VARIATIONS OF SYNONYMS IN THE CULTURAL CONTEXT OF THE SCRIPTURE OF THE HARRY POTTER SERIES FILM BY J.K. ROWLING: A SEMANTIC STUDY

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Abstract

This article purposed to: (1) identify and analyze types of synonyms based on Palmer's (1981) and Alexander (2018) dealing with true or absolute synonyms—words that can be interchanged in all contexts without any change in meaning, tone, or nuance—are extremely rare. and (2) examine the meaning relationships contained in each type of synonym by referring to Leech's theory (Feist, 2022). This research employs a qualitative descriptive method through several stages, including watching films and reading dialogue scripts from the Harry Potter series, grouping data according to types of synonyms, analyzing data based on identified problems, and drawing conclusions from the results of the analysis. The findings revealed five types of synonyms with the following distribution: 37% overlapping synonyms, 25% stylistic synonyms, 25% synonyms with emotive or evaluative meaning, 5.7% collocation synonyms, and 5.7% dialect synonyms. Furthermore, based on meaning analysis, the data indicated 40% conceptual meaning, 31% affective meaning, 8% reflective meaning, 5% social meaning, 5% collocative meaning, 5% thematic meaning, and 2% connotative meaning. This study also highlights the cultural context in which these synonymous variations emerge, emphasizing how language choices in the Harry Potter series reflect British cultural nuances, social hierarchy, and magical world-buildingThe dialogue in the films goes beyond just advancing the plot; thus it also reflects deeper cultural significance through differences in dialect, changes in style, and emotional tones, adding greater depth to both the language and themes of the story.

Keywords: semantics, types of synonym, cultural context

1. Introduction

Language is the main communication tool that humans use to convey messages, ideas and emotions. In the communication process, variations in word use have an important role in enriching meaning and maintaining the effectiveness of conveying information. One aspect that shows diversity in language is synonymy, namely the existence of two or more words that have similar meanings but can be different in the context of their use. Synonymy is an interesting linguistic phenomenon to study because not all synonyms can replace each other in every situation. These differences can be caused by various factors, such as nuances of meaning, level of formality, and social and cultural context. The study of synonymy can provide deeper insight into how a word is chosen in a text and how variations of synonyms are used to build certain nuances in a discourse (Jaffré, 2006).Films as a form of visual and

verbal communication also utilize a variety of synonyms in their dialogue. One film that is interesting to research is the Harry Potter series, which is adapted from the novel by J.K. Rowling. This film presents various characters with different cultural backgrounds, so the language used in the film script is rich in a variety of synonyms. The use of synonyms in film scripts not only serves to enrich the language, but also to describe emotions, character characteristics and certain situations in the story (Dimarco et al., 1993).

This research aims to identify and analyze variations of synonyms in the Harry Potter Series film scripts based on Palmer's (1981) theory regarding types of synonyms and Leech's (1981) theory regarding meaning. Using a semantic approach, this research will explore how synonyms are used in film scripts and how the variations in meaning that appear can influence the audience's interpretation of the dialogue delivered. It is hoped that the results of this research can contribute to linguistic studies, especially in the field of semantics and discourse analysis in audiovisual media (Pintilii, 2021).

In this research, researchers are interested in observing and analyzing various types of synonyms found in the dialogue of a film considering that currently film is a work that is popular with many people, both small children, adults and the elderly. The film has an interesting storyline and many meanings implied in each storyline which can entertain the audience. In films there are several important elements that are always present, including characters, both antagonists and protagonists, conflict, location, time, plot or storyline and of course the dialogue that occurs between the main characters and supporting characters (Wilks & Cognition, 2005).

Dialogue or conversation is an important part of the film. Characters in films usually express an idea, idea or message through dialogue. In other words, dialogue is what is said or said by the characters in the film. Therefore, it is not surprising that there are several scenes where the characters often use different words but have almost the same meaning.The film chosen as the data source in this research is entitled the Harry Potter Series, this film is a sequel film based on the novel by J.K. Rowling, which was broadcast in 2001, this film tells the story of the adventures of a teenage wizard named Harry Potter and his friends, Ronald Billius Weasley and Hermione Jean Granger, who are students at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. The core story in this film centers on Harry's efforts to defeat the evil black wizard named Voldemort, whose ambition is to become immortal, conquer the wizarding world, dominate non-magical people, and destroy anyone who gets in his way, especially Harry Potter. With the aim of this research, researchers are interested in examining the types of synonyms found in the film.

Based on the background description above, the author formulates the research identification as follows:

1. What types of synonyms are found in the Harry Potter Series film script by J.K. Rowling?
2. What meaning relationships are contained in each type of synonym contained in the Harry Potter Series film script by J.K. Rowling?

To prevent the problem from spreading, there are limitations to the research object in the process of preparing this thesis. Limiting the problem is intended to make research more focused and make it easier for researchers to determine the required data. The object of this research is only limited to the forms of words and phrases contained in the Harry Potter Series film script. In conducting research, the study used is a semantic study of meaning

relations which includes synonymy, antonymy, homonymy, polysemy, hypernymy and hyponymy.

Semantics

As a branch of linguistics, this science studies the meaning of words and the way language expresses them. As said (Eka Agustina & Mustikawati, 2023). Semantics is the study of the meaning of words and the meaning of sentences, which is abstracted from the context of use, is a descriptive subject. In semantics, synonyms are words that have similar or nearly identical meanings. They are an important part of understanding how language conveys meaning. While it might seem that synonyms can be used interchangeably, semantic analysis reveals that this is rarely the case. True or absolute synonymy, where two words can be substituted for one another in every possible context without changing the meaning, is extremely rare. Most synonyms are better described as near-synonyms—they share core meanings but differ in subtle ways, such as tone, formality, emotional connotation, or the specific context in which they are used. For instance, the words "childish" and "childlike" both relate to children, but "childish" often carries a negative tone, whereas "childlike" suggests innocence or wonder. These distinctions highlight how complex and nuanced synonymy can be in natural language, and they play a key role in areas such as translation, language learning, and the creation of dictionaries. Understanding synonymy helps us appreciate the richness of vocabulary and the layers of meaning that words can carry. As has been said previously, semantics is a branch of linguistics that studies meaning. Studying semantics also teaches us about the relationship between words and their meanings. In addition, the use of semantics to identify problems with word comprehension or connotation is often quite useful. The basic premise is that each individual can interpret the same set of words or sentences in different ways (Sha'ri et al., 2020).

When applying semantic analysis to a language, it is important to remember that each language is different and is often influenced by the culture and environment of its speakers. Thus, semantic analysis of the language is only limited to that language and cannot be used to analyze other languages (Shestakova, 2022).

Meaning

Meaning has a wide scope to be explained, so this often causes diversity in interpreting the meaning of speech and writing. The term meaning is sometimes confusing, but to see the meaning of a word you can use a dictionary. What is explained in the dictionary is the lexical meaning. In everyday life we often encounter meanings of words that cannot be found in the dictionary. That is why readers or listeners sometimes feel dissatisfied with the meaning contained in the dictionary for a word whose meaning is sought. This will arise when dealing with idioms, language styles, proverbs and expressions (Winiharti, 2010).

Meaning is one of the topics discussed in semantics. This word is taken from the English word sense, which is different from the word 'arti' which comes from the word meaning. Ideas or concepts can be transferred from the speaker's thoughts to the thoughts of the interlocutor and manifested in the form of one language or another. Meaning can be applied to people who use language (Al-qadi & Naser, 2022). The term meaning in semantics generally refers to the idea or concept that a word, phrase, or sentence conveys. It is often

associated with the reference—the real-world object or idea that a word points to. For example, the word dog refers to a specific type of animal. This referential meaning helps listeners understand what is being talked about in a concrete way. On the other hand, sense, refers to the internal, mental representation or conceptual content of a word or expression. It is not about the external object it refers to, but rather how the meaning is organized in the mind, and how it relates to other words. For instance, dog has a sense that includes ideas like four-legged, domesticated, barks, and pet. Even if two words refer to the same thing in the real world (like morning star and evening star, both referring to the planet Venus), they have different senses because they emphasize different aspects or contexts.

From the opinions of linguistics above, it can be interpreted that meaning is the utterance of sentences, concepts or ideas that can be transferred from the speaker's thoughts to the thoughts of the interlocutor and manifested into a form of language based on the context of use, the underlying situation and intonation (Alexander, 2018).Meaning also refers to something that should be in the mind rather than words, that it should be more abstract than an image and more than just a feature. On the other hand, meaning is also something that is interpreted or meant, meaning something that is expressed by language about the world in which we live or in an imaginary world. According to Leech, in general meaning is classified into seven types, five of which are identified as associative meaning. The seven types of meaning are: conceptual meaning, thematic meaning, associative meaning; connotative meaning, stylistic meaning, affective meaning, reflective meaning, and collocative meaning. Associative meanings relate to the individual speaker's mental understanding, they can be broken down into five, namely connotative meaning, stylistic meaning, affective meaning, reflective meaning, and collocative meaning (Miharsa & Heryono, 2024).

From the many explanations that the author has quoted from experts, it can be concluded that meaning is the relationship between language that has been mutually agreed upon by the speaker and the interlocutor in the language so that they can mutually understand the meaning of a message conveyed. Studying a language essentially also studies how each speaker in a group can understand each other (SETIAWAN NUGRAHA, 2016).

Meaning Relation

There are several different types of meaning relationships, namely; homonymy, polysemy, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy and hypernymy. Of the many types of meaning relations that exist, the author is interested in discussing and analyzing synonymy (Feist, 2022).

In general, according to the Big Indonesian Dictionary, the meaning of synonymy according to the Big Indonesian Dictionary is a relationship between language forms that are similar in meaning, while the definition of synonyms according to the Big Indonesian Dictionary is a form of language whose meaning is similar to another language form. Etymologically, synonyms come from ancient Greek, namely onoma which means 'name' and syn which means 'with'. So literally the word sino-nim means 'another name for the same object or thing'. Synonyms are words that have different sounds but have almost similar meanings. A synonym is a form of language whose meaning is similar to another form, this similarity applies to words, groups of words or sentences, although generally what is considered a synonym is only words. Synonyms are two utterances, whether

utterances in the form of morphemes bound to words, phrases or sentences that show the same meaning. Synonyms are words that have different forms, but their meaning is identical (Setianingrum et al., 2021).

A synonym is an expression (usually a word but can also be a phrase or sentence) whose meaning is more or less similar to another expression. In the definition put forward by Verhaar, it can be seen that there is the use of word orders that have more of the same meaning, this is reasonable, because the same meaning does not apply perfectly, that is why Lyons uses the terms absolute synonymy and near synonymy (Fitrah & Afria, 2024).

From the opinions of linguistics above, it can be interpreted that synonyms are languages that have different forms but have similar meanings, these forms can be words, phrases and sentences. Synonymy is also a semantic relationship which states that there is a similarity in meaning between one unit of speech and another unit of speech, and words that have the same denotation, but differ in connotation. For greater clarity, here are examples of synonyms.

Example:

> That's a nice shot.
> That's a good shot.

In the example above, the word nice which has a lexical meaning, namely great, is synonymous with the word good which has a lexical meaning, namely good. These two words are synonyms because they have almost the same meaning.

According to Palmer, there are no two words with the same meaning. Indeed it seems unlikely that two words with exactly the same meaning would survive in one language. Thus, there are five basic ways in which synonyms can be considered different: dialect synonyms, stylistic synonyms, emotive or evaluative meaning synonyms, collocation synonyms, and overlapping synonyms (Sudarta, 2022).

The first type of synonym is overlapping meaning synonyms, this type of synonym has the same or almost similar meaning as another word. Some dictionaries contain words that are considered synonyms because they have the same general meaning, nearly the same or overlapping meanings. For further clarity, the following are examples of overlapping meaning synonyms.

Example:
•   She managed to control herself.
•   State laws and regulations govern the profession of nursing.

In the example above, the word control which means to control or control is synonymous with the word govern which means to control or rule. The words control and govern do have the same meaning, namely to control, order or control, but the word control is more appropriate to be used to refer to someone who controls or controls an activity of a group or certain place, while the word govern is more appropriate to be used for someone who controls or governs a place such as the state, or its people who are officially responsible for that place (Jarunwaraphan & Mallikamas, 2020). The second type of synonym is stylistic synonyms, this type of synonym explains one language register in different ways and situations. Sometimes, words are thought to be the same, but in reality they are used in

'different situations'. For example, one word is used in formal situations and another word is used in everyday situations, even though they appear to have the same meaning. For further clarity, here are examples of stylistic synonyms.

Example:
• Do you know that gentleman over there?
• Do you know that man over there?

In the example above, the word gentleman is more appropriate to use in formal situations, while the word man is more appropriate to use in everyday situations.

The third type of synonym is emotive or evaluative synonyms, this type of synonym has the same cognitive meaning but is different in terms of its emotional and evaluative meaning. Some words can be said to be different in their emotive or evaluative meaning and their cognitive meaning remains the same, the function of these words is to influence attitudes. For further clarity, here are examples of Emotive or evaluative meaning synonyms.

Example:
• I had lost my liberty
• I had lost my freedom

In the example above, the word liberty which has the lexical meaning, namely freedom, is synonymous with the word freedom which also has the lexical meaning, namely freedom. The word liberty has the same cognitive meaning as the word freedom, but is different from an emotional perspective. The word liberty has an emotional meaning, freedom that is felt together or freedom from a country regardless of independence, which is different from the word freedom which has an emotional meaning, namely freedom that is felt by oneself, regardless of something that is not desired.

The fourth type of synonym is collocationally restricted synonyms, this type of synonym has an equivalent word in the same language.

Some words are 'fixed', they only appear together with other words. Thus, the word 'rancid' appears with 'bacon' or 'butter' and 'addled' with 'eggs' or 'brains'. This does not seem to be a matter of meaning, but of the equivalent words being retained. Perhaps, it could be said that these are true synonyms, which only appear in different word equivalents. For further clarity, the following are examples of collocationally restricted synonyms.

Example:
• Don't eat it! Those are rancid.
• I eat it last night, but it was addled.

In the example above, the word rancid has the lexical meaning, namely rancid, which is synonymous with the word addled, which has the lexical meaning, namely rotten. The word rancid has equivalent words such as bacon or butter, so it becomes rancid bacon or rancid butter. Meanwhile, the word addled has equivalent words such as rotten or eggs, so it becomes addled rotten or addled eggs. Words that have equivalent words cannot be interchanged, because each word has an appropriate equivalent and of course they are different.

The last type of synonym is dialectal synonyms, this type of synonym has different language dialects, but has the same meaning used in different regions. Some words look the same but are considered different because they use different dialects to convey almost the same meaning. For further clarity, here are examples of dialectal synonyms.
Example:
• Which courses are you going to take next fall?
• Which courses are you going to take next autumn?

In the example above, the word fall which has the lexical meaning, namely autumn, is synonymous with the word autumn which also has the lexical meaning, namely autumn. The word fall is used in the United States, while the word autumn is used in England. These two words both describe a season, namely autumn, only the words used are different but have the same meaning, because each different region has a different vocabulary.

Cultural Context
Language is a fundamental aspect of human communication that reflects social, historical, and cultural contexts. In literary works and films, language choice plays a crucial role in shaping characters, conveying emotions, and establishing cultural identities. One linguistic phenomenon that contributes to this depth is synonymy—the presence of multiple words with similar meanings but different nuances. The Harry Potter series, written by J.K. Rowling and adapted into films, provides a rich linguistic landscape where synonym variations are strategically used to reflect tone, style, and cultural context (Smith et al., 2018).
Beyond their linguistic function, synonyms in the Harry Potter series also reflect cultural and social nuances. British English, with its regional dialects, formality levels, and historical influences, plays a vital role in shaping the dialogue. Characters from different backgrounds, such as wizards, Muggles, and mythical creatures, exhibit distinct language styles, further reinforcing cultural identities within the magical world. Additionally, synonym variations often carry connotations tied to social hierarchy, magical traditions, and emotional undertones, making their usage not only a matter of language but also a reflection of British cultural norms and storytelling traditions.
By analyzing the semantic and cultural dimensions of synonym variations, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of how language shapes narrative meaning and world-building in the Harry Potter films. The findings will highlight the interplay between linguistic choice and cultural context, demonstrating how synonymous expressions enhance characterization, thematic depth, and audience engagement.
Furthermore, synonym choices in the Harry Potter series contribute to world-building by distinguishing the magical community from the non-magical world. The use of specific terminology, such as Muggle instead of non-magical person, or Apparate instead of teleport, demonstrates how language constructs a unique cultural framework within the fictional universe. These lexical variations are not arbitrary; they reflect a distinct linguistic identity that mirrors real-world language evolution, where specialized jargon emerges within different social groups. The existence of multiple synonyms in different contexts

also illustrates how words can carry subtle connotations—some reinforcing exclusivity, while others fostering inclusivity within the wizarding world (Xian-mo, 2007).

Additionally, synonym usage in the Harry Potter films reflects the emotional and psychological dimensions of characters. Words with similar meanings may be used differently to convey varying levels of intensity, politeness, or formality. For instance, the term dark wizard is often used in a neutral or descriptive manner, whereas Death Eater carries a more sinister and fearful connotation, emphasizing the ideological allegiance of Voldemort's followers. Such distinctions in synonym usage align with Leech's theory of meaning, which highlights the affective and social functions of language. These variations not only enrich character development but also enhance audience engagement by subtly influencing perception and interpretation.By analyzing the semantic and cultural dimensions of synonym variations, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of how language shapes narrative meaning and world-building in the Harry Potter films. The findings will highlight the interplay between linguistic choice and cultural context, demonstrating how synonymous expressions enhance characterization, thematic depth, and audience immersion. Moreover, the research sheds light on the broader role of language in fantasy storytelling, where linguistic creativity is a key element in constructing a believable and culturally resonant fictional world.

2. Method

The method used in this research is qualitative. The data collection process for qualitative research involves the use of written materials such as manuscripts, documents, and other formal records. By searching the internet, authors find and collect certain facts, which they then analyze. The author of this work carried out a certain process. This research uses a qualitative descriptive method to analyze variations in synonyms in the Harry Potter Series film scripts. Data was collected through observation techniques by watching films and reading dialogue scripts in depth. After that, data containing synonyms is classified based on the theory applied, namely regarding the type of synonym. Next, the meaning of each synonym is analyzed by referring to the semantic theory contained in each synonym variation. The analysis was carried out qualitatively with a descriptive approach to explain how synonyms are used in the context of the film and how variations in meaning contribute to conveying the message and characterizing the characters. The results of this analysis are then compiled in the form of conclusions that comprehensively describe the pattern of synonym use in the Harry Potter Series film scripts. In synonym research, qualitative methods are used to explore the deeper, more nuanced aspects of word meaning that go beyond simple definitions or frequency counts. These methods focus on understanding how synonyms function in real-life contexts, examining the subtle differences in tone, connotation, and usage. By analyzing language in context, qualitative approaches help reveal why a speaker might choose one synonym over another, offering rich insights into how language reflects social and cultural values.

Apart from that, this research also considers linguistic factors, especially semantics, which can influence the choice of synonyms in film dialogue. By analyzing the relationship between synonyms and the context of their use, this research seeks to provide a deeper

understanding of how word choice can influence the audience's interpretation of the storyline and characters.

As a final step, this research will compare the results of the analysis with previous studies regarding synonymy in film and literary media. It is hoped that this comparison can provide a broader perspective regarding synonymous variations in film scripts and their relevance in linguistic and communication studies.

3. Result and Discussion

In this research, five data were analyzed using a semantic approach, especially with meaning relationship measuring instruments. All of them are taken from the Harry Potter Series manuscripts to provide data limits so that they have the same uniformity and typical diction.

Data 1

Context:

The setting for the conversation in data 1 is in the Hogwarts hallway, when Harry and Angelina approached a large billboard surrounded by students

Harry : By order of the Hogwarts High Inquisitor: All student organisations, societies, teams, groups and clubs are henceforth disbanded …

Angelina : She refused to allow us to reform the Gryffindor team …

(S5/SC47/57:33-57:40)

The words organization and team are examples of dialectal synonyms, which refer to words with the same meaning but used in different regional dialects. The word organization is commonly used in British English to refer to an association or structured group, while team is more frequently used in American English to denote a group working together toward a goal. According to the Collins English Dictionary, both words share the same fundamental definition—a group of people collaborating to achieve a specific objective—despite their regional lexical preferences. This variation in terminology reflects how different regions develop distinct vocabularies while maintaining mutual intelligibility.

From a cultural context perspective, the distinction between organization and team highlights the linguistic and social influences that shape British and American English. British English tends to use organization in formal and institutional settings, reinforcing its structured and hierarchical connotation. In contrast, American English favors team, which conveys a sense of collaboration and inclusivity, often associated with sports, workplaces, and informal settings. These differences reflect broader cultural attitudes: British English historically emphasizes tradition and formality, whereas American English tends to favor straightforward and egalitarian communication.

Based on this analysis, the meaning contained in the words organization and team falls under social meaning, as described by Leech. Social meaning refers to language use that conveys information about the speaker's social identity, regional background, or cultural affiliation. The word organization is more prevalent in British English, reinforcing Harry Potter's identity as a British character. However, his use of team—which is widely

understood in both British and American contexts—demonstrates how certain words transcend regional boundaries due to globalization and media influence. The widespread use of team in modern English, including in British contexts, suggests that language evolution continues to blur strict dialectal distinctions, making some American terms more universally accepted.

In the Harry Potter films, the presence of such dialectal synonyms adds authenticity to character dialogue and world-building. The choice of words not only reflects British cultural identity but also aligns with the linguistic diversity found in global English variations. This analysis underscores the role of language in shaping character portrayal and audience perception, illustrating how even subtle lexical differences contribute to the cultural depth of the story.

Data 2
Context:
The setting for the conversation in data 34 is in the hall, when Draco talks with his friends about Slytherin House's victory for the House Cup award which was announced by Professor Dumbledore.
Draco   : Nice one, Mate!
Dumbledore   : … it takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to your enemies, but a great deal more to stand up to your friends.
(S1/SC67/2:25:31-2:26:57)

In the data above, the word mate, which has the lexical meaning of friend or colleague, is synonymous with the word friend, which also means companion or acquaintance. These words are examples of dialectal synonyms, meaning they share the same fundamental meaning but are used in different regional dialects. The word mate is commonly used in British English, particularly in informal contexts, while friend is more neutral and widely used in both American and British English. According to The Collins English Dictionary, both terms refer to interpersonal relationships, but mate is more prevalent in conversational British English, especially among young people and working-class communities.

From a cultural context perspective, the distinction between mate and friend reflects the influence of regional speech patterns and social dynamics in British and American English. The use of mate in British culture conveys camaraderie and casual familiarity, often heard in everyday conversations, particularly among men. It carries a sense of warmth, solidarity, and even loyalty, reflecting British cultural tendencies toward informal yet meaningful social bonds. In contrast, friend is more neutral and universal, commonly used in both casual and formal situations across different English-speaking regions.

This linguistic variation is evident in the Harry Potter films, where Draco Malfoy's use of mate reinforces his British identity and highlights his informal, sometimes sarcastic, tone when addressing peers. On the other hand, Dumbledore's use of friend in a formal setting—such as announcing the House Cup winners—demonstrates the word's adaptability to more

official and respectful interactions. This contrast illustrates how synonymous words can carry different social implications depending on the context in which they are used.

Based on this analysis, the meaning contained in the words mate and friend falls under social meaning, as defined by Leech. Social meaning refers to the way language reflects relationships, social hierarchy, and the formality of a situation. The word mate is typically used in informal social settings, as demonstrated in Draco's dialogue with his peers, while friend is suitable for more formal or respectful contexts, as seen in Dumbledore's speech. The distinction between these synonyms underscores how language choice in the Harry Potter films not only shapes character interactions but also reflects broader cultural and linguistic norms.

Furthermore, this analysis highlights the impact of British English expressions on the film's dialogue, reinforcing its authenticity within a predominantly British setting. The selective use of dialectal synonyms enhances the realism of the characters' speech, making the wizarding world feel both immersive and culturally grounded. This demonstrates how linguistic nuances contribute to world-building, allowing audiences to connect with characters based on their speech patterns and cultural identities.

Data 3
Context:
The setting for the conversation in data one is at Harry's house, when Hagrid gives Harry the same letter as the one that was sent previously.
Harry   : Dear, Mr.Potter. We are pleased to inform you that you have been accepted at Hogwarts' School of Witchcraft and Wizardry!
Vernon : Hell not be going! We swore when we took him in wed put an end to this rubbish!
(S1/SC10/17:17-17:24)

The words witchcraft and wizardry in Data 3 exemplify overlapping synonyms, meaning they share the same or nearly identical definitions but differ slightly in their usage and connotations. Both words refer to magical practices, yet witchcraft is traditionally associated with female practitioners (witches), while wizardry is linked to male practitioners (wizards). This distinction reflects historical and cultural perceptions of magic, where gender roles have played a significant part in shaping linguistic usage.

From a cultural context perspective, the distinction between witchcraft and wizardry is deeply rooted in folklore, mythology, and historical narratives. In Western traditions, witchcraft has often been associated with secrecy, mysticism, and, at times, persecution—especially during historical witch hunts that predominantly targeted women. The term carries connotations of both revered ancient knowledge and feared supernatural power. Wizardry, on the other hand, is more commonly linked to structured magical learning, wisdom, and male authority, often depicted in legendary figures such as Merlin from Arthurian legends. These gendered associations continue to influence modern fantasy literature and films, including the Harry Potter series.

The phrase Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry reflects this linguistic and cultural heritage, acknowledging both male and female magical traditions. The inclusion of both terms ensures inclusivity while maintaining historical and literary resonance. The use of witchcraft and wizardry together also enhances the grandeur and prestige of Hogwarts, positioning it as an institution that respects the traditions of magic regardless of gender.

Based on this analysis, the meaning conveyed by the words witchcraft and wizardry aligns with affective meaning, as defined by Leech. Affective meaning describes how language expresses emotions, attitudes, and speaker intent. In this context, the phrase appears in a letter from Professor Dumbledore to Harry, where Dumbledore conveys excitement and pride in informing Harry of his acceptance into Hogwarts. The formal yet celebratory tone of School of Witchcraft and Wizardry reflects both the prestige of the institution and the warmth of Dumbledore's message. This choice of words enhances the magical and emotional significance of the moment, making Harry's entrance into the wizarding world feel both grand and deeply personal.

Furhermore, the cultural connotations of these words contribute to world-building in the Harry Potter universe. By using terms with rich historical and mythological roots, J.K. Rowling reinforces the depth and authenticity of the magical world, making it feel like an extension of real-world traditions and linguistic evolution. The careful selection of these overlapping synonyms not only adds to the narrative's cultural richness but also subtly informs the audience about the historical perceptions of magic and gender within the wizarding world.

4. Conclusion

Based on the results of the analysis, it can be concluded that variations of synonyms in the Harry Potter Series film scripts are used effectively to enrich dialogue, clarify meaning, and build character. The choice of synonyms in this text is influenced by various factors, including nuances of meaning, social context, and communication goals in the story. The synonyms used not only provide variation in word usage, but also contribute to conveying emotions and dynamics of interactions between characters.

The results of this research show that from the analyzed data, five types of synonyms were found with the following distribution: overlapping synonyms (37.2%), stylistic synonyms (25.7%), synonyms with emotive or evaluative meaning (25.7%), collocation synonyms (5.71%), and dialect synonyms (5.7%). In addition, based on meaning analysis, data was found with conceptual meaning (40%), affective meaning (31.6%), reflective meaning (8.5%), social meaning (5.7%), collocative meaning (5.7%), thematic meaning (5.7%), and connotative meaning (2.8%).

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From a cultural context perspective, the distinction between witchcraft and wizardry is deeply rooted in folklore, mythology, and historical narratives. In Western traditions, witchcraft has often been associated with secrecy, mysticism, and, at times, persecution—especially during historical witch hunts that predominantly targeted women. The term carries connotations of both revered ancient knowledge and feared supernatural power. Wizardry, on the other hand, is more commonly linked to structured magical learning, wisdom, and male authority, often depicted in legendary figures such as Merlin from Arthurian legends. These gendered associations continue to influence modern fantasy literature and films, including the Harry Potter series.

The phrase Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry reflects this linguistic and cultural heritage, acknowledging both male and female magical traditions. The inclusion of both terms ensures inclusivity while maintaining historical and literary resonance. The use of witchcraft and wizardry together also enhances the grandeur and prestige of Hogwarts, positioning it as an institution that respects the traditions of magic regardless of gender.

Based on this analysis, the meaning conveyed by the words witchcraft and wizardry aligns with affective meaning, as defined by Leech. Affective meaning describes how language expresses emotions, attitudes, and speaker intent. In this context, the phrase appears in a letter from Professor Dumbledore to Harry, where Dumbledore conveys excitement and pride in informing Harry of his acceptance into Hogwarts. The formal yet celebratory tone of School of Witchcraft and Wizardry reflects both the prestige of the institution and the warmth of Dumbledore's message. This choice of words enhances the magical and emotional significance of the moment, making Harry's entrance into the wizarding world feel both grand and deeply personal.

Furthermore, the cultural connotations of these words contribute to world-building in the Harry Potter universe. By using terms with rich historical and mythological roots, J.K. Rowling reinforces the depth and authenticity of the magical world, making it feel like an extension of real-world traditions and linguistic evolution. The careful selection of these overlapping synonyms not only adds to the narrative's cultural richness but also subtly informs the audience about the historical perceptions of magic and gender within the wizarding world.

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