

**A SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL APPROACH TO THE
ANALYSIS OF TENSE IN SHERLOCK HOLMES' STORIES
AND THEIR TRANSLATIONS**

YUEN SZE WAN

**DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT
OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LINGUISTICS**

**FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS
UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA
KUALA LUMPUR**

2013

UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA
ORIGINAL LITERARY WORK DECLARATION

Name of Candidate: **Yuen Sze Wan**

I/C No: **851003-10-5496**

Registration/Matric No: **TGC090018**

Name of Degree: **Master of Linguistics**

Title of ~~Project Paper/Research Report/Dissertation/Thesis~~ ("this Work"): **A Systemic Functional Approach to the Analysis of Tense in Sherlock Holmes' Stories and their Translations**

Field of Study: **Systemic Functional Linguistics**

I do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

- (1) I am the sole author/writer of this Work;
- (2) This Work is original;
- (3) Any use of any work in which copyright exists was done by way of fair dealing and for permitted purposes and any excerpt or extract from, or reference to or reproduction of any copyright work has been disclosed expressly and sufficiently and the title of the Work and its authorship have been acknowledged in this Work;
- (4) I do not have any actual knowledge nor do I ought reasonably to know that the making of this work constitutes an infringement of any copyright work;
- (5) I hereby assign all and every rights in the copyright to this Work to the University of Malaya ("UM"), who henceforth shall be owner of the copyright in this Work and that any reproduction or use in any form or by any means whatsoever is prohibited without the written consent of UM having been first had and obtained;
- (6) I am fully aware that if in the course of making this Work I have infringed any copyright whether intentionally or otherwise, I may be subject to legal action or any other action as may be determined by UM.

Candidate's Signature

Date: 25th July 2013

Subscribed and solemnly declared before,

Witness's Signature

Date: 25th July 2013

Name : **Dr. SRIDEVI SRINIWASS**

Designation : **Supervisor/ Senior Lecturer**

ABSTRACT

The systems of tense, as in the ways of correlating time in connection with the occurrence of events/states is different in the English and Malay language. As the English language utilizes tense to make back and forth references to the past and future, the Malay language is a tenseless language as “Malay does not have a system of tense” (Asmah Haji Omar, 2000, p.97). This grammatical system leads to differences in terms of how time and the occurrence of states/events are expressed in the two languages. Although research on tense in translated texts have been prevalent (Zawaiyah, 2009, Xiao and McEnery, 2002) little interest has been shown in utilizing functional linguistics to analyze tense in translated texts from English to Malay. This study investigates the usage of past tense and future events in two stories of Sherlock Holmes and their respective translations in Malay using the framework of past tense and future events by Downing and Locke (2006) based on M.A.K. Halliday’s functional approach to language. The findings reveal that for both stories in English, the past tense is utilized most frequently for references to events/states which happened solely in the past while future events is employed frequently to refer to predictions made for the future. Conversely, in the Malay translations, the findings show that “sudah” and “telah” are used to depict past states/events while “akan” is utilized to indicate future time events. The study also shows that the Malay translated stories utilized lexical and phrases such as “tadi” meaning “earlier”, “sekiranya” and “seandainya” meaning “if”, “kata” and “katanya” meaning “said” as a substantiation for the absence of a referent for the past tense. Meanwhile, the usage of context, lexical and phrases such as “esok” meaning “tomorrow” and “sehari dua ini” meaning “these two days” complimented for the absence of a referent for the future events. It is hoped that the current study is able to provide insights on the resources used in the expression of past tense and future events whereby the tense structure is absent in the translated language.

ABSTRAK

Kaedah untuk mengaitkan masa dengan situasi/peristiwa yang berlaku dengan sistem kala adalah berbeza dalam bahasa Inggeris dan Melayu. Bahasa Inggeris boleh menggunakan sistem kalanya untuk merujuk kepada peristiwa yang lalu dan akan datang. Walaupun begitu, bahasa Melayu merupakan satu bahasa yang tidak mempunyai sistem kala. Sistem tatabahasa ini menyebabkan wujudnya perbezaan pada ekspresi masa sesuatu situasi/peristiwa dalam kedua-dua bahasa tersebut. Walaupun kajian pada aspek kala dalam teks penterjemahan adalah terhad (Zawaiyah, 2009, Xiao and McEnery, 2002) kajian yang menggunakan linguistik fungsional untuk menganalisis kala dalam teks yang diterjemahkan daripada bahasa Inggeris kepada bahasa Melayu adalah lebih jarang lagi. Kajian ini menyiasat penggunaan “past tense” dan “future events” dalam dua cerita Sherlock Holmes dan terjemahannya kepada bahasa Melayu menggunakan rangka penyelidikan “past tense” dan “future events” oleh Downing and Locke (2006) yang berasaskan pada kaedah fungsional M.A.K Halliday. Dapatan kajian ini menunjukkan kebanyakan “past tense” dalam kedua-dua cerita Inggeris Sherlock Holmes digunakan untuk merujuk kepada situasi/peristiwa yang telah berlaku pada masa yang lalu sedangkan “future events” digunakan untuk menunjukkan situasi/peristiwa yang akan berlaku pada masa depan. Selain itu, dalam cerita-cerita yang diterjemahkan kepada Bahasa Melayu, “sudah” dan “telah” digunakan untuk menandakan yang situasi/peristiwa tersebut telah berlaku pada masa yang lalu sementara “akan” digunakan sebagai penanda yang situasi/peristiwa tersebut akan berlaku pada masa akan datang. Tambahan lagi, dapatan kajian ini juga menunjukkan cerita-cerita yang diterjemahkan kepada bahasa Melayu menggunakan leksikal dan frasa seperti “tadi, “sekiranya” dan “seandainya”, “kata” dan “katanya” sebagai pengganti “past tense”. Demikian juga untuk “future events”, dapatan kajian ini menunjukkan yang cerita yang diterjemahkan kepada bahasa Melayu juga menggunakan leksikal dan frasa seperti “esok” dan “sehari dua ini” sebagai pelengkap untuk “future events” yang didapati dalam cerita Inggeris. Dengan ini diharapkan kajian ini dapat memberikan persepsi terhadap kaedah linguistik yang digunakan untuk menunjukkan “past tense” dan “future events” dalam bahasa yang tidak mempunyai sistem kala tersebut.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This dissertation would not have been possible without the guidance and the help of several individuals who in one way or another contributed and extended their valuable assistance in the preparation and completion of this study.

First and foremost, my utmost gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Sridevi Srinivass, for her support and guidance throughout my journey as a linguistic student from day one.

The lecturers at the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics, University of Malaya who taught me the beauty of languages and linguistics.

The staff of the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics, University Malaya for being accommodating to my queries pertaining to courses and dissertation matters.

Last but not the least, my family and friends who have always been there through ups and downs and to cheer me on towards the finish line.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTENTS	PAGE
PREFACE	
Abstract	ii
Abstrak	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
Table of Contents	v
List of Figures	xi
List of Tables	xii
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Statement of the Research Area	2
1.2 Statement of the Problem	3
1.3 Aims of the Study	4
1.4 Research Questions	5
1.5 Rationale of the Study	5
1.6 Delimitations of the Study	6
1.7 Theoretical Framework and Research Methodology	6
1.8 Significance of the Study	7
1.9 Outline of the Study	8
1.10 Chapter Summary	9

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0	Introduction	10
2.1	Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and Translation Studies	10
2.2	Past Tense and Future Events Description in the English Language	14
2.3	Time in the Malay/Indonesian Language	19
2.4	Systemic Functional Linguistics and Translation	25
2.5	Systemic Functional Linguistics and Malay/Indonesian Language	27
2.6	Detective Fiction and Linguistic Studies	29
2.7	Tense and Translation	30
	2.7.1 Review of Research on Tense in Academic	31
	2.7.2 Review of Research on Tense/Time Concept using Translated Texts	33
2.8	Chapter Summary	35

CHAPTER 3: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0	Introduction	36
3.1	Theoretical Framework	36
3.2	Past Tense	37
	3.2.1 Basic Meanings of the Past Tense	37
	3.2.2 Secondary Meanings of the Past Tense	38
3.3	Referring to Future Events	39
	3.3.1 'Safe' Predictions	40
	3.3.2 Programmed Events	40
	3.3.3 Intended Events	41
	3.3.4 Imminent Events	44
3.4	Research Methodology	44
	3.4.1 Data Selection	44

3.4.2	Data Description	45
3.4.3	Research Design	46
3.4.3.1	Stage 1: Transcribing of Source and Translated Texts	48
3.4.3.2	Stage 2: Coding of Source and Translated Texts	49
3.4.3.3	Stage 3: Identification of Past Tense and Future Events in Source Texts	50
3.4.3.4	Stage 4: Identification of Time Expression depicting Past Tense and Future Events in Translated Texts	52
3.4.3.5	Stage 5: Comparison of Past Tense/Future Events found in Source Texts with Translated Texts	53
3.4.3.6	Stage 6: Description of Grammatical /Lexical Resources used in Translated Texts which were used to compliment the Past Tense and Future Events found in the Source Texts	56
3.5	Chapter Summary	57
CHAPTER 4: RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS		
4.0	Introduction	59
4.1	Past Tense and Future Events	59
4.1.1	Past Tense	60
4.1.1.1	Basic Meanings of the Past Tense	60
4.1.1.2	Secondary Meanings of the Past Tense (In Reported Speech or Thought)	63
4.1.1.3	Secondary Meanings of the Past Tense (‘Closed Conditionals’ and other Hypothetical Subordinate Clauses)	65
4.1.2	Future Events	66
4.1.2.1	Safe Predictions	67
4.1.2.2	Intended Events	70
4.1.2.3	Programmed Events	71
4.1.2.4	Imminent Events	72
4.1.3	Summary of the Past Tense Meanings found in ERH and EYF	73
4.1.4	Summary of the Future Events found in ERH and EYF	77
4.2	Expressing Past Tense and Future Events in the Translated Sherlock Holmes Stories MRH (Malay Translation of The Red-Headed League: Liga Si Rambut Merah) and MYF (Malay Translation of The Yellow Face: Si Wajah Aneh)	80
4.2.1	“Sudah” and “Telah” depicting Past in Malay	80
4.2.2	“Akan” depicting Future in Malay	83
4.2.3	Summary usage of “sudah” and “telah” depicting Past in MRH and MYF	86

4.3	Usage of other Grammatical/Lexical Resources in Translated Texts to denote Past Tense	89
4.3.1	Expressing Basic Meanings of the Past Tense in the Translated Texts	89
4.3.1.1	Usage of Additional Lexical and phrases to indicate Past	89
4.3.1.2	Usage of Lexical and phrases to indicate Past	94
4.3.1.3	Usage of Context to denote Past	99
4.3.2	Expressing Secondary Meanings of the Past Tense (In Reported Speech or Thought)	103
4.3.2.1	Usage of “kata” and “katanya”	103
4.3.3	Expressing Secondary Meanings of the Past Tense (‘Closed Conditionals’ and Other Hypothetical Subordinate Clauses) in the Translated Texts	104
4.3.3.1	Usage of “sekiranya” and “seandainya”	105
4.3.3.2	Usage of Assertion	108
4.4	Usage of Grammatical/Lexical Resources in Translated Texts to denote Future Events found in Source Texts	110
4.4.1	Expressing Safe Predictions	110
4.4.1.1	Usage of Lexical and phrases to indicate Future Time	110
4.4.2	Expressing Intended Events	114
4.4.2.1	Usage of Present Tense instead of Future	115
4.4.2.2	Usage of Additional Lexical to indicate Future	116
4.4.3	Expressing Imminent Events with a Different Translation	117
4.4.4	Expressing Programmed Events by Deriving from the Context	118
4.5	Discussion of Findings	119
4.6	Chapter Summary	121

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

5.0	Introduction	123
5.1	Summary of the Main Findings	123
5.1.1	Summary of findings related to Research Question 1: What are the Past Tense and Future Events found in the Sherlock Holmes Stories?	124
5.1.2	Summary of findings related to Research Question 2:	125

	What are the time expressions depicting Past Tense and Future Events in the translated Sherlock Holmes Stories?	
5.1.3	Summary of findings related to Research Question 3: What kind of grammatical/lexical resources do the Translated Texts use to compliment the Past Tense found in the Source Texts? What kind of grammatical/lexical resources do the Translated Texts use to compliment the Future Events found in the Source Texts?	126
5.1.4	Summary of the findings related to the Main Question: How are past tense and future events utilized in Sherlock Holmes stories and their translations into Malay?	127
5.2	Implications of the Study	128
5.3	Recommendations for Future Research	129
5.4	Conclusion	129

REFERENCES

- Appendix A1: The Red-Headed League (Text ERH)
Appendix A2: Liga Si Rambut Merah (Text MRH)
Appendix A3: The Yellow Face (Text EYF)
Appendix A4: Si Wajah Aneh (Text MYF)
Appendix B1: Identification of Past Tense in The Red-Headed League (Text ERH)
Appendix B2: Identification of Time Expression “sudah” and “telah” depicting
Past Tense in Liga Si Rambut Merah (Text MRH)
Appendix B3: Identification of Past Tense in The Yellow Face (Text EYF)
Appendix B4: Identification of Time Expression “sudah” depicting Past Tense
in Si Wajah Aneh (Text MYF)
Appendix C1: Identification of Future Events in The Red-Headed League (Text
ERH)
Appendix C2: Identification of Time Expression “akan” depicting Future Events
in Liga Si Rambut Merah (Text MRH)
Appendix C3: Identification of Future Events in The Yellow Face (Text EYF)
Appendix C4: Identification of Time Expression “akan” depicting Future Events
in Si Wajah Aneh (Text MYF)
Appendix D1: Comparison of Past Tense found in ERH with MRH

Appendix D2: Comparison of Past Tense found in EYF with MYF

Appendix D3: Comparison of Future Events found in ERH with MRH

Appendix D4: Comparison of Future Events found in EYF with MYF

Appendix E : Permission letter to use MRH and MYF as Objects of Study

LIST OF FIGURES

Figures	Page
<i>Figure 2.1: Genre and Register in relation to Language</i>	12
<i>Figure 2.2: Grammar, semantics and context</i>	13
<i>Figure 3.1: Theoretical Framework of the Past Tense System</i>	42
<i>Figure 3.2: Flowchart of the Future Events System</i>	43
<i>Figure 3.3: Stages in the Methodology</i>	47
<i>Figure 3.4: Sample of Transcription</i>	49

LIST OF TABLES

Tables	Page
<i>Table 2.1: Means of expressing Future Time</i>	17
<i>Table 2.2: Adjuncts of Time (Relative Time)</i>	22
<i>Table 2.3: Adjuncts of Time (Specific Days)</i>	23
<i>Table 2.4: Time Conjunctions</i>	23
<i>Table 3.1: Secondary Meanings of Past Tense</i>	39
<i>Table 3.2: Programmed Events</i>	41
<i>Table 3.3: Intended Events</i>	41
<i>Table 3.4: Imminent Events</i>	44
<i>Table 3.5: Summary of the data</i>	46
<i>Table 3.6: Brief Account of the Stories</i>	46
<i>Table 3.7: Sample of Coding for <i>The Red-Headed League</i></i>	50
<i>Table 3.8: Sample of Coding for <i>Si Rambut Merah</i></i>	50