Reference and Sense in Selected English Short Stories

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Keywords:	Abstract:
	This research is an inquiry into the concepts of reference and sense in selected English short stories. It is an attempt to determine which concept of these two is used more in the selected short stories because in every language different expressions of these two are used and that's why they have been chosen in this study.
	The reference of a word is the relation between the linguistic expression and the entity in the real world to which it refers. In contrast to reference, sense is defined as the relations to other expressions in the language system. Thus there are words that have senses but no referents in the real world. Depending on this contradiction this study is going to be conducted.

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المرجع والمعنى في قصص قصيرة إنكليزية مختارة

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الخلاصة: يتناول هذا البحث مفهومي "المرجع" و "المعنى" في قصص قصيرة مختارة من الأدب الإنكليزي. ويحاول أن يبين أيا من هذين المصطلحين قد تم إستخدامه أكثر من الآخر في هذه القصص. ففي كل لغة تستخدم تعابير مختلفة للدلالة على هذين المفهومين ولذلك تم إختيارهما موضوعا للبحث.

إن مرجع الكلمة هو العلاقة بين التعبير اللغوي وكيان الشيء في العالم المادي الذي تشير إليه. وعلى عكس المرجع، يعرف المعنى بأنه العلاقات مع التعابير الأخرى في المنظومة اللغوية ذاتها. ولذلك توجد كلمات تحمل معان ولكنها ليست لديه مراجع في العالم المادي. وقد كتب هذا البحث لبيان هذا التناقض.

1. On Defining Reference

To Hurford et al (2007:26) reference is a term which deals with the relationship between language and the world while in sense one deals with relationships inside the language. (Akmajian et al 1995:246-47) states that in reference, an expression refers to its referent.

Reference is defined as any act which a speaker or a writer presents by using language to enable a listener or a reader to identify something. To perform an act of reference, proper nouns (Jim), nouns in phrases (my neighbor) and pronouns (he) are used. It is sometimes assumed that these words identify someone or something uniquely and it is more accurate to say that for each of these, there is a "range of reference". Sometimes people are not sure how to call things, so they can use expressions like *the blue thing* and they can also invent names (Yule 2006:115-16).

To Saeed (2009:12) words stand in a relation to the world, or our mental classification of it: they allow people to identify parts of the world, and make statements about them. For example, if someone says <u>*They invited him*</u> or <u>*She saw a cat*</u>, the underlined nominals identify or refer to specific entities in the world. Lobner (2002:5) confirms that if someone for example says "I don't need your bicycle" I is used for the speaker, more technically: for the producer of this pronoun and the technical term for using an expression for something is reference. Lyons (1986;404) says that reference is the relationship which holds between words and things: words refer to things.

Akmajian et al (1995:241) state that the object/s which is referred to by a word is called referent, and the object which semantically referred to by a word or a phrase is called the denotation of that word or that phrase.

2. Reference Determiners

There are two major theories concerning reference determiners, first *description theory* second *historical chain* theory. The first one is called description theory because the expression describes the referent in a context that the referent can be identified, for example if someone says: "The first man to walk on the moon" it refers to Neil Armstrong because of the fact that the description fits him, and if someone says *Close the door*! So he or she is going to close the open door but in case more than one closeable door are available he or she can ask which one is meant (Akmajian et al 1995:246).

3. Constant and non-Constant Reference

In fact, there is very little constancy of reference in language and in everyday communication almost all of the fixing of reference comes from the context. Two different expressions can have the same referent. One of the classic instances is the *morning star* and the *evening star*, in which both of them refer normally to the planet Venus that's why it is called constant reference (Hurford et al 2007:28).

In contrast there are some cases in which the same expression can be used to refer to things. For example, there are many potential referents for a phrase like *your right eye* since there are people in the world with *right eyes*.

Likewise there are as many potential referents for the phrase *that page* as there are pages in the world. So some expressions in a language can have variable reference thus it is said to be non-constant reference (ibid. 27).

4. Referring and non-Referring Expressions

This distinction can be applied in two ways. First, when someone says the noun *dog* in a sentence like *walk that dog!* The noun is a referring expression since it is being used to identify an entity. So nouns are potentially referring expressions. It must be noticed that this does not mean that every noun is a referring expression. The same expression can once be a referring expression and once not. For example, *they performed a surgery today*, in this example the word *surgery* is a referring expression because it refers to an individual one whereas in a sentence like *A surgery is a serious procedure* the same word is not considered as a referring expression since it does not refer to any particular surgery (Saeed 2002:26).

5. Spatial, Temporal and Reference

To Fasold et al (2006:152) there is a connection between place, time and reference and that place and time can change the referent. For example, 1-*The president of France* 2-*Jacques Chirac*. At the time these examples are written the president of France is *Jacques*, so at this point in time 1 and 2 refer to the same person: they have the same meaning but in other time and place these two will not refer to the same one, their meanings therefore differ.

6. Antecedent, Anaphora, Cataphora and Coreference

Yule (2006:116) states that the first mentioning is called antecedent, so a word like a dog, a tree, a human etc…are antecedent. For example: *They saw a funny home video about a girl washing a cat in a small bath.* In this example the first mentioning words; *a funny*, *a girl, a cat* and *a small bath* are considered antecedent words.

Anaphora is a grammatical description for the process of a linguistic unit taking its interpretation from some previously expressed unit. For instance, if the previous example elaborated as: *The cat started shaking and the girl got totally wet. When she let it go, it jumped out of the bath and ran away*. So, the words: *The cat, the girl, she, it* and *the bath* are all anaphoric references.

Crystal (2003:65) affirms that cataphora is a term used for the process of a linguistic unit referring forward to another unit and it is one way of marking the identity between what is being expressed and what is about to be expressed, so cataphora is in contrast with anaphora which refers backward.

An example for the term cataphora is: *This is what he believed: that all men created equal.* Here the expression *this is what he believed* is a cataphora reference to the second part *that all men created equal.*

To crystal (2003:111) the term co-reference is used in linguistics, to refer to constituents in a sentence that have the same reference. For example, in a sentence like: *I told I would go* the two subjects (I 1 and I 2) are co-referential since both refer to the same referent. This case is not the same all times. For example in this sentence: He said he would leave. The two subjects (he 1 and he 2) might not refer to the same person thus the understanding in this case depends on the context.

7. On Defining Sense

Hurford and Heasley (1983:28) believes that "the sense of an expression is its place in a system of semantic relationships with other expressions in the language" and it demands a degree of idealization of the facts about meaning .To Crystal(2003:414) " sense refers to the system of linguistic relationship which a lexical item contracts with other lexical items- the paradigmatic relationships of synonym, antonym, etc., and the syntagmatic relationships of collocation."

Hurford et al (2007:31) states that the sense of an expression is not a thing at all and it is not easy to say what kind of entity the sense of an expression is, it is sometimes useful to think of sense as that part of the meaning of an expression that is left over when reference is factored out. Every expression that has meaning has sense, but not every expression has reference. For example, words like: *probable, if, and*, they have meanings, but refer to nothing.

To Muskens (2009:4-5) sense determines conditions and the sense of an expression is a function of the meanings of its parts. To compute the sense of an expression, look up the sense of the basic expressions forming it and successively compute the meanings of larger parts until a sense for the whole expression is found. Lyons (1971:427) believes that by the sense of a word, it is meant its place in a system of relationships which it contracts with other words in the vocabulary and he suggests that these relationships holding between vocabulary items do not carry with them presuppositions "about the existence of objects and properties outside the vocabulary of the language in question".

8. Sense properties

Akmajian et al (2001:237-38)   say that the central semantic property of words and morphemes in general is that of being meaningful or being meaningless. Any adequate account of the lexicon of a language must specify

the meaningful words of the language and must represent the meaning of those words in some fashion. For instance, at a very least level an adequate account of the English lexicon must tell that *bachelor* means unmarried adult male and *mother* means female parent and so many other words of the language. Another semantic property is *ambiguity* especially what is referred to as *lexical ambiguity*. For example, the word *bat* and *bear* in the following examples are ambiguous:

 a- He found a *bat*. (bat: baseball; flying mammal)

b- She couldn't *bear* children.(bear: give birth; put up with).

These words are ambiguous in that they have more than one sense and the successful communication depend on the speaker and the hearer recognizing the same meaning for a potentially ambiguous word. Polysemy is also a property of having more than one related sense. So, *table* can mean a kind of furniture, or it can mean putting an item at meeting on hold as in (She *tabled* the motion).

To him the other semantic property of words' sense is that putting words together is *anomaly*. It happens when the sense of its individual words is incompatible:

> a- *colorless green* ideas
> b-dream *diagonally*

In this sense, one can note that these syntactic well- formed sentences are semantically *anomalous.*

9. Sense determines Reference

Speaks (2011:5) states that sense determines reference but not the reverse and that any two expressions with the same sense will also have the same reference. The one reason that sense determines reference is that, if two sentences have the same sense, they say the same thing about the world; and if two sentences say the same thing about the world, they cannot differ in truth-value. But if the reference of a sentence is its truth-value that means that the sense of a sentence determines its reference. Thus reference does not determine sense: often, two expressions with the same reference will differ with respect to sense.

10. Sense and Frege's Principle of Compositionality

Trask (1999:48-49) says that, according to Frege's principle of compositionality, if people want to know the sense of a sentence they need to know the meaning of all the words and to understand every detail of the grammatical structure. Although this view has been very influential in semantics, but this is not enough and it is not easy as Frege's principle suggests since to understand the sense of a sentence, one must not

deal with the sense of individual words, but also with the way in which the sense of different words is related.

11. Sense and Psychology

Although senses are things which are grasped mentally, they are not private ideas or mental images. The sense of an expression is a part of a thought; and it is this objective character which guarantees that people may talk about the same thing. So Sense is shared objective; non- private modes of presentation do not differ from one person to another. Sense seems clearly to be a property of linguistic expressions: it is words and sentences which have senses and people grasp senses with their minds. *International Journal of Science*: Basic and Applied Research (IJSBAR) (2016) Volume 25, No 1, pp. 44-45

12. Sense and Translation

Farghal (2013:39) states that the sense-for-sense approach of translation frees itself from linguistic constraints involving form and denotation in favor of a more functional perspective that has its roots in sociology and psychology (mainly viewing language as psycho-social behavior).

13. The Samples of the Research

The sample of the study consists of four (4) English short stories. The reason behind dealing with different short stories is to find out whether reference or sense exists more in them.

Table (1) The Sample of the English short stories

No.	Short stories	Source
1	The death of the ghost	Developing skills
2	Mary had a little lamb	Developing skills
3	The travelers &the purse	The Aesop for children
4	The sheep& the pig	The Aesop for children

14. The Strategy of the Analysis

The whole stories will be divided into lines then the reference and sense expressions are presented while the numbers of the lines which contain such expressions are indicated.

14.1 The analysis of short story (1) "The death of the ghost "

The table below shows the frequency of reference and sense expressions in "The death of the ghost "

No.	Reference	line	No.	Sense	Line
1	For years	١	1	No one	4
2	villagers	١	2	Every time	5-6
3	Endly farm	1-2	3	Accepted fact	13-14
4	The farm	2	4	No one	١٧
5	Two brothers	3	5	There might	17
6	They	٣	6	someone	١٧
7	Farm hands	٤	7	None other	20
8	A worker	٦	8	As a young man	21
9	His job	6	9	abroad	25
10	He	٦	10	Fearing	26
11	The same story	6-7	11	A recluse	30
12	Farm labourers	٧	12	At night	31
13	They	7			
14	work	٨			
15	Hay	٩			
16	Cow sheds	١٠			
17	A farm worker	10-11			
18	A figure	12			
19	Corn	١٢			
20	The moon light	12-13			
21	In time	13			
22	It	13			
23	Brothers	14			
24	A conscientious ghost	15			
25	Their work	15-16			
26	Them	16			
27	The farm	17			
28	The case	18			
29	A short time ago	١٨			
30	villagers	١٨			
31	The ghost	١٩			

32	Everyone	19			
33	The funeral	19-20			
34	The ghost	20			
35	A third brother	20			
36	The funeral	21			
37	A secret	22			
38	Forty years	22			
39	The eldest son	23			
40	He	23			
41	The army	23-24			
42	He	24			
43	His regiment	24-25			
44	He	25			
45	The farm	25			
46	His father	26			
47	The end of the war	26			
48	The authorities	26			
49	The war	27			
50	His father	27			
51	Everybody	27			
52	Other people	28			
53	The secret	28			
54	Their wives	29			
55	Their father	29			
56	They	٢٩			
57	It	30			
58	Their duty	30			
59	These years	30			
60	The day	31			
61	The fact	31			
62	He	31			
63	The ghost	32			
64	He	32			
65	His brothers	32			
66	It	32			

67	The secret	33			

14.2 The analysis of short story (2) ''Mary had a little lamb ''

The table below shows the frequency of reference and sense expressions in "Mary had a little lamb ".

No.	Reference	line	No.	Sense	Line
1	Her husband	1	1	Every evening	7
2	The tiny village	2	2	It	9
3	Southern Greece	2-3	3	It	14
4	Mary's prize	3	4	It	20
5	A little white lamb	4			
6	Her	5			
7	She	5			
8	It	5			
9	A tree	5			
10	A field	6			
11	The day	6			
12	It	7			
13	One evening	7			
14	The lamb	8			
15	The rope	8			
16	The lamb	9			
17	The field	11			
18	His wife	12			
19	him	12			
20	The thief	13			
21	He	14			
22	A small village	15			
23	His friends	16			
24	The theft	16			
25	His neighbor	17			
26	A new lamb	17			
27	Aleko's house	18			

28	Him	18			
29	The lamb	19			
30	Him	19			
31	He	19			
32	It	19			
33	He	19			
34	The police	19			
35	It	20			
36	His back-yard	20			
37	A lamb	21			
38	His lamb	21			
39	Him	22			
40	They	22			
41	It	23			
42	He	24			
43	Half an hour	24			
44	He	24			
45	The little black lamb	24-25			
46	Its wool	25			
47	The rain	26			

14. 3The analysis of short story (3) "The travelers and the Purse "

The table below shows the frequency of reference and sense expressions in "The travelers and the Purse"

No.	Reference	Line	No.	Sense	Line
1	Two women	1	1	It	5
2	The road	2	2	Gold	6
3	One of them	2	3	Travelers	9
4	Well filled purse	3			
5	I am	4			
6	He	4			

7	I	4			
8	A purse	4-5			
9	I	7			
10	A purse	7			
11	His companion	8			
12	We	8			
13	A purse	9			
14	We	9			
15	Fortunes	10			
16	Misfortunes	11			
17	The road	11			
18	The other	12			
19	I	12			
20	It	13			
21	I am	13			
22	It	13			
23	They	14			
24	A shot	14			
25	Thief	15			
26	Mob of people	15-16			
27	Clubs	16			
28	The road	17			
29	The man	18			
30	The purse	18			
31	A panic	19			
32	We	20			
33	They	20			
34	The purse	20			
35	Us	21			
36	He	21			
37	The other	22			
38	You	22			
39	We	23			
40	Your I	23			
41	I am	24			

14.4 The analysis of short story (4) "The Sheep and the Pig "

No.	Reference	Line	No.	Sense	Line
1	One day	1			
2	A shepherd	1			
3	A fat pig	1			
4	Meadow	2			
5	His sheep	2			
6	He	3			
7	The porker	4			
8	Its voice	5			
9	The moment	5			
10	The shepherd	5			
11	His hands	5-6			
12	You	6			
13	The loud squealing	7			
14	Its squeals	8-9			
15	The shepherd	10			
16	His prize	10			
17	His arm	١٠			
18	The butcher	11			
19	The market	11-12			
20	The sheep	13			
21	The pasture	13			
22	The pig's	14-15			

	behavior				
23	The shepherd	15			
24	His charge	16			

25	The pasture gate	16			
26	you	17			
27	One of the sheep	18			
28	The shepherd	18			
29	One of us	19			
30	We	20			
31	Such a terrible	21			
32	It	21			
33	You	21			
34	That	22			
35	The pig	22			
36	A squeal	23			
37	A frantic kick	23			
38	He	23			
39	You	24			
40	He	24			
41	Your wool	24			
42	He	25			
43	My bacon	13			

15 . The Results of the Analysis

The results of the study show that the reference expressions have been used 198 times in the four selected English short stories while sense has been used 24 times which means that both together have been used 222 times. So the percentage of reference terms or expressions is 89.1891% while sense constitutes 10.8108%. This means that reference is used more in English short stories more than sense.

Conclusion

This research finds out that reference terms or expressions are used in English short stories more than sense. In a subject like short story reference is used more since the writer refers to the characters, the events and the speech they use ,so he/she is in need of referring back or referring foreward to achieve this purpose it might be this point which make short stories contain reference terms more than sense ones. One evidence that a short story could be written without using sense while reference has its own value is the short story "The Sheep and the Pig" which contains 43 reference words or phrases yet contains no sense words at all.

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'WORD-FOR-WORD' OR 'SENSE-FOR-SENSE' TRANSLATION:

RUMINATING THE AGE-LONG POLEMI