LANGUAGE DEVIATIONS IN A POPULAR NOVEL: AN ALTERNATIVE WAY TO TEACH MORPHOLOGY AND PHONOLOGY FOR ENGLISH DEPARTMENT STUDENTS OF MADURA UNIVERSITY

R. Agus Budiharto*
*University of Madura, Pamekasan-Madura

Corresponding E-mail: congbudiharto@gmail.com

Abstract: Language becomes the medium in performing the works, especially literary work in written form, such as novel. The writer’s ideas in his literary work such as novel are illustrated by language, especially by the word choices in creating the works. Sometimes, when the writer creates his ideas in his work, he/she uses the language deviation to make his language become creative. Language deviation can be applied in English novel that can be a medium for students in studying English. This paper tries to investigate the language deviations in popular novel Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban by J.K Rowling utilized as an alternative way of teaching morphology and phonology for fourth semester students of English department in Madura University. The findings show that by using the language deviation, particularly grammatical deviation and phonological deviation, the students have some effects on the their mind, the effects are making the students’ mind have the funny feeling when they connect the language deviation with the familiar English standard language, making them have a curious feeling when they read the novel of which the arrangement of words are not in order, and making them pay more attention to the story.

Keywords: Grammatical Deviation, Language Deviation, Phonological Deviation

1. INTRODUCTION

Language consists of sounds, words and sentences. When people know language, they know the sounds, words and the rules of their combination (Fromkin et al., 2011). This is intended that people have to know the rules when they use language. The rule like bound morpheme ‘s’ or ‘es’ which must be attached to the verb when the subject of the verb as the third singular person in the present tense, as in she works hard or he watches television. If the morpheme ‘s’ in the verb work is dropped will be she work. Whereas the rule for the verb in a sentence which uses subject she / he must be added by suffix ‘s’ or ‘es’. If the verb has no suffix ‘s’ such as in she work it is regarded deviation of rule. There are some rules in using a language. Such as rules of how words are formed (it is called morphology), rules for combining sound into word (it is called phonology).

English department students (Eds) are expected to speak English well when they take teaching learning process and it is not an easy task for them. Eds of fourth semester of Madura University academic year 2013/2014 are mostly from rural and undeveloped area. They don’t have a good competence in speaking. Hence, they feel so hard to utter English language with fair pronunciation. To achieve a good pronunciation, they have to be aware of phonology and to understand phonology they have to know what a phoneme is. A phoneme is the smallest unit of sound in human language that makes a different meaning in a word. For example, the word nut has three phonemes, /n/ /ʌ/ /t/. By altering the first phoneme, it can produce the word bat. Altering the second phoneme creates the word not, and it can create the word nub by altering the final phoneme. In fact many words in English, also in all other languages are composed of strings of phonemes. Thus phonemes series can form a word. An important element of word knowledge is morphology. It describes how words are composed of meaningful parts and it provides clues about how words are written and pronounced. Therefore the students should have knowledge about morphology and phonology because: (1) the sound system is primary and the basis for the spelling of word; (2) they are not native speakers of English so they have to practice how to pronounce words correctly; (3) it is important to understand one’s dialect by hearing the sounds of one’s language through his spelling of word. A helpful way to teach morphology and
phonology for the Eds of Madura University is by using a popular novel like *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* by J.K. Rowling. By using this way it can enrich students’ vocabulary and reading achievement, as well they can pronounce English words well. The novel *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* by J.K. Rowling is a best-selling book in summer of 2000 and has been translated into 35 languages (www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/j-k-rowling-4295.php). Because there are 22 chapters in the novel with different paragraph, the page and the number of lines, the coding is needed to analyze it by giving abbreviation like Cp: Chapter, Pg: Page, Pr: Paragraph and L: Line.

2. **Language Deviation**

Deviation constitutes a linguistic phenomenon which has an important specific effect on the readers. Bussmann (2006) asserts deviation can add emphasis or can be used to create a rhetorical effect for the reader. The term ‘deviation’ in language was originally used to describe the ways in which literary language can be said to differ from everyday, non-literary language (Thornborrow and Wareing, 1998). The statement means the literary writer uses unconventional language in order to give his readers a strong impression on their mind. This is a creative way of the writer in creating the work. Leech (1969), in his book *A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry*, explains deviation with a concept of foregrounding. Foregrounding is deviation from linguistic norm. Leech examines only the language of English poetry, nevertheless it seems that his method can be applied to the language of English prose, because according to him no contradiction in talking of ‘prosaic poetry’ or ‘poetic prose’. Prose has sometimes aspired to be poetic, so prosaic strength has sometimes been an ideal in poetic composition. In the opinion of Montgomery et al. (2007) deviation is not only restricted to poetry but may also be found in novels. It is obvious that no differences of applying the linguistic deviation applied by Leech’s method for both prose and poetry. Leech (1969) made a systematic summary of deviation in his book *A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry* and classified deviation into eight types. They are:


3. **Grammatical deviation**

Grammatical deviation is breaking the rules in forming words and sentences. Leech (1969) states grammatical deviation has two aspects: deviation in morphology (the grammar of the word) and deviation in syntax (the grammar of how words pattern within sentences). But syntax is not discussed in this study.

4. **Morphological deviation**

Carstairs-McCarthy (2002) defines morphology is the grammar area connected to the structure of words relationships between words involving the morphemes which compose them. Meanwhile leech (1969) concludes morphology is the grammar of word. It means morphology is a study of word and also of morpheme as minimal unit of grammatical structures. Morphemes are classified into two: free and bound. Free morphemes (FM) are complete words and give proper meaning. Such as: book, novel, for, etc. Bound morphemes (BM) are prefixes or suffixes. BMs cannot give their proper meanings if they are not attached with other FMs. For example the word ‘unbelievable’ has three morphemes, i.e., ‘un-‘, ‘believe’, ‘-able’. Here prefix ‘un-‘ and suffix ‘-able’ are a BMs but ‘believe’ is a FM because it gives complete meaning. The meaning of deviation in morphology is to add such morphemes which cannot be added normally. For example:

“I need you to sign the permission form,” said Harry in a rush.

“And why should I do that?” sneered Uncle Vernon.

“Well,” said Harry, choosing his words carefully, “it'll be hard

Work, pretending to Aunt Marge I go to that

St. What'sits —”

“St. Brutus’s Secure Center for Incurably

Criminal Boys!”

(Cp2/Pg20/P11/L4)
The grammatical deviation above is shown by word ‘whatsits’. This is categorized as morphological deviation because the word ‘whatsits’ is actually from the word ‘what’ and ‘it’ and added by morpheme ‘s’. The correct word form of ‘whatsits’ is ‘what is it’. ‘What’ and ‘it’ are pronoun. And morpheme ‘s’ is added to the word ‘what’ to form ‘whats’ and added to the word ‘it’ to form ‘its’ to becomes ‘whatsits’. However the formation of the word whatsis by adding morpheme ‘s’ to ‘what’ and ‘it’ is incorrect and deviates from the rule. The rule for adding morpheme “s” to a word commonly when the word as verb of the third person singular present tense (e.g.: he works, she reads) when the word as plural form (e.g: cats, books) and when the word as possessive (e.g: Zayyan’s car, Zifa’s father). Morphological deviation also occurs in preposition. Here is the example:

Finally, Harry was the only passenger left. “Right then, Neville,” said Stan, clapping his hands, “where-abouts in London?” “Diagon Alley,” said Harry. “Righto,” said Stan. (Cp3/Pg41/Pr11/L2)

The grammatical deviation in the fragment above is shown by the word ‘abouts’. It is as morphological deviation. This case is same as the addition of morpheme’s’ in the word ‘Whatsits’. The word ‘abouts’ is exactly the word about. It is a preposition. Such as: in, at, for, by are the preposition forms. The rule for the addition of morpheme ‘s’ is only for the word as verb of the third person singular present tense (e.g.: he sleeps, she cooks) when the word as plural countable noun (e.g: rooms, books) and when the word as possessive (e.g: Yayan’s car, Zifa’s father). It means that morpheme ‘s’ can’t be added to preposition ‘about’. Not only the formation of pronoun and preposition that deviate morphologically but also verb.

“Many witches and wizards, talented though they are in the area of loud bangs and smells and sudden disappearings, are yet unable to penetrate the veiled mysteries of the future,” Professor Trelawney went on, her enormous, gleaming eyes moving from face to nervous face. (Cp6/Pg103/Pr3/L2)

The deviation of morphology found in the fragment above is shown by the word ‘disappearing’. It is because the word ‘disappearing’ is a kind of verb ing form. Ing in ‘diappearing’ is also morpheme. So there are two bound morphemes in one word ‘disappear’. Besides that the verb which can be attached by morpheme ‘s’ is if the verb has the subjects she, he and it or the third person singular present tense. In this case the subject for the verb disappearings is many witches and wizards or can be replaced with subject they. And of course, it deviates from the rule.

5. Phonological Deviation

Stylistics can be done in field of phonology. Wynne (2005) states: A typical way to do stylistics is to apply the systems of categorization and analysis of linguistic science to prose, using theories relating to, for example: phonology’. Knowing phonology is part of one’s knowledge of language. According to Fromkin et al. (2011) when people know a language they know the sounds of that language, and know how to combine those sounds into words. For instance the sounds represented by the letters b, s, and u, people are able to combine them to form the words bus or sub. The way of this combination is different from the literary writer’s manner. In the written works, the letter(s) of the word sometimes are omitted by the writer. This deviates from rules for combining sounds (vowel or consonant) into words. According to Leech (1969) mentions that phonological deviation has two parts: the first is elision. It is the omission of part of a word or phrase, and the second is special pronunciation for the convenience of rhyming, such as the noun wind is pronounced like the verb wind. The omission of a vowel, consonant, or syllable in phonology is elision (Bussmann, 2006). Leech (1969) views elision as types of phonological deviation. The common instances of elision are aphasis, syncope and apocope.

5.1. Aphasis

A word or phrase can be pronounced well when the part of a word or a phrase is complete. But it is different from aphasis. It is
the omission of an initial part of word or phrase. Here is the example:

“Woss that on your ’ead?” said Stan abruptly.

“Nothing,” said Harry quickly, flattening his hair over his scar
(Cp3/Pg34/Pr5/L1).

The phonological deviation found in the fragment above is shown by word ’ead’. It is categorized as elision particularly aphesis because the initial part of the word ‘ead’ is omitted. It should be head.

5.2. Syncope.

Syncope is the omission of medial part of the word or phrase. This phenomenon can be found in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. Here is the example:

“All righ”?” he said eagerly, pausing on the way to the staff table. “Yer in my firs’ ever lesson! Right after lunch! Bin up since five gettin’ everythin’ ready. . . . Hope it’s okay. . . . Me, a teacher . . . hones’ly . . .”
(Cp6/Pg98/Pr10/L4).

The phonological deviation found above is shown by word ‘hones’ly’. This is categorized as elision particularly syncope because the medial part of the word ‘hones’ly’ is omitted. ‘hones’ly’ refers to the word honestly.

5.3. Apocope.

Apocope is the omission of final part of the word or phrase. Here is the example of apocope found in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*:

Azkaban before, ’as there, Ern? Beats me ’ow ’e did it. Frightenin’, eh? Mind, I don’t fancy ’is chances against them Azkaban guards, eh, Ern?” (Cp3/Pg40/Pr3/L1).

The phonological deviation found above is shown by word ‘frightenin’. This is categorized as elision particularly apocope because it omits the final part of the word ‘frightenin’. It should be frightening.


Special pronunciation for the convenience of rhyming is the part of phonological deviation. Leech (1969) explains special pronunciation for the convenience of rhyming, by giving an example of the noun *wind* is pronounced like the verb *wind*.

6.1. Substandard pronunciation

According to Akmajian et al. (2001) substandard means incorrect. Substandard pronunciation is part of deviation in phonology. There are some examples of it found in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. Here are the examples:

“’Choo lookin’ at?” said Stan.

“There was a big black thing,” said Harry, pointing uncertainly into the gap. “Like a dog . . . but massive . . .”
(Cp3/Pg34/Pr4/L1).

The phonological deviation found above is shown by word ‘choo’. This is categorized as substandard or incorrect pronunciation because the standard pronunciation of ‘choo’ is ‘who’. Another the examples of substandard pronunciation can be seen in the following sentence:

“’Woss that on your ’ead?” said Stan abruptly.

“Nothing,” said Harry quickly, flattening his hair over his scar.
(Cp3/Pg34/Pr6/L1).

The identified phonological deviation above is shown by word ‘woss’. It is categorized as substandard pronunciation because the correct spelling (pronunciation) of ‘woss’ is ‘what’s’.

6.2. Substitution of Sounds

Another type of special pronunciation for the convenience of rhyming is substitution of sound. It is also one kind of phonological deviation. Here are the examples:

“— all You-Know-’Oo’s supporters was tracked down, wasn’t they, Ern? Most of ’em knew it was all over, wiv You-Know-’Oo gone, and they came quiet. But not Sirius Black.
(Cp3/Pg39/Pr7/L2).

The identified phonological deviation especially in substitution of sound found in the fragment above is shown by word ‘wiv’. It is /ð/ sound that is pronounced as /v/. ‘wiv’ means ‘with’.

“Yeh always wait fer the hippogriff ter make the firs’ move,” Hagrid continued. “It’s polite, see? Yeh walk toward him, and yeh
bow, an’ yeh wait. If he bows back, yeh’re allowed ter touch him. (Cp6/P115/Pr1/L1).

The phonological deviation especially in substitution of sound found in the fragment above is shown by word ‘fer’. It is /ɔː/ sound that is pronounced as /e:/ sound. ‘fer’ means ‘for’.

7. CLOSING

Grammatical and phonological deviation are type of language deviations used by the certain characters in the novel regarded as the characters’ original or unconventional language created by the writer of Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban to give a strong effect on the readers’ emotion. The effects are making the students’ mind have the funny feeling when they connect the language deviation with the familiar English standard language, making them have a curious feeling when they read the novel of which the arrangement of words are not in order, and making them pay more attention to the story.

8. REFERENCES