

**LEXICAL ANALYSIS USED BY THE MAIN CHARACTER IN  
*THE GIRL IN THE TANGERINE SCARF*: STYLISTIC APPROACH**

**A GRADUATING PAPER**

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining  
The Bachelor Degree in English Department



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## A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

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Saya menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqosyah untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

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## **MOTTO**

*“Do not let someone else's opinion of you become your reality”*

**Les Brown**



## **DEDICATION**

This graduation paper is dedicated to my beloved parents, my family and everyone who believed I was capable of finishing it.



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## **LEXICAL ANALYSIS USED BY THE MAIN CHARACTER IN *THE GIRL IN THE TANGERINE SCARF*: STYLISTIC APPROACH**

By Ramadhanti Hapsari

### **ABSTRACT**

Each word serves a strategic purpose in a given language. The use of appropriate words allows writers to convey more profound ideas and concepts. Authors use language in literary works like novels to create a unique and effective language style. It is evident that a language serves as both a means of conveying and accomplishing other elements. As a result, it is appropriate for researchers to examine the lexical features of *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf*. The objectives of the study are to analyze the selected utterances of the main character in the novel *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf*. Furthermore, the researcher intends to analyze the impact of the author's lexical choices on Khadra Sammy's selected utterances and determine how these lexical choices assist the main character in establishing herself as a Muslim. By employing note-taking techniques, the researcher collected research data from Khadra Sammy's selected utterances using the descriptive qualitative research method. The findings indicate that 138 Khadra utterances employed four lexical categories. The first category comprises nouns, which demonstrated the following results: 32.96% abstract, 34.07% concrete, 29.87% proper, and 3.10% collective. In addition, the adjective category contains 54.32% attributive, 3.70% restrictive, 0% non-restrictive, 11.11% gradable, 11.11% non-gradable, and 19.76% predictive. The category of verbs yields the following results: 18.09% stative, 40.24% dynamic, 8.81% transitive, 1.91% intransitive, 28.33% linking, 2.62% factive, and 0% non-factive. The researcher divides the category of adverbs into two primary categories. The semantic functions of adverbs yield the following results: 11.03% relate to manner, 4.14% to place, 0% to direction, 6.21% to time, 0% to duration, 4.82% to frequency, and 9.65% to degree. Meanwhile, the results of sentence adverbs show that there is 0% adjunct, 0% subjunct, 3.45% disjunct, and 60.7% conjunct. The researcher has determined that the author's lexical choice substantially influences Khadra's utterances. Furthermore, the variety of lexical choices employed in Khadra's utterances indicates its involvement in the establishing of Muslim identity.

*Keywords: lexical features, identity, style in fiction*

## **LEXICAL ANALYSIS USED BY THE MAIN CHARACTER IN *THE GIRL IN THE TANGERINE SCARF* : STYLISTIC APPROACH**

Oleh: Ramadhanti Hapsari

### **ABSTRAK**

Setiap kata memiliki posisi yang strategis dalam suatu bahasa. Penggunaan kata yang tepat memungkinkan penulis untuk menyampaikan ide dan konsep yang lebih mendalam. Jelaslah bahwa bahasa berfungsi sebagai alat untuk menyampaikan dan mencapai elemen-elemen lainnya. Oleh karena itu, sangatlah tepat bagi para peneliti untuk meneliti fitur-fitur leksikal dari novel *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf*. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis ujaran-ujaran yang dipilih dari karakter utama dalam novel *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf*. Selain itu, peneliti bermaksud untuk menganalisis dampak dari pilihan leksikal penulis terhadap ujaran-ujaran yang dipilih oleh Khadra Sammy dan menentukan bagaimana pilihan-pilihan leksikal tersebut membantu karakter utama dalam membangun dirinya sebagai seorang Muslim. Dengan menggunakan teknik pencatatan, peneliti mengumpulkan data penelitian dari ujaran-ujaran pilihan Khadra Sammy dengan menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif deskriptif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa 138 ujaran Khadra menggunakan empat kategori leksikal. Kategori pertama terdiri dari kata benda, yang menunjukkan hasil sebagai berikut: 32,96% abstrak, 34,07% konkret, 29,87% khusus, dan 3,10% kolektif. Selain itu, kategori kata sifat mengandung 54,32% atributif, 3,70% restriktif, 0% non-restriktif, 11,11% gradabel, 11,11% non-gradabel, dan 19,76% prediktif. Kategori kata kerja menghasilkan hasil sebagai berikut: 18,09% statif, 40,24% dinamis, 8,81% transitif, 1,91% intransitif, 28,33% penghubung, 2,62% faktif, dan 0% non-faktif. Peneliti membagi kategori kata keterangan menjadi dua kategori utama. Fungsi semantik dari kata keterangan menghasilkan hasil sebagai berikut: 11,03% berkaitan dengan cara, 4,14% dengan tempat, 0% dengan arah, 6,21% dengan waktu, 0% dengan durasi, 4,82% dengan frekuensi, dan 9,65% dengan derajat. Sementara itu, hasil dari adverbial kalimat menunjukkan bahwa terdapat 0% adjunct, 0% subjunct, 3,45% disjunct, dan 60,7% conjunct. Peneliti telah menentukan bahwa pilihan leksikal penulis secara substansial mempengaruhi ucapan Khadra. Selain itu, variasi pilihan leksikal yang digunakan dalam ungkapan Khadra menunjukkan keterlibatannya dalam membangun identitas Muslim.

Kata kunci: *fitur leksikal, identitas, gaya dalam fiksi*

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

Language and humans are inextricably linked. Humans require a relationship, as they are not destined to exist in isolation. Interaction is how humans build a positive relationship with someone else. A good relationship depends on communication itself. Keith Davis (1990, p. 67) stated that communication is a process of exchanging information and understanding between people. Thus, language can be defined as an exclusively human property in many aspects of life.

Using language, humans can express their feelings, ideas, desires, and opinions. As stated by Sapir (1921, p. 7), language is a fundamentally human and non-instinctive way of expressing thoughts, feelings, and desires through the use of intentionally selected symbols. Therefore, language plays a crucial role in human activities to convey messages. Humans communicate in different ways; sometimes people talk about the same thing, but that doesn't mean they all have the same language. Consequently, the distinct forms of language indicate the diversity of languages.

One can refer to the term variation as the language's style. In the broadest sense, Leech and Short (2007, p. 9) defined style as the way one speaks, writes, or performs something. He explained that style refers to word usage, sentence structure, and figures of speech used by writers. Zeru (1996, p. 7) states that style is "the characteristic manner of expression in verse or prose: how a particular



writer says things”. In this context, Leech and Short (2007, p. 10) asserted that style can encompass both spoken and written language, as well as both literary and everyday forms of language. However, tradition typically applies it to written literary texts. One can explore the language and style of written language that is developed as literary text.

In literary works, we can examine a more systematic style or structural choices made by authors. Leech and Short (2007, p. 60) suggest using four linguistics and stylistic categories in a stylistics analysis to identify the language style that directs a writer's lexical choice in a novel. Lexical categories, grammatical categories, figures of speech, coherence, and context are the four categories of linguistics and stylistics.

Stylistic has a close relationship with lexical analysis as it aims to understand an individual's way of using language based on their social context. One can understand aspects of a character such as their personality, background, perspectives, and the representation of their social identities by analyzing the frequencies and patterns of different lexical categories used in various contexts.

The main goal of this study is to examine the lexical features in written literary works, particularly novel's utterances. A novel is an academic work that takes the form of a narrative story. Sumardjo (1998, p. 29) also stated that a novel is a story that takes the form of a long prose narrative. This long shape means that the story has a complex plot, several characters, a complex theme, varied feelings, and various settings. Novels fall into several categories within the genre. One of the genres is young adult. According to Bold (2019, p. 30), as a genre, young



adult literature itself is a vague and complex term. Therefore, researchers are constantly defining its meaning, function, style, and target audience. Based on the statement above, the researcher is eager to examine the novel, especially the young adult fiction novel, as an object of research.

*The Girl in The Tangerine Scarf*, written in 2006 novel by Mohja Kahf, serves as the research object. The novel tells the life of a girl named Khadra Shamy, who was born in Syria and later moved to the United States. Khadra grew up in a conservative Muslim family in Syria, but when she moved to America, she had to deal with different challenges. She tries to find a balance between modern western life and the traditional values taught by her family. Thus, internal conflict becomes even more complicated when she begins to feel uneasy about the treatment of Muslims in post-9/11 America.

The researcher is interested in analyzing the language style used by the main character Khadra in *The Girl in The Tangerine Scarf*, because in the novel portrays Khadra as a character with a multicultural background, highlighting the presence of friends from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds. This diversity extends to their food habits and the languages they speak, contributing to the distinctive and distinct language used.

Furthermore, the researcher analyzes Khadra's utterances in the novel *The Girl in The Tangerine Scarf* using one of five linguistic and stylistic checklists. This study utilizes lexical categories, which are further subdivided into five sub-majors (nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, and general), are the category utilized in this study. But, in this research, the researcher only used four sub-majors as

nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs. The study's goal is to pinpoint and elucidate the lexical choice that are used to produce the desired language style in Khadra's utterances in *The Girl in The Tangerine Scarf*. The researcher analyzes the lexical features because it provides a powerful analytical framework for understanding the complexities of the characters in the novel. Also help to convey the intended meaning of the novel.

## 1.2 Research Question

Based on the explanation of the discussion above, the researcher formulated the research questions below.

1. What are the lexical features used in Khadra's selected utterances in *The Girl in The Tangerine Scarf* novel?
2. How do the lexical features support Khadra's character in *The Girl in The Tangerine Scarf* novel?

## 1.3 Objective of Study

The objectives of this study, as stated in the research question above, are:

1. To find out the lexical features used in Khadra's selected utterances in *The Girl in The Tangerine Scarf* novel.
2. The aim is to explain how the lexical features assist Khadra in her social role

## 1.4 Scope of Study

This study focuses on lexical analysis, with the researcher aiming to apply Leech and Short's theory to analyze the language style in the novel *The Girl in The Tangerine Scarf*. According to Leech and Short (2007, p. 60), four linguistics

and stylistics categories can help identify the language style underlying the writer's choice of language for a novel in the stylistics analysis. The four linguistics and stylistic categories are as follows: lexical categories, grammatical categories, figures of speech, and cohesion and context.

### **1.5 Significance of Study**

This research is expected to provide information and knowledge about lexical categories, according to the researcher. This research also benefits the readers by showing how someone's lexical choice has a crucial function. Furthermore, the researcher aims to provide a clear depiction of the lexical analysis of language style in this study. The readers will then gain a deeper understanding of the language style, as evidenced by the author's lexical choices in the novel *The Girl in The Tangerine Scarf*. Additionally, the researcher anticipates that this work will serve as a valuable resource for scholars examining language style and its misuse, using either the same or different theories.

### **1.6 Literature Review**

The researcher identifies prior research that shares similarities with the topic or issues related to lexical analysis. The researchers also identify the differences and similarities that exist between the research conducted by previous researchers and this one. The similarities and differences with those studies indicate that no one has ever analyzed this research before.

The first is Muhammad Faizal Latif and Mahida Ziarat Tahir Rasheed thesis, "A Stylistic Analysis of the Novel Forty Rules of Love by Elif Shafak," in 2020. The researchers chose Elif Shafak's Forty Rules of Love novel as the topic of this

study because they believe the non-native author made different stylistic choices that can help deduce certain meanings hidden in the text. The main theory used in this study is Geoffrey Leech and Mick Short's style in fiction theory, namely their checklist of linguistics and stylistic categories approach. However, this study focuses on stylistic techniques, specifically the novel's figures of speech. The researchers restrict their investigation to the study of figures of speech such as simile, metaphor, anaphora, alliteration, oxymoron, and onomatopoeia.

Next, another thesis that related with this research is Maha Sarfraz's thesis written in 2022, entitled "A stylistic analysis of Paulo Coelho's novel *The Alchemist*". The research paper focuses on the linguistic patterns chosen by the author, the unique narrative structure, and the profound symbolic meaning of the novel. The study employs a theoretical, analytical, and descriptive approach, utilizing close reading text-based analysis and a stylistic model based on linguistic and stylistic features proposed by Leech and Short (2007). Specifically, it focuses on lexical and grammatical categories, using a "mixed approach" and secondary sources of data collection to understand the novel's literary elements and themes. The paper aims to contribute to literature, linguistics, and stylistics, emphasizing the importance of linguistic and stylistic features in enhancing the meaning of literary text. The findings reveal that the author's style reflects his complex ideas in simple language, utilizing various literary devices such as foreshadowing, irony, personification, symbolism, motifs, imagery, and metaphors. The lexical analysis highlights the use of abstract nouns, verbs, and adjectives to convey the novel's themes. The grammatical analysis indicates the use of different sentence types,

clauses, and phrase structures by the author. The research suggests further exploration of reporting clauses, the use of magical realism, and the integration of stylistic models in literature teaching. Overall, it shows that a detailed stylistic analysis enhances the understanding of literary texts and the construction of meaning.

Lastly, the research paper entitled "a stylistic analysis of Tanzeela K. Hassan's short story *The Variant*", written by Muhammad Imran, Numra Qayyum, Amna Ghulam Nabi, Aasia Majeed, and Nazia Majeed in 2021. The research paper utilizing Leech and Short's theory to describe the stylistic elements employed in the story. The paper examined linguistic levels such as lexical, grammatical, figures of speech, cohesion, and context, identifying significant stylistic features and their function. The paper also presented a theoretical framework and highlighted the importance of stylistics in linguistic analysis and literary criticism. The study revealed the use of various stylistic devices, such as lexical and grammatical schemes, repetition, rhetoric questions, apostrophes, alliteration, assonance, consonance, and rhyming, which contribute to the story's artistic effect and enhance the portrayal of hidden feelings and inner thoughts by the characters. The paper also demonstrated Tanzeela K. Hassan's unique writing style, highlighting the rich use of literary devices and the deeper thematic layers within the narrative. Overall, the paper provides a comprehensive examination of the stylistic elements in "*The Variant*," offering valuable insights into the author's writing style, the story's symbolic significance, and the impact of linguistic choices on the overall literary effect.

The prior studies found similarities and differences with this research. This research utilizes the same Leech and Short theory as the prior studies. Several aspects of this study demonstrate its uniqueness. This study employs a similar theory to the studies mentioned above. However, the data and the aim of this research are completely distinct, which will contribute to the certainty that the result of this study will be influenced. For instance, Khadra Sammy's lexical choices in *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf* novel heavily influence the data used in this study. This research concentrates on lexical features, in contrast to the previous studies, which concentrated on the analysis of syntactical stylistic devices and figurative languages.

### **1.7 Theoretical Approach**

The researcher uses the theory of lexical categories proposed by Leech and Short (2007, p. 60) maintained that four linguistics and stylistics categories can help identify the language style underlying the writer's choice of language of a novel in the stylistics analysis. The four linguistics and stylistics categories are as follows; lexical categories, grammatical categories, figures of speech, and cohesion and context.

### **1.8 Methods of Study**

#### **1.8.1 Type of Research**

The researcher uses descriptive qualitative method to analyzing the language function in *The Girl in The Tangerine Scarf* novel. According Vanderstoep & Johnston (2009:7), qualitative method is explains the narrative or



textual description of the phenomena under study. Hence, qualitative method is an important roles in this research. Mukhtar (2003:10) also stated that descriptive qualitative research method is a way to find knowledge or research used by the researcher in a particular time. Obtaining rich and in-depth information is a characteristic of descriptive qualitative research. According to Creswell (1998: 21), the role of the researchers in this qualitative method are the primary of the data collection that arranges words, analyzes inductively, and observes the utterances delivered by the speakers.

#### 1.8.2 Data Sources

The source of this research only use the primary data. This research involves in Mohja Kahf's young adult novel entitled "The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf," which was released by Carroll & Graf in 2006. The main data source for qualitative research is Khadra Sammy's utterances. However, the researcher limits the data to Khadra's utterances that fall under the sub-majors of the lexical category: noun, verb, adjective, and adverb. This research focuses on 138 data of Khadra Sammy's utterances.

#### 1.8.3 Data Collection Technique

According to Kabir (2016, p. 202), data collection is one of the most important stages in conducting a research, because collect the required data will help complete the research itself. In this research, the researcher uses observation analysis technique and note-taking technique. Margono (2000, p. 158) stated that observation is a systematic and documented observation towards the phenomena that appear on the object of research. Before carrying out the note-taking



technique, the researcher observing the source that is available in the novel. In observing the source, the researcher uses some steps.

Firstly, the researcher read *The Girl in The Tangerine Scarf* novel several times. Secondly, the researcher observed the utterances between the characters. Especially, Khadra utterances. After the researcher did close reading and observing the utterances in *The Girl in The Tangerine Scarf* novel, then the researcher made the documentation of the data using note-taking technique. A note-taking technique is a process of writing or recording some point of information.

Futhermore, Friedman (2014, p. 3) said that a good note-taking can lead to efficient and improved on writing the data. The researcher selected the utterances done by the character Khadra.

#### 1.8.4 Data Analysis Technique

The analysis is divided into several steps. Firstly, after collecting the data the researcher organize and prepare the data for analysis. In this step, the researcher collect the result of Khadra's selected utterances which were consist of 138 utterances. Then, the researcher read all of the data that have been observed and analyze the data using classification style of language proposed by Leech and Short especially in lexical categories. After that, the researcher will explain and interpreting the lexical analysis of language style that have been done classified. Last, the researcher give conclusion in the end of the analysis.

### 1.9 Paper Organization

This paper is divided into four chapters. These chapters are the introduction, theoretical framework, analysis, and conclusion. First is the introduction chapter. There are consisted of a background of the study, research questions, objectives of the study, scope of the study, significances of study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of research, and paper organization. The second chapter is the beginning of the discussion. It combines all related theories. The researcher explains the language style. The third chapter is the analysis of the problem statements. Firstly, it identifies the lexical features used by Khadra in *The Girl in The Tangerine Scarf* novel. Secondly, it describes the lexical features support the character Khadra on her position in socially. The fourth chapter is the conclusion. It is the result analyzes in this paper.



## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 4.1 Conclusions

In this chapter, the researcher draws conclusions from the previous chapter's explanation of the lexical categories that Khadra's selected utterances in *The Girl in The Tangerine Scarf* employ. In this research, the researcher employs the lexical category theory from Leech and Short's book *Style in Fiction*. The researcher discovered that Khadra's selected utterances employ a variety of lexical choices. Specifically, the researcher selected 1004 words from a total of 138 utterance data.

The researcher discovered that the author uses nouns in a total of 35.66% of the 1004 lexical categories. In Khadra's utterances, the author uses 358 abstract nouns, which is 32.96%. The abstract words found involve all types of abstracts, such as emotions, personality traits, ideas, and philosophical concepts; some of these abstracts show God-consciousness. Next, the second noun, the concrete noun, is the most discovered type of noun, accounting for 34.07% of Khadra's utterances. These nouns denote a specific type within a class of nouns, primarily referring to physical objects. The researcher also discovered that 29.87% of the noun data used proper nouns. The author used proper nouns for specific people, specific places, and certain Islamic religion names. The last sub-major is the noun that is least commonly found. Collective nouns appear in Khadra's selected utterances, accounting for 3.10% of the data findings.

In the second lexical category under investigation, Khadra employs attributive adjectives the most frequently. In her utterances, Khadra employs 54.32% of the attributive adjective data, primarily in the referential form. But there are also other types, including physical, emotional, and color. Khadra's selected utterances did not include any instances of non-restrictive adjective use. The following subtypes of adjectives are present in Khadra's utterances: 3.70% restrictive, 11.11% gradable, 11.11% non-gradable, and 19.76% predicative.

In addition, the researcher identified only six of the seven subcategories of the verb category in Khadra's selected utterances. Throughout the utterances, the verbs conveyed important meanings. With 18.09% of her words, Khadra employed stative verbs. Khadra frequently uses stative verbs to communicate her ideas about a person's situation or viewpoint. Also, 40.24% of the data on utterances showed dynamic verbs, which often refer to physical actions, movements, and other things that Muslims do in their daily lives. The following data demonstrate that Khadra's utterances contain a variety of verb types: the researcher discovered 8.81% transitive verbs, 1.91% intransitive verbs, 28.33% linking verbs, 2.62% factive verbs, and Khadra's utterances do not have any non-factive verbs.

In the adverb category, there are two primary subcategories. The data shows that Khadra utterances do not contain all of the different types of adverbs. Primarily, the semantic function of adverbs indicates that the author does not employ adverbs of direction and duration. The researcher discovered five subcategories comprised of adverbs, based on the results of 11.03% manner, 4.14%

place, 0% time, 6.21% frequency, and 9.65% degree. There is a lack of data for the following uncommon adverbs used by the author: 3.45% disjunct, % conjunct, 0% subjunct, and 0% adjunct.

As a result, the researcher concludes that the author's lexical choices play a significant role in creating the meaning of Khadra's utterances. The author succeeds in expanding the desired meaning through lexical choices. The use of diverse lexical choices further reinforces Khadra's identity as a Muslim who interacts with complexity. Furthermore, appropriate lexical choices help to depict Khadra as a Muslim, a woman, and an immigrant. When the appropriate lexical features connect Khadra's statements to the context, it's clear that the author paid close attention to detail in every decision.

## **4.2 Suggestions**

After completing this study, the researcher recommends that other researchers apply this approach to examine language style. Leech and Short's theory, proposed in their book *Style in Fiction*, is ideal for in-depth analysis of language style. The four categories identified by Leech and Short are lexical, grammatical, figure of speech, coherence, and context. Nevertheless, among the four categories, only a small number of researchers have implemented the grammatical, coherent, and context categories. The researcher anticipates that future research will use these categories to investigate language style. Furthermore, the researcher recognizes the study's flaws and limits. Additionally, the researchers hope that linguistics students who are interested in analyzing language styles will find this research useful.

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