ABRIDGING SENTENCES OF PRÉCIS WRITING

IN AESOP FABLES

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ABSTRACT

This study is concerned with writing, focusing on the abridging sentences of précis writing used in *Aesop Fables*. This study was conducted by using descriptive qualitative design. There are ten fables of Aesop in this study taken from *The Book of Aesop* (Townsend: 1869). There were 103 forms. The result of data analysis showed the total number in types of abridging were: by reducing a clause to a phrase 55.34 %, by reducing a phrase to a word 10.68 %, change the direct speech to indirect speech 16.5 %, and by reducing a clause to a word 17.48 %. It means that by reducing a clause to a phrase is the dominant types of abridging sentences used in Aesop fables. It is 52.7 %. The reason why abridging sentences by reducing a clause to a phrase is dominant because in all ten of the fables use many long clauses that can be reducing to phrases. There are many clauses which can be reducing to a simpler term of phrases. And the result based on the context of the form were: human 9.2 %, animal 73.55 %, thing 5.75 %, and situation 11.5 %. It means that the context of animal is the most dominant context. Then it is found that the ten fables are dominantly use the type of abridging by reducing a clause to a phrase in the context of animal.

Keywords: *Writing, Précis writing, Abridging Sentences*

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INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

One of study in life is Linguistics. According to John Lyons (1981: 1) Linguistics is the scientific study of language. People need language to communicate. "We may speak different languages, but the fact of the matter is that we all use language to interpret and interact with the world" (Rodgers: 2012: 5). There are several ways in interact with the world and one of them is by writing. According to Rodgers (2012: 7) writing is a graphic system for representing language. It is represented the language people want to share. To study about writing is necessary as there is writing subject at schools.

One of a study studied in writing is Précis writing. Précis writing is one way to summarize text. According to Koneru (2008: 336) a Précis is a summary of a piece of writing. It is also called epitomisation. Koneru also added that the word précis is derived from a French word and it means 'terse' or 'exact'. It is pronounced 'pray-see'. The final letter's' is silent in pronunciation. There is also no change in the spelling of its plural form but is pronounced 'pray-seez'. According to Singh (2007: 128) précis writing generally one-third of the original in length. This study attempt to discuss about précis writing.

People sometimes don't notice that there is some way to summarize text. In précis writing, there are methods of abridging sentences. According to Koneru (2008: 338), there are nine methods for abridging sentences. They are by reducing a long phrase or a word, a clause to a phrase, a clause to a word if possible, long list of words to a generic term, illustrations to one, avoid figures of speech, quotations, exclamations and rhetorical questions, change the direct speech to indirect speech, change the first person to the third person, and by removing superfluous or ornamental words.

The source text in this study is from Aesop Fables. Fable is a literary genre. A fable is a succinct fictional story, in prose or verse, that features animals, mythical creatures, plants, inanimate objects or forces of nature which are anthropomorphized (given human qualities such as verbal communication), and that illustrates or leads to an interpretation of a moral lesson (a "moral"), which may at the end be added explicitly in a pithy maxim.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fable)

Aesop (pronounced /ˈiːsɒp/*EE-sop*, Ancient Greek: *Aisōpos*, c. 620–564 BC) was a fabulist or story teller credited with a number of fables now collectively known as *Aesop's Fables*. Although his existence remains uncertain and (if they ever existed) no writings by him survive, numerous tales credited to him were gathered across the centuries and in many languages in a storytelling tradition that continues to this day. In many of the tales, animals speak and have human characteristics. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aesop)

This study is worth doing for the reasons that abridging offer significant contribution for educational process in helping people who in making summary of text.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study used descriptive qualitative process. Nazir (1998: 34) described that descriptive qualitative is a method of research that makes the description of the situation of events or occurrences clearer. It is understood that descriptive qualitative is a method of research which provides the description of situation, events or occurrences, so this method is an intention to accumulate the basic data.

Subject

The source of this study is taken from some samples. Mardalis (2009:55) states the sample is part of all individuals who become the object of research. The samples were 10 fables from Aesop taken from the book of "The Fables of Aesop" (Townsend: 1869).

Data Collection

The technique of collecting data is by applying theory of abridging sentences in précis writing which consist of: (1) Reducing a long phrase of a word (2) Reducing a clause to a phrase. (3) Reducing a clause to a word if possible. (4) Reducing long list of

words to a generic term. (5) Reducing illustrations to one. (6) Avoid figures of speech, quotations, exclamations and rhetorical questions. (7) Change the direct speech to indirect speech. (8) Change the first person to the third person. (9) Removing superfluous or ornamental words.

In collecting the data, the writer does the following steps: (1) Each sentence containing abridging sentences in the text will be underlined. (2) All the marked abridging sentences will be collecting and tabulated.

Technique for Analyzing Data

The data will be analyzed by finding the abridging sentences in Aesop fables and classifying them by applying the following steps:

1. Underlining each sentence containing abridging sentences in the text.
2. Identifying each sentence containing abridging sentences in the text.
3. Tabulating all the marked abridging sentences.
4. Finding the most dominant type of abridging sentences of précis writing.
5. Drawing the conclusion from the result.

    The formula that is used in this study is:

    $X = \frac{F}{N} \text{x } 100\%$

    Note:

    X = percentage of each type of abridging sentences in the texts.

    F = frequency of each type of abridging sentences in the texts.

    N = the total number of all types of abridging sentences in the texts.
6. Relating the dominant type of abridging sentences of précis writing to the context of the fables.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Qualitative Method

After collecting the data, there are four types of abridging sentences found in the whole fables and there are four contexts. The types were by reducing a clause to a phrase, by reducing a phrase to a word, change the direct speech to indirect speech, and by reducing a clause to a word. And the contexts were human, animal, thing, and situation. It is found that there were 103pieces term that abridged in the fables and there were 87 term of contexts in the fables. Here are some examples of the types of abridging and contexts from the Aesop fables.

By Reducing a Clause to a Phrase

Original	After abridging	Abridging type
A Frog leaping out of a pond, and placing himself on its bank,	A frog jumped out to its bank,	Reducing a clause to a phrase.

By Reducing a Phrase to a Word

Original	After abridging	Abridging type
One hot, sultry day,	One heat day,	Reducing a phrase to a word.

Change the Direct Speech to Indirect Speech

Original	After abridging	Abridging type
"Upon my word," says the Lamb, "the time you mention was before I was born."	The Lamb said he was unborn.	- Change the direct speech to indirect speech.

By Reducing a Clause to a Word

Original	After abridging	Abridging type
in order to a treaty of the peace, and hostages were to be delivered on both sides for security.	Hostages would be free.	Reducing a clause to a word.

After analyzing the data and determining the types of abridging sentences in *Aesop Fables*, the findings are presented as follows:

The Percentage of the types of Abridging Sentences

No	Types of abridging	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	by reducing a clause to a phrase	57	55.34 %
2	by reducing a phrase to a word	11	10.68 %
3	change the direct speech to indirect speech	17	16.5 %
4	by reducing a clause to a word	18	17.48 %
	Total	103	100 %

The data showed the dominant types is by reducing a clause to a phrase (57 pieces, 55.34%). Followed by reducing a clause to a word (18 pieces, 17.48%), and by change the direct speech to indirect speech (17 pieces, 16.5%) in the third position, and by reducing a phrase to a word (11 pieces, 10.68%) in the last position.

Human

Original	After abridging	Context
But this, and whatever else he could do, instead of making the man quit his cloak, obliged him to gird it about his body as close as possible.	but he fastened his cloak.	Human

Animal

Original	After abridging	Context
A Dog, crossing a little rivulet with a piece of meat in his mouth, saw his own shadow represented in the clear mirror of the limpid stream; and, believing it to be another dog, who was carrying a larger piece of meat, he could not forbear catching at it;	A dog, crossing rivulet with a piece of meat saw his own shadow through water believing it was another dog with bigger meat.	Animal

Thing

Original	After abridging	Context
Next came the Sun;	Next Sun;	thing

Situation

Original	After abridging	Context
Not long after,	Shortly,	situation

After analyzing the data and determining the contexts in *Aesop Fables*, the findings are presented as follows:

The Percentage of the Context

No	Context	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Human	8	9.2 %
2	Animal	64	73.55 %
3	Thing	5	5.75 %
4	Situation	10	11.5 %
	Total	87	100 %

In the table above, it is found that the abridging sentences are dominantly being in the context on Animal in the ten of the fables

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusion

After analyzing the types of abridging sentences in the ten of the Fables, this study comes to the conclusion. These are the conclusions as follow:

1. The types of abridging sentences used in the fables are sentences by reducing a clause to a phrase, by reducing a phrase to a word, change the direct speech to indirect speech, and by reducing a clause to a word.
2. The dominant types of abridging sentences is by reducing a clause to a phrases (57 pieces, 55.34%)
3. The abridging sentences found dominantly in the context of Animal. The reason why abridging sentences by reducing a clause to a phrase is dominant because in the whole fables use many long clauses that can be reducing to phrases. There are many clauses which can be reducing to a simpler term of phrases.

Suggestions

Based on the conclusions above, there are some suggestions needed to be considered. They are:

1. It is suggested to other students to make a deeper analyzing about this study.
2. It is suggested to teacher who wants to teach students how to make a good way to make a summary especially by the abridging sentences of précis writing.

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