unusual styles or devices may become tedious and even irritating in a novel, but they may work well in a short story.

[12] says there are numerous ways for teachers to learn how to teach writing. A short story is one way for teachers to learn how to teach writing. For a variety of reasons, short stories are regarded as the most effective literary genre to use in English foreign language classrooms. Short stories are more practical and convenient than poetry, which generally includes a variety of connotative words and figurative languages, or a play, which requires extensive preparation to perform, or a novel, which takes a long time to complete. Furthermore, short stories are initially intended for native speakers in order to provide good examples of language components used in contexts and cultural loads with which students can increase their cultural awareness. Furthermore, students can easily become acquainted with short stories because they generally deal with human experiences in everyday life. Furthermore, because short stories cover a wide range of topics, themes, and styles, teachers have a wide range of options for selecting works that meet their students' needs, interests, and tastes.

## 2.3 Teaching Writing

Writing is an exploratory process that benefits both students and content area teachers. According to [13], writing is one of four skills that have always been part of the English curriculum. Meanwhile, [14] states that writing is a type of linguistic behavior, whereas a picture is not. It uses graphic representations to represent linguistic sounds. For students, writing is the most difficult skill to learn. [15] says that students must use proper language, spelling, and punctuation when writing. This is due to the requirement to not only develop or arrange ideas using suitable terminology, sentence structure, and paragraph organization, but also to convert those concepts into a legible document.

Writing is one of the English skills that plays an important role in learning English. Current teachers are torn between using mature teaching strategies and using more modern strategies in their classrooms. Teachers must be effectively trained to use these novel teaching strategies, and their support staff must be able to address their concerns as well. Regardless of how long it takes to become fluent in any teaching strategy, it is critical that teachers begin by cultivating positive relationships with their students and their teaching colleagues. Positive reinforcement in the classroom can only be beneficial if a student trusts their positive role model [16].

Teaching writing is important for student. Teaching writing is not as simple as many people believe [17], [18]. People must know what they are going to write before they begin writing. Teachers must be able to explain this to their students. Teaching writing, like other English teaching skills, is based on students' age, interest, and level. One method of teaching writing is to concentrate on the writing process. With regard to the writing process, the teacher should provide appropriate activities in writing class to the students. According to [19], the writing

process includes several stages. There are four of them: planning, drafting, editing, and final draft.

#### 2.4 Related Research

Prepositional phrase analysis has been the subject of some research. In the first study was conducted by [20] about the kinds of prepositional phrases applied in The witch Hunters' movie subtitle and describe the translation techniques of the prepositional phrases from SL into TL. The result showed that the kind of prepositional phrases the researchers found are 28 phrases. There are 16 (57%) of simple preposition phrases and 12 (43%) of complex prepositional phrases. Meanwhile, the translation techniques of the prepositional phrases found 5 translation techniques applied to translate simple prepositional phrases and 7 translation techniques to translate complex prepositional phrases.

In the second study was conducted by [21] about the position of prepositional phrases applied in novel The Perfect Nany written by Leila Slimani. The result showed that the position of prepositional phrase the researcher found are 50 phrases. There are 34 of position in adverbial function and 16 of position in adjectival function.

### 3. Research Methods

#### 3.1 Research Design

According to [22], research design are styles of inquiry that provide precise guidance for procedure in a research study using qualitative, quantitative, or mixed techniques approaches. Based on the statement, this research belongs to descriptive qualitative research.

#### 3.2 Data Source

According to [23], data is a researcher outcome of note which a fact or number. In this research, the data source is short story by Carlo Collodi entitled *Pinocchio*. The data are prepositional phrases which found in short story of *Pinocchio*.

#### 3.3 Unit of Analysis

According to [24], unit of analysis is a certain unit that is measured as the subject of the research. This research is conducted to analyze short story of *Pinocchio*. The unit that will be analyzed is in the form of sentence that contain prepositional phrases.

#### 3.4 Instrument of the Research

[25] states that in qualitative research, the instrument is the researchers herself. The researchers themselves are the instrument of this research because they are the planner, data collector, data analyzer, and data reporter.

#### 3.5 Technique of Collecting and Analyzing Data

In collecting the data, the researchers found the short story of *Pinocchio* from the internet. Then, carefully read the short story and select the sentence that contains a prepositional phrase from *Pinocchio*'s short story.

Meanwhile, in analyzing the data the researchers through the following steps, they are as follows:

- 1) Identifying sentences which contain prepositional phrase.
- 2) Categorizing the prepositional phrase found in the short story of *Pinocchio* based on its function proposed by Jean Eggenschwiler and Emily Dotson.
- 3) Discussing the function of prepositional phrase.
- 4) Counting the number and percentage of the prepositional phrase found.
- 5) Applying the result of the analysis in teaching writing.
- 6) Drawing conclusion.

## 4. Findings and Discussion

### 4.1 Findings

In this part, the researchers use theory from [10] to analyze the functions of prepositional phrases. There are functions as either adjectives or adverbs. The functions of prepositional phrases are presented in the following table.

Table 1. Function of Prepositional Phrase

| No    | Functions of Prepositional Phrase | Quantity of Prepositional Phrase | Percentage (%) |
|-------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 1     | Function as adverbs               | 21                               | 77.78%         |
| 2     | Function as adjectives            | 6                                | 22.22%         |
| Total |                                   | 27                               | 100%           |

From the table above, it could be described that total of functions of prepositional phrases were 27 found in the text. There are functions as adverb was 21 found in the text (77.78%) and function as adjective was 6 found in the text (22.22%). Mostly the function of prepositional phrase is function as adverbs.

### 4.2 Discussion

Discussion is the main part in this research. Here, the researchers provide the result of her analysis in found the functions of prepositional phrases found in the short story based on the theory. The researchers present the functions of prepositional phrases in the Carlo's short story *Pinocchio* and its application in teaching writing.

a. The samples of the functions of prepositional phrases found in Carlo's short story *Pinocchio*.

1. Functions as Adverbs

- *He peeped **inside the cupboard** that was always closed.* (P.2)

From the data above, the prepositional phrase is *inside the cupboard*. This prepositional phrase constructed by the preposition *inside* and *the cupboard* as an object of preposition. As according Jean & Emily's theory, the prepositional phrase *inside the cupboard* function as adverbs that modifying the verb *peeped*.

- *When he opened his eyes, he was sitting **on the floor**.* (P.2)

From sentence above, the prepositional phrase is *on the floor*. This prepositional phrase constructed by the preposition *on* and *the floor* as an object of preposition. The prepositional phrase *on the floor* is function as adverbs that modifying the verb *sitting*.

- *Master Antonio found Geppetto's yellow wig **in his hands**.* (P.3)

From the sentence above, the prepositional phrase is *in his hands*. This prepositional phrase constructed by preposition *in* and *his hands* as an object of preposition. The prepositional phrase *in his hands* is function as adverbs that modifying the verb *found*.

- *Geppetto found the carpenter's curly wig **in his mouth**.* (P.3)

On this sentence, the prepositional phrase is *in his mouth*. This prepositional phrase constructed by preposition *in* and *his mouth* as an object of preposition. The prepositional phrase *in his mouth* is function as adverbs that modifying the verb *found*.

- *He saw his yellow wig **in the puppet's hands**.* (P.5)

On this sentence, the prepositional phrase is *in the puppet's hands*. This prepositional phrase constructed by preposition *in* and *the puppet's hands* as an object of preposition. The prepositional phrase *in the puppet's hands* is function as adverbs that modifying the verb *saw*.

- *He took hold of the puppet **under the arms** and put him down on the floor to teach him to walk.* (P.5)

On this sentence, the prepositional phrase is *under the arms*. This prepositional phrase constructed by preposition *under* and *the arms* as an object of preposition. The prepositional phrase *under the arms* is function as adverbs that modifying the verb *took*.

- *He made as much noise as a bag of wooden ladles falling **from a fifth storey building**.* (P. 9)

From the data above, the prepositional phrase is *from a fifth storey building*. This prepositional phrase constructed by the preposition *from* and *a fifth storey building* as an object of preposition. The prepositional phrase *from a fifth storey building* is function as adverbs that modifying the verb *falling*.

- *I got drenched with a basin full of water thrown **over me**.* (P.9)

On this sentence, the prepositional phrase is *over me*. This prepositional phrase constructed by the preposition *over* and *me* as an object of preposition. The prepositional phrase *over me* functions as adverbs that modifying the verb *thrown*.

- *He saw his Pinocchio stretched out **on the floor**.* (P.9)

On this sentence, the prepositional phrase is *on the floor*. This prepositional phrase constructed by the preposition *on* and *the floor* as an object of preposition. The prepositional phrase *on the floor* is functions as adverbs that modifying the verb *stretched out*.

- *The puppeteer went **into the kitchen**, where he had prepared a large ram for his supper.* (P.13)

On this sentence, the prepositional phrase is *into the kitchen*. This prepositional phrase constructed by preposition *into* and *the kitchen* as an object of preposition. The prepositional phrase *into the kitchen* is function as adverbs that modifying the verb *went*.

## 2. Functions as adjectives

- *Making all the trees **in the countryside** creak a groan.* (P.8)

From the data above, the prepositional phrase is *in the countryside*. This prepositional phrase constructed by the preposition *in* and *the countryside* as an object of preposition. As according Jean & Emily's theory, the prepositional phrase *in the countryside* is function as adjectives that describing the noun *tree*.

- *A little old man **with a nightcap on his head** peered out of a window and shouted angrily.* (P. 8)

From the sentence above, the prepositional phrase is *with a nightcap on his head*. This prepositional phrase constructed by the preposition *with* and *a nightcap on his head* as an object of preposition. The prepositional phrase *with a nightcap on his head* is function as adjectives that describing the noun *man*.

- *So I put a little pan **on the burning coals**.* (P.9)

On this sentence, the prepositional phrase is *on the burning coals*. This prepositional phrase constructed by the preposition *on* and *the burning coals* as an object of preposition. The prepositional phrase *on the burning coals* function as adjectives that describing the noun *pan*.

- *The Carabinieri **without budging**, grabbed him by the nose.* (P.5)

On this sentence, the prepositional phrase is *without budging*. This prepositional phrase constructed by the preposition *without* and *budging* as an object of preposition. The prepositional phrase *without budging* is function as adjectives that describing the noun *the carabinieri*.

- *You find a beautiful tree laden **with lots of gold coins**, like the many grains an ear of corn can have in the month of June.* (P.17)

On this sentence, the prepositional phrase is *with lots of gold coins*. This prepositional phrase constructed by the preposition *with* and *lots of gold coins* as an object of preposition. The prepositional phrase *with lots of gold coins* function as adjectives that describing the noun *tree laden*.

- *Because that pillow **on my feet** is bothering me.* (P.23)

On this sentence, the prepositional phrase is *on my feet*. This prepositional phrase constructed by the preposition *on* and *my feet* as an object of preposition. The prepositional phrase *on my feet* is function as adjectives that describing the noun *pillow*.

b. The Application of Prepositional Phrases in The Carlo's Short Story *Pinocchio* in Teaching Writing

Teaching is the process of imparting knowledge about a subject to another person. To make writing more interesting, teachers can use media. A short story is one type of media that can be used to help students understand the material. Media, particularly short stories, can entice students to learn English.

When teaching writing, the teacher introduces students to material such as a short story as an example. The teacher explains the meaning of a prepositional phrase, its functions, and how to use it in a sentence, as well as providing examples. The teacher instructs students to look for and identify the sentence that contains the meaning of a prepositional phrase found in the short story. The teacher explains to the students the material of prepositional phrases found in Carlo's short story *Pinocchio*.

The teacher explained the material of prepositional phrase as planning to teach writing in this discussion. Drifting, the teacher uses Carlo's short story *Pinocchio* as a media for teaching writing. During editing, the teacher instructed the students to locate the sentence containing a prepositional phrase and analyze the function of the prepositional phrase found in Carlo's short story *Pinocchio*. The teacher asked the students to categorize the prepositional phrase function as adverbs and the prepositional phrase function as adjectives in the final draft.

## 5. Conclusion

The researchers may draw some conclusions based on the analysis data and the results of the data analysis. Prepositional phrases serve two purposes in Carlo's short story *Pinocchio*. There are 21 prepositional phrases that serve as adverbs (77.78%) and 6 prepositional phrases that serve as adjectives (22.22%). With 77.78%, the most preferred prepositional phrase function as an adverb term. According to the findings of the analysis, there are 27 data points. The analysis of prepositional phrase found in Carlo's short story *Pinocchio* can be applied in teaching writing. A short story can be used to teach writing as a media. The teacher can use prepositional phrase material to teach writing. One of them is the functions of prepositional phrase. The sentence of prepositional phrase can be used in teaching writing to improve students' writing skills and make prepositional phrase easier to understand.

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