A Textual Analysis of Synonyms and Antonyms in Yoo Soonhee's (유순희) *Uju Hotel* Children's Storybook

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to discover the form, the meaning, and the marker in the lexical cohesion of synonyms and antonyms in the "*Uju Hotel*" children's storybook. This research was conducted due to the inadequate literature, focusing on synonyms and antonyms lexical cohesion markers in the Korean language. A descriptive qualitative approach was used in this research by using a textual analysis method. The data source used children's storybook of "*Uju Hotel*". In this research, data came from written literature, memos, and records. The results showed that the synonyms occurred ten times, which consisted of euphemisms *(wangogo-beop),* language style *(munche),* and connotation *(naepho).* On the other hand, the antonyms occurred 28 times, which consisted of relation *(gwangye),* complementary *(sangbo),* and level *(jeongdo).* synonyms markers for the *(bangon)* dialect and the noun naming *(jeon-muneo)* were not in the "*Uju Hotel*" children's book. This research concludes that the use of antonyms in a Korean children's book is more dominant than synonyms. Apart from those forms, synonyms, and antonym are used to develop cohesiveness and harmony in discourse to be understood by the students.

Keywords: Antonyms, Korean, lexical, storybook, synonyms.

1. INTRODUCTION

Discourse is a unit of language used to communicate in a social context (Sumarlam, 2003). Discourse is said to be the complete language unit because it includes phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and other elements (Darma, 2009). Therefore, discourse makes a series of interconnected sentences and forms a coherent paragraph or essay.

There are two types of discourse, namely oral and written discourse (Baryadi, 2002). Oral discourse is known as an interactive discourse because of the interaction process between the giver and the receiver. Speeches, sermons, lectures, and dialogues are some examples of spoken discourse. Written discourse is the delivery of information using writing.

There are several requirements to be considered as a discourse. According to Oka and Suparno (1994), the first requirement is topic. Then, there is utterance. The utterance is a string of sentences that are connected and form a text. The third is cohesion and coherence, which play a role in maintaining the attachment between

sentences. Cohesion is a form of relationship and coherence as a semantic relationship (Sumarlam, 2003).

Halliday and Hasan (1992) stated that cohesion is a semantic concept that refers to the relationship of meanings in discourse. Halliday and Hasan (1992) divided cohesion into two types, namely grammatical and lexical. Grammatical cohesion is related to sentence structure, while lexical cohesion is related to the word of meaning.

The types of grammatical cohesion are reference, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction (Halliday & Hasan, 1992). Meanwhile, lexical cohesion focuses more on the meaning of words, and it is done by choosing matching words. Lexical cohesion consists of six types, namely repetition, synonyms, antonyms, hyponymy, collocation, and equivalence (Halliday & Hasan, 1992). This study focused on the lexical cohesion of synonyms and antonyms because Korean synonyms and antonyms have various types different from Indonesia.

Synonym's cohesion markers are known as two or more different words but have the same or nearly the

same meaning. Not all synonyms have precisely the same meaning. It depends on the conditions under which the word is used. Lim (1995) stated that synonyms are built when two or more vocabularies have almost the same meaning and are in a synonym relationship. Synonyms in the Korean language have five types of formation: differences in dialect, language style, naming nouns, connotations, and euphemisms (Lim, 1995).

Antonyms have the opposite meaning from one word to another word. Although it is the opposite, the word has an attachment relationship with the word to be compared. Verhaar (2010) said that "the relationship of antonyms is reciprocal: we say the word easy is the antonym of difficult, and vice versa." There are three kinds of antonyms formation in the Korean language, namely based on level, complementary, and relationship (Jeon, 1997).

There are several previous studies regarding the lexical cohesion of synonyms and antonyms. Research conducted by Kim (2019) focused on grammatical and lexical cohesion, using the object (*sseugi)* or written text from the Indonesian students. The analysis results indicated that the written text at level 1 contained 1.2% antonyms and 3.5% synonyms. The written text at level 2 exhibited 1.7% antonyms and 4.3% synonyms. The written text at level 3 demonstrated 2.1% antonyms and 5.0% synonyms.

Furthermore, Lin (2019) researched Korean language students in Hong Kong who studied lexical and grammatical cohesion devices in Korean written texts. The ability to use the lexical cohesion of synonyms was 2.1% and antonyms 2.3%. The use of synonyms and antonyms for Korean language students in Hong Kong consisted of simple expressions only. Therefore, their vocabulary mastery was considered not sufficient enough. Hwang (2016) also examined the use of synonymy among Korean language learners from China. The results demonstrated that the synonyms were 1.78% and of the antonyms was 1.55%. It implies that the knowledge of synonyms and antonyms for Korean language learners still needs to be improved.

Based on the explanation above, the authors are interested in researching the lexical cohesion of synonyms and antonyms in children's Korean storybook. The object of the children's storybook is chosen because it contains easy vocabulary. Musfiroh (2008) said that children would learn to identify written symbols in a series of words and a series of sentences. In addition, children's storybook can be a medium for learning foreign languages. Because the sequences of sentences are simple, and the vocabulary is easy to understand

Based on the explanation above, this research is guided by the following questions.

1) What are the forms and meaning of the lexical cohesion of synonyms identified in the *Uju Hotel* children's storybook?

2) What are the forms and meaning of lexical cohesion of antonyms identified in the children's storybook of *Uju Hotel*?

3) What are the markers of lexical cohesion of synonyms and antonyms identified in the children's storybook of *Uju Hotel*?

2. METHOD

This study used a descriptive qualitative approach to describe the occurrences of lexical cohesion of synonyms and antonyms in the children's Korean storybook. It is used to find knowledge (Mukhtar, 2013) to address the research questions related to the form, meaning, and marker of lexical cohesion of synonyms and antonyms.

The data used in this study were in the form of sentences in paragraphs containing synonyms and antonyms lexical cohesion markers. At the same time, the source of data used in this study is a children's storybook entitled '*Uju Hotel*' by Soonhee (2012).

The researchers selected a children's storybook as the research object because a children's storybook is easy to understand and uses familiar and polite language. The stories presented in the children's storybook have a simple plot between the conflict and the characters involved. Children's storybooks usually feature picture illustrations to support the story. Hence the children are likely interested in reading the book.

The children's storybook of '*Uju Hotel*' was published by Haewanamu located in Seoul city, Mapo district, building Jaegang 4th floor. This book was written by Yoo Soonhee and illustrated by Seungmin (2012). The book tells the story of a grandmother and a paper collector who meets a little girl and finally has hope.

Three techniques were used to collect the data. The first technique was literature study (Nazir, 2014). The data obtained become the source of information following the research variable being investigated. The second technique was the listening method (Kesuma, 2007). Focusing on the use of lexical cohesion of synonyms and antonyms, this method was done by reading the discourse contained in the object of the children's storybook *Uju Hotel* as well. The third technique was the note-taking technique (Mahsun, 2012). The results of this data collection technique were the records of the words that contain lexical cohesion

markers of synonyms and antonyms in the children's storybook *Uju Hotel*.

After the data were collected, three steps were done to analyze the data: data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion. Data reduction is the process of sorting irregular data into more regular pieces by coding, organizing them into categories, and summarizing them into simple patterns and arrangements (Daymon et al., 2008). The reduced data are all data regarding the problems of this research. The presentation of the data was done to analyze the problem to make it easy to find a solution (Rasyad, 2002). The researchers used data presentation in the form of narratives and tables to facilitate researchers in reading, understanding and preparing reports.

More specifically, discourse analysis was done to determine the sentence structure from the perspective of lexical cohesion. After that, the researchers classified the form and context of the lexical cohesion in the sentence structure in *Uju Hotel* text discourse. The researchers calculated the classified data. Last but not least, a coding process was done to highlight the occurrences of synonyms and antonyms markers found in the sentences.

According to Charmaz (2006), coding is a process where research data are categorized or grouped with a shorter name, showing similarities between data. It is done to make it easier for the researchers to categorize the findings as well. Once the coding process was done, the researchers classified the Korean language's semantics types.

The following examples of using antonym lexical cohesion in books *Uju Hotel* by Soonhee (2012):

(1) *"halmeoni-neun sonsure-reul himkkeot* **kkeureosseo**.*"*

(Grandma pulls the cart with all her might.)

(2) *"dwi-eseo bomyeon, susukkang-cheorom mareun halmeoniga sonsure-e* **millyeoga-neun** *geot cheoreom boyeottji."*

(When viewed from behind, Grandma who was thin like a sorghum stalk looked like she was being pushed by a cart.)

The example above contains antonymous conjunction, namely *keureosseo* (to pull) in the Korean language. This antonym belongs to the type of relationship because there is a reciprocal relationship between the words push and pull.

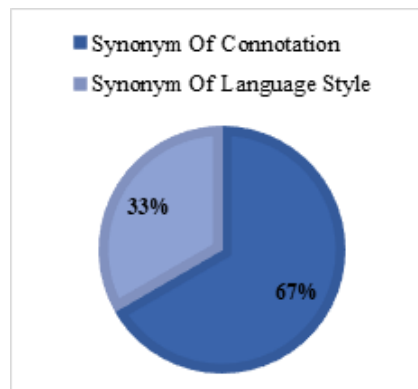## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Synonym

Figure 1. Synonymous lexical cohesion percentage (60 pages of text and illustrations)
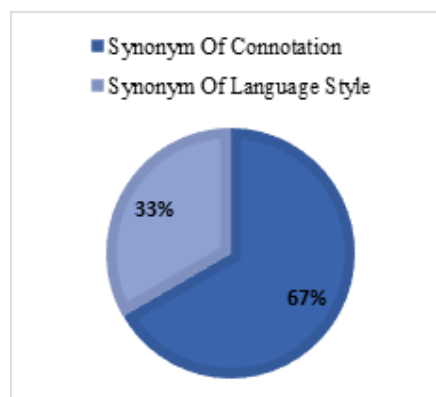

Figure 2. Synonymous lexical cohesion percentage (30 pages of text and illustrations)

From the results of data collection, the researchers found ten synonyms of lexical cohesion data in the *Uju Hotel* children's storybook based on research from Lim Jiryong. Figure 1 and Figure 2 show diagrams of the percentage of synonym lexical cohesion markers in the *Uju Hotel* children's storybook.

Figure 1 showed that there are 14% synonyms in the *Uju Hotel* children's storybook, which contains 60 pages of text and illustrations. Whereas in Figure 2, if it is calculated based on the number of 30 pages of text discourse, then there is a synonyms percentage of 25%.

According to Lim (1995), there are five types of synonym formation, namely dialect *(bangeon),* language style *(munche),* naming of nouns *(jeon-muneo),* the connotation *(naepho)* and the euphemism *(wangogo-beop).* From data collection conducted by the researcher, the types of synonyms found in the *Uju Hotel* storybook were synonyms for the types of language style, connotations, and euphemisms. However, the other two types, namely dialect and naming of nouns, were not
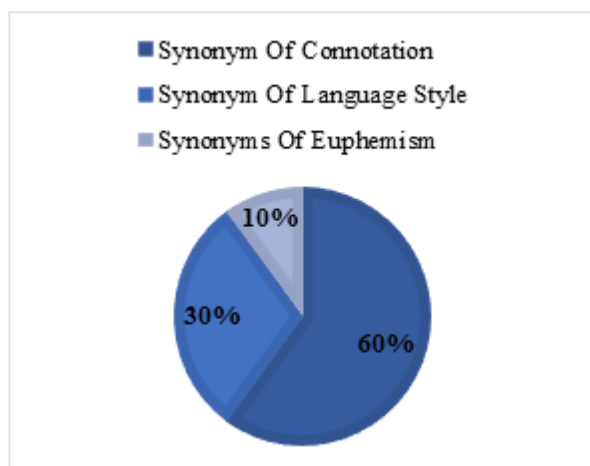
Figure 3. Korean synonym marker.

found because the book used general Korean and no use of words for special fields such as health, religion, science, or economics was found.

In Figure 3, the percentage of the types of synonyms found are euphemism synonyms as many as 10%, figurative synonyms 30%, and connotative synonyms 60%. From data collection, there is one pair of euphemisms. There are three pairs of figurative language styles and six pairs of connotations. The total types of synonyms found are ten pairs. Sanderson (1999) said that euphemism is a way to disguise something obvious or to cover up truth or reality. Euphemism is also known as smoothing words or sentences. The following synonyms for euphemisms were found on page 25.

*(1) "eomma, igeo wae halmeoni-hantae **jwo**?"*
(Why you **give** this to grandma, mom?)
*(2) "halmeoni-ga jongi-reul mo- eusigeodeun. Nado da sseun jongi isseumyeon halmeoni-hante katda **deuryeo**."*

(Grandma is collecting paper, if there is paper that has been used, I will also **give it** to Grandma.)

The synonyms above show that there are synonyms markers for the words *jwo* and ***deuryeo*** which are derived from the words *juda* and ***deurida***. The two synonyms are included in the type of euphemism because the word ***deurida*** is used for the older one, therefore there is a smoothing of the word. In contrast, ***juda*** can be used for every age group. Language style or munche is a language that has a native word and a foreign word, namely (*goyueo*) 'native Korean', (*hanjaeo*) 'Chinese Korean mix', (*werae-eo*) 'foreign language absorpotion word'. In the *Uju Hotel* book, the researcher found 3 synonyms for figurative language, namely (*jongi-pyeji*), (*hotel-subak*), the last - (*jamsi-jamkkan*).

One of the examples is *hotel-sukbak* on page 46.

*(1) "jongi halmeoni-neun **hoteriran** mar-eun deuro*

bwattjiman han beondo ga bon jeok-eun eopseosseo."
(The grandmother's paper was heard the word of **hotel**, but she never been there before.)
*(2) "yohaeng-eul tteonan saram-deuri jamsi meomu-neun **sukbak** siseoriran geotjjeum-eun algo isseosseo."*

(She knew that people who went on vacation more or less had **hotel** facilities for a short night.)

The synonyms on page 46 showed that there are synonym markers for the word's *hotel* and ***sukbak*** which means **'lodging'**. The two synonyms are included in the type of figurative language because the word hotel belongs to a foreign absorption language (*werae-eo*) and *sukbak* belongs to the original Korean language (*goyu-eo*).

According to Lim (1995), connotative synonyms are vocabulary formed by agreement by showing the psychological attitude of the speaker. Six pairs of synonyms were found for connotation or (*naepho*) in *Uju Hotel* children's storybook, namely (*mo-euda-juptta*), (*juptta-geoduda*), (*maeum-gamjeong*), (*neukkim-gibun*), (*gibun-maeum*) and (*ppajida-tteoreojida*).

It is the example namely *neukkim- gibun* on page 30.

*(1) "ireokhe nugunga-ege gunggeum- han maeumi saeng-gyeottdeon neomuna oraedwen irieoseo machi cheoeum-ereo **neukki-neun** gamjeong gatattji."*
(It was too long since she was curious about someone about her feelings, as if it was the first time, she **felt** this feeling.)

*(2) "geurae, geuron ssinun-cheoreom aju jakjiman saerop godo seolle- neun **gibuni** eotdanda."*
(Yes, it is very small like a seed, but it is a new and thrilling **feeling**.)

The synonyms on page 30 showed that there is a synonym for the words *neukkim* and *gibun* which means to feel. The two synonyms were included in the type of connotation because the word *neukkim* is defined as an emotional feeling that arises from the mind and body senses. In comparison, *gibun* is a situation of the heart that occurs due to the influence of objects or the environment.

3.2 Antonym

From the result of data collection, the researchers found 28 data on antonym lexical cohesion in *Uju Hotel* children's storybook based on the antonym theory of Jeon Sutae.
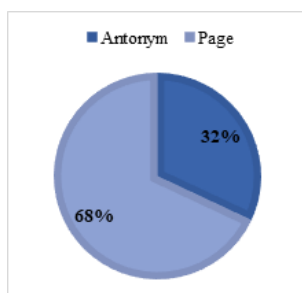
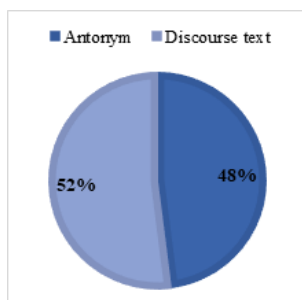**Figure 4.** Antonymous lexical cohesion (60 pages of text and illustrations).

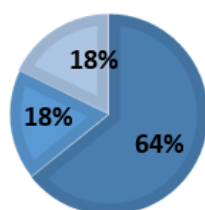**Figure 5.** Antonymous lexical cohesion (30 pages of text and illustrations).

Figure 6. Korean Antonym Markers.

Figure 4 showed the antonym 32% of the 60 pages of *Uju Hotel* children's storybook. While in Figure 5, the antonym was 48% if it is calculated based on 30 pages of discourse text in *Uju Hotel* book. This diagram shows the role of using antonyms that are quite large used in the *Uju Hotel* children's storybook.

According to Jeon (1997), there are three types of antonym markers, namely the antonym of the relationship *(gwangye)*, the antonym of complementary *(sangbo)*, antonym level *(jeongdo)*. These three antonyms were in *Uju Hotel* children's storybook. The following is a diagram of the antonym marker for the *Uju Hotel* children's storybook.

Figure 6 shows the percentage of relationship antonyms 64%, complementary antonyms 18%, and level antonyms 18%. From data collection, 18 pairs of relationships were found. Complementary types found as many as five pairs and levels of five pairs. The total types of synonyms found were 28 pairs.

Jeon (1997) said that the grade of an antonym is a pair of words that are opposite related to degree or level around one criterion. It was found five pairs of antonyms in the book of *Uju Hotel's* children's stories are (*weropji antha-weropta*), (*pogihal su eoptta- pogihada*), (*himkkot- himeopta*), (*yakhada-dandanhi*), and (*boge dveda-boge mothada*).

One of the examples is *yakhada-dandanhi* on page 18.

*(1) "insang-do heomhago jasin-boda himdo sel geot gattat-neunde, heumureojin salgu-cheoreom **yakhago** buseojigi swipda-neun geol alge dwaesseunikka."*

(She felt she had the impression of being dangerous and stronger than herself, but she knew that she was as **weak** and fragile as a ripe apricot.)

*(2) "geureogo-neun **dandanhi** ulleung- dwaettji."*
(Then she intimidated **strongly**.)

The antonyms on page 18 showed antonym markers in the words ***yakhada*** and ***dandanhi*** which have **weak** and **strong** meanings. Antonyms in these two words belong to the type of level because of the process of the paper grandmother's attitude even though she knows she is weak; she turns strong to get her paper box.

Next, there are complementary. Complementary antonyms are antonyms that complement each other. Jeon (1997) stated that complementary antonyms are relationships built between the affirmation of one word and the negation of another word. There are five complementary antonym markers in the *Uju Hotel* children's storybook, namely (*geumanduda- sijakhada*), (*butta-tte-eo*), (*sarajida-saenggida*), (*orae-saerop*), (*honja-gatchi*).

The example as in page 10, *geumanduda-sijakhada.*

*(1) "geuraeseo geuttae-kkaji hae odeon ireul **geuman**du-go pyeji-reul mo-a palgi **sijak**-haetta."*

(Therefore, she **stopped** her job from last year until now and **started** for selling the collected paper.)

The antonyms showed that there are antonym markers in the words *geumanduda* and *sijakhada* which mean to **stop** and **start.** Antonyms in the two words were included in the complementary type because the simple negation

complements each other. When Grandma stopped working, she started a new job.

The last type of antonym is relationship antonyms. According to Jeon (1997), the antonym of a relationship is divided into three, namely correlation, dynamic, and location. A correlation relationship is a reciprocal relationship. Dynamic relationships are things whose conditions are constantly changing and undergoing active development. At the same time, the antonym of location is based on time, place, and direction.

In *Uju Hotel* children's storybook, the researcher found 18 antonyms of relationship.

One of the examples is *kkeulda- milda* on the page 6.

(1) *"halmeoni-neun sonsure-reul himkkeot **keureosseo"***
(Grandma **pulled** the cart with all her might.)

(2) *"dwi-eseo   bomyeon, susukkang- cheoreom mareun halmeoni-ga sonsure-e **millyeoga-neun** geot- cheoreom boyeottji."*
(When viewed from behind, Grandma, who was thin like a sorghum stalk, looked like she was being **pushed** by a cart.)

The antonyms showed antonymous conjunctions, namely ***keureosseo*** (pulling) and ***millyeoga-neun*** (pushing). This is because there is a reciprocal relationship between the words **pushed** and **pulled** in sentences 1 and 2 on a cart. Sentence 1 explained that grandma pulled (kkeureosseo) the carriage with all her might. Then in sentence 2 there is the word reciprocal relationship, namely, the grandmother who looks like she was pushed (millyeoga-neun) by a cart because of her thin body.

4. CONCLUSION

The present study has addressed the research questions related to the form, meaning, and marker of lexical cohesion of synonyms and antonyms. The results demonstrate that the identified types of synonyms in the *Uju Hotel* storybook were language style, connotations, and euphemisms. The other types, namely dialect and naming of nouns, are not found. Meanwhile, three types of antonyms are identified in *Uju Hotel* storybook, namely relationship, complementary, and level. The occurrence of antonyms is more dominant than synonyms as well. The realization of the two form functions may result in cohesiveness and harmony in the discourse.

The implication of this research is that it can help Korean language learners improve their knowledge and understanding of Korean language discourse and the field of Korean linguistics. The use of synonyms and antonyms can increase awareness of the diversity of Korean vocabulary. In addition, this research is expected to be an alternative teaching material about synonyms and antonyms markers by using the children's storybook entitled *Uju Hotel*.

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