

**LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS IN FOUR SHORT STORIES OF  
EDGAR ALLAN POE AND ANTON CHEKOV  
THESIS**



**BY:  
MOHAMMAD ISLAHUL HAKIM  
REG. NUMBER: A73217124**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES  
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Name : Mohammad Islahul Hakim  
NIM : A73217124  
Department : English  
Faculty : Arts and Humanities  
University : UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya

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By:

Mohammad Islahul Hakim

Reg. Number: A73217124

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Thesis Advisor



**Dr. A. Dzo'ulMilal, M.Pd**

**NIP. 196005152000031002**

Acknowledged by:

The Head of English Department



**Dr. Wahyu Kusumajanti, M.Hum**

**NIP. 197002051999032002**

## EXAMINER SHEET

This thesis of Mohammad Islahul Hakim (Reg. Number: A03217124) has been approved and accepted by the Board of Examiners, English Department, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

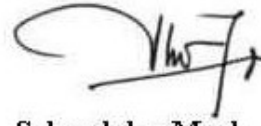
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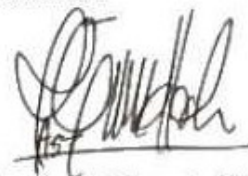
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NIP. 196005152000031002

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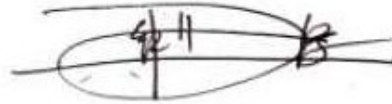
**Suhandoko, MPd.**  
NIP. 198905282018011002

Examiner 3



**Raudlotul Jannah, M. App. Ling.**  
NIP. 197810062005012004

Examiner 4



**Endratno Pilih Swasono, MPd**  
NIP. 197106072003121001

Acknowledged by:

Faculty of Arts and Humanities  
UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya



**D. H. Agus Aditoni, M. Ag**  
NIP. 196210021992031001



**KEMENTERIAN AGAMA**  
**UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUNAN AMPEL SURABAYA**  
**PERPUSTAKAAN**

Jl. Jend. A. Yani 117 Surabaya 60237 Telp. 031-8431972 Fax.031-8413300  
E-Mail: perpus@uinsby.ac.id

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Nama : Mohammad Islahul Hakim  
NIM : A73217129  
Fakultas/Jurusan : Adab dan Humaniora / Sastra Inggris  
E-mail address : Islakim17@gmail.com

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Special grammar and vocabulary structures are often used with the functions of each language. There are many types of language used for specific purposes.

Language functions also refers to what students do with language when they engage with content and interact with others. So that, there are many theories about the language of functions that has their types for doing the analysis. Mullaly (2007: 76-79) said that there are eleven functions of language, they are (1) language as a means of communication, (2) language as a means of integration and adaptation, (3) language as a social control function, (4) language as a means of understanding oneself, (5) language as a means of self-expression, (6) language as a means of understanding others, (7) language as a means of logical thinking, (8) language builds intelligence, (9) language build character, (10) language develops profession, (11) language as a means of new creativity.

Meanwhile, based on Jakobson(1960)defined language functions into six functions they are (1) referential function, (2) emotive function, (3) directive function, (4) poetic function, (5) phatic function, (6) metalingual function. The function represents the activity or use of language for specific purposes, functions to express ideas, communicate with others, and understand content in an academic environment. Researcher can analyze the type of language functions from short story, novel, movie, advertisement, oral discourse, and so forth. Thus, the researcher wants to analyze the language functions in a short story because few researcher used this object.

A short story is one of the literary works that include in literature. A short story has very detailed and simple storylines, not complicated, and not too story like a

novel. In any literary works of literature, there must be the main character to support the literary works. Short stories are short fictional prose narratives shorter than novels and usually contain only a few characters. Short stories usually deal with effects that are conveyed in only one or more important episodes or scenes. Its form encourages organizational economics, short narratives, and the elimination of complex plots; characters are expressed in dramatic action and encounters but are rarely fully developed. Although the scope is relatively limited, the short story genre has similarities with the novel, and it's just that the short stories provide complete information without being wordy. The researcher has decided Edgar Allan Poe and Anton Chekhov short stories as the object of the research. The researcher chose the short stories of Edgar Allan and Anton Chekhov because their short stories naturally emerged from his brain which led to his work and were famous in their respective countries. Anton Chekhov's short stories are also famous for horror and gothic stories.

Related to this research, there are previous studies that focused on the language functions. First, Lestari (2018) analyzed language functions in Maybelline Advertisements. She used Roman Jakobson theory in this research. As a result, she found five language functions: referential, poetic, conative, phatic, and emotive. The most frequently used in the study is the referential function. The second previous study was done by Arista (2014), who analyzed the language functions of the main character in *Sherlock Holmes II: A Game of Shadow Movie*. The theory that she used is the Roman Jakobson theory. She found that the most dominant type is the metalinguistic function.

The third previous study is Arum (2015). She conducted language function analysis in the “Enchanted” movie. She used Cook’s theory to analyze the data. She also used Nurgiantoro’s theory to find messages in the movie script. She found seven language functions. They were: emotive, directive, phatic, poetic, referential, metalinguistic, and contextual functions. The fourth previous study was done by Maerobah (2018). She analyzed the language functions in Air Asia Airline Advertisement. She analyzed Air Asia advertisements because the language in the advertisement is interesting. She used Jakobson’s theory in analyzing the language functions which appeared in the advertisement. She found that there are 8 data used referential, conative, phatic, and emotive functions. Seven data used referential, conative, phatic, and poetic functions. And one data used phatic and conative function.

The fifth previous study is Ghonilmah (2017). She stated that in the film he analyzed entitled Finding Dory, he stated that there were six language functions, namely referential, phatic, emotive, metalingual, conative, and poetic. She found that the function that came out the most was the emotive function because it was a character that could give the reader a feeling through emotion and expression. The sixth previous study was done by Asdar (2017). He analyzed the types of language functions and the dominant language functions used by all the participants and narrators in BPEC (Benteng Panynyua English Club). He found four types of language function; expressive, descriptive, phatic, and referential function. The most dominant type of language function is the referential function.



From the previous studies above, many of them analyzed the language functions in movies and advertisements. Roman Jakobson's theory of language functions is used by many of them in analyzing their research. However, little research concentrates on the short story. Therefore, the researcher wants to fulfill the lack of previous studies. The researcher chose the short story because in the 1800s, short story's writers not only entertained the readers but also had an element of criticism, so they needed language functions to find the meaning of the story they had written. Many short stories can be used to analyze the language functions, such as the short story by Edgar Allan Poe and Anton Chekhov. The researcher chooses four short stories from Edgar Allan Poe and Anton Chekhov. The researcher focuses his research on the short stories of Edgar Allan Poe and Anton Chekhov, where they both have worked in the same genre and year, but they are in different written works from English and Russian.

The researcher chooses to use a language functions for the short story from Edgar Allan Poe and Anton Chekhov because the researcher wanted to make it easier for the short story's readers to understand the content quickly. The purpose of the story was made because, in the 1800s, written works in the form of short stories did entertain the surrounding community and criticize social facts in the environment. So, the researcher wants to compare their short stories by using language functions. The other reason why the researcher decides to use four short stories is that each short story ranges more than seven pages. In addition, four short stories from the two authors are suitable to be used as the data in analyzing the language functions by Roman Jakobson.









## **2.3 Discourse**

Linguistics is a method for analyzing the structure of a text that is longer than one sentence, taking into account the linguistic content of the sentence and its sociolinguistic context. Because the ethos of discourse analysis is language, and discourse (in the sense of speech) is not a fixed and unchangeable reality but shaped by social context. Discourse analysis as a research technique involves language analysis with the above framework in mind and has become increasingly popular in recent years in the social sciences and management. Brown and Yule (1983: 29) discourse analysis is a pragmatic presupposition, that is, 'defined in terms of assumptions the speaker makes about what the hearer is likely to accept without challenge. From this statement, the researcher reveals that discourse analysis is also needed to dissect a sentence and define the assumptions contained in the short story

## **2.4 Language Functions**

Jakobson (1960) described six language functions through which effective verbal communication actions can be described.

### **2.4.1 Emotive Functions**

The emotive function is the language of self-oriented expressive beings (Halliday and Hasan, 1991: 15). It means that someone expresses their feelings through language. The emotive function can also express feelings, thoughts, ideas, and personal opinions with a choice of different words, intonation, and others. This expression consists of social factors, both negative and positive (Holmes, 1992: 255).











works of art that enrich the room in weird shapes; in the wake of drawing the light nearer to the book, the storyteller promptly finds a formerly obscure artistic creation that portrays a little youngster's head and shoulders. The picture unexpectedly enthralled the storyteller "possibly 60 minutes". The storyteller energetically talks with the book for picture clarification. The remainder of the following story is a statement from this book - a story in a story. This book illustrates a disastrous story, including a "generally wonderful" young girl. He loved and married an unpredictable painter who thought more about his work than all else on the planet, including his better half. The painter, at last, approached his better half to sit for him, and he submissively concurred, sitting "delicately for quite a long time" in his turret room. The painter worked so tirelessly in his obligations that he didn't perceive his significant other's blurring wellbeing since he, as a caring spouse, continually "kept on grinning and proceed, without whining". When the painter approaches the finish of his work, he doesn't let anybody go into the pinnacle room and once in a while takes his eyes off the canvas, even though he watched his significant other. After weeks, he at long last completed his work. In any case, when he saw the full picture, he was astonished, shouting, "This is, in fact, Life itself!" After that, he out of nowhere directed to pay concentration toward his significant other and found that he had kicked the bucket.

### **2.5.3 The Tell-Tale Heart**

The narrator has a grudge for killing an old man. The old man doesn't have any fault with the narrator; it's just that the narrator doesn't like the old man's eyes because it's similar to a vulture bird. Every midnight the narrator enters the old

man's room because he wants to kill him, but he can't because the narrator hates his eyes instead of the old man's. On the 7th night, the narrator entered the old man's room again and did the same thing every day except that the narrator accidentally woke up the parents by dropping the flashlight he was carrying. Waiting patiently for the old man to sleep again, the narrator looks back at the old man sleeping, but the old man wakes up because the old man's eyes are wide open, and the narrator's desire to kill him is more rounded, and on that night the old man is killed. In the morning, the police came to check what had happened at the house because they got a report from a neighbor that there was a crowd. The narrator couldn't hold back the sound of the old man's heartbeat he killed and finally told the police where the old man's body was.

#### **2.5.4 The Black Cat**

The black cat tells of a person who has a hobby of raising animals, but his dominion is black and has a black pet favorite named Pluto; at one time, the narrator leaves in a state of intoxication, and the cat's presence makes the narrator angry and hurts his cat until one eye disappears. Still, it doesn't make the narrator stop getting drunk; at one time, the narrator's house caught fire and found his animals all dead except the black cat, Pluto. The narrator has begun to interfere with his beloved cat, first almost to kill the cat but was stopped by his wife, but the narrator also killed his wife. The narrator hid the corpse of his wife and Pluto at his home, at the same time when the police came to the narrator's house to ask to find



### **2.6.2 A Tragic Actor**

The basic summary of this story is that Masha saw Fenogenov on stage, and he seemed to fall in love with her. Later in the story, he ran away from his father and married the tragedy, Fenogenov. His father denied it and said, "Little Russia is stupid and has no house or permanent job". Over time in the story, Masha sent his father a message saying that he was beaten and would not stop unless he was sent money. Even though he sent this to his father, he ignored the letters.

### **2.6.3 A Happy Man**

A Happy Man is a very funny and satirical story that tells us that happiness is easy and everything is in our hands. The action took place on the passenger train. A man tried to find the train, opened the door and said, "No, wrong again!" every time he missed. But suddenly he heard his name "Ivan Alexyevitch! What brought you here? Is that you?" That was Pyotr Petrovitch's best friend. They began chatting, and Pyotr Petrovitch learned that Ivan Alexyevitch was married that day, and he immediately came after the wedding. He described how happy he was, while the listeners laughed because Ivan was a little drunk and acted very funny. Suddenly he realized that he had missed not only the train but also the train itself! And moved to Moscow, while his young wife moved to Saint-Petersburg. His happiness is gone, and he needs to decide what to do next.



















































**Data 22**

“Listen to me,” said the Demon as he placed his hand upon my head. “The region of which I speak is a dreary region in Libya, by the borders of the river Zaire. And there is no quiet there, nor silence. “The waters of the river have a saffron and sickly hue; and they flow not onwards to the sea, but palpitate forever and forever beneath the red eye of the sun with a tumultuous and convulsive motion (Silence, A Fable short story)

The utterance "*Listen to me*" is classified as a cognitive function. In the story, someone feels prompted by something in his head to do something, so according to the researcher, something in the form of an order or asking for help that makes the listener do something is classified as a conative function.

**4.1.2.6 Poetic Function**

The poetic function functions on something that has a double meaning or has a true message meaning, for example, "black sheep", which has twomeanings, the first meaning according to the context that a black sheep is a goat with black color. In contrast, the second meaning is a person who does not guilty in an event but is blamed or made the foundation of guilt.

**Data 23**

Long- long I read- and devoutly, devotedly I gazed. **Rapidly and gloriously the hours** flew by and the deep midnight came. The position of the candelabrum displeased me, and outreaching my hand with difficulty, rather than disturb my slumbering valet, I placed it so as to **throw its rays** more fully upon the book. (The Oval Portrait short story)

In Edgar Allan Poe's story entitled The Portrait, the researcher analyzes several poetic functions in The Portrait story, one of which is the words "*Rapidly and gloriously the hours*" and "*throw its rays*". The researcher included these two utterances because they have several meanings in the utterances. The first utterance, "*Rapidly and gloriously the hours*", is broadly interpreted as a majestic and fast



these utterances enter a poetic function because they regard inanimate objects as living things as parables.

#### **4.1.3 Describing the Comparison of the Edgar Allan Poe and Anton Chekov**

The researcher has found the answer to research questions number 1 and 2. Both are about the types of language functions in the short stories of Anton Chekov and Edgar Allan Poe. Next, the researcher explains the comparison between the two authors. The first comparison is the types of language functions in Edgar and Anton. The most common types of language functions in Edgar Allan Poe's short stories is poetic functions with fifty-six utterances. Edgar Allan Poe's short story has the most poetic function because of the literary works made by the author to criticize the situation at that time, so the author gives the impression of sarcasm in his short story. The second type is the emotive function which has twenty-three utterances. This type represents the feelings of the characters that occur in Edgar's short story. The other type is the phatic function with nine utterances. Edgar uses this type where two characters are talking using the same code. A type that has seven utterances is a referential function. Edgar uses the referential function to explain a situation in a story based on facts. The fifth function is the metalingual function with six utterances, and the last is the conative function with three utterances. Metalingual and conative functions rarely appear in Edgar's short stories because Edgar's writing style is narrative, so conversations between characters rarely occur.





the author's background, the theme of the short story or the meaning of each short story. For example, Anton Chekov's background comes from a well-rounded and educated family, while Edgar Allan Poe comes from a disadvantaged family, with the separation of his parents making his life more difficult. The choice of words is also different for Anton Chekov the language used is simpler and easier to understand because Anton is from Russia so English becomes his second language while Edgar Allan Poe was born in England and after that lived in America which made English his main language so the vocabulary used is more and varied. The researcher explained Edgar's short story first. Edgar Allan Poe is a poet and critic whose writings are fiction and crime themes. Edgar Allan Poe's short story writing style is poetic because his literary work criticizes the situation at that time, so the choice of poetic words is very appropriate to criticize indirectly. Edgar Allan Poe was born in 1809 - 1849, at which time slavery and racism became the main problem, so the literary work that he wrote reflected the situation. The researcher selected four short stories by Edgar Allan Poe based on well-known works such as "The Tell-Tale Heart" and "The Black Cat" and less-known works such as "The Oval Portrait" and "Silence, A Fable". The researcher wanted to dissect the elements of language functions in Edgar Allan Poe's short stories so that readers can understand that language functions are also widely used in short story literature, not only in novels, speeches, or films.



commands and requests. From the result, the researcher rarely found commands and requests in Edgar's short story because his short story rarely led to conversations between two or more people.

Furthermore, Anton Chekov is a well-known writer from Russia who has written hundreds of literary works of drama. In this research, the researcher found that the type of language function used by Anton is Phatic. The reason is that the style of writing short stories contains many conversations. So the type of language function of Phatic is more used in Anton Chekov's literary works. Anton Chekov was born in Russia in 1860 – 1904, in the era of the Russian Empire. Anton was born into a fine family and received a decent education to get a doctor's degree. Anton has been known as a satirical writer on the streets of Russia since childhood, and his short stories have many elements, including comedy, gothic and satirical narratives. The researcher chooses four short stories based on the popularity of the stories chosen by Anton Chekov and the elements in the short stories

Next, the researcher tried to compare this research with the previous study. The finding of the study seems to contradict the previous study. The first research is from Lestari (2018). She used Maybelline advertisements as a data source. Based on Jakobson's theory, she found five types of language functions, namely referential, poetic, conative, phatic, and emotive. The referential function is the highest function with a total of fifty-two utterances. In her research, the Maybelline advertisement emphasizes more on product explanation like giving the product's information. The differences between the previous study and this research are the result of the types of language functions. Between advertisement and short story

has their own reason to make the reader understand with the meaning of the utterances.

Karmila (2019) analyzed *White House Down's* Movie. It revealed that the directive function is the most frequently used in that movie, with 17 utterances. This type gives commands or requests using imperative statements. In *White House, Down's* movie, the main character gave a request to other characters. This previous research is different from the present research. The previous researcher analyzed one movie without additional research to make her research different from others. While in this research, the researcher tried to analyze short story from two authors with different themes of short stories. Moreover, the researcher also compared the types of language functions that appeared in the two authors.

Completing the discussion, the researcher gave a contribution to the reader and academic society for language functions that contains in short story to know even short story has language functions in it and it appears 6 language functions in this short story research. This research is concerned with how the type of language functions appeared in a short story. Because little research analyzed the language functions in a short story, on the other hand, the researcher used two authors with different themes of a short story and compared the result between those authors. Knowing how the types of language functions appeared in the same themes but had different results. The readers can know the reason why the type of language functions from both authors is different. The researcher also explained the background of the short story and tried to relate with the type of language





in Edgar's short story, the researcher found 56 utterances from the poetic function because most of Edgar's literary works are for criticizing the government and the issues circulating in his day, namely slavery and racism, poetically became one of the most suitable functions for criticizing the government indirectly. Anton is in a better situation than his mother, a poet, and his religious father in terms of background. At the same time, Anton has been interested in performing arts since childhood, which makes him love to write short stories in the drama genre. It is inversely proportional to Edgar, where his mother died when he was young and his father left him as a child too. Edgar's life as a poor person continued into adulthood. Still, because of his hobby of writing he was glimpsed by magazine editors and made his literary works known to many people.

The researcher concluded that there are different types of language functions in Anton and Edgar's short stories. Phatic function is a types of language functions which dominant in Anton's short story. In Edgar's short story, the poetic function is mostly used to convey the story's message to the reader. The comparison of the types of language functions between Anton and Edgar is the difference between the types of language functions used by them and the relation between the type of language functions with the story.

## **5.2 Suggestion**

The researcher suggests the next researcher in analyzing the types of language function. The first suggestion is that the future researcher can use more short stories to find different language functions and compare them with another context to make the research more knowledgeable.







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