

The Analysis of Gerunds in *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes*

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Abstract. This research aims to identify the uses of gerunds found in *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes* and to describe their application in teaching reading. It belongs to qualitative research. The researchers used a collection of short stories by Arthur Conan Doyle entitled *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes* as the data source. The researchers then identified the sentences containing gerund, classified the gerund found in the short story based on its use, counted the percentage of the gerunds, discussed the finding of the analysis, applied the result of finding in teaching reading, and drew conclusion and suggestion. In conclusion, there are 2 gerunds as subject (0.71%), 13 gerunds as direct object (4.59%), and 268 gerunds as object of preposition (94.70%) and they can be applied in teaching reading for the twelfth-grade students of Language Program of senior high school.

Keywords: Gerund, Short story, The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes

1. Introduction

One of the most important aspects in this world is language. Language is used to communicate with each other. Language is a vehicle of communication whereby a person conveys a message to another for a range of different purposes, such as informing, ordering, persuading, and reassuring [1]. It can be concluded that language is vital in everyday life, given so many purposes use language as a medium. The use of language can be either good, bad, or neutral depending on the person. The example of the good uses is praising, the bad ones is swearing, and the neutral ones is answering. With so many uses of language in the daily life, it is very hard to imagine a world without language.

Many languages are existing in this world, such as English, Chinese, Japanese, Indonesian, and so on. English is one of the most spoken languages in this world after Chinese. English is also called as the international language because of the number of English-speaking people. English, like other languages, possesses many characteristics, such as grammar, pronunciation, tenses, and more. The previous study was about the syntactic; the use of modal plus infinitive [2], the semantic and pragmatics discussion about social [3], [4], [5] snow part of them, there are the use of gerund in a sentence. Allen in [6] defines gerund as the part of the verbs that ends in -ing which has the force of a noun as well as that of a verb. Gerund is one component of grammar in English [7]. A gerund is the -ing form of a verb used in the same way as a noun or pronoun. Gerund can be used as subject, object, or complement. The examples of gerund are walking, showing, looking at, and so on.

There are many misperceptions regarding gerund, especially for the beginners or the young learners. Gerund shares similar characteristics to continuous tenses and present participle adjectives. All of them uses -ing verb as the distinguishing trait. The differences between them are their function in the sentence. A gerund in a sentence serves purpose as a noun, continuous tense as a verb, and present participle as an adjective. For example, the word walking can be used as all of them. The -ing form in "Walking in the desert is not fun." serves purpose as a noun, in "She is walking toward you." serves object as a verb, and in "She understands many words like a walking dictionary." serves reason as an adjective. Although the difference is noticeable, beginners or young learners will have a hard time learning without a proper explanation and studying sentence structures.

There are many methods to learn gerund. One of the methods is by reading. Reading can improve many aspects in learning English, including gerund. Reading also enables learners to learn the structure of sentences which can broaden their knowledge of English. It is a fun and relaxing method to learn gerund in reading sources like letter, textbook, module, newspaper, novels, and short narratives. By reading them,

learners can find the differences of gerund with other forms, namely continuous tenses and present participle. Learners are also able to gather many information regarding the content of the written media. However, reading non-fiction literature can be tiring and boring for young learners because of its serious content. Reading fiction literature such as novel and short story is more suitable for young learner as it can stimulate the imagination and entertain them. Therefore, reading fiction literature seems effective method in learning gerund for young learners. There is a collection of short stories contains twelve short stories entitled *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes*. It was written by Arthur Conan Doyle, a famous British writer in the late 19th and early 20th. According to Cheung, short stories are considered as good resources that can be used in language classroom. One more important advantage of the use of a story suggested by Laine [8] that in classes where there are children who are not motivated by the foreign language and who are low achievers, a story, if it is well-chosen, can change their attitude to the language. Zahra state that using short story in the English as Foreign Language (EFL) classroom exposes learners to distinctive opportunities for educational, intellectual, cultural and linguistic development [9]. Zahra also state that short story is considered as one of the literary genres that can be used in the EFL classroom to enhance language skill, motivate students, and increase their cultural awareness and tolerance.

The researchers choose gerunds in the collection of short stories entitled *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes* to be analyzed because of several reasons. First, many students find difficulties in differentiating gerund, continuous tenses, and present participle. Most students identify -ing verb as continuous tenses form. Second, there are many gerunds found in *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes*. Third, *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes* is a fiction literature, therefore, students will be able to relax and refresh their mind from their problems. Fourth, the genre of *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes* is crime mystery, therefore, students will stimulate their imagination and curiosity of the stories.

2. Literature Review

This research discusses problem faced by students in learning gerund and an alternative to provide new variations for teacher in providing teaching material. There are some researchers who conduct similar studies with this research. The first previous study is conducted by Raflis [10]. They conduct a paper about gerund as Direct Object (Subject + Main Verb + Gerund), gerund as Subject Complement (Subject + to be + Gerund), and gerund as Object of Preposition (Subject + Primary Keyword + Preposition + Gerund).

The second previous study was about error analysis by Tri Jampi [11] and the third was managed by Widyawati [12]. The title of the study is Gerund made by student. The result of the study is the errors in using gerund as subject is 40.6%, gerund as direct object is 63%, gerund after preposition is 48.6%. The cause of the most of the error is the students used to-infinitive to answer instead of gerund.

The similarities between the first previous study and this research are that both are qualitative research and that both are analyzing gerund in a written media. The difference is that the media used in the first previous study is a magazine, while the media used in this research is a short-story collection. Meanwhile, the similarities between the second previous study and this research are that both are analyzing gerund and that both aimed toward the education in senior high school. The difference is that the second previous study analyzes gerund errors in a newly created works by students, while this research analyzes gerund uses in an existing work by a writer.

The Uses of Gerund

George states that gerund is -ing form of the verb used as a noun, gerund has the same form as the present participle [10]. The difference between gerund and present participle located in their function and position in the sentence. Allen defines gerund as the part of the verbs that ends in -ing which has the force of a noun as well as that of a verb [6]. Widyawati, explains that a verb having a function as a noun or gerund. This is formed by: verb + ing (noun) [13]. A gerund is a verbal noun which has the same form with the present participle but differs in meaning and function, whereas the gerund does the job of noun, the present participle does the job of an adjective [14]. This statement is reinforced that a gerund is like a noun while a participle is acting like a verb or adjective [15].

Gerund can be used in the following occasions; 1) as a subject, 2) as a subject complement, 3) as a direct object, and 4) as object of preposition [16].

a) Gerund as a Subject

Gerund can be used as a subject in a sentence. Gerund as a subject has its position before the verb. gerund as a subject has a characteristic, which is positioned in front of the verb of the sentence [17]. In addition, Thomson and Martinet clarifies that gerund can be the subject of a sentence when an action is being considered in a general sense [12],

The following are the examples of gerund as the subject of the sentence:

- *Reading* is my hobby.

The word *reading* is a gerund functioning as the subject of the sentence. It is followed by the linking verb *is*.

- *Playing tennis* is fun.

The phrase *playing tennis* is a gerund phrase functioning as the subject of the sentence. It is followed by the linking verb *is*.

b) Gerund as a Complement of Subject

It takes places after a linking verb preceded. It is a noun or a noun phrase. It describes that a gerund as a subject complement takes places after a linking verb and functions as a complement in the main clause [17].

The examples of gerunds functioning as the subject complement are as follows:

- His hobby is *swimming*.

The word *swimming* is a gerund functioning as the subject complement of *his hobby*. It is preceded by the linking verb *is*.

- What he likes is *listening to music*.

The phrase *listening to music* is a gerund phrase functioning as the subject complement of *what he likes*. It is preceded by the linking verb *is*.

c) Gerund as a Direct Object

Gerund can be used as a direct object of a transitive verb in a sentence. Muhammad states that as an object, gerund is always being the object of a transitive verb, therefore an intransitive verb cannot be followed by a gerund [12]. It is commonly found verbs are *remember, forget, try, stop, consider, imagine, hate, like, love, start, begin, continue, see, hear, feel, watch, notice, observe, mean, propose, regret, advise, allow, permit, recommend, intend, bother, and claim* [18].

The examples of gerunds functioning as a direct object are as follows:

- I do not like *reading novel*.

The phrase *reading novel* is a gerund phrase functioning as the direct object of the verb *like*.

- Anthony quits *smoking*.

The word *smoking* is a gerund functioning as the direct object of *quits*.

d) Gerund as an Object of Preposition

A gerund can take position after a preposition. Azar states that a preposition can be followed by a gerund, but not an infinitive. A preposition which is followed by gerund is usually a part of a phrasal verbs [12].

- Martha is afraid of *drowning*.

The word *drowning* is a gerund functioning as the object of preposition of the phrasal verb *afraid of*.

- I congratulate him for *getting the bachelor's degree*.

The phrase *getting the bachelor's degree* is a gerund phrase functioning as an object of preposition of the preposition *for*.

Short Story

Short story is a part of prose fiction which is short and may be read in a brief time. Prose is the most typical form of language and it is derived from the Latin word 'prosa' which literally means 'straight-forward', which means like talking to someone in straight-forward manner and not in a poetic way [19]. In addition, form of written language that is not organized according to the formal patterns of verse [19]. Fiction is a term used to denote anything, mainly stories or accounts that are not real [18]. Childs explain that fiction is a mode of writing which leads people to believe in things which are not 'true' or which do not exist in nature. From these definitions, the researchers may conclude that prose fiction is a written language which is not poetic and not organized according to the formal pattern of verse which is not true or do not exist in nature [21].

Klarer regards a brief narrative prose as a short story [22]. It defines a fictional prose tale of no specified length, but too short to be published as a volume on its own, as novellas sometimes and novels usually are [20]. Robert and Jacobs define short story as a compact, concentrated work of narrative fiction

that may also contain description, dialogue, and commentary [23]. Poe states that short story has the 'unity of effect or impression' which can be obtained only in works that could be read at one sitting [24].

There is a difference among novel, novelette, and short story. The difference is the length of the content. Nurgiyantoro states that a novelette is a literary work which is shorter than a novel, but longer than a short story, which means the difference among them is the length of the content. He also states that short story which have around 500 words can be called very short story [23].

According to Irshad there are parts of short story, namely premise, theme, backstory, the spine of the story (plot, character, climax), conflict, context, and setting. The premise is what happens to the characters as a result of the actions of a story. The theme is the central idea or ideas which may or may not be explicit or obvious [22]. The plot is the plan or outline of the short story with a beginning, a middle, and an end. The participants are the conceived people given specific qualities by the writer making their performance through dialogues, action, and description in a narrative work. The climax refers to a collision between two opponent forces. The conflict is the point of issue or problem in a story. The setting includes the set of surroundings, environment, the place, time period, time of the year or the day, etc. in which the action of the story takes place. The backstory is the past or background created for the characters that influence the present or future.

3. Research Methods

Research Design

According to Sugiyono, one of the qualitative research participants is that it has natural setting as a direct source and data, and researchers is the key instrument. Based on the statement, this study belongs to a descriptive qualitative research [25].

Data Source

Data source is the subject from which the data can be obtained [25]. The data source used in this research are the collection of short stories entitled *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes*. The data is analyzed in the form of the page, column, and line containing gerunds which is related to the topic.

Unit of Analysis

Unit analysis as a certain unit that is measured as the subject of the research [26]. The unit that will be analyzed in this research is in the form of word which is single gerund and in the form of phrase which is gerund phrase, which are found in *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes*.

Research Instrument

According to Sugiyono, in qualitative research, the researchers as human instrument has a function for research focus, chooses the informant as data source, collecting and analyzing the data, and making conclusion [25]. Therefore, the instrument of this research is the researchers himself as it is impossible to investigate the data without the interpretation of the researchers. The researchers collect, identifies, classifies, interprets, and concludes the data by himself. However, the researchers also needs some supporting tools, such as laptop, internet, and books to help the researcher to collect the data.

Technique of Collecting and Analyzing Data

In collecting the data, the researchers download the e-book of *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes* from the internet. Then, the researchers read the short stories and get the single gerund and gerund phrase from the short stories.

In analyzing the data, the researchers make a code to indicate the position of the sentence which contains a single gerund and/or gerund phrase.

Table 1. Code for the sentence contains gerund

No	Code	Item
1	P1C1L1	The sentence is in page 1, column 1, and line 1
2	P4C1L7	The sentence is in page 4, column 1, and line 7
3	P10C2L45	The sentence is in page 10, column 2, and line 45

4. Findings and Discussion

Findings

The researchers present the study invention based on data analysis. The researchers present the table of the gerund use in *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes*.

Table 2. Table of the Uses of Gerund

No	The Use of Gerund	Total	Percentage
1	Gerund as a Subject	2	0.71%
2	Gerund as a Subject Complement	0	0.00%
3	Gerund as a Direct Object	13	4.59%
4	Gerund as an Object of Preposition	268	94.70%
	Total	283	100.00%

Based on the table above, the researchers may conclude that there are three of four uses of gerund found in the short-story collection entitled *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes*, which are gerund as a subject, gerund as a direct object, and gerund as an object of preposition. The use of gerund mostly found in this research is the gerund as an object of preposition. Among 283 gerunds which the researchers found in *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes*, there are 2 gerunds as subject (0.71%), 0 gerund as subject complement (0%), 13 gerunds as direct object (4.59%), and 268 gerunds as object of preposition (94.70%).

Discussion

a. The Analysis of the Uses of Gerunds Found in *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes*

The samples of the gerunds found from *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes* are as follows:

- 1) Gerund as a Subject
 - a) *Getting a vacancy (P21C2L52)*
The code P21C2L52 indicates that the sentence is found in page 21 (P21), column 2 (C2), and line 52 (L52). The same rule applies to all findings of this research. The gerund in this sentence is *Getting* and the gerund phrase is *Getting a vacancy* which is followed by verb *did not seem*.
 - b) *Giving pain ... (P125C2L3)*
The gerund in this sentence is *Giving* and the gerund phrase is *Giving pain to any creature weaker than himself* which is followed by verb *seems*.
- 2) Gerund as a Direct Object
 - a) *I could not help laughing (P6C1L13)*
The gerund in this sentence is *laughing* which is the direct object of verb *help*, and the gerund phrase is *laughing at the ease*.
 - b) *... Bohemian paper and prefers wearing a mask ... (P6C2L45)*
The gerund in this sentence is *wearing* which is the direct object of verb *prefers*, and the gerund phrase is *wearing a mask*.
 - c) *...don't mind breaking ...? (P11C1L35)*
The gerund in this sentence is *breaking* which is the direct object of verb *mind*, and the gerund phrase is *breaking the law*.
 - d) *Would you mind reading ...? (P37C2L27)*
The gerund in this sentence is *reading* which is the direct object of verb *mind*, and the gerund phrase is *reading me the advertised description of Mr. Hosmer Angel*.
 - e) *..., but I could not help overhearing (P89C2L17)*
The gerund in this sentence is *overhearing* which is the direct object of verb *help*, and the gerund phrase is *overhearing the questions which you put to the salesman just now*.
- 3) Gerund as an Object of Preposition
 - a) *... things for the observer—excellent for (P5C1L14)*
The gerund in this sentence is *drawing* which is the object of preposition *for*, and the gerund phrase is *drawing the veil from men's motives and actions*.
 - b) *... observation in following out those clues, ... (P5C1L39)*

- The gerund in this sentence is *following out* which is the object of preposition *in*, and the gerund phrase is *following out those clues*.
- c) ... *to showing his face*. (P6C2L46)
The gerund in this sentence is *showing* which is the object of preposition *to*, and the gerund phrase is *showing his face*.
- d) ..., *by binding you* ... (P7C2L6)
The gerund in this sentence is *binding* which is the object of preposition *by*, and the gerund phrase is *binding you to absolute secrecy*.
- e) ...*without putting myself* ... (P7C2L53)
The gerund in this sentence is *putting* which is the object of preposition *without*, and the gerund phrase is *putting myself in his power*.
- b. The Application of Gerunds Found in *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes* in Teaching Reading
From the finding on the previous subchapter, the researchers would like to propose the result of this research, which is the use of gerunds found in *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes*, to be applied in teaching reading.
The application of this study will focus on the materials of gerund for twelfth grade of Language Program of senior high school. The study will explain about the uses of gerund using short story as the media. Gerund is included in English syllabus of the twelfth grade of Language Program of senior high school point 3.3 and the short story can be used in teaching reading which topic is gerund. The researchers believe that it can be applied to help the students improving their English.
The short story from *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes* may be used as a media in teaching reading which topic is gerund. For this purpose, the researchers make a lesson plan by using a short story from *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes*. A lesson plan is used as a direction for the teacher in teaching learning materials to the students.

5. Conclusion

Based on the finding and discussion, the researchers drew some conclusions. There are 283 gerunds which the researchers found in collection of short stories entitled *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes*. Based on their uses, there are three of four uses of gerund in *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes*, which are gerund as a subject, gerund as a direct object, and gerund as an object of preposition. There are 2 gerunds as subject (0.71%), 13 gerunds as direct object (4.59%), and 268 gerunds as object of preposition (94.70%). And, the analysis of gerund found in the short-story collection entitled *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes* by Arthur Conan Doyle can be applied in teaching reading for twelfth-grade students of Language Program of senior high school by using some gerunds found in *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes* as examples of gerunds and using a part of short story from the collection of short stories as an exercise.

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